



SPOOL TALK



DECEMBER 2013
TRENT VALLEY QUILTERS' GUILD
Mailing Address: 36 Scott Ave.
P.O. Box 557
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www.trentvalleyquiltersguild.ca

Meetings are held on the third Tuesday of the month at King Street United Church, 100 King Street, Trenton, Ontario. The doors open at 12:30 p.m. and the meeting is 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.

President's Message	Stella Dorsman
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One of the aims and objectives of the Trent Valley Quilters' Guild as stated in our constitution is to "encourage participation in charitable endeavours". Our charity of choice is Comfort Quilts.

I've been a guild member for nearly seven years but must confess that until recently I had never attended a Comfort Quilts meeting. I've devoted some time at home to stitching binding on a couple of quilts and last summer I met the challenge to make a quilt from scratch, but that's not much of a record for seven years of membership. My excuses over the years have included the following:

- * I'm a new guild member and I don't know anyone who goes to Comfort Quilts.
- * It's too far to drive from Campbellford.
- * My sewing machine is too heavy.
- * Those Comfort Quilts ladies have it all under control and don't need me.
- * I have too much personal sewing to do.
- * Those ladies are excellent quilters and my skills are no match for theirs.

When I decided to write about Comfort Quilts I knew that I needed to experience at least one meeting. So on November 21st I packed up my lunch and that heavy sewing machine and headed for Frankford United Church. The church is easy to find, right on Mill Street up from the bridge and there's plenty of parking in the rear. I arrived at 9 am and already several members were busy setting up tables and putting out bins and bags of fabric. I received a warm welcome and lots of explanation about how the day would proceed. As more and more ladies arrived there were happy greetings and much laughter and I knew this would be a great time. Coffee and treats were available and the participants chatted together as they worked, but the emphasis was on creating quilts.

There were jobs for all interests and skill levels. Some volunteers were piecing tops and applying borders, some were pressing and layering and others were quilting. I learned that there is a particular need for volunteers to quilt tops. Lots of assistance is available and there's really no better way to practice your free motion quilting than on a piece that doesn't have to be absolutely perfect. Helen Fujiki, a local quilter and teacher, says that we must devote 300 hours to free motion work in order to become proficient and a Comfort Quilts meeting is an opportunity to reach that goal.

As we all know, quilting is not an inexpensive hobby. Comfort Quilts receives many donations of fabric for tops. However, large pieces for backing, along with batting and spray, must be purchased. It is estimated that the cost of these items runs about \$70.00 for large quilts and \$35.00 to \$40.00 for smaller quilts. Monetary donations are sometimes received but cannot be relied upon. Therefore, there is provision in our guild budget for the purchase of these items and every effort is made to take advantage of sale prices.

Joy Forge, Marion Payette and Marilyn Edmonds are passionate supporters of Comfort Quilts and really are the lifeblood of the program. They are the members who report to us at our monthly guild meetings. They keep the program running by purchasing supplies, receiving, sorting and laundering donated fabrics, storing all of this in their homes and transporting everything in bins and bags to the two monthly Comfort Quilts meetings. They are also responsible for distributing the completed quilts, which they report is an extremely satisfying experience. Their contribution of time and energy is boundless.

After many years as chairperson of Comfort Quilts, Joy stepped down from her position last June, although she and Marion are devoted to this cause and will continue to participate and assist. Marilyn has agreed to assume the position of interim chairperson until a volunteer steps forward. This has not happened. It is possible that without a volunteer to assume this position Comfort Quilts may not be sustainable in its current form. At last count there are over 150 guild members. I am asking one or two of you to step forward and chair this most worthwhile of all committees. In the meantime, the need for quilts will continue. Last year 180 quilts were distributed. If each member would agree to make one quilt per year, either at home or at Comfort Quilts, we would be close to meeting our needs. As we move into 2014 let's adopt a new guild slogan:

“EACH ONE MAKE ONE”

By the way, I plan to attend another Comfort Quilts meeting very soon. To quote Marilyn Edmonds, “it’s a place where friendships are made and lessons are learned”.

As I write this message, Christmas is fast approaching. I hope you will all take time to enjoy the sights, sounds and special events of the season, which I have learned are sometimes better than “the big day” itself. For some, personal circumstances can make the holidays a challenging time. To you I send a special wish for peace and happiness. To all of you I wish the many joys of the season.



Nominating Committee & Elections	Jess Chambers
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At our general meeting of November 19, an election was held and the following two new convenors were elected:

- Judy Elms – Retreat Convenor
- Sandi Repic – Quilt Show Convenor

After everyone reads Stella’s inspiring message about Comfort Quilts this month, my telephone will surely be ringing off the hook with nominations for Comfort Quilt Convenor. I know that Marilyn Edmonds would be delighted to mentor anyone taking on this position.

Program Convenor	Elise Williams
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Tuesday, December 10

The December meeting is the Christmas pot luck lunch.

(NOTE SPECIAL DATE & TIME. SEE SOCIAL FOR DETAILS)



Tuesday, January 21

January's program will be a presentation on long arm quilting, the process and what the quilter needs you to do before bringing your quilt to them.

Tuesday, February 18

In February we will have a trunk show presented by Martha Shellingerhoud. Please take a look at some of her work on her website:

<http://marthaschellingerhoudquilts.com/>

Tuesday, March 18

At our March meeting, Sherri Hisey, from <http://www.bordercreekstation.com/> will be giving a talk entitled Settings & Borders which she says 'requires more concentrated thinking from the audience'.

Workshops Convenor

Midge Trauzzi

WORKSHOPS - Held at the Brighton Community Centre 9:00 - 3:30. Brown bag lunch. The purpose of Workshops is to provide ongoing skills and knowledge to our members at a cost they can all afford.

Friday, January 17 “Liberated Stars” - Teacher Val Campey, Class Fee \$20.00 SIGN UP WAS AT NOVEMBER MEETING. Check for vacancies.

Friday, February 14 “Ragg Jacket” - Teacher Carole Anderson, Class Fee \$20.00. SIGN UP AT JANUARY MEETING.

Friday, March 28 “Oriental Placemats” - Teacher Geraldine Rorabeck - Picton Fabric World, Class Fee \$20.00. SIGN UP AT FEBRUARY MEETING.

UFO DAYS - Held at the Brighton Community Centre 9:00 - 3:30. Usually a pot luck lunch; fee for the day between \$4 - \$8.00. The purpose of UFO days is to help reduce the number of our unfinished objects, share our skills and love of quilting and to get to know guild members in a smaller setting.

Fridays: January 10, February 28, March 14

2015 Quilt Show Co-Convenors

Lorrie Barber, Maureen Young & Sandi Repic
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Your Quilt Show Co-convenors, Lorrie Barber, Maureen Young and Sandi Repic have met to begin planning the 2015 Quilt Show. We are excited about our change of venue for this show: Brighton Community Center. This open, bright and welcoming space will showcase your quilts beautifully. We hope to draw inspiration from other Quilt Shows over the next year and look forward to trying some new ideas.

In January, we will be contacting the committee chairs of our previous show to see if they are interested in chairing again or have any recommendations. We hope to have all committees manned before our break for the summer.

Just a reminder. Friday June 5th is Quilt Show set-up day. Saturday June 6th and Sunday June 7th are Quilt Show days.

We look forward to working with all of you over the next year and a half.

Retreat

2013 RETREAT – Convenor Alison Cirinna

The October retreat at Elmhirst was a big success everyone had a great time aside from a few hickups. We had a wonderful theme night on Wednesday. The theme was Put your Hippy on and I must say everyone got into the spirit of the night, including the resort as you can see from the pictures on the website. We had a real hard time picking the winner, there were so many great costumes. In the end it was Diana Sansom that won her costume was amazing with all the little touches. No sooner did we get back than it was time for the Mini retreat. It was the first time we held it in Brighton and I think it was a great success. The turn out for both retreats was 64 for Elmhirst and 21 for the Mini. We look forward to the Next Mini retreat in May.

2014 RETREAT 30 SEPT - 2 OCT – Convenor Judy Elms

Your new Retreat Committee held its first meeting and is excited about our upcoming year. We will be having a meeting soon at Elmhurst to get the ball rolling for next years' retreat. Further updates will follow.

Your New Retreat Committee

Judy Elms * Nicky Livingstone * Sue McQuillan * Dianna Sanson * Irene Marre

Comfort Quilt Convenor

Marilyn Edmonds

Be proud of your response to the Calgary flood victims. You can go on Facebook or on line to "mysewingroom.com" and check out the quilts being given each day to those in need of some comfort when they have lost so much.

We continue to receive calls from members for comfort quilts. If you know someone facing a life threatening challenge to their health please call Marilyn Edmonds or Joy Forge. We have quilts and cards on hand that you can pick up to take to the sick person. Each quilt has a heart sewn on it that says "Love Covers All". I wish for each one of you the joy you witness when you give a quilt and it is so thankfully received.

We invite all members to our bi-monthly Comfort Quilt days. First Thursday of each month in Smithfield United Church and the third Thursday at Frankford a United Church. If you choose to quilt comfort quilts at home instead we are grateful that you do that too. Marion Payette usually brings quilts to the Guild meeting that are layered up ready for quilting. Remember you do not have to be expert at machine quilting just using a walking foot and straight line quilt stitches will hold a quilt together nicely.

We are always willing to help you put a quilt together for Comfort Quilts. If you need help come out on one of those Thursdays and someone will be there to help you. This month we are encouraging those who want to learn how to machine quilt. It is lots of fun so come along and learn by doing a comfort quilt.

See you at Comfort Quilts!



Oct 8, 2013
Marilyn Edmonds presenting ten smaller comfort quilts to the Administrator at Maplewood Nursing Home in Brighton.

Premie Quilts

Valerie Campey



Here are a few items for the Peterborough & Kingston Hospitals completed by guild members.

Premie workshops are held three or four times a year, helping support the 800 plus babies born each year at these hospitals. If you wish to help at the next workshop or have flannel you wish to donate, please contact Valerie Campey.

Web Master	Alison Cirinna
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The website is up and running again there was a glitch with the company and the bank, but it is all straightened out. If you go onto the website in December you will see a new link to galleries that will have pictures from meetings, retreats, and submitted by others. There is also a page for whats happening so if you have any info or pictures could you please email it to me. Hope you like the changes to the website. Keep watching as I will be adding new things.

Quilt Canada 2014	Elise Williams
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The bus trip to the CQA show in St Catharines in June which was being planned along with the Belleville guild has been cancelled. However, we did want to let you know that Gail Bax of Fun With Stitches is offering a trip that comprises of two options:

Room and bus \$275.00 - includes bus ride there and back from Fun With Stitches (leaving on Wednesday, 11th of June and returning on Friday, 13th of June) plus two nights at the Four Points Sheridan Hotel which is walking distance to Brock University. All taxes in. Price based on double occupancy.

Bus only \$150.00 - departing and returning to Fun with Stitches on the dates noted above. All taxes in.

Gail requires a non refundable deposit of \$100.00 by January 31st. A minimum of 18 must be reached or the trip is cancelled. Gail is also advertising this on their website.

If you are interested in going, please contact Gail directly at the store 613-966-4715 or gail.bax@gmail.com

Upcoming Quilt Shows

Date	Event	Location	Contact
Nov 7-28, 2013	<i>The Quinte Fibre Artists - Evolving Traditions 2013</i>	John M. Parrott Gallery, Belleville Public Library 254 Pinnacle St., Belleville	613- 968-6731
Mon-Closed Tue Wed & Fri- 9:30-5 Thu-9:30-8 Sat-9:30-5:30	The talented and creative Quinte Fibre Artists return to the gallery with their bi-annual exhibition "Evolving Traditions". The name of the show identifies the type of work done by this group of fibre artists in that contemporary methods and design mingle with traditional patterns and techniques, and anything else that this group can think of! Vibrant colours and rich textures are sure to amaze us. Quinte Fibre Artists: Joan Reive, Ann Fales, Karen Kaiser, Marta Smith, Pat Sztuke, Marianne Sanders, Sabina McLuhan, Carol Peterson, Marta Mouka & Mary Andrews Minigan.		

Postcards	Maureen Young
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Hello Swappers. Over the last few months our themes, Red & White, Leaves and the most recent, Remembrance Day certainly were creative works of art. These 4 x 6 cards are easily made, fun and a great way to use up those scraps everyone has laying around. They mail in a standard envelope and wouldn't a friend or loved one be surprised to receive one in their mailbox?

Recently Lorrie Barber and I held a workshop at the Brighton Community Center where all the ladies were excited they completed 2 postcards as well picked up a few extra tips and tricks during the day. Our theme for December is "Christmas" with a piece of red ribbon included. It will be exciting to see those! We welcome any guild member to bring a postcard to swap and join our club. Swappers, please remember to **sign your card**. If you have any questions please call/email Lorrie Barber or Maureen Young. Happy swapping.

Social Convenor	Lynn Hamilton
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Please remember your dishes, cutlery, mug & a napkin for the Christmas pot luck lunch on December 10. Punch & appetizers will welcome you! Don't forget that we start at 12 noon.



Sunshine Convenor	Nicky Livingston
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There have been approximately 5 "thinking of you" and "sympathy" cards sent to members since September.

Newsletter Convenor	Karen Knowlton
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Some great photographs have been submitted for possible publication in the newsletter. However, I have been unable to use some of them due to formatting issues. So, I request that photographs for the newsletter be e-mailed to me as an attached JPEG file. Our website is also a good spot for photographs.

Some favourite quilting websites were mentioned at the November general meeting, but I was not quick enough to jot them down. Tell me about your favourite website and I'll try to get it into the next newsletter.

EXECUTIVE 2013/2014	
President	Stella Dorsman
Vice President	Elise Williams
Treasurer	Maureen Brewster Asst. Joan Cohrs
Secretary	Kathy Cousins
Past President	Jess Chambers
COMMITTEES	
Program	Elise Williams Pat Brinklow Linda Harvey Lenore Traves
Workshop	Midge Trauzzi Carol Anderson Lee Farnes Pat Burke Bonnie Minns
Membership	Geri Logan Sue VanBodegan Judy Elms Mary Gower (email coordinator & name tags)

COMMITTEES CON'T	
Retreat	Judy Elms Nicky Livingstone Sue McQuillan Diana Sansom Irene Marre
Social	Lynn Hamilton Heather McKellar Donna Cook Deanna Gaudaur Helen LaRue
Publicity	Wanda Maltais
Library	Betty Pounsett Olive Burke Sue Davies
Comfort Quilts	Marilyn Edmonds (interim) Joy Forge Marion Payette
Preemie Quilts	Valerie Campey
Website	Alison Cirinna
Newsletter	Karen Knowlton
Sunshine	Nicky Livingston
Postcards	Lorrie Barber Maureen Young
Quilt Show Co-Conveners	Lorrie Barber Maureen Young Sandi Repic

