



Executive Update

Christmas Greeting

Dear RCQG Guild Members,

As this year comes to an end, we'd like to take a moment to reflect on the joy, creativity, and friendship you bring to our Guild. This season always reminds us how fortunate we are to be part of such a warm and welcoming community—much like the wonderful quilts you've created throughout the year. Your kindness, generosity, and enthusiasm shine brightly, and we know your families, friends, and the wider community appreciate everything you do.

We've had such a fun guild year so far as we continue celebrating our 35th Anniversary! We hope you're enjoying the Anniversary Quilt Challenge—and maybe even finding a little extra holiday time to sew. We're already excited to see your creations in 2026!

May your holidays be filled with laughter, love, and plenty of cozy stitching time. Thank you for sharing your talents, stories, and wonderful spirit with the Guild. We can't wait for another year filled with creativity, inspiration, and quilting together.

Wishing you and your loved ones a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

With warmest holiday cheer,

Cindy

On behalf of the Executive Committee

Royal City Quilters Guild

35th Anniversary Postcard Challenge

We're a large guild with members from many locations. Let's get to know each other!

To celebrate our 35th anniversary, we're offering an opportunity to express our creativity and connect with fellow guild members. Stay tuned for more information about our 35th anniversary postcard swap. All will be revealed in January.

December Program: “Using up the Bits”

How to Organize Your Scraps and Ideas into Ready-to-Go Quilt Design

Lynn Dykstra will share practical, creative strategies for embracing our fabric scraps and turning them into quilt-ready inspiration. With tips on stash organization, design formulation, and efficient piecing, this talk empowers every quilter to craft beautiful quilts from the pieces already on hand—no major shopping required.

Find Lynn’s blog at <https://kleinmeisjequilts.blogspot.com>



January Program: “Exploring the Spectrum”

Ana Buzzalino, Calgary AB

A Journey through the History, Theory, and Psychology of Colour

Ana will take us on an exploration of colour where we’ll delve into its fascinating history. From ancient pigments to the modern colour wheel, we’ll trace the captivating journey of how humanity has perceived and harnessed the power of colour.



She’ll help us uncover the secrets of basic colour schemes and discover how they influence art, design, and our daily lives. We’ll explore classic combinations like complementary, analogous, and monochromatic, showcasing real-world examples that bring these concepts to life. As we navigate the spectrum, we’ll discuss the psychology of colour, unravelling the emotions and associations tied to each hue.



Find Ana on-line at <https://www.anabuzzalino.com>

Show and Share Presentation and Quilt Whispering

Submissions are due by 6 p.m. Eastern on Saturday, December 6th, 2025 or Saturday, January 10th, 2026.

Email your photo(s) to [showandshare\[at\]royalcityquiltersguild \[dot\] ca](mailto:showandshare@royalcityquiltersguild.ca)

Let's celebrate the creative ways RCQG members make space for quilting—big or small!

Would you like some quilting design help for a quilt top? Photos of your quilt tops for Quilt Whispering should be sent in by 7 p.m. Saturday evening prior to our regular monthly meeting. You can send them via the "Get Involved" page of the Guild website or by e-mail at [quiltwhisperer\[at\]royalcityquiltersguild.ca](mailto:quiltwhisperer@royalcityquiltersguild.ca)

We'd love to see your latest projects!

Thanks,
Linda



Mingles

January Mingle

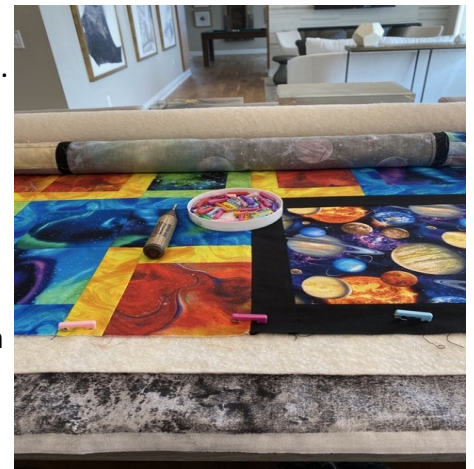
We're looking forward to gathering at **10:00 a.m. on January 17th** at Guelph's Royal Canadian Legion for our first Mingle of 2026. We'll enjoy all the familiar Mingle activities—the Grab & Go table, snacks, Community Outreach drop-offs and pick-ups, and plenty of time with friends. Don't forget to bring your own lunch.

We also hope to see more Contessa quilt tops from the "Sew a Jelly Roll" event in September. It's always exciting to watch those tops multiply!

Quilt-Sandwiching Demo with Becky

At the Mingle, Becky will demonstrate how to sandwich a quilt using foam pipe insulation—an inexpensive product available at Canadian Tire. This method builds on Sharon Schamber's board-basting technique and the many pool-noodle basting tutorials online. It keeps you off the floor, works beautifully in small spaces, and gives excellent control over your layers.

If you'd like hands-on practice after the demo, we'll have bundles of small quilt tops, complete with backing and batting, ready for quilting on a domestic machine. Pick one up at the Mingle, or, if you're local and unable to attend, call April T.S. and she'll arrange delivery.



Community Outreach

On November 17th, six Royal City Guild members joined me to help photograph, label and measure finished quilts. We then chose the best donation location for each of these quilts, depending on size and style. After an afternoon of hard work and socializing, we selected quilts to complete our commitment to the Long-term Transitional Housing program under the Home for Good umbrella. These will be delivered on December 8.

We are making good progress on quilts for the Welcome to Waterloo initiative, which will be located on Waterloo Ave. It will house younger people who are experiencing homelessness or housing insecurity and will be opening in the spring. Their coordinator has requested quilts suitable for a double bed. The ideal size would be 74" by 90". We've made a good start on the quilts required for this project and we aim to have our quilts delivered and covering the beds for the grand opening currently scheduled for March 2026.

Many thanks to Linda S, April TS, Kathryn D, Kim H, Bev H and Roxanne C.



After more than 4 years of chairing Community Outreach I am retiring from that position. For now, members of the Executive are taking on additional responsibilities as they plan for this transition. The Guild needs a new person to fill this role. It is a rewarding position which would be best suited to a pair of people who share the work. If you would like to help, please contact our Past President, Becky F, for more information.

Ann Jeffrey

Quilts of Valour

National Quilts of Valour day will be held on Friday, February 6th, 2026. Over the last couple of years the RCQG has marked this day with a QOV sew day at the Guelph Legion. The Legion is very appreciative of what we contribute to the veterans and has generously provided space for our special sew day event again next year. I would like to invite everyone to the Legion for a full day of sewing and socializing. I will have kits available as well as some things to do just for the day (no homework required). Because this sew day is on a Friday, there will be lunch available to purchase in the Legion lounge / bar room. Please help us support the Veterans across Canada and the Guelph Legion.

Thank You again for your support.
Moncia Ferguson



Quilt donated to Guelph Legion



Guelph Sews for Quilts of Valour

Save the Dates

- Oct 20, 2025: 10:00 to 4:00
- Feb 6, 2026: 10:00 to 4:00
- April 11, 2026: 10:00 to 4:00

Royal Canadian Legion
57 Watson Pkwy, S in Guelph

Visit rcqg.ca to learn more
or email
rcqg.qov@gmail.com



Let's Sew at Buy the Bolt!

Our January 14 Buy the Bolt Sew Day will have a community outreach component. For this sew day, there will be an expectation that attendees will spend part of their morning helping prepare quilts and bundles for the Mingle on Saturday, January 17. The rest of the morning and the entire afternoon will be free for everyone to focus on whatever they choose! Bring your machine, basic sewing supplies, neutral piecing thread, and have some fun!

We have room for eight people. Watch your inbox for the invitation and RSVP to grab your spot early.

THANK YOU! Jeff and Heather Fisher, owners of Buy the Bolt.

Buy the Bolt. Second Wednesday of each month, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Located at 450 Woodlawn Rd. West, Unit 11 in Guelph. Any questions? Contact April using contact information in the Guild Directory.



Labelling Your Quilts: Integrated Labels: Quilting the label into the Back or Border

Integrated quilt labels are becoming increasingly popular—not just for their permanence, but for the opportunity they provide to blend storytelling into the quilt's design. Want your label to be as permanent as your stitches? Try incorporating it into the quilt, the backing, or the actual quilting itself for a seamless finish. Integrated labels can be simple or complex, but you must plan ahead!

Option 1: Piece It In

- Design your label on a block of fabric.
- Position it into the backing layout before sandwiching the quilt.
- Add borders to frame it or blend it into pieced sections.

Example 1: Ladder Quilt Label

In a recent quilt, I used my embroidery machine to make a basic label which I top-stitched onto the backing. Once I did that, I sandwiched and quilted the piece.



Example 2: Mill Girl Label

Years ago, I helped make a more elaborate label that was pieced into the backing before quilting. Here's how we did it:

- Friends signed a piece of fabric for a comfort quilt.
- One member used her embroidery machine to create a label with the quilt name, designer, date, and other important details.
- We combined the embroidered label, the signature panel, an extra quilt block, and fabric from the front of the quilt into one long strip.
- This strip was pieced into the backing before the quilt was sandwiched and finished.



If you plan to send your quilt to a longarm quilter, be sure to ask if they have guidelines about integrating labels into the backing. At a minimum, they need to know a label is there and how it's oriented so it isn't accidentally trimmed or upside down!

Option 2: Quilt It In

- Digitize your name/date into a corner with longarm software.
- Free-motion quilt a signature block or stitched message.
- Quilt text into negative space using cursive or block letters.

Example: Tula Pink & Antique Inspiration

In a 2022 video (<https://www.facebook.com/freespiritfabrics/videos/291273779837749/>), Tula Pink shared her Ohio Star quilt, where she appliquéd her name and the year into the bottom border, and the locations where she started and finished the quilt into the left and right borders respectively. Her longarm quilter, Angela Walters, quilted her own name into the top border. Tula was inspired to move this crucial labeling information to the front of the quilt by an 1858 quilt made by Adaline C. Jordan of Walkill, Orange County, New York. That quilt is now part of the Joanna Rose Collection at the International Quilt Museum at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Learn more here:

<https://www.internationalquiltmuseum.org/quilt/20220010013>.

Tips for Design

- Use high-contrast thread for visibility.
- Keep the quilting density light where the text goes.
- Plan ahead so the label doesn't land in a heavily quilted area.

One of the primary benefits of an integrated quilt label is that it is impossible to remove or lose! Another is the endless design potential: go bold and prominent like Tula's borders, or opt for a subtle, blended label in modern or minimalist quilts. Either way, you're documenting your quilt in a way that's just as lasting as your stitches.

Membership



No doubt many of you are busy making gifts for your family and friends to celebrate the season. A handmade gift has a way of sending the message: “I cherish you”. Membership in our wonderful Guild is a gift that keeps on giving – inspiration, learning and new friendships. I wish you and yours much joy and laughter this holiday season, and safe travels if you journey to be with family and friends. May you usher in 2026 with a sense of optimism and celebration for all the good things in the world!

Welcome to Our New Members!

Since our last Newsletter, we’ve welcomed 10 new members: Pamela B, Elizabeth C, Denise H, Joanna J, Andrea M, Della Mc, Carol P, Kathy R, Sharon V and Cathy Y. If you meet a new member-on line or in person, please go out of your way to say hello! Several new members joined because of the *Refer a Friend* Program. No matter how you find us, we are happy to meet you and hope you will enjoy all this Guild has to offer, including our special programming for our 35th Anniversary celebrations. Our next Fireside Chat for new members will be April 30th, 2026.



Membership Directory & Guild Information

The finalized Fall issue of the 2025/26 Directory was sent by email to all members in November. It can also be found on Groups.io here:

<https://rcqg.groups.io/g/members/files/RCQG%20Fall%20Directory%20202526%20Nov%2018.pdf>

Until next time we chat,

Sharon B

Membership Registrar

Workshops

Melissa Marginet – Edge to Edge Walking Foot Quilting

Melissa Marginet’s “Edge to Edge Walking Foot Quilting” workshop is coming up on January 31st, 2026. At the time of writing, there are 4 spots remaining. Workshop participants will require Melissa’s book, “Edge-to-Edge Walking Foot Quilting Designs”.

She recommends one of her provided patterns, each based on a 4×4 inch (finished) square, arranged in a 10×10 grid. Your sample quilt will measure 40×40 inches. If you’d like to support Outreach, this size makes a perfect Project Linus donation quilt for a child up to two years old.



If you want to practice your new skills after the workshop, be sure to take one of the Outreach quilting bundles at the January Mingle or make arrangements with April T-S to get one to you.

Lynn Dykstra – Using Up the Bits: How to Organize and Use Your Scraps

Our third and final workshop is “*Using Up the Bits: How To Organize and Use Your Scraps*”, with Lynn Dykstra on Saturday, April 18th, 2026. This is the first workshop Lynn has presented to RCQG and she is excited to join us. Lynn has so many scrap-busting ideas it is difficult to imagine how she will fit them into a one-day workshop!



For more information, to see pictures of the workshop content, and to sign up, please visit the guild’s website at <https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/2025-2026-virtual-workshops/>

There are only a few seats remaining in these workshops. Don’t be disappointed – sign up soon!
Cheryl C, Workshops

International Quilting Day

7th Annual Virtual Celebration of International Quilting Day

SAVE THE DATE

Events include:

- Speakers
- Vendor showcase
- Virtual quilt show
- Door prizes
- Discounts!

Free for guild members; \$25 for non-member guests
Information at royalcityquiltersguild.ca/iqd2026

March 21, 2026

7th Annual Virtual Celebration of International Quilting Day



Priscilla Bianchi
Guatemalan Quilt Artist, Designer,
International Teacher & Author

The Exciting Life of a
Guatemalan Quilt Artist



Ben Robinson
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Library’s Westminster Branch and
Makerspace

Modern Making for Quilters

Information at royalcityquiltersguild.ca/iqd2026

March 21, 2026

Members' Awards and Accomplishments

Roxanne C's Quilt "Of a Feather"

Roxanne Caughill's Of a Feather, designed by Sue Spargo and quilted by Sharon Fisher. She entered it in the Creekbank Wool show, Arthur Fall Fair, and Fergus Fall Fair and won first place at all three venues. This was her first time doing wool appliqué. The fancy embroidery stitches were a huge learning curve. It took 15 months to complete.



Becky F's Quilt "Ruffled Roses"

Becky F's Ruffled Roses quilt won Viewers Choice at the Waterloo County Quilt Exhibit. The pattern was designed by Sue Garman and quilting was by Joan H.



Cathy H's Quilt "Tula Pink Butterfly"

Cathy H's Tula Pink Butterfly quilt was awarded the First Place ribbon at the Saskatoon Quilt Guild Show, held on October 24th and 25th. Pieced & quilted by Cathy.



Colette M

Honourable Mention earned by Colette May in the Machine Appliqué category at the Saskatoon Quilt Show. Machine Quilted by Cathy H.

RCQG 2025 Retreat Update

Just a quick update from this past week's retreat – everyone had a wonderful time. After December 7th, you'll be able to view the photos on groups.io.

Be sure to mark your calendar for next year's retreat. Due to scheduling conflicts at Hidden Acres, we will be offering new dates for 2026: Sunday, November 22nd to Thursday, November 26th, 2026.

We're already looking forward to another great year of sewing, friendship, and fun.



Cindy showing off her anniversary block



Stash Busters

December & January Project – The Twist

Dates: December 3rd, 2025 & January 7th, 2026

Time: 10:00 a.m. (via Zoom)

Presenter: Sue F.

Get ready for our next Stash Busters project - The Twist from TeresaDownUnder. This free pattern is quick, fun, and perfect for turning holiday scraps into cheerful blocks. It's also an excellent choice for outreach quilts and other guild charity projects.

Sue F. will guide us through the pattern during our December and January Stash Busters sessions. To get a head start, you may want to preview the tutorial in advance:

How to make a Twist quilt block – TeresaDownUnder blog:

<https://teresadownunder.com/2023/05/31/how-to-make-a-twist-quilt-block-video-tutorial/>

Tip: The tutorial offers several design variations. Just pick your favourite and sketch a layout or two before we meet. Bring your fabric scraps, enthusiasm, and let's "bust that stash" together!

Have questions? Reach out to us at [stashbusters\[at\]royalcityquiltersguild.ca](mailto:stashbusters@royalcityquiltersguild.ca). We look forward to seeing you there—happy quilting!

February and March Project – Scrappy Circle Leaders and Enders Quilt

Do you have boxes overflowing with scraps that are begging to be made into a quilt? Are you looking for a suitable quilt pattern? Well, look no further.



This Scrappy Circle Leaders and Enders quilt (source: unknown) is quickly made from 3" half square triangles and 3" squares. Each unit measures 5½" unfinished. Four rotated units make a circle block, 10½" unfinished. Quilts can be made using one or two background fabrics.

If you choose, you can make unit and blocks from larger or smaller half square triangles and squares. The finished size of the quilt shown is 50" x 70". With the addition of more blocks, larger blocks or borders you can make the quilt any size you prefer. There is no limit to the options available for this quilt pattern. This pattern will be previewed at the January Stash Busters meeting and presented in February and March 2026.

The pattern can be found in the Stash Busters groups.io files.

If you have any questions, please feel free to email me. I am listed in the Guild Directory. Lynn B



Christmas Ideas

In our home, Jean Paré's "Company's Coming Cookies" cookbook is a go-to favourite, with tattered pages and notations added to many of the recipes. My adult children expect these thumb print style, Black Forest Cookies (a version of Sacher Torte Bites) at our Christmas gatherings. I usually freeze the prepared cookies on a cookie sheet and then layer them between sheets of wax paper to store them in the freezer.

Ingredients

Butter or margarine, softened	1 cup	250 ml
Instant chocolate pudding, 4 serving size	1	1
Egg	1	1
All-purpose flour	2 cups	500 ml
Granulated sugar	¼ cup	50 ml
Maraschino cherry (Substitute jam for maraschino cherry	½ cup	125 ml
Semisweet chocolate chips	½ cup	125 ml
Butter or margarine	3 tbsp.	50 ml

Prepare the cookie base

Cream butter and pudding powder together. Beat in 1 egg. Mix in flour. Shape into small balls. Roll the balls, in the sugar. Place on a greased baking sheet. Make a dent in each with a thumb. Bake in 325°F (160 °C) oven for 5 minutes. Remove cookies and press the dent again. Continue baking for about 10 to 15 minutes.

Filling

Fill with ½ a maraschino cherry. Melt chocolate and butter in a small saucepan over low heat or in the microwave. Drizzle the mix over the cooled cookies. I use the tines of a fork. Allow the chocolate to set. Makes about 4 dozen cookies.

Enjoy

Helen K

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A Quilter's Dream Getaway in the Heart of St. Clements

Escape to a luxurious retreat made with makers in mind. Nestled minutes from the charming St. Jacobs Market, Anita Retreat is a beautifully curated home designed for those who love to create, connect, and unwind — all in refined style. Comfortably sleeping 14 guests, with 12 beds, this home is the perfect creative retreat.

What Makes Anita Retreat Perfect for Quilters?



Dedicated Crafting Stations: Each guest enjoys a personal 6-foot table, with 3 design boards



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Of Ongoing Interest

News from the CQA



RCQG 35th Anniversary Quilt Challenge

Celebrating 35 Years of Quilting, Creativity and Community

We're marking our 35th year with a special challenge just for you! Create a quilted piece that reflects your journey with the Royal City Quilters' Guild.

Challenge Theme: Celebrating RCQG

Design something inspired by your connection to the guild — this could include jade and coral colours (which are our 35th anniversary colours), the guild logo, or our iconic New York Beauty motif.



Challenge Guidelines:

1. Any size, any quilted item – quilt, bag, garment, etc.
2. Any style/genre – traditional, modern, fibre art, etc.
3. Up to 3 entries per member

Submissions must include:

1. 1 full photo + 2 close-up/detail shots
2. A description of how your piece connects to the theme
3. Your name, location, and email

Bonus: Special Anniversary Quilt Option.

If you want to go deeper into the anniversary spirit, consider making a quilt that includes these 4 meaningful blocks:

1. Anniversary Block – designed by Dawn P. based on our anniversary logo
2. A block reflecting your first quilt or how you started quilting
3. A block representing where you live (e.g. a provincial flower or symbol)
4. A block showing your current style or latest quilt block

Key Dates:

1. May 1st, 2026 – Submission deadline
2. May 9th, 2026 – Member meeting & voting instructions
3. May 10th, 2026 – Voting opens (Viewer's Choice)
4. June 2nd, 2026 – Voting closes
5. June 10th, 2026 – Winners announced & non-narrated Show & Share of all entries.

Note: The final number of displayed entries in our virtual quilt show will depend on available space. Each participant is guaranteed at least one piece in the show.

I