

# 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](mailto:kavanagh@tbaytel.net)**

## PRESIDENT'S CORNER

I have found it difficult to write the President's Corner this month. I have many thoughts floating around in my head. I will try to put some order to these thoughts.

A few weekends ago I went to the Dryden's Quilt Show to help Luci with her booth. Viki Favreau from Kenora, was the guest speaker for the dinner. It was great to catch up with Viki and remember all the great workshops she presented to members of the Guild.

Also, Stacey from Stonewall Manitoba was at the show. You may remember that Stacey was at our show last April. Stacey did a demo on the new series of books called the Quilting Academy by Harriet and Carrie Hargreaves. The format and information are very good. Their teaching points are interesting and I plan on working through all the books. I hope it improves my skills.

The Thunder Bay Quilters' Guild only works when members are willing to volunteer and help do the work necessary to make the Guild successful. The Executive is very thankful and appreciative of all the members who have stepped up to the challenge and moved the Guild forward. There is still time to have more members become involved in the executive of the Guild by letting their name stand for the roles of President, Vice – President and Program Chair. These roles are important for the continuation of the Guild.

Please consider throwing your hat into the ring.

The Executive is well aware that the membership wants the business portion of the meeting to be as short as possible. Also, the members requested that the

financial statements present only the information that the Treasurer submits every month. The books are always available for any member to look at or ask any questions. The Executive is only doing what the membership has asked of us.

Norma

## QUILT SIZES

A member has requested that the various quilt sizes be published in the Quill. Below are the sizes that appeared in the Information Sheets handed out in September. Below are the sizes of the quilts.

Hospice Bed .....	63" x 80"
Neo Natal .....	36" x 36"
Crib .....	34" x 48"
Wheel Chair .....	36" x 48"
Nap Quilt .....	40" x 55"

## PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**May:** Yes there is still time to do the Quilters' Challenge Part II; at least I'm going to try! Let's show Shirley, Pat and Val some of our Great and Small Creatures! Bring yours to show and share!

**Jun:** We will have our Potluck Dinner before the summer break. To give us inspiration to quilt over the summer months, we will have our own Jackie Black as Quilter of the Month. You will be in awe of all the talent Jackie has and is so willing to share with us!

See you at the meeting

Linda

## NOW IS THE TIME

Yes, now is the time to volunteer for a position on the Guild Executive. As you know, our guild is successful due to the contributions of many members who help things run smoothly. In June we will be

electing three new members of the Executive for two-year terms – President, Vice President and Program Chair.

The duties as described in our Constitution and By-Laws are listed below, so you can think about how your interests and abilities can best serve. Speak to me or any member of the Executive for more information about what is involved. We're counting on you to step forward!

The **PRESIDENT** will preside at all meetings of the Executive and General Membership, will call executive meetings, prepare agendas, be responsible for public relations and will liaise with the community.

The **VICE PRESIDENT** will preside at meetings in the absence of the President; liaise with the Program Committee and be responsible for coordinating the workshops and retreats.

The **PROGRAM CHAIR** will be responsible for the organizing the monthly program portion of the general meeting.

Doris Dungan

---

### VICE PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There has been a very positive response for the Colour Theory Class. This hands-on workshop will enable members to learn about colour and the colour wheel. How to apply this in their selection of colour, fabric, pattern placement and design in their quilts. It will assist the quilter in their decision making process when visiting a quilt shop and in the design of your quilts. The principals presented in this workshop will give you more confidence in your colour and fabric selection, enhancing your quilt making experience.

The sign-up sheet will once again be made available for all interested in taking this class. This class will be scheduled for the Fall – either September or October. We will keep you posted as to dates and location.

The second in the series – INTERMEDIATE QUILT CLASS being offered by Doris Dungan - the signup sheet will also be available for any member interested in sharpening their quilting skills, learning new techniques or simply to refresh all of those quilting skills that you have gathered over time.

This class will run in the Fall. We will keep you posted as to dates and location.

Always on the lookout for great tips and information. Here is a bit on Quilting by machine from <http://www.craftstylish.com>

Quilting by machine definitely presents it's own challenges. This is especially true if you're quilting a large piece on a standard machine and trying to manoeuver it through the small space under the arm while following a quilting design and trying to keep the stitches straight and even. It's very physical activity! Thankfully, many sewing-machine companies have produced machines that include stitches and options specifically for the quilter.

When you quilt on a standard sewing machine, there are basically two ways to do it: with the feed dogs up or with the feed dogs down. Don't know what feed dogs are? They're those teeth that protrude slightly above the throat plate and, when you lower the presser foot to hold the fabric in place, they move the fabric as you sew. For most sewing, they're in that position, and the fabric feeds precisely along; all you need to do is guide it. You can curve the fabric slightly as you sew, but mostly, you move forward in relatively straight rows, and when you want to turn a corner, you stop with the needle down, lift the presser foot, turn, lower the presser, and resume stitching. When I quilt my garments—basically in small sections—I like to keep the feed dogs up. They're like a security blanket. And my quilt designs are mostly straight-line grids or slightly wavy lines of channel quilting.

Many machine quilters, however, like to lower the feed dogs. When you do that, the only thing to move the fabric along is you—so you're in control and can basically sew in any direction you want to. This is called "free-motion" stitching. But, like hand quilting, it takes some practice to get in the rhythm, to keep the stitches straight and even.

There are some real masters of machine quilting, and I'm amazed by their skill in handling large quilts while producing intricately stitched designs with such precision. One expert is [Diane Gaudynski](#), who teaches her techniques as well. Check out this [video from a Threads](#) piece that Diane wrote, and learn some of her tricks. Also visit [Paula Reid's site](#) that offers some great tips on quilting with a standard sewing machine.

The latest trend in machine quilting is the long-arm quilting machine. I shouldn't call it "a trend" because I'm sure it's here to stay. Long-arm quilting machines are attached to a quilt frame. The machine essentially moves across the quilt, and that speeds up the process because you aren't struggling to move the bulk of the quilt through the machine. Several manufacturers and dealers offer classes on how to use them. Many quilters

have purchased them to finish their own quilts and turned it into a business finishing the quilts of others. Check with your local quilt shop for more information. Many shops have at least one and do quilting-for-hire, or they can refer you to someone who does. If you're a prolific top maker, but aren't so keen on quilting by hand or machine yourself, finding someone to do it for you is a great alternative!

Luci

---

### LIBRARY REPORT

Thank you Doris for the addition of four new books that are making the Guild Library their new home.

#### **Spotlight on Neutrals – Quilts and more for Any Décor by Pat Wys**

If you think neutral fabrics are only for backgrounds and blending, you're in for a pleasant surprise. See what can happen when sophisticated taupes, warm browns, rich creams, and contemporary grays take center stage.

\* Enjoy elegant pieced and appliqued designs that redefine "neutrals" and open up new possibilities for black, white, gray, beige, and more

\* Choose from 12 projects with timeless appeal, including quilts, pillows, a square table topper, and a mantel scarf

\* Create stash-busting scrappy projects that can be used year-round, work in any home and with all decors, and make ideal gifts

#### **Prairie-Point Pizzazz – Quilts with New Dimension by Karen Sievert**

Prairie points, those triangular edges that make quilts more interesting than their straight-edged counterparts, have long been the stuff of borders and bindings. But what happens when these fun and fluttery little triangles are incorporated into traditional blocks? Karen Sievert's innovative technique makes it easy to add new dimensions and more colour to any quilt project consisting of blocks with half- or quarter-square triangles. Start off with the 10 in *Prairie Point Pizzazz*, including the Bear's Paw table runner with prairie-point "claws" and the Peekaboo baby quilt. Babies can lift the prairie point flaps to discover surprises underneath, such as fabric printed with teddy bears or a special photo or message.

#### **Another Bite of Schnibbles – Carrie Nelson**

If you loved the first Schnibbles book, then you'll want to continue the fun with Carrie's latest designs using 5" and 10" squares. Each of the 12 projects has a large quilt and a small quilt option. This book is nicely

designed with clear instructions and techniques, and it would be great for the beginner or experienced quilter alike. The quilt designs featured are all stunning; you'll want to get started right away.

Do you like collecting charm packs and 10" square packs like I do? It's a great way to get a sample of every fabric in a collection without having to buy a ton of fabric (easier on the budget too). But then, what to do with them? I found the answer in this book! There are 24 beautiful, quick and easy projects and all are designed specifically for using packs of 10" squares or charm packs. Each quilt pattern can be made using the 10" squares for a larger lap-sized quilt, or charm squares for a smaller wall hanging-sized quilt. I can't wait to get started on these adorable quilts!

#### **Slash Your Stash – Scrap Quilts from McCall's Quilting**

Scrap quilting is budget-friendly quilting! Enjoy a beautiful array of scrap quilts specially selected for their variety of styles, skill levels, techniques, and sizes. In this value-packed collection, there's something for everyone.

- Choose from 16 attractive pieced and appliquéd designs from the pages of *McCall's Quilting*
- Gather inspiration from such expert designers as Lissa Alexander, Susan Purney Mark, Gerri Robinson, and Pat Sloan
- Play with a wide variety of scraps to give your projects depth and individuality

Hope to see you at the Guild Library in the Education Wing (right next to Alva and her demonstrations) and remember to bring back the books that you took home in April 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,

Thank you and happy reading,

The Library Committee

Luci Andreacchi, Meghann Choquette, Ellen Lang,  
Betty Maki, Sharon Melville, Wendy Royston

---

### QUILT SHOW 2013 COOKBOOK

Hi ladies, time to dig out those favourite recipes and the ones everyone asks for after the pot luck suppers. We are going to produce a cook book to be sold at the 2013 Quilt Show. The last time we did this was for our 20th anniversary in 2001! Hard to believe it was that long ago.

All recipes must be in by the January 2013 meeting

but the sooner the better. Start with your recipe for what you bring to the June potluck! Indicate a suitable category for the recipe if it isn't obvious. Last time we had 200 recipes so we're looking for that number again. You may submit more than one.

It will help if you submit them via email so we don't have to re-type them. But if that's not possible then neatly print them and give them to one of us at a meeting. Submit to:

Cindy Cockell [ccockell@tbaytel.net](mailto:ccockell@tbaytel.net)

or Marg Marks [mjmarks@tbaytel.net](mailto:mjmarks@tbaytel.net)

Thanks, Cindy and Marg

---

### INTERESTING WEBSITES

I ran across some 'how to' videos that might be of interest to the members. In the McCalls list is another way of joining the ends of binding for the lumpless finish.

[http://www.mccallsqilting.com/MQU\\_Basic\\_Quilting\\_Classes.html](http://www.mccallsqilting.com/MQU_Basic_Quilting_Classes.html)

Another one is Alicia's Attic. Her tutorial on binding odd angles including interior angles is great but her method of the lumpless finish is cumbersome.

<http://www.online-quilting.com/video-tutorials/index.html>

Cindy Cockell

---

### BEE COMMITTEE – MAY 21/2012

We would like to thank all the ladies for the wonderful job they did at the Cutting Bee on April 20<sup>th</sup>. We had lots of fun cutting the children's fabric into kits - we got 12 kits cut. Great Job!!! Thanks to Wendy Currie for the children's fabric, as we didn't have much in our stash. We would like to thank all the guild members who came out and supported the Guild for the various cutting bees and the Quilt Bee at the Prince Arthur. Also special thanks to those of you who picked up kits to put together, and to those who picked up fabric to do their own wonderful quilt tops and those of you who used fabrics from your own stash to create such beautiful quilts. Thank you also to Luci, for providing storage space, as well as a cutting area, and bonus, bonus, coffee, tea, and goodies. As we have seen at the meetings, we have a dedicated group of quilters willing to share their time and talents helping make someone's day a little brighter (and warmer). We won't be having a cutting bee until the fall, however, if you want to make a quilt top, and need fabric, just call or e-

mail Aila or Linda, and we can set up a time to pick out your fabric. With everyone lending a helping hand in one way or another, we would not have had such a successful year.

Aila & Linda

---

### TREASURER'S REPORT May 21, 2012

I have attached to this month's report the Audit Report for the 2009-10 and 2010-11 year ends. It had been previously published, however, it shows that our current method of accounting has been reviewed and acknowledged as reasonable. The membership wanted our monthly meetings to be less business, and more of a learning experience, and we have endeavoured to please the majority of our members in doing just that. The enthusiasm and attendance at the meetings, with our current format, has been phenomenal to say the least. The financials are available for your perusal, so if you have any concerns, just let the executive know, and we will give you all the detail you want.

Aila Metsa, Treasurer

---

### PLACEMATS FOR OUR COMMUNITY

- 47 Placemats donated in April.
- 18 went to Meals on Wheels

See me if you need batting, starters for placemats, backing or binding fabrics.

Nelly Reedhead, 473-5646

---

### 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 PEGGY SKILLEN - THE REAL BAG LADY**

I was born in Toronto and raised in Richmond Hill. I am the middle child of 6. I graduated from St Joseph's Hospital in Toronto as a Registered Nurse, and then went to McGill University to further my education. After University I came to Thunder Bay to work at St Joseph's Hospital. I met my husband here and decided that it was a nice place to live and raise a family.

Sewing has always been a part of my life. My mother had an old treadle machine that was a disaster to operate because it was hard to get your stitches even, so when I was 16 my sister Frankie and I bought our first sewing machine. From then on, there was always a sewing machine in my home. We made a lot of our own clothes and I also later made a lot of my children's clothes. When my children were little I made quilts for them out of clothes that would have been thrown out or given away. They were just squares sewn together and lots of different fabrics, cotton, polyester, flannelette, it didn't matter what it was, it got used. I didn't start to do actual piecing and appliqué quilting until 5 years ago. I went to visit my youngest sister Christine, for her 50th birthday, in California and we watched quilting shows on PBS. I had just retired and wanted something to fill my days so I thought I would give it a try.

When I came home I went to the Quilter's Stash and Maureen started me on the current Block of the Month. When she had classes that fall I took the beginner's class and have never looked back. I sew almost every day and always have 2-3 projects on the go. Right now I am doing 8 Blocks of the Month. I don't have any UFO's just kits that have to be done. I keep telling myself to stop buying fabric but there is always a pattern or fabric that I like and it goes into my cupboards. I use up fabric from my stash but the stash just doesn't seem to get depleted. I save most of my scraps in see-through plastic boxes on shelves in my sewing room. They are all colour co-ordinated and labelled. I also like to do appliqué and I use my scraps for that. One of these days I will make a scrap quilt and use up some of my half-square triangles that have taken over another drawer.

I have made 5 full bed quilts, but I mostly make lap size, and crib size quilts or smaller items, like placemats and table runners. I also make bags and lots of them. I started making bags when my sister Lynda and I started going to Europe once a year and weren't happy with the bags that we had to take with us. I experimented and changed patterns to suit our needs. I have bags for every occasion and match them to my outfits. If I decide to wear blue one year then I make all blue bags to take with me, so I seem to have a multitude of different colours. Also, everyone who receives a gift from me receives it in a quilted bag.

I don't prewash my fabrics; I just store them with like colours so that hopefully it is easier to find what I am trying to match. I often make a sample block because I don't like sewing on the bias, so if the instructions are to cut triangles to make half-square or quarter square triangles then I make up my own block, and a sample to use. My mother sewed into her 90's so I have a lot of her left-over fabric that I use to make my samples.

I take pictures of everything that I make and store the pictures in photo albums, they also appear on my blog. The Blogging world has introduced me to a whole array of ideas and quilting projects that can be used when I am looking for a new project or help with the one I am working on..

I joined the Guild 2 years ago after taking a class at Confederation College and Norma, the president asked us to come and join. Whenever I can I participate at the quilt shows and bees

and attend the Possibilities Club meetings. I have learned so much from other quilters at these functions. I am thankful for the many friends that I have made since joining the guild and I am in awe sometimes at what my fellow quilters accomplish.

I opened my big mouth and asked some friends to help with this profile, and I didn't expect the response I got:

*We have been quilting together with Peggy every week for over a year now and have found her to be a great teacher. Because she quilts every day and does research on the internet she is a wealth of information. We never start anything new without getting Peggy's advice first. We need Peggy! She patiently guides us step by step and always looks over our shoulder to be certain we are not making any mistakes. Where would we ever get attention like that. Our quilting days are therapy and friendship days and Peggy is a big part of that. In fact, last year we enjoyed our time together so much that we decided to do a quilting retreat at a camp. For three days we quilted from morning till late at night and Peggy never tired of all our questions. The retreat was such a success that we are doing it again this year. Thank you, Peggy.*

I like to learn new things and think that every project I make and every person I meet is a new adventure. There is always one more thing to make.

Submitted by Bobbie Dafoe

# CIRCLE OF FRIENDS QUILT SHOPPE

218 Tupper Street

(between Court and Cumberland)

Thunder Bay, Ontario

807-344-2625

Friendly, Personal Service

all served up in a charming hundred year old house

'GATHER, LEARN, SHARE, QUILT'

Now in stock and on display at the shop – Ten Little Things Numbers Quiet Book. This large, padded soft book featuring Jenn Ski's fabric collection, Ten Little Things, and chalk Cloth panels make this soft quiet book fun for both Mom and kids. We have a co-ordinating bed quilt and pillow cases all made up and ready for you! Come and visit and see for yourself what a great gift this will make for that favourite little boy or girl on your quilting list.

Full to bursting with great projects for children is Nancy Halvorsen's new book – Curiosities and Mischief ..16 fantastic projects from Building Block Quilt and Petal Pops Quilts to Tooth Fairy Pillows , Growth Charts and Nap Mats – this new book has it all and so much more!

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

Closed: Sunday and Monday