



Spool Talk



December 2025

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**

Life has been very busy this fall. As I write this, we are expecting more snow. Winter is here. Winter is the best time for me to sew. I'm hoping you find time to create and sew.

The Quilter's Market was a great success even if it did feel overwhelming. I managed to buy a Christmas gift.

I attended the Workshop on miniature quilting with Dianne Fuller. After taking the course, I admired Dianne's exceptional work even more. If your schedule allows you, please take a course. You always learn something.

I am so thankful to be a part of the Trent Valley Quilters' Guild.

Merry Christmas and Best Wishes to you all in the New Year.

Vice-President's Message**Peggy Smith**

I believe I am like the rest of you getting ready for the holidays. Shopping, baking and decorating for the season. Oh, and don't forget the sewing, so many quilts to sew, from big to small.

I would like to take time away from all of that to wish you the merriest of the season. May the New Year bring you the wealth of health and happiness to all those who you love and care for.

Season Greetings to all and God bless.

Nominations/Past President**Sarah Roberts**

Happy Holidays from the Past President!

This is a busy time of year--I am getting handmade things ready to fly off to Manitoba, and thinking about and making lists about what I have to do before that special day on the 25th!

My Christmas wish for us as a Guild is to have great joy in the things we create, not only in this festive season. I see so many patterns and ideas I want to try--why is it I see them in late November or early December?? So, gonna start in January to do the things I have found this year, for NEXT year. Hmmm.....maybe that needs to be a Challenge! Ohhh, and maybe some of those things can go into the Quilt Show.....

My other great wish is for peace for all of us, our country, and our world.

Now off to the chilly Prairie plains!

Membership**Louise Swallow**

The guild currently has 140 members. There is room for new members.

The quilt show will be on June 6 & 7, 2026



Tickets sales/returns have been awesome.

We are 45% sold, and there are 42 books remaining. We'll done everyone. Happy Selling!

**All tickets sold/unsold need to be returned to me by the March guild meeting.

If you are struggling to sell them, you can return them ASAP. Somebody will sell them.

Questions can be directed to myself, Dianne Zevenbergen

Plans are coming together for the Quilt Show and advertising will begin soon. Together we will make this a fun event!

January will be the month we will be looking for committee volunteers. Mark your calendars for June!

We can't wait to see the beautiful creations you are all working on. Here is a guide to help you plan your submissions.

Categories with Optional Judging by a Canadian Quilters Association (CQA) Judge

1. X-Large Quilt - up to 120" wide
2. Large Quilt - up to 102" wide
3. Medium Quilt - up to 90" wide
4. Small Quilt - up to 60" wide
5. Wall hanging - up to 40" wide
6. Hand Work (hand pieced, hand quilted, wool appliqué, hand appliquéd, and/or hand embroidered)
7. Art Quilts/Mixed Media (machine embroidery, beadwork, framed, landscape)
8. First time entering a quilt into a TVQG Show
9. Miscellaneous - Bags/Runners/Placemats/Wearables (some piecing or quilting must be visible)

Not Judged by a CQA Judge

1. Block Of the Month (BOM) 2025/2026 (organized by the guild) A sleeve is not required.
2. Workshop Wonders (items made during a guild workshop)

Program

Diane Cichon

Where did the year go? December has arrived, and it's time to celebrate together.



A huge thank you to everyone who dropped off their mug rugs! November surpassed October, bringing our total to an amazing 165. Please keep making them, they are truly stunning. The mug rugs are going to make the most stunning banner at our Quilt Show in June. I can hardly wait!

We are also looking forward to seeing you share your #1 finished UFO project at our December "Show and Share".

Our December Christmas gathering will be filled with joy, fun, and prizes but above all, it's a time to share the holiday together.

We are truly looking forward to celebrating together with a full house in December! See you there!

Workshops

Judy Elliott

YOU ARE NEVER TOO OLD TO LEARN SOMETHING NEW!

Here is the lineup for upcoming workshops - hope to see you there.

January 23 - Hunter Star - Natasha Yhard

February 27 - Free motion on a domestic machine - Marilyn Edmonds

March 27 - One block wonder - Ilse Vink

April 24 - Quilt as you go - Tessa Watson

June 26 - to be announced

Workshops run from 9:00 to 2:45 at the Brighton Community Centre.

If you would like to sign up for a particular workshop, please contact me.

Comfort Quilts

Cathy Herrington

Once again, we have been able to provide quilts for Christmas to the Three Oaks Shelter and Belleville Children's Aid Society. We have also made a donation of quilts to the oncology department at the Belleville General Hospital.

New to the guild and you haven't been to a Comfort Quilt sew day? We would love to have you join us. We meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Brighton Community Centre (the same hall as our guild meetings.)

Merry Christmas and we look forward to seeing you in the New Year.

Website

www.trentvalleyquiltersguild.com

Sue Davies

Members have been sent the new password for the Members Log In section of our website. This section of the website is intended for members, **only**. The website should remember the password for you, once you have typed it in and hit the "Login" box.

Wishing you a wonderful Christmas season with health and happiness for 2026!

The library has some new books. Come and check them out at the next meeting.

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.

On your behalf, the Christmas Placemat committee has packaged 230 placemats to go out to local Meals on Wheels programmes for their Christmas dinners.

Deliveries have been made to Brighton and Tweed/Stirling Community Care programmes. The last delivery is due to go out December 3rd to Trenton Victorian Order of Nurses.

The staff at the various organizations receive these donations with great warmth, enthusiasm, and gratitude. They tell us that their clients are always very excited to receive our beautiful work.

Below is a photo of the delivery to the Brighton office on November 26th.

We do have some placemats left over that will begin our collection for next year.

Thank you so much for all of your effort that makes this community project possible!



Jan Kivisto presenting the placemats to Community Care Northumberland, Brighton office

Sunshine**Lee Farnes**

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

Social**Heather McKellar**

Season's Greetings to all from the Social Committee. We look forward to seeing everyone at our December meeting.

All members whose last name starts with A through G and the H's up to Hi are asked to bring some seasonal finger food for our social hour. Don't forget to lug your mug.

Retreat 2026**Debbie Dupuis**

Wishing you all the best wishes for the Holiday Season.

The September Fall Retreat at Glen House Resort was attended by 27 eager quilters.

The questions being tossed around are:

1. Do we want a three-day, three-night retreat or a two-day, two-night retreat?
2. Do we want to go back to Glen House?

I am looking at other venues but so far nothing compares facility wise. Keeping our options open. Also, what can we do to attract more participants?

I would love to hear feedback from any attendees.

Mini Retreat**June Armstrong**

Our Fall 2025 Mini Retreat was a success, and planning has started for the Spring 2026 two-day event. More details will follow in the months leading up to the May dates. Questions can be directed to June Armstrong.

Sharon was President from 1998 to 2000 but that was only one of the many roles she has filled to support the guild. Sharon also helped out with the library, coffee and tea, Comfort Quilts, she hung quilts for three quilt shows and was a quilt show convenor. When Sharon was the Vice President she took care of the meeting programs because that duty belonged to the VP back then.

Question: Did you enjoy being President?

Answer: The first year was a little difficult. I got moved up to President early because the current President's marriage broke up. Around this time the guild's meetings were in the evening. When we got moved from a hall to the gym we started to look around. We ended up moving to a daytime meeting in the church. We lost a few members with the move but then we gained some also.

Q: What was the best part of being President?

A: I had an influence on a program that Heart Health put together. They asked for instructions to put a quilt together and we helped with the program. I won the judge's prize for a block. I won a t-shirt, cookbook and duffle bag.

Q: What was the worst aspect?

A: Trying to keep things going. I joined the guild on my own so I didn't have friends to back me up. Then the woman who was keen to be the Secretary disappeared so I had to take minutes.

Q: Your quilt Times and Seasons (2000 calendar by Piecemakers) won two ribbons at the quilt show in 2012. It won Viewers' Choice and First Place in the Bed Quilt category. You must be very proud of this quilt. How long (in weeks or months, not hours) did it take you to make this beauty?

A: In total, 12 years. The first year I found the fabric. The next three years I only worked on it in the summer with my sister from North Bay. Then it got set aside for three years. Then I picked it up again and was encouraged to get it finished for the 2012 show. It is hand quilted and now hanging in my den.

Q: Was the applique technique new to you?

A: I had done applique before but this was a bit different. This quilt used freezer paper for the shapes and then the edges were turned under.

Q: Have you done any other large applique quilts?

A: Yes. I've done some by Grandma's Country Album and Alice Williams. I won a red ribbon at our last quilt show for A Season in Time.

Q: Which quilting technique do you enjoy the most?

A: Raw edge applique.

Q: What is your favorite quilt?

A: The Times and Seasons one that took 12 years to complete. Also, I have one that is all 2.5" squares cut in half. I bought the materials when new to quilting in the early 1990s and finished it 2.5 years ago.

Q: Any advice for someone new to quilting?

A: Keep going. Try new things and take courses to figure out what you like. Even if you bought the fabric 20 years ago, it is not too late to make it.



Sharon with her winning quilt Times and Seasons, 2012



A Season in Time by Sharon. It won first in the art quilt category at the 2023 show

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Please let them know that you saw their business card here in your newsletter when
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They are the backbone of our quilting; their knowledge and services are
indispensable, so it is vital that we support them.

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- Voted Gold in Belleville Community Votes
- Shop 24/7 online – convenience at your fingertips
- Featuring top brands:
Northcott, Riley Blake, Hoffman, and many more
- Prices from \$15/meter – affordable quality
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