



## Executive Update

Dear Guild Members,

Doesn't it feel good to see the green grass and the many colours of spring? It certainly inspires me and sparks so many ideas for quilts and fibre art projects—I hope it's doing the same for you.

As we approach the close of our 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, I would like to sincerely thank everyone who has contributed to making our anniversary celebrations such a success. Your time, creativity, and commitment have made this year truly meaningful for our community.

A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who participated in the Anniversary Quilt Challenge. Your enthusiasm and artistry have made this event truly special. I am very much looking forward to viewing all the incredible entries in our upcoming virtual quilt show—it promises to be a wonderful showcase of talent and inspiration.

Details on how to vote for the Viewer's Choice award will be shared soon. Please keep an eye on your inbox for an email from Catherine C., which will include all the instructions you'll need to participate.

I would also like to extend a sincere thank you to Kathleen K., Cathy B., Becky F., Kim H., Helen K., Catherine C., and Alice S. for joining me at this year's WEFTFest in St. Jacobs in April. We had the opportunity to speak with many people about the incredible RCQG outreach program and how we support a variety of initiatives in our community. There was also a great deal of interest in the many benefits of being an RCQG member. I hope those we met will take the time to visit our website to learn more about us and perhaps consider joining our guild.

Thank you again for being such an important part of our guild and for helping make this anniversary year so memorable.

Warm regards,

Cindy

On behalf of the RCQG Executive Committee

## 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Quilt Challenge

The grand finale of our 35<sup>th</sup> 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/>



**Submission Deadline has been extended until May 6<sup>th</sup>!!**

Here is the schedule for viewing, and voting:

- **May 6** – 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.

## Volunteers Needed

### RCQG Needs You—In Big Ways and Small

Our Guild thrives because members step forward to share their time and talents—and right now, we have a few opportunities where a little help would go a long way.



### Advertising Coordinator (Remote-Friendly!)

We're looking for someone to take on a light, well-defined role managing our newsletter advertising. This position is ideal for a remote member—no Executive meetings required.

The work is seasonal and straightforward:

- **June/July:** Email current and prospective advertisers about renewing their ads, collect ad sizes and artwork for new advertisers, and work with the Guild Treasurer to send invoices. Direct advertisers to pay online or by cheque.
- **August:** Forward all ads to the Newsletter Editor (clearly labelled by size) and preview the first issue to ensure everything is correct.
- **During the year:** Pass along updated ads (for shop hops, moves, etc.), welcome new advertisers, and periodically check the newsletter to ensure ads appear correctly.
- **Bonus:** Post Guild meetings, workshops, and events to the Guelph Arts Council calendar (help is available to get started).

Full details (including rates and process) are here:

<https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/newsletter-advertising/>

If you enjoy a bit of email coordination and keeping things organized, this is a great way to contribute from anywhere.

### Community Outreach Volunteers

We're also building a team to help share RCQG with the wider community. Outreach can be as hands-on or as flexible as you like. Some of the ways you can help include:

1. Staffing outreach tables at Mingles
2. Putting together kits for others to piece
3. Managing Guild stash
4. Labelling and photographing finished quilts
5. Delivering quilts to community partners
6. Supporting special projects like partnerships or community quilt initiatives

Whether you can help occasionally or want to be more involved, your participation helps us grow and connect.

### Have Another Way to Help?

Not sure where you fit? That's perfectly fine. If you've been thinking, "I could help with something," now is the time to reach out.

Even helping occasionally at our Mingles makes a difference—assisting with set-up or take-down, helping with refreshments, helping others take photos of quilts, or pitching in with those small but important tasks that keep things running smoothly.

If any of these opportunities interest you—or if you'd like to explore how you can contribute—please get in touch with [president\[at\]royalcityquiltersguild\[dot\]ca](mailto:president@royalcityquiltersguild.ca). Many hands make light (and joyful!) work.

## May Program: “Canada’s Mississippi” with Michael Rikley-Lancaster

Michael Rikley-Lancaster is Executive Director / Curator of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum in Almonte, Ontario. He will share the history and development of the woollen industry in the Mississippi River Valley, including the effects which the industry had upon the social, cultural and industrial development of the Region.

The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum collects, preserves, and tells the stories of the mill workers and the local labour history while offering an open, inclusive space for the local community and visitors from across the globe. Through contemporary textile and textile-themed art, and historical interpretation and programs, the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum conserves and interprets the industrial textile heritage of the Mississippi Valley.

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum website: <https://mvtm.ca/>



## Community Outreach

### Quilts for *Welcome 2 Waterloo*: Continuing Our Home for Good Journey

At the April Mingle, the Royal City Quilters' Guild was proud to present a new set of quilts to *Welcome 2 Waterloo*, part of the United Way's *Home for Good* initiative.

Our involvement in this meaningful project began in Spring 2023, when we were first introduced to the initiative. With a simple but powerful goal—ensuring that every new resident receives a quilt of their own—we have now supported six Home for Good facilities. *Welcome 2 Waterloo* is the sixth, and the second with a focus on youth. Together, these facilities are home to 122 tenants.

This latest donation includes 11 quilts. As always, these quilts represent a true community effort. Guild members and supporters contribute at every stage—piecing tops, quilting, binding, and completing the many behind-the-scenes tasks that make each quilt possible. Volunteers from across the region, including Arthur, Bayfield, Burlington, Elora, Fergus, London, Mississauga, Oakville, Port Franks and Guelph, have all played a role.

We are also grateful for the financial and community support that has helped sustain this work, including contributions from the Lions Club of Guelph, a City of Guelph Community Grant, and a generous repeat anonymous donor.

Each quilt has its own story. One travelled more than 4,000 kilometres from an island off the coast of Washington State, making its way by ferry and across the border before arriving in Guelph.

Others reflect the creativity and spirit of our guild. Three began as “mystery quilts,” created by following a designer’s step-by-step instructions without knowing the final outcome—a leap of faith embraced by many quilters. Several more originated as Stash Busters projects, while another grew out of our Sew a Jelly Roll Day event last September, with a particularly beautiful result.



Contessa, our Sew a Jelly Roll Day project, was pieced by Michele K and quilted by Sandra T.



To the Royal City Quilters' Guild,

On behalf of Wyndham House, thank you for your artistic talent, hard work, and generous donation.

For the young people we serve, these quilts will not only provide warmth, but also act as a reminder that they are valued and supported by their community.

We are so grateful for your kindness and support of the *Welcome 2 Waterloo* project.

With heartfelt thanks

Allana Cortese, Wyndham House

And while quilters rarely count the number of pieces in a quilt, curiosity got the better of us for one: it contains an impressive 2,130 pieces—just one example of the time, effort, and care that goes into every quilt we share.

Photos of all quilts created for this project, and others, can be found in our Community Outreach photo albums: <https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/activities/community-outreach/outreach-photos/>

Most importantly, each quilt is made with joy and intention. It is our hope that every recipient feels the warmth, comfort, and sense of community stitched into these pieces.

We extend our thanks to everyone who has contributed to this ongoing project—and we look forward to continuing this important work together.

### RCQG Quilt Donation Supports Royal Reach Fundraiser

The Royal City Quilters Guild is pleased to report that we have supported the Royal Reach fundraiser in support of Stepping Stone by donating a beautiful, handcrafted quilt for their silent auction on May 25.

The donation features a striking version of **COSMIC WAVE**, a bargello-style design by Patti Carey—whom many of you will remember as our guest speaker at the June 2023 meeting. Patti generously provided both the pattern and a fabric kit for a full-sized quilt, giving our guild a wonderful opportunity to create not just one, but multiple pieces from her design.

From that original kit, two smaller quilts were produced, and this donated quilt is the second of those. Becky F pieced the quilt top; Pat D provided the longarm quilting, adding texture and depth that beautifully enhances the overall design. Anne K finished the quilt with the binding, giving it a polished finishing touch.



We are proud to contribute this collaborative guild effort to such a meaningful cause. Stepping Stone plays an important role in our community, and we hope this quilt helps support the success of the Royal Reach fundraiser.

Thank you to everyone involved in bringing this project to completion—your time, talent, and generosity continue to make a difference.

## RCQG Contributes to Wildfire Relief Effort

At this year's International Quilting Day, we were reminded of the meaningful impact our quilting community can have in times of need. Christine, one of our attendees, described wildfire relief efforts supporting those affected in Denare Beach, Saskatchewan, as well as surrounding areas.

In response, the Royal City Quilters Guild made a one-time donation of 10 quilts to contribute to this broader relief initiative. Christine visited our April 11 Mingle to pick up the quilts in person.

These quilts will help provide comfort to individuals and families displaced or impacted by the fires in Denare Beach, with distribution extending across parts of Saskatchewan and Manitoba as needs are identified by relief organizers.

While this is a single contribution, it reflects the spirit of generosity and compassion that defines our guild. Quilts offer not only warmth, but also a sense of care and connection during difficult times. Follow them on Facebook (Quilt for Wildfire Relief: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/692328097104494>) to find out more.



*Christine B tells Mingle attendees about the wildfire relief efforts in Denare Beach*

## May Mingle and Quilts of Valour

Our April Mingle reminded us just how energizing it is to gather together. With 28 members in attendance and beautiful weather lifting everyone's spirits, it was a wonderful afternoon of connection. Let's carry that energy forward at our next **Quilts of Valour Sew Day**—and turn that inspiration into quilts for our veterans.

**Date:** May 25<sup>th</sup>, 2026

**Time:** 10am to 4pm

**Location:** Guelph Legion, 57 Watson Parkway S., Guelph



Bring your sewing machine, basic supplies, lunch, and plenty of enthusiasm. We'll provide fabric, patterns, and lots of camaraderie. Volunteers are also welcome to help with pressing, cutting, and cheering on our stitchers—there's a role for everyone.

We are pleased to welcome Deby W., regional representative from Quilts of Valour, who will be there to receive completed quilts.

Can't attend in person? Now is a great time to pick up a quilt kit and contribute from home. We hope to see you there as we keep the momentum going—and celebrate together at our final in-person gathering of the year.

## Let's Sew at Buy the Bolt!

Our next Buy the Bolt Sew Day is May 13<sup>th</sup>. 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, 9:30am to 3:30pm. Located at 450 Woodlawn Rd. West, Unit 11 in Guelph. Any questions? Contact April using contact information in the Guild Directory.

## 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 the May Mingle for your book returns. Alternatively library books can be returned to the home of MaryAnne G at the south end of Guelph or Ann J at the north end of Guelph, by arrangement.

## Membership

I hope that you have a song in your heart as you spend time creating in your Quilty space.

Since our last Newsletter I have had the pleasure of welcoming Lori K. I hope you will take the time to make her feel welcome if you meet in any of our forums. Lori joined RCQG because of the Refer-a-Friend Program.



We hope that you have been enriched by this Guild year's offerings and are looking forward to next year's programming. The time for renewing your membership for the 2026/27 Guild Year will begin soon. We will once again be offering an *Early Bird Registration* incentive. Watch your mailbox for your renewal opportunity!

Here is how it will work:

1. Current members will receive an email on May 12<sup>th</sup> with a membership renewal invoice.
2. Renewals received by midnight June 7<sup>th</sup> will be entered into an Early Bird Draw. Two winners will each win back their yearly membership fee.
3. Winners will be announced at the June 9<sup>th</sup> Guild Meeting.



Incentives for renewing before the summer break:

1. You can win back your full Membership Fee
2. You can sign out Guild Kits for summer sewing
3. You can participate in the Summer Mystery Quilt
4. You can participate in the Summer Virtual Sew Days
5. You can sign up for the Fall 2026 Retreat
6. You can sign up for workshops before they open to non-members.

Till the next time we chat. Sharon B, Membership Registrar

## Summer Mystery Quilt Sew Along

It's almost time to register for the Summer Mystery Quilt. Whimsical Wishes is a pattern designed by Debi Montgomery from New Zealand. This quilt pattern was previously released as a mystery project. If you don't want to ruin the surprise, I would suggest you not search Google. But if you hate being in suspense, search away.

The registration form and fabric requirements will be available shortly. Let's solve the mystery together.  
Kim H

## Update to RCQG Standing Rules

At its March 26 meeting, the Royal City Quilters Guild Executive approved a set of updates to the Guild's Standing Rules.

These revisions are part of our ongoing efforts to ensure that our governance documents reflect how the Guild operates today and can continue to support us effectively into the future. In particular, the updated Standing Rules:

- reflect the Guild's current practices, including our increased use of digital tools and online operations;
- clarify the responsibilities and authority of both the Executive and committee conveners;
- provide a flexible framework that can adapt as Guild activities and programs evolve.

Overall, these changes are intended to support the continued smooth operation of the Guild while keeping the Standing Rules clear, practical, and easy to maintain.

The updated Standing Rules are available on the Guild website under **About > Governance**.

You'll also notice in this newsletter that we are proposing updates to our bylaws, with a vote to take place at the Annual General Meeting in June. The Bylaws and Standing Rules work hand-in-hand: the Bylaws set out the Guild's guiding principles and overall governance, while the Standing Rules provide the day-to-day structure that helps those ideas work in practice.

If you have any questions about the updates, we encourage you to reach out to the Executive at [president\[at\]royalcityquiltersguild\[dot\]ca](mailto:president@royalcityquiltersguild.ca).

## Annual General Meeting

Please plan to stay after our regular meeting on June 7 for our Annual General Meeting—a chance to come together as a Guild to reflect, look ahead, and take part in important decisions. Members will vote on the proposed bylaw updates and the slate of officers for the coming term. As part of our leadership transition, we will be nominating April T-S as our new Vice President; our current Vice President will step into the President role, and our current President will move into the Past President position as our Past President completes their term. We're grateful that our Secretary and Treasurer will continue in their roles, helping provide continuity for the Guild. If you've ever thought about getting more involved in Guild leadership, this is a wonderful opportunity—please reach out to Becky if you'd like to learn more about any of our volunteer opportunities.

### RCQG Bylaw Updates – What's Changing and Why

Royal City Quilters' Guild bylaws. These updates are mainly clarifications and housekeeping improvements to ensure our governing documents reflect how the Guild operates today. The proposed changes do not affect membership rights, dues, or the Guild's collaborative structure. Committee conveners and volunteers will continue to lead the Guild's programs and activities as they always have. The revisions simply clarify governance responsibilities and align the bylaws with current practice.

The summary of the proposed updates follows. To review the proposed changes as they will appear in the by-law, see [https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Draft\\_RCQG-By-laws-for-Members.pdf](https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/wp-content/uploads/2026/04/Draft_RCQG-By-laws-for-Members.pdf) where they are highlighted.

#### **CLARIFYING THE ROLE OF OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CONVENERS**

The Officers — President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, and Past President — form the Executive of the Guild and are responsible for governance and financial oversight.

Committee Conveners lead specific areas of Guild activity such as programming, membership, outreach, and the newsletter. Conveners report to the Executive and may attend Executive meetings when matters related to their work are being discussed, but they are not members of the Executive itself.

This clarification reflects the structure the Guild has been using and helps define responsibilities more clearly. This distinction helps ensure that governance responsibilities, financial oversight, and operational leadership are clearly defined, while still encouraging collaboration between the Executive and the many volunteers who lead Guild activities.

There is a minor update to the role of the Membership Convener reflecting our virtual organization. Membership no longer issues name tags to new members nor checks attendance or collects guest fees at each general Guild meeting.

See Article IV, Sections A and B as well as C, number 6b. Also see Article V, numbers 2 and 3 which are new

## **TWO-YEAR TERMS FOR OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE CONVENER TENURE**

Currently, the by-laws say that Officers are elected for one-year terms. In practice, officers have always served for two years. This proposed bylaw change reflects our longtime practice. Officers will still be elected by members. They may serve no more than two consecutive terms in the same position without approval from the membership, ensuring a balance between continuity and opportunities for new volunteers. In addition, committee conveners are now appointed and serve at the discretion of the Executive rather than for a fixed term. This provides greater flexibility and continuity in supporting Guild activities.

See Article IV, Section D, numbers 1-3

## **CLARIFYING HOW COMMITTEE CONVENER ARE SELECTED**

The current bylaws say that conveners may be “appointed or elected.” In the future, conveners will be appointed by the Executive, and the revised wording reflects this.

See Article IV, Section B, Number 3

## **ESTABLISHING A QUORUM FOR EXECUTIVE MEETINGS**

The bylaws currently do not specify how many officers must be present for the Executive to conduct business. The proposed update establishes that a majority of the officers must be present in order to make decisions.

See Article V, number 2

## **CLARIFYING ELECTRONIC MEETINGS**

The bylaws already allow the Annual General Meeting to be held electronically. The revised wording clarifies that Guild meetings and activities may also be conducted electronically when appropriate, reflecting the Guild’s current practice of offering meetings and programming online so members across North America can participate.

See Article V, number 4

## **CLARIFYING HOW THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE IS FORMED**

The bylaws already state that the Nominating Committee is chaired by the Past President and includes two members from the general membership. The update clarifies that those two members are appointed by the Executive. The term for Officers was changed from one year to two, reflecting the longtime practice of the Guild.

See Article VI, Section A, Number 1

## **ALLOWING FLEXIBILITY FOR SIGNING OFFICERS**

The bylaws currently list four officers who may sign financial documents. The proposed update allows the Executive to designate additional signing officers if necessary, while maintaining the requirement that two signatures are required on Guild financial transactions. As more of our members live remotely, this flexibility is important for the smooth running of the Guild if officers live remotely.

See Article VII, number 2

## IN SUMMARY

These updates:

1. clarify the governance structure of the Guild
2. distinguish between the roles of Officers and Committee Conveners
3. align the bylaws with how the Guild currently operates
4. support online participation and programming

Members will have the opportunity to vote on the amendments at the Annual General Meeting on June 9.

*If you have any questions about the proposed changes, please feel free to contact the Executive using the email [president@royalcityquiltersguild.ca](mailto:president@royalcityquiltersguild.ca).*

## Show and Share Presentation and Quilt Whispering

Submissions are due by 6pm Eastern on Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Email your photo(s) to [showandshare@royalcityquiltersguild.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@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 April Show and Share slides.



RCQG  
Show and Share  
April 2026

## Thank You for Visiting RCQG at WEFTFest!

Now that WEFTFest has wrapped up, we'd like to extend a heartfelt thank-you to everyone who stopped by the Royal City Quilters' Guild table on April 11 and 12. It was a joy to connect with so many quilters, share stories, and celebrate the creativity that brings our community together.

One especially meaningful moment came when Carolyn visited the show and recognized not just one—but **TWO** of the Bingo blocks she had created, now part of a quilt that was on display. What began as a lighthearted game at our January 2025 social—fabric “bingo cards” made from 2.5" squares—grew into something far greater. Those blocks were donated, stitched together, and transformed into a beautiful quilt showcased at WEFTFest.



Carolyn D shows us her Bingo blocks

Moments like this are a powerful reminder that every small contribution matters. A single square, a shared laugh, a simple game—each piece plays a role in creating something truly meaningful. And this quilt's story isn't over yet—we look forward to writing its next chapter when it is donated through one of our guild initiatives

## Stash Busters – Still Crunching!

If you joined us for April's Stash Busters session, you already know—we're not done yet!

Stephanie and the Stash Busters group will continue their work with *potato chips* at our upcoming meeting on Wednesday, May 6 at 10am. We meet on Zoom.

If you've started your blocks, bring them along and keep the momentum going. If you haven't had a chance yet, there's still plenty of time to jump in—this is a wonderfully flexible, stash-friendly project that's perfect for sewing along at your own pace.



Looking ahead, we've made a small scheduling adjustment. Linda's presentation on modern improv quilting has been rescheduled to June and July. We know some members have already begun their prep work—fantastic! You'll be well-positioned to dive right in when those sessions arrive.

If you haven't started preparing yet, don't worry. Please take a moment to revisit the March newsletter, where you'll find all the details and guidance you need to get ready for the modern improv sessions.

In the meantime, keep stitching, keep experimenting, and keep busting that stash—one “chip” at a time!

Questions or want to join in?

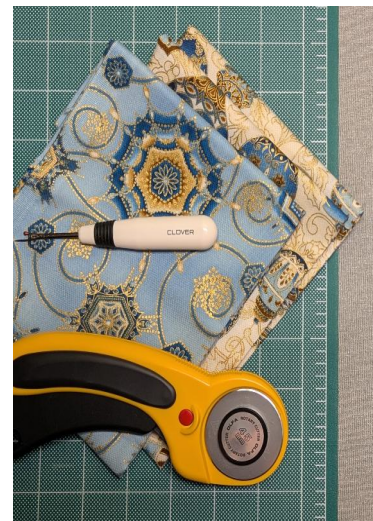
Please email: [stashbusters\[at\]royalcityquiltersguild\[dot\]ca](mailto:stashbusters@royalcityquiltersguild.ca)

## RCQG Retreat

*Remember: Registration for November retreat opens July 1, 2026.*

Our five day / four-night event offers attendees distraction-free sewing. Due to scheduling issues this year, the retreat will start on Sunday November 22<sup>nd</sup> at 4pm with departure on Thursday November 26<sup>th</sup> after our lunch. The staff at Hidden Acres will prepare all the meals (including clean-up!) and provide a day-long snacking table. We begin with dinner on Sunday and end with lunch on Thursday. Spend your days as you please: sewing, socializing, strolling the beautiful grounds and trails or shopping nearby quilt shops. Mark your calendar now for November 22-26, 2026!

Location: 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>.



Registrations: 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026 at [Online Store | Royal City Quilters' Guild](#) 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 1<sup>st</sup>, 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 their 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! If you have questions about accommodations, food or set up please call Monica F.

April T - [atempleprears\[at\]gmail\[dot\]dcom](mailto:atempleprears[at]gmail[dot]dcom)

Monica F- [mjfergu\[at\]gmail\[dot\]com](mailto:mjfergu[at]gmail[dot]com)

## Embroidered Labels by Hand: Stitching Your Story

Hand embroidery adds heirloom charm and personal flair to any quilt label. Whether you're highlighting your name or adding decorative touches, embroidery gives your quilt a sense of permanence and craftsmanship that no printed method can match.

### Getting Started

#### Choose Your Fabric

Use a tightly woven, light-coloured cotton (such as Moda Bella Solids, Riley Blake or muslin. Beware: Kona cotton tends to fray). A smooth surface makes stitching easier and improves readability. Make sure your background fabric is large enough to complete the embroidery on your label and has extra fabric which can be trimmed to size when completing your label.

#### Mark Your Design

Lightly draw your text and any decorative elements using a water-soluble or friction pen. Do test these items for removal before you use them on your fabric.

You can:

- Freehand your design
- Trace printed text using a light-box or window
- Use a fine pencil for guidelines
- Or use a paper pattern through which you can hand-baste the outline of your design onto your background fabric
- Or use waste canvas for cross stitching words on the label

#### Use a Hoop

Place your fabric in a small embroidery hoop (4–6") or tack it to a small wooden frame. Keep the fabric taut and prevent puckering as you stitch.

#### Choose Your Thread

Standard 6-strand high quality embroidery floss (DMC) works well. Use:

- 2 strands for fine lettering
- 3 strands for bolder text

Variegated threads can add subtle interest. Before you start your project, test your chosen threads for colour fastness. **SOME COLOURS (red in particular) DO RUN.**



*Embroidered label by Lynn Binney ready for special lettering*

## Recommended Stitches

There are many beautiful stitch options, each adding its own character. Choose one or two styles to keep your label cohesive.

- **Backstitch** – Ideal for clear, readable lettering
- **Stem Stitch** – Smooth and slightly raised, great for curves
- **Split Stitch** – Strong, textured line for bold text
- **French Knots** – Perfect for dots or decorative accents
- **Lazy Daisy** – Lovely for small motifs like flowers or leaves
- **Cross Stitch** – Easy lettering method for many sizes and styles

## Helpful Tips for Stitching

1. Keep letters at least  $\frac{1}{4}$ " **high** for readability
2. Test thread colour against your fabric in good lighting
3. Use shorter lengths of floss (about 18") to reduce tangling
4. Acid free Thread Heaven can be used on the threads to prevent tangling and fraying
5. Make sure your threads lie side by side and are not twisted
6. Anchor threads with small stitches rather than knots
7. If spacing worries you, lightly draw guidelines before stitching

## Finishing the Label

1. Press the label **face down on a towel** to protect stitches
2. Trim and turn under edges for a clean appliqué finish
3. If you prefer you may add borders to your label
4. Attach the label before quilting (for integration) or after (as a patch)

## Why Choose Hand Embroidery?

Hand embroidery offers a deeply personal and expressive way to finish your quilt, turning a simple label into something meaningful. It's an ideal choice for marking special occasions—whether you're celebrating a milestone, creating a gift, or preserving a memory in fabric. With only a few basic tools required, it's also one of the most accessible labelling methods. Yet despite its simplicity, the result is something uniquely powerful: a handmade signature stitched directly into your quilt, carrying a warmth and authenticity that no machine can truly replicate.

## Learn More

Here are two excellent tutorials to build your confidence:

### 1. 5 Essential Embroidery Stitches

Mary Corbet (Needle 'n Thread)

<https://www.needlenthread.com/2016/10/5-essential-embroidery-stitches.html>

### 2. How to Embroider Letters by Hand

Cutesy Crafts

<https://cutesycrafts.com/2016/04/how-to-embroider-letters.html>

These resources include step-by-step photos and videos, making them perfect for beginners and experienced stitchers alike.

Other resources include:

- *A~Z of Embroidery Stitches*, Country Bumpkin Publications, Australia (an excellent book)
- *Hand Embroidery Stitches at-a-glance* a reference guide by Janice Vaine
- *Embroidery Handbook* (used by Sharon Fisher)
- *Creative Stitches for Contemporary Embroidery* (used by Sharon Fisher)
- *Letters and Numbers for Needlepoint* by E. M. Parker (also for cross stitch)

**Share your work!** Have you stitched a label by hand? We'd love to see it! Send a photo to [showandshare \[at\] royalcityquiltersguild\[dot\]ca](mailto:showandshare@royalcityquiltersguild.ca) and inspire others to put their own story in stitches.



*Label courtesy of Roma Smith (Sudbury). Hand embroidered. Crayon enhances the design.*

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## News from the CQA

Quilts For Survivors

COA/ACC - 2026  
Quilt CANADA WINNIPEG

**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](http://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 1<sup>st</sup> - June 1<sup>st</sup> 2026  
*This helps ensure we have an accurate count before leaving for Quilt Canada.*

**CONTACT US:**  
705-262-1853

[admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca](mailto:admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca)  
[WWW.QUILTSFORSURVIVORS.CA](http://WWW.QUILTSFORSURVIVORS.CA)



## QUILTS OF VALOUR CANADA 20<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY COMPLETE QUILT CONTEST



To celebrate our 20<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.quiltsofvalour.ca)

\*To enter send one photo of your quilt along with your name, email, address and phone number to [webmaster@quiltsofvalour.ca](mailto:webmaster@quiltsofvalour.ca)

\*All entries must be sent in by May 1<sup>st</sup> 2026.

\*Online voting will take place May 4, 5 and 6<sup>th</sup>.

\*Winners (Top 20 votes) will be announced May 7<sup>th</sup>

\*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.






**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 Brealey 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)




# Making Memories Quilt Show

presented by: New Millennium Quilters' Guild

**MAY 29 & 30, 2026**  
FRIDAY 10:00 AM - 5:00 PM  
SATURDAY 10:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Admission **\$10.00** (Cash Only)

**Mildmay-Carrick Recreation Complex**  
24 Vincent St. Mildmay, ON

**INCLUDES:**

- Viewers Choice
- Vendors Market
- Toonie Table
- Bed Turning (11:00 am & 2:00 pm)
- Boutique (cash only)
- Lunch Cafe (cash only)
- Christmas corner
- Quilt Raffle

**MORE INFORMATION**  
newmillenniumquiltersguild@gmail.com



# ALWAYS IN FASHION

May 1, 2026 - January 3, 2027  
Curated by Amber-Dawn Bear Robe

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

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](http://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

