



Executive Update

Hello RCQG members,

I want to start by acknowledging the tireless work and commitment of **Becky F., Jane A. and Kim H.**, who ensured we all enjoyed the **7th Annual Virtual Celebration of International Quilting Day** on Saturday, March 21, 2026. Throughout the day I heard participants expressing their thanks and appreciation to the organizing committee. People clearly enjoyed the virtual quilt show, the keynote speakers, and the breakout sessions. I especially appreciated the time we had to connect with one another between sessions. Events like this would not be possible without our partners, the Waterloo County Quilters Guild and the York Heritage Quilters Guild. Congratulations to everyone involved on another successful event. I can't wait to see what you have planned for next year!

Excitement continues to build as we celebrate our **35th anniversary year** at the Royal City Quilters Guild. We have already enjoyed several fun activities this year, including our recent postcard exchange. I was so pleased with the one I received that it's still sitting on our kitchen table so I can enjoy it every day.

Our next activity is the **Anniversary Quilt Challenge**. In this newsletter, you will find details about submission deadlines, voting dates, and when emails will be sent with links so you can participate. Remember that your quilt can reflect anything that connects you with RCQG—and previously completed projects are especially welcome. We would love to see quilts you've made over the years that tell a story about your quilting journey or your connection to the guild. Our guild celebrates all quilting genres and techniques, so there are many creative directions you can explore. Perhaps you participated in the Summer Mystery, joined a sew-along, completed a workshop or special interest group project, contributed to Community Outreach, added a special anniversary label to a quilt, or created something that reflects the values we cherish—kindness, support, and a respectful quilting community. If you've been thinking about joining the challenge, there is still time to create something special or share a meaningful piece from your past and be part of the celebration.

We also hope to see many of you at **WEFTFest** again this year on April 11–12 at the Hampton Inn, 55 Benjamin Road in St. Jacobs. This year's festival is focusing on community quilts, and we are proud to display quilts made by our members for community initiatives. Visitors will also have the opportunity to view the remarkable Quilt of Belonging, an inspiring national textile project celebrating diversity and inclusion.

Looking ahead to the **April 11 Mingle**, we are planning a wonderful gathering with some special guests that highlight the work of our members in supporting our Outreach initiatives. During the event, we will be presenting outreach quilts created by our members to **Deby W**, Kitchener and Area Representative of Quilts of Valour Canada Society, and **Allana C**, Project Coordinator for Welcome2Waterloo, a transitional living project for youth being developed by Wyndham House here in Guelph. The event will be held at the

Guelph Legion, 57 Watson Parkway South, and will be a great opportunity to meet new friends, reconnect with fellow guild members, and celebrate the impact our quilting community has through outreach. We hope you will join us for this meaningful and enjoyable day.

Warmly,
Cindy
President, Royal City Quilters Guild
On behalf of the Executive Committee

35th Anniversary Quilt Challenge

The grand finale of our 35th Anniversary year will be the **Anniversary Quilt Challenge**. We are excited to celebrate the creativity and talent within our guild, and it won't be long before we can all enjoy viewing the entries in our virtual quilt show and casting our votes for the Viewer's Choice Award.

Full details about the challenge rules and requirements can be found on our website:

<https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/activities/anniversary/>

Here is the schedule for submissions, viewing, and voting:

- **April 15** – A link will be emailed to members to submit your quilt information and photo for the challenge.
- **May 1** – Deadline for quilt challenge submissions.
- **May 10** – Members will receive a link with instructions on how to view the virtual quilt show and vote for their favourite quilt.
- **June 2** – Voting will close.
- **June 9** – The Viewer's Choice Award will be announced at the Members' Meeting.

Please note: A "For Display Only" category will be included in the quilt show. This option is available for members who would like to share their work but prefer not to participate in the quilt challenge. In addition, to avoid any potential conflict of interest, members of the Executive have chosen to refrain from participating in the Viewer's Choice voting. However, they may submit photos of their creations for everyone to see and enjoy in the quilt show.

We look forward to seeing the wonderful quilts our members create, and to celebrating this special anniversary together.



April Program: "Walk a Creative Path"

Bethanne Nemesh

Bethanne's presentation explores her journey as an art quilter from her beginnings making traditional quilts, then branching out into pattern manipulation, to her current pictographic silk art quilts. Bethanne will explain how her silk quilts come to be, from initial sketches, paintings, and photography to final creation and finish details. Bethanne also discusses how any quilter can learn to recognize inspiration, and document and organize it to facilitate quilt design, through sharing her own techniques and sketchbooks in this funny guild pleaser. See the examples below.

For more about Bethanne see her website at:
whitearborquilting.com



International Quilting Day Memories

Five Quilters, One TV, and Too Many Great Choices!

Five members of the Royal City Quilters Guild gathered in Belwood to celebrate International Quilting Day in the best possible way—together. Setting up in one cozy space, they cast the event sessions onto a living room TV, creating their own retreat for a full day of quilting inspiration.

Of course, no quilting day is complete without good food and beverages, and this gathering was no exception. Between sessions, the group enjoyed a delicious spread and took time for their own “Show and Share,” celebrating each other’s recent projects and progress.

A highlight of the day was a very special celebration: an 81st birthday, marked with cake and warm wishes—a perfect reminder of the friendships that quilting fosters.

If there was any challenge at all, it was deciding which session to watch! With so many appealing options, the group found that choosing just one was the hardest part of an otherwise joyful and relaxing day.

All in all, it was a wonderful way to mark International Quilting Day—filled with creativity, camaraderie, and a shared love of quilting.

Mark your calendar of our next celebration on March 20, 2027!



RCQG at WEFTFest

Royal City Quilters Guild will be participating in WEFTFest on April 11 and 12, and we are excited that four of our Outreach quilts will be hanging in the show to highlight the meaningful work our guild does in the community. These quilts tell a powerful story — not just of skill and artistry, but of compassion, teamwork, and service. WEFTFest gives us a wonderful opportunity to share our work with a wider quilting audience.

Just as importantly, WEFTFest allows us to spotlight some of the causes that are dear to us. Our Outreach quilts represent partnerships, generosity, and the belief that quilts can bring comfort, dignity, and hope. By participating in this event, we are not only showcasing beautiful work — we are highlighting the important work of our partner organizations.

Community Outreach

Our Guild outreach program donated this gorgeous, modified rail fence quilt to the Guelph Tool Library. Our donation will be included in a silent auction portion of the Brush Battle fundraiser on the 11th of April.

The library offers tools of all kinds including sewing machines, kitchen appliances and construction equipment. By sharing tools and assisting patrons, in repairing their belongings, patrons save money and items are diverted from landfill.

The Guelph Tool Library also provides DIY bike repair services and a seed library to support community gardens. It is a great addition to the city, and a great organization for us to support through our outreach program.



April Mingle and Quilts of Valour

Shake off the winter blues and enjoy a fun-filled day of quilting, creativity, and community!

Date: April 11, 2026

Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm

Location: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 234

57 Watson Parkway S., Guelph

We'll have coffee, tea, snacks—and of course, plenty of great company.

What to Bring

1. Your lunch
2. A mug
3. A project. This is the perfect time to work on your Anniversary Quilt Challenge entry!
4. Basic sewing tools and supplies

Special Guests and Presentations

We're pleased to welcome Deby W., Regional Representative for Quilts of Valour Canada, who will be accepting the beautiful quilts you've created. We'll also welcome representatives from Welcome to Waterloo to receive their quilts.



Show and Share

Show and Share will take place after the second presentation.

- Quilt racks will be available for displaying and photographing your work.
- Photos can be taken for both Show and Share and the Guild Challenge.
- Short on time? Feel free to drop in just to photograph your quilts.
- Volunteers will be on hand to help.

More to Enjoy

- Grab and Go Table
 - Bring your gently used quilting treasures to share. (Please take back any items that don't find a new home.)
- Community Outreach
 - Drop off or return quilts, or pick up a piecing kit.
 - Need help with pickup or delivery? Contact April T. S.—she'll be happy to assist.
- Library Returns
 - Return any guild library books to the designated bin.

Come enjoy a day of chatting, sewing, cutting, and ironing with friends old and new. Rumour has it... there will be cake. We can't wait to see you there!

April T. S.

Let's Sew at Buy the Bolt!

Our next Buy the Bolt Sew Day is April 8th. 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.

Open Sew Day – Rescheduled!



Library Report

For future planning, we need to inventory our library books. Please help us by returning any books you have checked out. There will be a bin at both the April and May Mingles for your book returns.

By the time this newsletter arrives, each member who has library books in their possession will have received an email listing those books(s) they have borrowed so they can be returned. Alternatively library books can be returned to the home of MaryAnne Girouard at the south end of Guelph or Ann Jeffrey at the north end of Guelph, by arrangement.

Membership



Spring has arrived! Our members hail from coast to coast in Canada and from parts of the USA. So Mother Nature is producing flowers in some places and lots of snow still in others. Whatever your weather, I hope that Spring brings energy and inspiration to your creative endeavours.

Important - Zoom invitations for our Monthly Meetings

Occasionally issues arise related to the Zoom invitation to our Monthly Meetings. Becky addressed one issue i.e. members having trouble logging into the meeting, in the March 2026 Newsletter that you can find here: <https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/March-Newsletter-02-28final.pdf> The second issue relates to members who realize they have not received the Zoom invitation until just before the meeting. **We want to make sure that all members wishing to attend the live meeting can do so.** Here are some ways to remedy the situation:

1. When you receive your email Zoom invitation keep it in a place where you can easily retrieve it.
2. Remember you can always go to the members group in groups.io and retrieve the invitation there. Here is a link to the members section in groups.io: <https://rcqg.groups.io/g/members/topics>
3. On the Monday prior to the meeting, check your email to make sure you have received the Zoom invitation via groups.io. Invitations are usually sent out on the Sunday before the meeting.
4. If you do not see it in your inbox, check your junk or spam folders to make sure the email did not land there.
5. If you still have not received it, reach out to me at membership@royalcityquiltersguild.ca so that we can resolve the matter as quickly as possible and avoid last minute troubleshooting. Or go to Groups.io as noted above.

I do my best, but I may not see your last-minute emails to me the night of the meeting and I would not want you to miss out even though you can view the recording.

Welcome to Our New Member!

Since our last Newsletter, we've welcomed one new member thanks to our **Refer a Friend** Program. Please help me to welcome Debby MacF! 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.

Spring Fireside Chat April 30th, 2026

We have sent Zoom invitations for our next New Member Fireside Chat on April 30th. RSVP by April 2nd.

Until next time we "chat",

Sharon Bourque

Membership Registrar



Show and Share Presentation and Quilt Whispering

Submissions are due by 6pm Eastern on Saturday, April 11th, 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 7pm Saturday prior to our regular monthly meeting. You can send them via the "Get Involved" page of the Guild website or by e-mail to [quiltwhisperer\[at\]royalcityquiltersguild.ca](mailto:quiltwhisperer@royalcityquiltersguild.ca)

We'd love to see your latest projects!

Thanks,
Linda

Ctrl-Click on the Show and Share blue box to see the March Show and Share slides.



Workshops

At the time of writing, there is only *one spot* remaining in the Lynn Dykstra workshop, on Saturday April 18. This is the final workshop of this guild year. A description of the workshop is included below.

If you have already registered for this workshop, you were emailed a supplies list and a preparation handout on March 19. Please note that the email you used to register for the workshop is the email used to send you the handouts and the Zoom link to attend the workshop. If you did not receive this email, please first check your spam folder, and if you still cannot locate the email, please contact me. My contact information is in the Guild's directory. There is some "homework" for you to complete prior to the workshop.

Our third and final workshop this guild year is "*Using Up the Bits: How To Organize and Use Your Scraps*", with Lynn Dykstra, on Sat April 18, 2026. Lynn was the speaker at our December guild meeting. Lynn is an engaging speaker with lots of enthusiasm and ideas for using scraps. 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/>

Cheryl C
Workshops

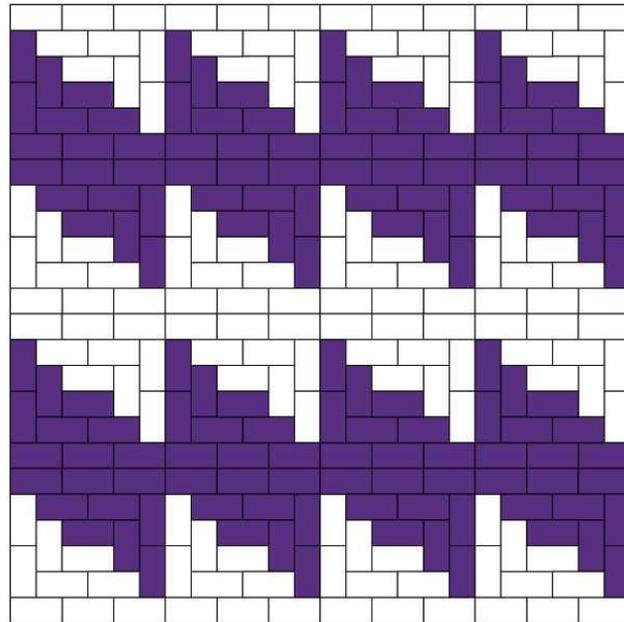
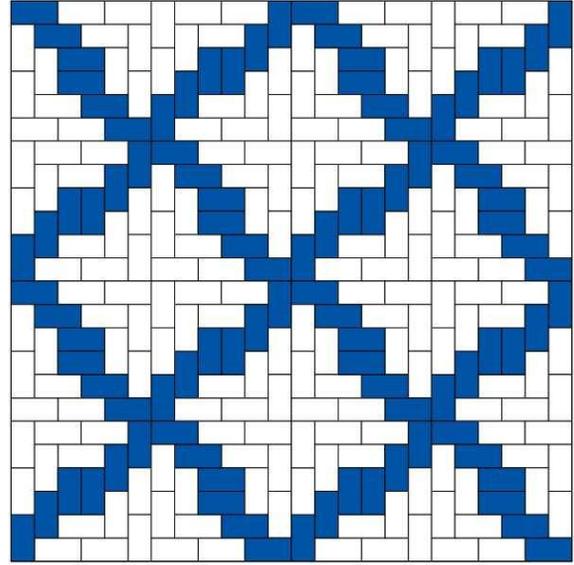
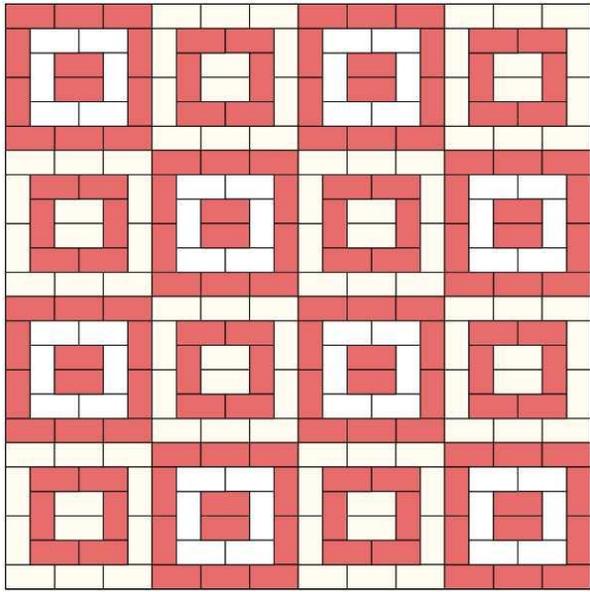
Stash Busters

We have had to make a small adjustment to our plans for April 1st.

We're very grateful to Stephanie S for her flexibility in moving her previously scheduled presentation forward. She will be joining us on April 1st to present her Potato Chip Block workshop—I think you'll really enjoy this session. She is brimming with ideas!

If you already have fabric "potato chips" cut, please feel free to have them on hand. Stephanie suggests waiting until after her presentation before cutting more, so you can move forward with a clear plan.

The pictures below show some possible layouts for potato chip quilts. The possibilities are endless.



We will reschedule Linda's presentation for a later date. If you've already started pulling fabrics or preparing for her session, your efforts will definitely be put to good use when we revisit it.

Thank you for your understanding and flexibility—we look forward to seeing you on April 1st.

Optional Label Idea: Add a Slice of Everyday Life

Many quilters make quilts for special occasions—births, weddings, and other milestone events. But quilt labels can also capture a small slice of everyday life.

Some quilters include details about daily life at the time the quilt was made—such as the price of a common item like gasoline or bread. These small details can help future viewers understand what life was like when the quilt was created.



In recent *Tula Tuesday* videos, designer Tula Pink talked about labelling two of her recent quilts and how she adds a bit of everyday context to her work.

In the first video, she shows a quilt she is preparing to send to her exhibit at the National Quilt Museum in Paducah, Kentucky. The quilt is a stunning example of an integrated label. As Tula says, “The quilt *is* the label.”

<https://www.facebook.com/reel/975356154922543>

Tula also has a personal labelling tradition: she includes the average price of gasoline on the back of her quilts. In the second video, she explains what inspired her to start doing this and shows the playful label she designed just for that purpose. She also talks about the pattern and designer of the quilt, and shares a very special gift she recently received.

See: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1361477085706766>

Advertising

We would like to thank all our advertisers for their continued support of our Guild. Please support our local quilt stores and service providers! Clicking on an advertisement will take you to that company's website. If you would like to advertise your business within our newsletter, please contact:

[advertising\[at\]oyalcityquiltersguild.ca](mailto:advertising[at]oyalcityquiltersguild.ca)



carolinequilts
 Quilting Fabrics and Supplies
 Cambridge, Ontario
carolinequilts.blogspot.com
 Caroline Berch
carolinequilts@rogers.com
 519-219-2969

Dancing Stitches

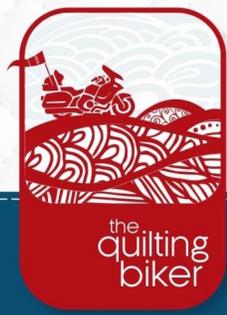
Celebrating the Art of Sewing

- *Fabric & Notions*
- *Sewing Machine Sales*
- *Sewing Machine Repairs*
- *Sewing Classes*
- *Quilting Classes*



100 Sheldon Drive
 Units 4 and 5
 Cambridge, ON
 N1R7S7
 519-624-8878
celebratesewing@gmail.com

www.dancing-stitches.com **BERNINA**
made to create



longarm quilting services
 Linda McLaren
mclaren.linda@gmail.com
 519.358.6579
quiltingbiker.blogspot.ca



031385 Grey Road 14
 Conn, ON
519-323-2693

BERNINA
made to create

- Hand dyed wool
- Ready made kits
- Cotton quilt fabrics
- Quilter's flannel
- Over 20 models to choose
- 2 years free service & support on new machines
- Free lessons
- Service to all makes




COUNTRY CONCESSIONS
Quilt Shop
 Helping you build your stash for over 20 years!
 35 King St, N. Cookstown
 (Just north of Hot Stacks)
 We can't wait to see you!
 705-458-4546 | countryconcessions.com



Buy the Bolt

Longarm Quilting Sales & Service

Authorized Ontario Dealer of
and Certified Service Techs for



519-241-6051

www.buythebolt.ca

Mention RCQG Membership for a 10% discount.
Machines and service excluded.

TRIANGLE *Sewing Centre*

SALES & SERVICE

386 WOOLWICH STREET, GUELPH, ONTARIO N1H 8L2
519-822-9910
FAX 519-822-3145 **Nancy Caravaggio**

*Mr. C's
Longarm Quilting*

Guelph, Ont
519.993.2084
info@mrcslongarmquilting.ca

Puppy Classes | Obedience | Rally-O | Agility | Private Training

MONTESAURUS

Training Family Dogs Since 1995

(519) 826-7788
hazel@montessaurus.ca
www.montessaurus.ca

4424 Victoria Rd S
Puslinch, ON
N0B 2J0



Sewing Machines

Major & minor repairs; all makes & models

Eli Balk
83 Cedarvale Ave in Guelph, ON
Ph: 226-501-5052
Website: sewingservice.ca
email:
berninacanada@gmail.com



Whispering Waves Retreat

3 bedroom retreat home, Sleeps 6 people. Gather your friends and projects: create, relax and enjoy!

Winter Special: book 2 nights get 3rd free: Dec-Mar

www.whisperingwavesretreat.ca
 contact Lynn - 519-648-2436
whisperingwavesretreat@gmail.com

PRO SEWING MACHINE DOCTOR

JUKI®

PFAFF

 **Husqvarna**

SINGER



JUKI®  **Husqvarna**

CERTIFIED DEALER



**NEW & USED
 INDUSTRIAL
 & DOMESTIC
 SEWING MACHINES
 FOR SALE!**

SERVICE TO ALL MAKES INDUSTRIAL & DOMESTIC
prosewingmachinedoctor.com 519-837-1322



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



Convenient Elevator Access: Home is equipped with an elevator, making it simple to transport your supplies between floors



Pressing Facilities: With 4 ironing stations available, you can effortlessly press and perfect your quilting pieces.

And more!



Discover the charm of Anita Retreat & BOOK TODAY!



info@anitarettreat.com
www.anitarettreat.com



the Quilt Rack

Fabrics Machine Quilting Classes Quilt Finishing

Lucy Rowntree

905-304-0180
www.thequiltrack.ca
thequiltrack@sympatico.ca

356 Wilson St. E. #4
Ancaster, ON.
L9G 2C2

News from the CQA

Quilts For Survivors

8,000

ORPHAN BLOCK

Challenge

Quilts for Survivors has set a goal to collect **8,000 QUILT BLOCKS OF ALL SIZES** that follow our Fabric Restrictions on our website. For more information visit www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca

JUNE 17-20, 2026
RBC CONVENTION CENTRE
WINNIPEG, MANITOBA

FABRIC RESTRICTIONS

Please avoid using fabrics that may be triggering or offensive, including:

- Religious symbols, such as crosses or churches
- School-related themes, such as alphabets, rules, or paper
- Travel motifs, such as planes, trains, or cars
- Graphic content, such as weapons, foul language, or drugs
- Gang-related designs, such as bandana prints

SHIPPING ADDRESS

58 Legion Drive South
Porcupine Ontario
P0N1H0

SHIPPING INSTRUCTIONS

To qualify as part of the challenge:

- Please state that your submission is for the challenge.
- Let us know how many blocks you have sent.
- Blocks cannot be sewn together in rows or as completed quilt tops/quilts.
- If possible, please include the size of the block(s) you are sending.

Shipped Through April 1st - June 1st 2026
This helps ensure we have an accurate count before leaving for Quilt Canada.

CONTACT US:
705-262-1853

admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca
WWW.QUILTSFORSURVIVORS.CA



QUILTS OF VALOUR CANADA 20TH ANNIVERSARY COMPLETE QUILT CONTEST



To celebrate our 20th Anniversary QOVC will be proudly having a concurrent show at Quilt Canada 2026, in Winnipeg MB.

“20 Years of Hugs From A Grateful Nation”

- *20 quilts will be selected through online viewers choice voting to represent QOVC at the show.
- *Quilts must meet QOVC Specifications on www.quiltsofvalour.ca
- *To enter send one photo of your quilt along with your name, email, address and phone number to webmaster@quiltsofvalour.ca
- *All entries must be sent in by May 1st 2026.
- *Online voting will take place May 4, 5 and 6th.
- *Winners (Top 20 votes) will be announced May 7th
- *Coordination for hanging sleeves and shipping of quilts will be made with the makers of top 20 quilts for display at Quilt Canada 2026 QOVC Show – *20 Years of Hugs From a Grateful Nation*.
- * After the show quilts will be presented to Canadian Armed Forces Veterans.
- *Prizes will be provided by BERNINA Canada and Northcott.

BERNINA
made to create

 **NORTHCOTT**
Cottons that feel like silk

Quilt Shows



KAWARTHA QUILTMAKERS' GUILD
Presents

Feelings In Fabric Quilt Show and Sale

Fri May 8 - Sat May 9, 2026
9:30am - 5:00pm 9:30am - 4:00pm

Location: Peterborough Sport & Wellness Centre
775 Breasley Drive, Peterborough, ON

- Vendors
- Charity Quilt Raffles
- Displays
- KQG Member's Boutique (Items for Sale)
- Prize Baskets
- Light Refreshments Available
- Antique Quilts (Bed turning Daily)
- Scissor & Tool Sharpening (Bring your Items)

Feature Quilter: **Marg Worsick**

For membership information:
kqgquilts.ca
EMAIL: kqgstitch@gmail.com

\$10 ENTRY
Cash only
(ATM on site)



PIECEMAKERS 2026 QUILT SHOW

New Quilts, Merchants' Mall, Boutique, Lunch Café

April 23, 24 and 25, 2026
Thursday and Friday - 10 am until 5 pm
Saturday - 10 am until 4 pm

Admission (Cash Only)
\$10

Contact: Joan Robinson
Email: markjoan@quadro.net

The Pyramid Centre
317 James Street South
St. Marys, ON

Huron Perth Quilters' Guild & Stonetowne Quilters' Guild




COMMUNITY QUILT EDITION



55 Benjamin Rd, Waterloo

Featuring:




**April 11 & 12
FREE ENTRY**



Toronto Modern Quilt Guild Presents: Our First Show!
May 1-2, 2026 | Wychwood Barns, Toronto

Hanging By A Thread
Oakville Fibre Artists 6th Show

March 7 - April 2, 2026
 Monday - Friday 9am - 9pm
 Saturday - Sunday 9am - 5pm

Queen Elizabeth Park Community and Cultural Centre - Main Gallery
 2302 Bridge Road, Oakville, ON

ofaokvillefibreartists
 The New Oakville
 Fibre Artists

Meet the Artists!
 Saturday, March 7
 2 - 4pm

Supported by the Town of Oakville
**COMMUNITY
 ACTIVATION
 GRANT
 2024**

Presented by
**Common Thread Quilt Guild
 OTTAWA**

Quilt Show
 June 12 - 13, 2026

Vendors' Mall, Displays & Draws

Friday, June 12, 10 am - 7 pm
 Saturday, June 13, 10 am - 5 pm

Lois Kemp Arena
 200 Glen Park Drive, Gloucester

Entrance \$12 (free parking)

Quilt pieced by Linda Wen
 and quilted by Lisa Fedak

commonthreadquiltguild.ca

Homer Watson
House & Gallery

Tracey Lawko

An Ode to Phoebe

A reflection on time, place, and materials.



April 4 – May 24, 2026

Reception Sunday April 12 | 1-3pm

1754 Old Mill Road, Kitchener, ON



Canada Council
for the Arts

Conseil des arts
du Canada