

QUILTERS' QUILL

"The Executive will work together as a team to support and encourage new quilters, challenge and draw upon experienced quilters and provide warmth and comfort to those in need." As your Executive Committee, we are designing some things to meet the above goal."

SUBMISSION DEADLINE

Items for Quilters' Quill should be submitted by the Monday of **two weeks** before the Guild Meeting. Please call Joanne Kavanagh 345-2269.

E-mail: kavanagh@tbaytel.net

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

Thursday February 9th, what a great day. The annual Quilting Bee was a great success. All participants had a good time. The facility was great especially once we had the amount of strain the breaker system could take. The food was plenty and very good. Every quilter appeared very engaged in what they were doing and many quilts were created.

A big thank you to Aila Metsa and Linda Santorelli, chairs of the Bee committee for ensuring every one had what they needed to create the quilts.

Thank you to Meghann Choquette for making the arrangements with the Prince Arthur and for trouble shooting through out the day.

Also a big thank you to the group leaders, Alva Llewellyn, Bobbie Dafoe, Cindy Cockell, Jeanette Oja, Karen Boote, Linda Guitard, Lori Smetaniuk, Nelly Reedhead, Peggy Skillen and Wendy Currie. Your leadership and instruction lead to many colourful quilts being created.

Another big thank you goes to the members who came out to participate in all the aspects of making quilts. Without your dedication the comfort quilts made that day would not have been possible.

A thank you also goes out to Tom at Twin City, Bob at Sysco, Marcia at Merle Norman, Cindy Cockell and Luci Andreacchi at Circle of Friends Quilt Shoppe for the wonderful prizes up for grabs by the participants.

Thanks to all for an awesome day.

Norma

PROGRAM COMMITTEE

Thank you goes out to all who made the brown bag placemats, and I think there are still some coming in. Also thank you to those who made "heart" blocks, I'm sure they will be put to good use!

Thank you also goes out to Marlene Bosma for her interesting presentation on wall art in January, I will surely try it out!

I have forgotten to mention that there is a "Box" in the Fellowship Hall for you to use if you have any suggestions, positive or negative comments to offer the executive. We can only grow from them!

Handouts are available for the trapunto "Hearts and Roses" design and I brought the little pillow for you to look at. I also brought a bit of wool for anybody that needs it....please help yourself.

Feb: We will have a demo night tonight with 5 different stations.

Mar: Shirley Aussant and Alva Llewelyn to speak on sizing your quilts.

Apr: Open to suggestions.

May: Don't forget the Quilters' Challenge Part II by Pat Inch, Shirley Aussant and Val Kosloski. "All God's Creatures Great and Small" Everyone is invited (challenged) to make something to bring to show and tell at the May meeting. Almost anything goes, as long as it features something that creeps, crawls, flies or swims...I think also walks or runs would be accepted.

Jun: Yearly windup Potluck Dinner before summer break.

As always if you have any suggestions to the program, please come forward, your ideas are always welcome.

See you at the meeting

Linda

VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

TIME....too little of it for all of those ambitious projects that we need to make, shop for, plan and finish.

That is the common complaint heard from quilters. Another reason may be, as Bobbi so eloquently voiced at the Quilt Bee the other day; "when you retire, they shorten the days"! Isn't that too true.

One suggestion is to dedicate one hour a day to quilting. That adds up to seven hours a week of pure enjoyment and over an entire year the total hours – 336 hours. Wow, you can make a lot of quilts and finish up a whole bunch of projects in that time period. So, if you feel overwhelmed with all of the UFO's piling up in your sewing room, take action – one hour a day!

I am always looking for things Canadian, and have found this fairly new addition in quilting magazines. Read on.....

A recent addition to quilting magazines, Quilter's Connection is now available. Quilter's Connection Magazine is Canada's only quilting magazine.

Published quarterly, Quilter's Connection provides quilters with a connection to the rest of the quilting community across Canada. A magazine dedicated to those in the quilting community, written for quilters, by quilters, Quilter's Connection Magazine is the source for all things related to quilting in Canada. The magazine entertains Canadian quilters with news and reviews, projects, heartwarming and motivational stories about quilters and their achievements, quilting tips, and techniques – content to inspire the quilter in everyone.

Quilter's Connection Magazine was formerly known in British Columbia as Connections for Quilters Newsletter. Connections for Quilters began in 1993 as a humble two-page calendar of events for quilters. It has grown over the years into a newsletter packed with news, regular features, columns and photos from events and organizations throughout the British Columbia quilting industry. Today, the magazine is growing again, as it begins its new life as Quilter's Connection Magazine – a full-color, professional magazine filled with valuable information for quilters across Canada.

Remember that suggestions are always welcomed. We love to hear from our members with ideas for new classes, teachers that could facilitate a workshop or a newfound idea that you want to share.....we are listening.

LIBRARY REPORT

The book sale was a huge success last month. Many books that have been taking up space in our library have found new homes and now we can look forward to a new selection of more current and updated quilting books. We will continue with the sale of these older books, so remember to bring your loonie and toonies to the February meeting and find a treasure that needs a new home. Come to the Education Wing and see what awaits. Hope to see you there and remember to bring back the books that you took home in January, so that all members of the Guild can have a chance to enjoy the great quilting resources that their library has to offer.

Thank you and happy reading,
The Library Committee
Luci Andreacchi, Meghann Choquette, Ellen Lang,
Betty Maki, Sharon Melville, Wendy Royston

PLACEMATS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

In January 20 placemats were received and 18 delivered to Meals on Wheels. Great work everyone. Don't forget to give your orphan blocks a new role in placemats. They are a great way to use your scraps.

PLACEMAT BEE: April 21 at the Unitarian Fellowship on Algoma Street. Come for the fun and to learn new things. Lunch is provided. We start at 9:30 am and finish about 2:00 pm.

Nelly Reedhead

PHOTO WALL ART

Styrofoam

Buy the 2' by 8' sheet of insulation Styrofoam. Cut it in 12 blocks measuring 7 ½" by 8" with a saw or knife. Will have lots left.

Material

I made 7 printed cotton blocks and 5 photo blocks as the seem to arrange nice this way. Cut the 7 printed cotton blocks at 11 ½ " by 12" from several different prints. I used black and white but any colours or prints will be good as long as you have some theme going. Cut the plain cotton blocks for the Photo blocks at 8 ½" by 11" the exact size as your computer paper. Make extra of these as mistakes during printing will happen. Will also need 2 ½" strips to sew on three sides of these blocks. Cut 12 blocks of quilt batting 7 3/4" by 8 1/4".

Computer

Spray plain block cotton with a good basting spray and fit computer paper exactly over the top of this.

Carefully smooth cotton and paper so there are no bubbles. When dry place in computer paper holder so that the computer will print on material side. Place your picture CD in computer or find the pictures you want in your picture files. Select picture and stretch so that it cover the entire screen and will fit the top of the block. Print with colour or black and white. Be careful not to smudge the material until it dries completely then remove paper.

Putting it Together

Place printed block of cotton face down. On top of this centre batting square, then Styrofoam block. Put glue all around the top edge of block 1" wide. Bring material up and cut corners and fold into corners gluing on top. Straight pins may be needed to hold material until dry. (Use a Tacky glue or Gorilla Glue which is my favourite. Photo block needs to have 3 strips sewn on to 3 edges so it will fit the block. Make sure seams are on the edges of the block. Cover the Styrofoam blocks with this material making sure picture is straight. May spray photo blocks with a matte spray which may look yellow until dry.

If there are any questions please call Marlene at 768-0081. Enjoy!

CLASSIFIEDS (BUY/SELL/TRADE)

Three-line non-business quilt-related classified ads can be placed in the Quill for \$2.50. Each additional line costs \$1.00 Please pay Aila Metsa in advance.

THUNDER BAY QUILT GUILD MEMBER PROFILE

CLAIRE ARCHER

I was an only child, born in Winnipeg but raised mainly in northwestern Ontario. I am a retired Occupational Health Nurse.

I took Home Economics in grade 7 and 8 and all through high school. It was there that I learned the basics in all kinds of needlework and sewing. I also learned that most of what I learned came from the mistakes that I made! I sewed most of my clothes and most of my kids clothes when they were little. I still enjoy sewing. My hobbies are sewing, quilting, needlework, and reading. I used to do a lot of gardening till I moved into an apartment.

I started quilting in the early 1990's. I like to quilt in the fall and winter – usually to get Christmas quilt projects done.

I prefer to do the piecing part of a quilt because that's where I see the most progress and I get to play with fabric and colour. Colourful fabric is an addiction for me and I usually will buy anywhere from a metre to 2 ½ metres, often on speculation and just because I like that particular piece of fabric. I save the larger left over pieces particularly when there is a coordinating fabric with it and store them in rubber maid containers and clear bins.

I prewash all my fabric and store them in the cupboard in colour families. I started taking pictures of finished projects just in the last couple of years and when it is allowed I will take pictures at quilt shows and then put them in an album.

Pressing and ironing are an essential part of any sewing if you are going to get a sharp image and finish on your project. My Home Ec. Teacher, Mrs. Walsh, said “you sew with your iron” if you want a professionally finished garment. She “brainwashed” us so it doesn't feel right to skip that step.

I haven't used spray starch before cutting but I like Mary Ellen's Best Press clear starch alternative when pressing a work in progress.

I use a seam ripper for reverse sewing. It is much more efficient than using a pin. I cut the thread every 3-4 stitches and pull the bobbin thread and it works quite quickly that way.

I don't usually do a trial block, just jump right in with both feet. If I hit a “road block”, the mentors in our quilt group are helpful in showing me how to get out of it.

I have travelled to other places for quilt shows, primarily, as a viewer. I haven't wanted to trust my sewing machine to an airline.

My best sewing tips are: make sure that you have good quality tools – fabric, threads, and needles, and scissors/rotary cutters - and good lighting. Do at least one block the long way, before trying short cuts.

I seem to need a lot of room to spread out fabric. I keep bundles of triangles, squares, etc. in zip lock bags to keep them organized. The 12 inch containers for projects are helpful as well.

I have been with the guild since 1998. I have been in the “hanging group” for the Quilt shows 3 times now and helped out at the quilt bee. I was with Julie Cullen for 2 years distributing Donation quilts. I showed my quilts at guild as the quilter of the month .

I have enjoyed being part of the guild and the camaraderie of the group. These women have taught me a lot and have given me a lot of encouragement and help. I wouldn't have done anywhere near the number of projects I have done if it hadn't been for the workshops and ideas that I got from this group.

I love sewing and quilting and it is great to share it with like minded people!!!

Claire

Submitted by Bobbie Dafoe

CIRCLE OF FRIENDS QUILT SHOPPE

218 Tupper Street
(between Court and Cumberland)
Thunder Bay, Ontario
807-344-2625

February Specials

All remaining Christmas fabrics have been further reduced

30% off

A large assortment of everyday fabrics have also
been discounted at 30% off to make room for new
inventory arriving weekly

Thimbleberries Club ~ space still available

last Monday of the Month, next meeting scheduled

Monday, February 27, 2012

1:00 ~ 3:00 and 6:30 ~ 8:30

Open to serve you ~ Tuesday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m.

Closed: Sunday and Monday