

Volume 15
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February 2012

www.scqg.ca

Around the Block

Simcoe County Quilters' Guild
Box 21021, Barrie, Ont L4M 6J1



President's Message - Welcome to February, the month of both winter and spring time weather!

Don't put that heavy winter coat away yet

How was your St. Valentine's Day?

Do you remember, as a kid, how exciting it was to get Valentines at school ...? Did you wait in anticipation to get that "special Valentine" from the cute boy in your class? Did you especially send him one of your nicest cards?

My mother would buy us a Valentine book, somewhat like a comic book, where you had to cut out the Valentines. My brother took a few minutes to cut his, but me, I was a "fussy cutter" even as a child. It took a bit of time, but my Valentines were perfect to me. I made sure that my card to the teacher was in my best printing. At my country school, we had a Valentine's party in the afternoon. We would bring in cookies & cupcakes, and the teacher made Freshen into what we thought was a delicious punch. We delivered our cards and had fun eating and playing games that the teacher had organized. It was always a fun activity.

Today's kids get bundles of pre-cut Valentines that could be any theme ... from Disney characters , Dora , a Super Hero or Transformers Anything that is famous in movies or games. However, one characteristic of old or new Valentines is the "Red Heart".

The homemade Valentines, drawn by my son & daughter, were always the ones I treasured and proudly displayed on the refrigerator door. Now I am getting ones from my grandchildren!

Valentine's Day seems so commercial these days. The stores take down their Christmas displays in late December and start decorating for February 14. One is expected to receive chocolates and roses. I prefer a dinner out. Any time I don't have to cook is really a treat! The "romance" of Valentine's Day is not as "love - struck" as the TV, movies and media make it out to be. Gone are the days when I wore a "skimpy" nightgown to bed. Today, I dress for comfort and warmth. I go to bed dressed in flannel pajamas, warm socks, accompanied by a healthy layer of cold cream and lip chap!!!!

I guess age does put a different light on "ROMANCE". Maybe I need to find a good romantic novel to read. Really, I prefer cuddling up to a good mystery novel with an unpredictable plot.

I am getting too old for a "hot Valentine date".

I have lots of "HOT FLASHES" to keep me warm!

Marlene

Please remember that some members are sensitive to scents. Please refrain from wearing perfumes at the meeting. For the environmentally minded, remember (if you can), to bring your coffee mug or pay 0.25. Please respect others by turning off your cell-phone. Thank you.

Incllement Weather

Guild meetings will be cancelled if school buses are cancelled. Barrie is in the **CENTRAL** zone. Listen to the radio stations or check out the web site www.simcoecountyschoolbus.ca.



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February Quilter of the Month ► Lynn Mokriy

Lynn was born and raised in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan to a family of Prairie Fold. She was always interested in doing things with her hands. She chose teaching as a career and after retirement she immersed herself into the world of quilting.

During a quilting trip, she met a number of quilters some of whom are here today. Her horizons expanded and she gained further knowledge and friendships. She was asked to work at the Fabric Shoppe in Meaford where she continues to be inspired to make different kinds of quilts. She joined the Creemore Mad and Crazy Quilters and then the Simcoe County Quilt Guild, where she became one of our Librarians.

To date, Lynn has made over 150 quilts. Selecting fabric, and matching patterns and colour schemes is a challenge which she savours. Her quilts vary in size, theme, colour and style.



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Workshops

At the February Guild meeting during break we are registering the following workshops

Friday, March 23rd Kim Bolender returns to teach **MACHINE QUILTING 2**. This workshop is a continuation of her program last fall, Machine Quilting 1 so confident beginners and those who wish to improve on machine quilting skills will benefit. This program is not appropriate for those who have no machine quilting experience. Cost is \$30.00 for members and \$35.00 for non-members. There are 12 spaces available.

Thursday, April 19th and Friday, April 27th Wendy Spreitzer will be teaching a 2 day workshop on her **LANDSCAPE AND WOVEN VEST**. I believe there is an option to make the project a jacket if desired. This program is appropriate for confident beginners with reasonable sewing skills and those who wish a challenge. Wendy has two half days booked at the Museum which precede the workshop in order to work through pattern choices. She will explain at guild. Cost is \$60:00 for members and \$70:00 for non-members. There are 18 spaces available.

See you all at the registration table at break,

Yours in Quilting,

Adriana, Korleen, Marion

WORKSHOP REMINDERS: Registration for workshops occur during break at guild meetings and via telephone and mail afterwards. Contact **Adriana Fraser 705-721-5317**. All registrations must have payment attached to ensure a place in a given workshop. In the event of a registrant needing to withdraw from a workshop, it is the registrant's responsibility to find a replacement. Cheques / cash will not be returned after the registration date as these are banked immediately.

The workshop committee provides coffee, tea and a simple snack. Please bring a mug from home as we do for guild meetings. This would be appreciated. The Museum is a "nut free" zone. Please make your lunches accordingly. The Museum does not sell lunches.

Program Information & Update

The "Out with the Old" sale from our January meeting made \$173.10 for the guild!

March 23rd Meeting

It's Merchant Mall time with the following merchants: thimbles & things; Juanita's Sew & Serge; Country Concessions; Lilac Lane Quilts, The Muskoka Quilting Co; Threads That Bind; and 2 long-arm quilters - Elite Quilting (Colleen Dadd) and Quilted Wrapsody (Susanne Holt).

Ralph Godin will be sharpening scissors and rotary blades in the coat room. He will be starting at 12:00 noon so you can drop your scissors off and then have lunch. His prices are the same as last year.

The meeting is in the Canadian Room (downstairs). You may return Library books but not take any new ones out. Or you may keep your present books until the April meeting.

❖❖❖❖ **Thursday, April 26, 2012 Gary Walker presents Quilts of Denmark** ❖❖❖❖

February's Guest Speaker—Sherri Hisey

Sherri began quilting over 25 years ago when a friend signed them both up for beginner classes. Although they repeated the class three times, quilting soon became a very shared and fun experience. Learning and attempting all there was to quilting and still having fun, she began teaching classes with an emphasis on solid techniques and taking the mystery out of the quilt making process so quilters would have the confidence to complete the type of projects they wanted.

Many of these classes were based on her personal designs and Border Creek Station Pattern Company began. Carrying on with the fun of quilting and to initially create a surprise for her students, Sherri put some mystery back into quilting with the Border Creek Station Mystery Club. From its humble beginnings, the BCS Mystery Club has grown to include over 2000 quilters across North America.

Sherri's original designs have also been published in magazine's including Canadian Quilter and QUILT magazine some of which she has also brought to share with you.

Border Creek Station Pattern Company

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Library News

We bought 1 new book this month and were lucky to have been given 2 others. That makes 3 lovely new books for you to enjoy! The first 2 books deal with Paper Piecing or Foundation quilts.

#06 Quick Strip Paper Piecing by Peggy Martin This beautifully illustrated book provides you with 17 block patterns plus 2 borders. It is a great introduction to paper piecing for beginners, but experienced paper piecers will love it too!

#20 Foundation Quilts- Building on the Past by Jane Hall and Dixie Haywood. This book was also donated to us by Cathy Walker. This book includes patterns for string piecing, crazy piecing, Log Cabins and Pineapples. There are 17 projects from antique to modern, beginning to master level. Enjoy!

In keeping with Marlene's New Years Resolution we decided to buy 1 new book that will inspire you to use up your scraps and reduce your stash!

#23 Simple Strategies for Block-Swap Quilts by Lynn Roddy Brown. This is a great little book with step-by-step directions for creating 15 scrap quilts.

Thank you again to all of you for donating and buying our used magazines, books and patterns. The money is put to good use in replenishing our lending library. We are pleased that so many books are being borrowed each month!

Please do your best in remembering to return your books, so that you may borrow even more!!

Lynn and Carol

Library Sign Out Procedures

On the sign out card, please put the month / year in which you are taking the book out and your name

Outreach Program Update

22 Cuddle quilts came in during our January meeting of which some went to the Children's Aid Society and the Special Care Nursery at the R.V.H.

Our next Cuddle Quilt Workshop will be The Braid Quilt held on **March 28, 2012** from 9:30am to 3:30pm at the Simcoe County Museum. Register today.

For reference, approximate sizes for our Cuddle Quilts are:

Adult 42" x 60 " Children 40" x 56"

Baby quilts for Special Care Nursery at R.V.H.

45" x 45" and 30" x 30"

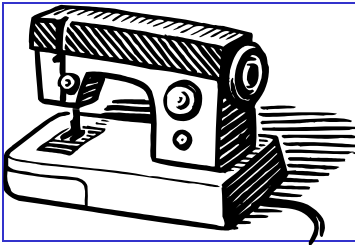
CUDDLE QUILT REMINDER

Due to health concerns of the various recipients of our cuddle quilts, we request that any quilts donated from a smoking household be laundered before dropping them off to us. Thank you for your support and help.

Do any guild members have quilt tops at home just begging for hand quilting to finish them up?

The quilting group at St. Georges' Anglican Church in Barrie is at your service and we would love to speak to you about quilting your tops.

Please call Verna Dixon at 705-721-7804 for information.



Looking to purchase a basic sewing machine. Non computerized preferably. Perhaps with a few fancy stitches. Moderate cost of \$200 to \$300 or less. This machine is for a friend of Judy Kurtz. Please contact Judy if you can help out 705-835-5453.



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Quilt as Desired

Having been in the longarm quilting business for 5 years now I find the most often question I'm asked is "How should this be quilted?" so I thought I'd share some of my thought processes in deciding a quilt design.

Firstly I consider the kind of quilt it is and how it's going to be used. Is it?

- Utilitarian, i.e. baby quilt, bed quilt, everyday lap quilt
- Show quilt
- Wall hanging/Art Quilt
- Special occasion heirloom, i.e. wedding quilts, birthday gift or memory quilt

Utilitarian quilts are usually washed and loved on a regular basis which means they need to stand up to lots of wear and tear. These quilts are to be quilted with this in mind, a good overall medium density pattern that adds to the stability of the quilt.

Show quilts are a representation of the skill and technique of the quilt maker and therefore the quilt needs to be quilted to enhance those features. There are often specific requirements set out by the show committee that must be met and of course many people are admiring the quilters work so you want to show off your best talents.

Wall Hanging and Art Quilts usually send a message to the viewer and the quilting is all about trying to make that message clearer. For example if the wall hanging is a landscape quilt then the quilting will add texture to the trees/vegetation and depth of field to the background if done properly. These quilts are rarely washed so stability is not the main focus.

Special Occasion quilts are often custom quilted to show off the special features of the quilt. This could include pictures, signatures, appliqué, or pieces of material taken from clothing. Each heirloom quilt needs to be assessed individually to determine how it is going to be used. Is it going to be kept for long term sentimental reasons or used frequently as a comfort item?

Once the type and use of the quilt is determined the next decision is the quilting design it's self. Choosing an all over pattern should reflect the general type of quilt that it is. For example if it is a traditional quilt then a more formal quilt design is appropriate. If the quilt is modern then a funky quilt design will reflect the general expression of the quilt.

Next, I consider how the quilt is pieced, if there are lots of half square triangles, stars and points in the quilt then I often suggest a more flowing design to soften the overall appearance of the quilt. If the quilt is more artsy like a "Wack and Stack" then perhaps a less flowing design but one in keeping with the overall theme or feel of the quilt is required. Each quilt seems to talk to me so that I can choose a pattern to best represent what it's trying to say and of course the person who made it has a large input as to how they visualize their finished masterpiece.

In my opinion the quilting design should be selected in order to enhance the piecing of the quilt and not be the focus. (the exception being when there are large open spaces). When choosing a custom design other several factors come into consideration. They are: Balance, scale, symmetry, density and style of quilting. This is a whole other topic for discussion that I will address in Part two of Quilt as Desired.

Written by: Susanne Holt of Quilted Wrapsody.

Events

Feb. 9th to Mar. 31st

Story Quilts: The Treads That Bind Us: A 40 Year Retrospective of Angela Krotowski,
janetaylor@auroraculturalcentre.ca Tel. 905-713-1818 or <http://auroraculturalcentre.ca>

March 3, 2012

5th Annual Celebration of Arts & Crafts from 10:00am to 4:00pm at the Simcoe County Museum

April 21st & 22nd, 2012

The Orillia Quilters' Guild presents: The **Sunshine Quilt Show** being held at Trillium Manor, 12 Grace Ave., Orillia, from 10am to 4pm both Sat & Sun. There will be Exhibits & Sales, Quilt Raffle with proceeds going to Trillium Manor Activation Dept., Quilting Demonstrations, Members' Market, Quilt Shop Vendors and Tea Room. Admission \$5 per person, per day and Men are admitted FREE. For further information or questions call 326-0652 or check our website: orilliaquilters-guild.com for more detailed information.

THREADS THAT BIND wants to let its customers know about an exciting one-time quilting event coming to the Rochester, NY area in July of 2012. The Ricky Tims Super Quilt Seminar, featuring Ricky Tims, Alex Anderson and Libby Lehman, will be held at the Gordon Field House on the Rochester Institute of Technology campus on July 12-14, 2012 (Thursday evening, Friday and Saturday). We signed up as a promotional partner to make sure that all of our customers are aware of this educational and fun-filled seminar, and we urge you to open the attached email blast to learn about the details. It's two and a half days of learning and laughter with three of the most well-known and talented teachers in the industry. Check out the web site at <http://www.rickytims.com/seminars>

If you'd like to attend and take advantage of the small or large group registration rates, we'll be collecting registrations through the shop. Contact Threads That Bind.

Quilt Canada 2012 Halifax, Nova Scotia May 29 to June 2 www.canadianquilter.com

NEWSLETTER SUBMISSIONS— All submissions must be received a minimum of one week before the next guild meeting to ensure inclusion. E-mail submissions are preferred.

Contact Sherri at sherriw@sympatico.ca or call 705-734-0702 evenings.

Guild members may submit non-commercial, quilting-related advertisements or notices at no charge.

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