



Executive Update

Hello RCQG Members.

As we come to the close of another wonderful guild year, I find myself reflecting on all the activities that bring us together to celebrate our shared passion for quilting. We have enjoyed inspiring speakers and informative workshops, virtual and in-person sew days, our retreat, International Quilting Day and meaningful community outreach through donated quilts. As a member, I know I have truly enjoyed being part of it all.

On behalf of all our members, I would like to extend heartfelt thanks to the many volunteers who help keep the Guild running smoothly. So much happens behind the scenes, and their dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment make our Guild the welcoming community that it is. Thank you to each and every volunteer for all that you do. We need volunteers, and everyone is welcome to take a turn. If you are able, I encourage you to find a way to share your talents, knowledge and passion.

In this issue of the newsletter, you will find the annual reports from those serving in leadership roles across the Guild. Read them and learn more about the incredible work being done throughout our organization. Their efforts deserve our appreciation, so please be sure to thank them when you see them.

This past year was especially meaningful as we celebrated the 35th Anniversary of RCQG. It was wonderful to reflect on how our guild began when 29 members gathered for the first general meeting on April 9, 1991. Even then, “show and share” was part of the meeting — a tradition that continues to be one of the highlights of our gatherings today. Together, we truly celebrated the art and joy of quilting.

A reminder that membership renewal invoices were sent on May 12th. Renew early so we can continue another exciting year. Members who renew by June 7th will be entered into a draw to win a free membership for next year! Simply visit our online store or use the link included in the email.

Our workshop and program teams have been hard at work planning an exciting lineup for next year. We can look forward to more opportunities to learn, connect, and be inspired.

As many of you know, next year I will be passing the President’s baton to Kim H. and taking on the role of Past President. I look forward to continuing to support our guild as we build on our reputation as a welcoming and inclusive space for quilters of all skill levels and interests.

Thank you for being part of RCQG and for helping make this such a vibrant and caring community.

Happy Quilting!

Warmly,

Cindy

President, RCQG

On behalf of the Executive Committee

June Program: Quilts and Their Stories with Helen Martin

Join our very own Helen Martin as she shares with us her love and knowledge of antique, vintage and contemporary quilts, both those she has collected and those she's made over the past many years. Helen's love of antique and vintage quilts began when her mother told her the story of the wedding quilt she gave to Helen and her husband Don. Quilts, tops and blocks from the early 1800s to the present will surely delight and inspire us to rescue, restore and cherish family quilted heirlooms.



Annual General Meeting - Reminder

We'd like to remind you that the Royal City Quilters' Guild Annual General Meeting will take place following our regular meeting on June 9. Members will vote on the proposed bylaw amendments and the slate of officers for the coming term. Additional information about the proposed bylaw changes can be found in the May newsletter.

As part of our leadership transition, the current Vice President will move into the President role, the current President will move into the Past President position, and the current Past President will rotate off the Executive. We will also be nominating April T-S for the position of Vice President.

As we look ahead to the new Guild year, we are still seeking an Advertising Coordinator as well as volunteers to assist with Community Outreach. If you are interested in learning more about either opportunity, please contact Becky. Getting involved is a wonderful way to support the Guild and connect with fellow members!



35th Anniversary

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. Cast your vote now until June 2! <https://forms.gle/VhrtzZywFREfrsH6A>. During the June 9th meeting, the Viewer's Choice Award will be announced.

Don't Miss Your Anniversary Gift: "Party of Six" Download Deadline.

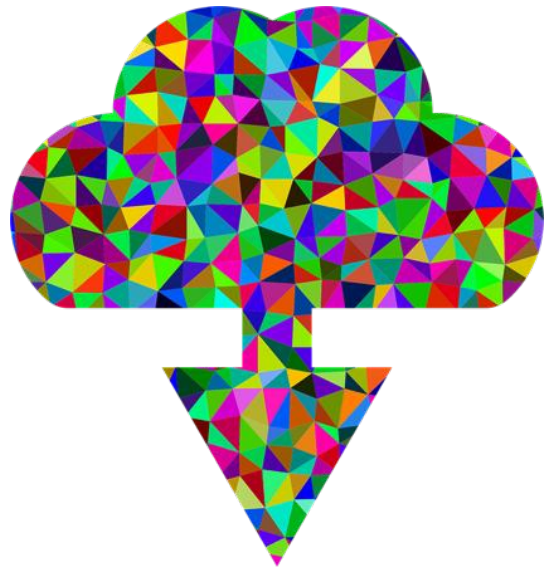
As we celebrate 35 wonderful years of quilting, creativity, and community, we're delighted to have shared a special gift with our members: "Party of Six" by Pat Speth. This vibrant pattern has been part of our anniversary festivities—but like all good parties, this one must end! Important Reminder: Our guild license for "Party of Six" expires on **June 30**, and at that time the pattern will be removed from our Groups.io site. If you haven't already downloaded your copy, now is the moment!



How to Download:

Step-by-step instructions are available on the 35th Anniversary page of our website (<https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/activities/anniversary/>). It takes only a few minutes to save the pattern for your personal use—so you can enjoy it whenever inspiration strikes. Think of this as a little piece of our anniversary year to keep in your quilting library—a reminder of the connections we've shared and the creativity we continue to celebrate together. Let's make sure no one misses out. Download your copy before June 30th and keep the party going!

Happy quilting—and happy anniversary!



Programs, Workshops & What's Next – Don't Miss a Moment!

Excitement is building for the year ahead! At our May meeting, we officially revealed the full lineup of program and workshop speakers for next year—and it's shaping up to be an inspiring, skill-building, and connection-filled season.



From fresh creative perspectives to practical techniques you'll want to try right away, next year's presenters offer something for every quilter. Whether you're looking to stretch your artistic boundaries, refine your skills, or simply enjoy time with fellow makers, you'll find plenty to look forward to.

Even better? All the details are now live on our website. You can explore the full schedule, read about each speaker, and start planning which workshops you won't want to miss.

To give you a taste, we've also posted a preview video—a quick, engaging way to see what's ahead and share with your quilting friends! If you haven't watched it yet, it's well worth a few minutes!

Now is the perfect time to make sure you're part of it all:

- **Renew your membership** to secure access to programs, workshops, and guild activities
- **Invite a friend (or two!)**—quilting is even more fun when shared, and this year's lineup is a wonderful introduction to our community. Remind your friend to mention your name on the membership form, so you get credit for the Refer-a-Friend initiative.

Let's make next year a vibrant, welcoming year filled with creativity, learning, and connection. We can't wait to experience it together—and we'd love for you to help grow our circle by bringing someone new along.

Don't miss out—renew, explore, and share the excitement!

Workshops

At our May guild meeting, you learned that we opened an early registration for one of next year's workshops – Jackie O'Brien's One Block Wonder. Her workshop is in two parts, on two Saturdays (October 24 and December 5, 2026).

At the time of writing this report, there were only six spots remaining. There is a link below to find more information and to register. Please consider this opportunity to create a one-of-a-kind piece of art.

<https://rcqg.square.site/>



Community Outreach

RCQG Supports Habitat for Humanity Guelph

We have something wonderful to celebrate—and something exciting ahead.

First, a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who contributed to our Welcome 2 Waterloo initiative. Thanks to your generosity, creativity, and time, this project is now complete. Your quilts will bring warmth, comfort, and a sense of belonging to those beginning new chapters in our community. This was a remarkable achievement.



Artist rendering of Speedvale Commons build

As one project wraps up, another begins. The Executive is pleased to announce that the Royal City Quilters' Guild will be supporting the upcoming Habitat for Humanity build in Guelph as one of our main community outreach projects, replacing the now-completed Welcome 2 Waterloo initiative.

This Habitat build will create 30 stacked town homes (two- and three-bedroom units) on Speedvale Avenue, with move-in expected in early 2028. Our goal is simple: one quilt for every family unit. These quilts are intended to be well-loved, everyday pieces—perfect for a living room couch, ready to wrap a family in comfort as they settle into their new home.

At the same time, we will continue our “You Choose the Charity” initiative, including ongoing support for Quilts of Valour and Member’s Choice donations. These efforts remain an important part of how we give back as a guild.

To support the Habitat project, we’ll be working together in a few different ways:

- **Quilt Makers:** If you’d like to create a quilt, *kits will be available* to help you get started.
- **Sew from Our Stash:** We invite members to request fabric, batting, and/or backing from our guild stash if you’d like to make a quilt pattern of your own choosing.
- **Community Sewing Event:** Our annual *Sew a Jelly Roll Day* in September, will bring members together to sew and contribute to both of our Guild-wide projects.

Full project details—including quilt guidelines, timelines, and how to request a kit or materials—are available on the Community Outreach page of the Guild website. We encourage you to visit the site and find a way to participate.

This new initiative builds on the success of Welcome 2 Waterloo and continues our tradition of quilting with purpose. We hope you’ll join us in helping make these new houses feel like home.

Mingle

Our final Mingle of the year brought together creativity, generosity, and the spirit of community that defines Royal City Quilters' Guild.

We were honoured to welcome Deby Wettges, the regional representative for Quilts of Valour Canada. Deby was presented with 24 quilts, each quilt represents comfort, gratitude and the heartfelt appreciation our guild holds for Canada's veterans. Thank you to every member who contributed to this meaningful effort.

We also had the pleasure of seeing Alana again. She is a young quilter seeking guidance on finishing her quilt. True to Guild spirit, Ann J. stepped in without hesitation, offering a hands-on tutorial on sandwiching her quilt. It was a wonderful reminder of how quilting knowledge is passed from one maker to the next. We wish Alana every success and look forward to seeing her completed quilt.



Dates to remember:

On **July 1, 2026** the 3rd Annual Retreat registration opens – a \$50 deposit will hold your spot for this much anticipated event. The retreat itself will be at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp from **November 22 - 26 2026**. See below for more details.

September 19, 2026 is National Jelly Roll day – this fun celebration is already in the works. Stay tuned for details; it's shaping up to be a lively and colourful day.

Let's Sew at Buy the Bolt!

Our next Buy the Bolt Sew Day is June 10th. 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.

RCQG 2026 Retreat Update

We are pleased to announce plans for RCQG's third annual sewing retreat at Hidden Acres Mennonite Retreat. Mark your calendar now for November 22-26, 2026!

Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp & Retreat Centre is located at 1921 Line 37 in New Hamburg, Ontario. For more information about the venue, visit their website <https://hiddenacres.ca>. Registration is limited to RCQG members starting **July 1, 2026**. We will open registration to non members on August 1, 2026. The cost for our retreat is \$483 for shared rooms and \$550 for single occupancy rooms. This price includes 12 meals, four nights lodging, day / evening snacks, gratuities and a table for all your equipment and projects.



Please visit RCQG's online store on or after July 1st, 2026 at <https://rcqg.square.site> to make a non-refundable deposit of \$50 (shared rooms) or \$55 (single occupancy). Your early response will allow us to make necessary commitments to the facility. The final non-refundable payment of \$433 for shared rooms, and \$495 for a single room, is due September 1st, 2026. While payments are non-refundable, they can be transferred to someone else should an emergency arise that requires you to cancel your attendance. In that unlikely case, we will try to help you find someone interested in purchasing your spot.

All participants will need to bring sheets, towels and pillowcases. Pillows and blankets are provided. Two weeks prior, Monica will ask for all dietary restrictions so the caterer can do her best to accommodate any special dietary needs (e.g. food allergies). Please note the venue is accessible and accommodating. We look forward to spending the last week of November with you!! If you would like to help plan activities for the retreat, please reach out to April T. We want to hear your best ideas! Our email addresses are in the Guild directory.

Retreat Organizers:
April T & Monica F

Membership

I wish you all a safe and restful summer. May you have lots of time to enjoy the beauty of Mother Nature to inspire your creativity.

This month we welcome two new members for our 2026/27 Guild Year – Jennifer C. and Suzanna K. I hope you will take the time to make them feel welcome if you meet in any of our forums.



Renewal for 2026/27 Guild Year & Early Bird Registration

On May 12th current members received a renewal invoice by email for the next Guild Year. Ideally you will take advantage of the *Early Bird Registration* and qualify to win one of two draws to win back your membership fees. Using the invoice you received by email to pay makes it easy and convenient for you and

me. Of course, you have two other options to pay – the store on the website or by mailing a cheque directly to the Treasurer. Should you choose to pay by cheque and wish to be entered into the Early Bird Draw, it must reach the Treasurer by the deadline for the Early Bird draw, namely midnight PST June 7th. Winners will be announced at the June 9th meeting. The final deadline to renew for next Guild year is August 31st. After that date you will no longer receive Zoom invitations for the new Guild Year.

Note: If you know you intend to renew, it would be of great help to me if you do so well ahead of the final deadline. There is much administrative work required in preparation for our first meeting on September 8th. Conversely, if you know that you will not be renewing, please drop me a line at membership@royalcityquiltersguild.ca. By doing so you will not continue to receive reminder invoices.

Till the next time we “chat”,
Sharon Bourque
Membership Registrar
2025/26

Show and Share Presentation and Quilt Whispering

Submissions are due by 6pm Eastern on Saturday, March 6th, 2026.

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



RCQG
Show and Share
May 2026

Stash Busters

Summer Stash Busters Projects

Join us this summer for two creative and inspiring Stash Busters projects! Stash Busters meets via Zoom on the first Wednesday of each month, offering a relaxed and encouraging opportunity to sew along with fellow guild members while making a dent in your fabric stash.

June & July: Improv Quilting with Linda M

Linda M will lead our June and July sessions with an exciting Improv Quilting project. Improv quilting encourages creativity, experimentation, and playful piecing—perfect for using up scraps and trying something new without worrying about strict patterns or exact measurements. Whether you are new to improv quilting or already love the freedom it offers, Linda's project promises to be fun, flexible, and inspiring.



Bright Improv

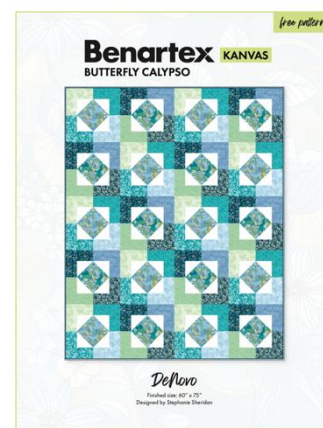


Speed Date with Improv

August & September: DeNovo with Flo P

For August and September, Flo P will introduce DeNovo, a striking 60" x 75" quilt pattern from the Benartex website:

<https://cdn.benartex.com/fabrics/188/DeNovo.pdf>. This design features a single quilt block made in both medium/light and dark versions, with the arrangement of the blocks creating the overall pattern. Depending on your fabric choices, the final quilt can appear soft and subtle or bold and dramatic. Flo will guide participants through fabric selection and block placement ideas to help everyone create their own unique interpretation of the design.



Bring your creativity, your fabric stash, and your enthusiasm as we stitch our way through the summer together!

QR Code Labels: Linking Your Quilt to its Story

What if your quilt label could do more than tell a story—what if it could *link* to it?

Most quilt labels are necessarily brief. We include the essentials: who made the quilt, when, and perhaps why. But sometimes there is so much more we'd like to say. A QR (quick response) code offers a simple and creative way to expand that story beyond the limits of fabric and thread.

With a quick scan from a smartphone, a QR code can connect a viewer to a video, a photo gallery, or a written story about your quilt. It's a modern twist on labelling that still honours the tradition of documenting our work.

Telling a Bigger Story

A QR code is a small square image that can be scanned with a phone or tablet. When scanned, it opens a link—much like clicking on a website.

For quilt makers, that link can lead almost anywhere. You might record a short video showing the quilt and talking about your process, or write a page describing why the quilt was made and who it was for. Some quilters include photos of the quilt in progress, while others use the space to document fabrics, patterns, and quilting techniques in detail. You can even provide care instructions for the quilt!

One particularly meaningful option is to link your QR code to a short video of you talking about your quilt. This idea echoes the work of the Quilt Alliance's *Quilters' Save Our Stories (QSOS)* project, which records interviews with quiltmakers to preserve the stories behind their work. Inspired by this approach, you might record a brief video sharing why you made the quilt, what it means to you, or what you hope for its future. A QR code on your label can then connect viewers directly to your voice and your story.

For a gift quilt, a QR code could even link to a message for the recipient—or for future generations. Imagine a grandchild, years from now, scanning a label and hearing your voice describe the quilt.

Creating Your QR Code

Making a QR code is surprisingly simple and requires no special technical skills.

First, decide what you want your code to link to. This might be a shared document, an unlisted YouTube video, a photo album, or even a simple web page. Once your content is ready, you can paste the link into a free QR code generator. Many websites offer this service, and even Google Chrome can create a QR code directly from a web page.

After generating the code, download it as an image and test it with your phone before moving any further. This step is important—once the code is stitched or printed onto fabric, it's much harder to correct.

From Screen to Fabric

There are several ways to incorporate a QR code into your quilt label, depending on the tools you have available.

Printing on fabric is one of the easiest methods. Using printable fabric sheets or the freezer paper technique, you can print a crisp, high-contrast image of your QR code and stitch it into your label.

Transfer methods, such as Transfer Artist Paper, can also produce sharp results and are especially useful if you want to include additional design elements alongside the code.



Example QR code for a quilt label, linking to the maker's story—an idea inspired by the Quilters' Save Our Stories project.

For those with embroidery machines, it is even possible to stitch a QR code. This requires converting the image into a stitch file using embroidery software and testing carefully to ensure the code remains scannable. Because QR codes rely on precise shapes, clarity is essential no matter which method you choose.

A Few Things to Keep in Mind

QR codes are remarkably durable, but they do have a few practical requirements. They need to be large enough to scan easily—about 1 to 1½ inches square is a good guideline—and they must have strong contrast, typically black on a white or very light background.

It's also important to avoid heavy quilting or distortion around the code, as this can interfere with scanning. Once your label is complete, it's worth testing the code again to make sure it still works.

Finally, consider the longevity of your link. Choose a platform that is likely to remain accessible over time so that your quilt's story doesn't disappear.

Blending Tradition and Technology

A QR code label doesn't replace a traditional label—it enhances it. Your stitched or printed information still provides essential details, while the QR code offers a doorway to a richer, more personal story.

In many ways, this approach continues a long quilting tradition. Quilters have always found ways to record their lives in fabric—through names, dates, and messages stitched into their work. A QR code simply gives us a new way to do the same thing.

New RCQG Resource: Label It with Love

As part of the Royal City Quilters Guild's 35th Anniversary celebration and our focus on legacy, the Program/Workshop Committee is pleased to share a new Guild resource: *Label It with Love: A Quilter's Guide to Labels and Legacy*.

This guide brings together the complete *Label It with Love* newsletter series, exploring a wide range of creative approaches to quilt labels—from handwritten and embroidered labels to pieced, integrated, machine embroidered, and QR code labels. Along the way, it also explores the important role labels play in preserving the stories behind our quilts.



The guide is now available on the RCQG website under the **Resources** menu. Because it is published under a Creative Commons Attribution license, members are welcome to download, share, and use the resource with appropriate credit to RCQG.

We hope it inspires you to label your quilts with intention—and to preserve your stories for future generations.

President

As I reflect on the past year, I am reminded how important it is to have a place where we can gather with like-minded friends who share our passion for quilting and creativity. Our Guild continues to provide many opportunities to connect, learn, and inspire one another, both virtually and in person.

This year, our Guild continued to grow and thrive. We welcomed 63 new members from across Canada and the United States, bringing our membership to 228 members — an increase of almost 10% from last year. Our outreach into the quilting community and our commitment to sharing the many benefits of Guild membership remain critical to our success. Events such as WEFTFest in April gave us the opportunity to meet quilters, showcase our Guild, and invite others to join our community. The success of our “Refer a Friend” initiative, along with our ongoing commitment to virtual programming, has also helped us expand our reach and welcome new members from near and far.

Throughout the year, our dedicated volunteers delivered outstanding programming. We hosted ten dynamic guest speakers, each representing different genres of the quilting world, three well-attended and information packed virtual workshops, and a full day of celebration for the 7th International Quilting Day. Many of you took advantage of our Special Interest Groups, Saturday Sew Days, Summer Mystery Quilt, and in-person Mingles that provided additional opportunities for members to stay connected, inspired, and engaged.

Our Community Outreach program also continued to grow and make a meaningful impact. In addition to donating quilts to the National Quilts of Valour program, we supported local organizations that assist individuals experiencing homelessness or living in transitional housing. Outreach quilts also travelled to northern Manitoba to bring comfort to those impacted by the forest fires.

At our May meeting, we shared the exciting lineup of inspiring speakers and workshops planned for the 2026–2027 Guild year. It promises to be another wonderful year.

I encourage you to read the following reports prepared by our Guild leaders, which highlight the many accomplishments, activities, and contributions made throughout the year. Together, they reflect the incredible dedication and spirit that continue to make our Guild such a special community. Thank you to everyone who contributed their energy, ideas, and enthusiasm this year. Your support and participation are what make our Guild flourish.

Cindy K.

Vice-President

As I have enjoyed another year of guild activities, I’ve continued to learn the nuts and bolts of Guild leadership under the tutelage of Cindy and Becky. Many thanks to both as I prepare to step into the President’s role.

A great deal of my time this year was assisting in keeping the Outreach initiative active and moving forward. I have been maintaining the quilt donation logs, assisting in the sorting fabric, and creating quilting kits.

My other major focus has been to facilitate the Summer Mystery Quilt project for the summer of 2025. I am also organizing the 2026 mystery which is in the registration process.

I'm looking forward to another year of quilting fun with guild members.

Kim H

Past-President

The Past-President has three primary responsibilities: nominations for the coming year; arranging for meeting facilities; and overseeing insurance. In addition, I chair the planning committee for International Quilting Day, a role I have continued to take on as a special interest.

The nominating process for the coming year is nearing completion. Most officers and committee chairs have agreed to continue in their roles, and work is well underway to fill remaining vacancies. Incoming leaders have played a key role in planning for transitions within Community Outreach. The final slate of nominees will be presented to the membership for approval at the Annual General Meeting.

RCQG continues to require facilities for both in-person and virtual activities. The Guelph Royal Canadian Legion once again provided space for in-person meetings and sewing days, and we appreciate their ongoing support. Virtual programming continues through the Guild's Zoom Business plan, which accommodates up to 300 participants and allows members from across North America to connect. Buy the Bolt graciously invites us into their classroom once a month to work on Guild or individual projects, depending on our needs.

The Guild maintains insurance coverage through the Canadian Quilters Association provider. This includes general liability, directors' and officers' liability, and property coverage for Guild assets. The storage arrangement with Community Living Guelph Wellington meets the Guild's needs and is a valued partnership.

International Quilting Day 2026 built on the success of previous years and remains a cornerstone event for the Guild. Planning included coordination of keynote and concurrent speakers, vendor participation, promotion, a virtual quilt show, and member communications. This event showcases the creativity and energy of the Guild community, including our partnering guilds, York Heritage and Waterloo County.

In addition to these core responsibilities, several governance and leadership initiatives were completed. We transferred Guild records and historical materials to the Guelph Public Library Archives to ensure their long-term preservation and accessibility. We revised our Standing Rules and governance documents for Executive and member consideration. The revisions harmonize the documents and reflect current Guild practices. I worked extensively on documenting processes and supporting leadership transition to help ensure continuity in the years ahead.

The Guild continues to benefit from strong relationships with community partners and supporters, including the Guelph Legion, United Way, City of Guelph, Community Living Guelph Wellington and others as we have expanded our partnerships.

Thank you to everyone who contributed time, energy, and creativity this year. Every contribution—whether in a formal role or behind the scenes—helps sustain and strengthen the Guild. It is a pleasure to be part of such a dedicated and generous community.

Becky F.

Treasurer

The Guild's financial records for 2024-2025 were reviewed by the accounting firm, Caissa LLP in Cambridge ON. Caissa's report and the 2024-2025 income and expense report were presented at the September 2025 membership meeting. The financial report was voted on and approved by the members.

The Guild's financial year ends on June 30th. When all outstanding transactions, such as payment to the speaker in June, are completed, the financial records will be reviewed by an independent party. The final financial report for 2025-2026 will be presented to the Guild members in the fall of 2026.

GNUCash, an accounting software program, is used to record and monitor the Guild's revenue, expenses, and specified allocations of funds provided by community organizations and government grants. Each month, new updates to the income and expense report are provided to the executive committee for review, questions, and approval.

Helen K.

Program

This year we once again had ten guest speakers from across Canada and the United States. We were also able to record all of our speakers so that guild members could watch at their leisure or re-watch.

Our speakers represented a broad swath of contemporary quilting genres as well as those who work to honour and promote our quilting legacy. Our speakers spoke about: the importance of quilts as historical and personal documents; quilts that literally tell a story; a professional quilting teacher; a designer's business; the management of a textile museum; scrap management; colour theory; the creative journey of a modern quilter; and a long arm quilter.

The committee made a real effort to keep costs under control and to feature as many quilting genres as possible. Although still quite economical in comparison to in-person speakers, costs for Zoom presentations have increased. Nevertheless, we were well within the program budget for the year.

In conjunction with the Workshop committee, we have arranged for speakers for the upcoming year.

Thanks to Becky F. for spearheading a Preview video to share with members at the May meeting and on the Guild website.

Dawn H. and Sherri G.

Workshop

Three workshops were offered this guild year. They were:

- Krista Moser – “Sunny Scraps”
- Melissa Marginet – “Edge to Edge Walking Foot Quilting”
- Lynn Dykstra – “Using Up The Bits: How to Organize and Use Your Scraps”

All three workshops met, and surpassed, their break-even thresholds, so no extra cost was incurred by the Guild to run these workshops. As a reminder, workshops are offered with the intent that they be revenue neutral for the guild.

Cheryl C.

Membership

Our membership now consists of 228 talented and inspiring members. We were joined by 64 new members this year. Of those, 30 joined the Guild because of the *Refer a Friend* initiative that was introduced in 2024/25. Keep up the good work everyone, as this program will continue into the next Guild year.



Our membership is geographically diverse given the virtual nature of our Guild. We are enriched by members from coast to coast in Canada, and four of our members join us from the USA, hailing from Alaska, California, Washington and Indiana.

Obviously, not all members can partake at the “in-person” activities. However, thanks to modern technology we offer a wide variety of online opportunities from inspiring Monthly Speakers; a full day of celebration on International Quilting Day in March; virtual Workshops throughout the year; Special Interest Groups led by members; ; Saturday Sew Days; and a Summer Mystery Quilt for renewing and new members. It is easy to be involved, be inspired and make new friends.

The updated Membership Handbook and Directory was released to the Membership in Fall 2025 and Spring 2026.

The Executive hosted a Fall 2025 and Spring 2026 Fireside Chat for new members. These chats provide an important “getting to know you” opportunity, and orient new members to the Guild to ensure maximum participation and enjoyment. Next year’s chats will tentatively take place on October 29, 2026, and April 29, 2027.

The automated renewal invoice was sent to all current members on May 12, 2026. Our early bird draw incentive began on that date with a deadline of June 7th, midnight PST, to participate in the draw. The two winners of this draw will be announced at the June 9th monthly meeting, and will each receive a refund of their membership dues for the 2026/27 year. As of the date of this writing 90 of the 2025/26 members have renewed. The last date to renew your membership for the 2026/27 Guild Year is August 31, 2026. Don’t miss out on the exciting upcoming year.

It has been my honour to serve the Guild as a volunteer Membership Registrar this year. I have agreed to continue in this role for 2026/27. I hope you will consider how you might contribute to this Guild from wherever you live. Each contribution makes our Guild strong and vibrant for all our members.

Till the next time we “chat”,
 Sharon Bourque
 Membership Registrar 2025/26

Outreach

At the beginning of the 2025–2026 Guild year, the Executive introduced a new “Choose Your Own Charity” Initiative. This continued our focus on the Home for Good and Quilts of Valour programs while also encouraging members to donate quilts to charities of their own choosing within their communities. Throughout the year, we enjoyed seeing many of these donated quilts during Show and Share.

We also published our new Community Outreach Plan, which includes a goal of supporting other not-for-profit organizations within our community.

The table below summarizes the Guild’s primary Outreach donations during the 2025–2026 year. In addition to these donations, many members also contributed quilts independently to charities and organizations within their own communities through our “Choose Your Own Charity” Initiative.

Initiative	# of Quilts Donated
65 Delhi Street, a Home for Good project	3
Stepping Stone, a Home for Good project	13
Welcome to Waterloo, a Home for Good project	10 donated, with 1 pending
Denare Beach Wildfire Relief	10
Quilts of Valour	24 donated, with 25 more quilts in progress
Raffle quilt for Royal Canadian Legion – Guelph	1
Guelph Tool Library Fundraiser	1
Royal Reach Fundraiser to benefit Stepping Stone	1
Total quilts donated	63 quilts donated, with 26 pending

We also have numerous additional quilts in our production queue. Many thanks to our members who donated fabric, pieced tops, quilted bundles, sewn bindings, and assisted with quilt delivery. Your generosity continues to strengthen and support our community.

We would also like to thank the Guelph branch of the Royal Canadian Legion for waiving their facility rental fees in recognition of our strong commitment to community outreach.

April T-S.

Social Convener

As we reflect on the past year, we are proud of all that our Quilting community has accomplished through creatively, friendship, and service.

A highlight of the year was our second annual retreat, held in November 2025 at Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp and Retreat Centre. The five-day retreat was enjoyed by all, despite a winter storm arriving during our final days. Thankfully, everyone travelled safely with no mishaps. Planning is already underway for a 2026 retreat, with registration opening July 1, 2026.

Throughout the year, we hosted six Mingles, with half dedicated to supporting Quilts of Valour Canada. Under the guidance of Monica F. we are proud that 24 quilts were presented this year, reflecting the care, generosity, and craftsmanship of our members.

Thank you to everyone who contributed their time, talent, and enthusiasm. We look forward to another wonderful year of quilting and community in 2026.

April T-S.

Newsletter

Our newsletter remains a vital way of communicating with our members, both local and far away. It contains messages from the Executive, upcoming events, photos of members quilting together, photos of quilts, upcoming speakers, tutorials (like the recent series on quilt labels), retreats, and last but not least – our advertisers, whom I wish to thank for their continued support (and hope that members return the favour). It highlights the Guild's work for the community, such as the quilt donations. And by being accessible from our web page, and copied to other guilds, it is also the "face" of RCQG to non-members as well.

The spirit of the Guild is reflected in the newsletter, due to the wonderful articles the Executive and members send me every month. I appreciate the timeliness and quality of their material.

On a technical level, the use of open-source software to create the newsletter is now both routine and problem-free. This makes the newsletter independent of commercial software and its licence requirements, and makes it easy for future editors, as well as future-proofing our records. Also this year, I changed all the headings to the shade of Jade Green, to reflect our 35th anniversary.

I would also like to thank Becky F for proofreading the newsletter, and for all her technical support.

And if you have any suggestions as to how the newsletter could be improved, please feel free to email me via our member directory.

Ruthie S

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:

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JUNE 17-20, 2026
 RBC CONVENTION CENTRE
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 • 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

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Quilt pieced by Linda Wen
and quilted by Lisa Fedak

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