



Spool Talk



April 2026

Meetings are normally held on the third Wednesday of the month September through June at Brighton Community Centre, Brighton, Ontario.

The doors open at 12:30 p.m. and the meeting begins at 1:00 p.m.

Mailing Address:
Trent Valley Quilters' Guild
Attention: Joan Cohrs
14656 County Rd 21
Brighton, ON K0K 1H0

Be sure to keep an eye on our social media accounts as well:

www.trentvalleyquiltersguild.com
www.facebook.com/trentvalleyquiltersguild

Articles may be submitted to the newsletter by contacting Sue Davies.
The articles should relate to our guild and/or quilting. Photos should be in .jpg format.

President's Message

Marie Newman

Welcome to Spring!

It was wonderful to see everyone at our meeting on Wednesday. A reminder that our next gathering will be held on **Monday, April 13, 2026**. Let's hope by then the snow has disappeared both from the ground and the air!

I'm really looking forward to our upcoming quilt show, and I know many of you are as well. It's always a highlight for our community, so please spread the word—invite your neighbours, family, and friends to come and enjoy it.

As we prepare, any help you can offer is greatly appreciated. Many hands truly do make light work, and June will be here before we know it. I'm also looking forward to some warmer weather ahead!

Vice-President's Message

Peggy Smith

Anticipating the Change of Seasons

As winter lingers, I find myself longing for its end. The snow in the yard grew so deep this year that it seemed as if the grass would remain hidden forever. But, as if by miracle, warmer weather arrived and the snow began to melt. This change lifted my spirits and shifted my focus from sewing projects to thoughts of gardening. Inspired by the promise of spring, I even visited Connon's and picked up some Dahlia tubers for the garden. However, just as quickly, winter returned with another round of snow, sending me right back into the sewing room.

Reorganizing the Sewing Room

With the weather keeping me indoors, I dedicated several days to straightening up my sewing room. The aftermath of my Christmas sewing projects had left quite a mess, so I took this opportunity to reorganize my fabric stash and bring some order back to my creative space.

Looking Forward to Quilt Shows

Like many fellow quilters, I have been thinking about what pieces to enter into our upcoming quilt show. I am genuinely excited to see the incredible talent of our members displayed for visitors to appreciate. Additionally, I have been searching online to find dates for other guild shows and saving them on my calendar. This is one of my favorite times of year, as I enjoy planning my weekends around visiting as many quilt and art shows as possible. Hope to see you at the shows.

Nominations/Past President

Sarah Roberts

The Search is On!

As Past President, it is my duty to find people willing to take on roles that keep our Trent Valley Quilters' Guild the dynamo that it is. There are a number of positions whose terms are coming to an end in June of this year that we need to fill.

Emails have gone out to start/confirm the process of making sure these positions are filled. Positions I know are opening up are Newsletter Editor and Retreat (the big one!) Convener. Other terms which are due to end, but may stay filled, are Library, Membership and Treasurer. The Comfort Quilts Convener technically has another year in her term, but would definitely appreciate someone to shadow her for the year with a view to take over.

If you have interest in any of these positions, please let me know! If present conveners agree to stay on, interested people can still shadow those conveners to eventually step into the position. Don't be afraid of stepping up--many hands make light work, and there is a wealth of knowledge in our membership that we can all draw from!

Quilt Show

Debbie Searle, Dianne Zevenbergen & Cathy Herrington

The raffle tickets are 66% sold 🥳!

I am still showing 30 books out. Please bring the tickets back to Comfort Quilts, UFO, or the next guild meeting. You can always contact me via email/cell to have them picked up if need be. I have 30 books still to sell. Judy and Maggie are taking the quilt and tickets to PEC guild. I am booked at No Frills next week. Happy Selling everyone!

Questions can be directed to myself, Dianne Zevenbergen

Trent Valley Quilters Guild 2026 Quilt Show "Behind the Seams" Update

We have had a great response for entries to the quilt show! Thank you all for your hard work and dedication to the art. We all see quilting in our own way and now we can share this vision with our community.

A very productive sign up for volunteers was held at the March guild meeting. For anyone who missed this sign up event, we will repeat this process each guild meeting until our quota for volunteers is met. Thanks again for your commitment to this event.

Judged entries for the show will need to be delivered to Cathy Herrington's home on **Wednesday May 27th between 10 and 2** for early judging. (An email will go out to the membership in April with date time and address).

Non-judged entries will accepted by the registration committee on **Thursday 4th of June at 9 am** at the Brighton Community Centre.

Keep checking your emails for Quilt Show updates! Love Covers All!

Program

Diane Cichon

Spring is here – which means its spring-cleaning time! If your sewing room is overflowing and you are ready to make space for new inspirations, we are happy to help. We will gladly accept fabric and other sewing items you no longer need to help support a variety of guild activities.

Thank you to all who took part in the Mug Rugs project. The creativity and beauty in the pieces we have received are truly outstanding. Every mug rug will be displayed in a special way at the quilt show in June and they will certainly bring lots of happy faces

We hope the UFO challenge has been a helpful motivator in finishing some of those long unfinished projects. We are close to the end of this project, a big "thank you" to all who worked on their UFOs.

Sunshine

Lee Farmes

Please continue to contact me if you hear of a member that is going through a difficult time.

Comfort Quilts

Cathy Herrington

Even with the weather we've had this winter, our group has been very busy sewing backings, bindings and quilt tops, along with layering up the quilts to have them ready for quilting. Since September we have provided over 120 hugs 😊
We look forward to seeing you at our April, May and June sew days (the first Wednesday of the month).

Workshops

Judy Elliott

YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

Workshops have been going well in spite of weather and illness.

In September, Dianne Fuller taught a miniature square in a square. Everyone learned how to sew tiny squares, with a successful outcome.

The Hunter Star workshop, was great with Natasha Yhard as teacher. Natasha had every minute of the workshop precisely worked out, and students couldn't go wrong.

Free motion, taught by Marilyn Edmonds was another success. Marilyn taught several samples of what and how to free motion. Marilyn, has many years of quilting experience and her suggestions and techniques were invaluable.

The future workshops planned are:

March 27: Ilse Vink will be teaching the one block wonder. Ilse is providing a kit (\$12.00) so you do not have to bring material, just machine and sewing supplies. Learning a new technique is always fun, so it promises to be a great day.

April 24: Quilt As You Go will be taught by Tessa Watson. Students will sew sections together and end up with a lovely placemat.

June 26: If you have ever wanted to learn how to sew circles without puckers, Yvette Chilcott will teach. Yvette is well known for her patience and teaching abilities.

Workshops are \$30.00 and go from 9:00 to 2:45. Tea and coffee available. Bring your lunch and enjoy a day of learning, laughter and comradeship.

Website

www.trentvalleyquiltersguild.com

Sue Davies

Come check out the guild's website! There is a lot of information there including past newsletters, pictures of events, a calendar of events and historical information.

UFO/PHD

Tina May

UFO (Unfinished Fabric Object) meets on the **2nd Friday** of each month at the Brighton Community Centre (where the guild meetings are held). The meeting time is from **9:00 - 2:45**.

Bring a brown bag lunch. Tea and coffee are provided. Fee for the day is \$6.00. You are working on your own projects - unfinished objects or projects half done or starting something new. There is show and share throughout the day and someone to help when you have run into a concern. It is an enjoyable day to get to know members of the guild and non guild members.

Sign up is required. Any questions please send me an e-mail.

Retreat 2026

Debbie Dupuis

We have booked our Fall Retreat at Glen House Resort for **October 26 to 29th, 2026**. You can book either a two night or three night stay.

The prices are as follows:

Two nights: Single \$741.37 Double \$581.36 Triple \$446.68

Three nights: Single \$1112.04 Double \$872.04 Triple \$593.36

These prices are all inclusive - room, taxes and gratuities.

There are officially only 2 rooms in the resort that are triples and it is a first come first serve.

We are still looking at another location in Campbellford that is available that week.

My term as Retreat Coordinator is up in June and we are looking for some body to take on this event. Bev and I have enjoyed our time but now it is time for someone to take the reins. Please contact us with any questions as to how it works.

Thank you for your support.

Mini Retreat

June Armstrong

The dates for the Spring Mini Retreat will be **Thursday, May 7**, and **Friday, May 8**, and it will be held at the Brighton Community Centre

Questions can be directed me through e-mail.

Piecing a Quilt Back

Val Campey

I think this is a very good tip for quilters. Making the backing fabric fit when it is too narrow. A You Tube video by Stitched by Susan explains it:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Mxtx2XLnSXU>

Also, Jinny Beyer has a PDF worksheet to help with the calculations. You can find it at:

<https://jinnybeyer.com/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Diagonal-Backing-Worksheet.pdf>

A Chat with Past President Stella Dorsman

Sue Davies

Question: You were President from September of 2013 to June of 2015. It looked like you enjoyed being President, did you?

Answer: I did. I believe that when you join a group you need to get involved. There are always jobs big and small that need to be done. I joined the executive and then became President. I enjoyed helping to make decisions that impacted the guild, for example reviewing the constitution and bringing it up to date.

Q: What was your biggest challenge as President?

A: For the President there is always a little undercurrent of worry that everything will go well at the meeting, will the speaker show up, will the microphone work, etc.

The biggest challenge was when we were told that we had three months to vacate our meeting room in the United Church in Trenton. The executive pulled together and looked at several venues. The Brighton Community Centre ticked all the boxes.

Q: What was the best part of being President?

A: I have lasting friendships from the experience and got to know many guild members.

Q: You have participated in a Block of the Month (BOM), or two, and this year's Raffle Quilt. What do you enjoy about collaborating on a quilt?

A: Elise Williams, Joan Cohrs and I designed the BOM called "Techniques". We met a number of times to choose the blocks, design the layout and prepare the instructions. Elise, Lesley Poper and I selected the pattern for the Raffle Quilt, purchased the fabric and divided up the work. It was exciting to see the finished quilt and the whole process was a learning experience and lots of fun.

Q: You won two First place ribbons at the guild's show in 2023. Are there many more ribbons at home?

A: I actually have seven ribbons tucked away in a drawer.

Q: Which is your favourite quilt?

A: Garden Medallion designed by Kim Diehl. It's made up of many Churn Dash blocks which are among my favourites. It also features lots of hand applique. I used many of Kim's fabrics and duplicated her colour scheme as she has wonderful colour sense.

Q: Any advice for someone who is new to quilting?

A: I say this from 25 years of quilting experience: Don't focus on building a stash.

When I began quilting I thought that I had to have a stash. I bought lots of yardage and fat quarters, often with no project in mind. I think this is a mistake, although I know not everyone will agree with me. When you have a stash, the excitement of buying lots of fabric for a new project is accompanied by a bit of guilt about all the fabric on shelves at home. However, I recommend buying backing fabric in quantity, especially if you see a sale.



Stella's Garden Medallion

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Past President	Sarah Roberts
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Library	Geri Logan
Comfort Quilts	Cathy Herrington
Christmas Placemats	Janet Kivisto
U.F.O.	Tina May
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Archives	Sue Davies
2026 Quilt Show	Debbie Searle, Cathy Herrington & Dianne Zevenbergen

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