

The Common Thread QUILT GUILD

NEWSLETTER

November 2008

President's Message

Catherine Patterson

I'VE BEEN INITIATED! I am now a seasoned Retreater and I expect to remain one for many years to come. October 17,18 19th we were at the community centre in Notre Dame des Champs on the Navan Road. It is a pleasant facility with lots of room, light, tables and the necessary facilities.

I've been having trouble for some time finding the time free for quilting so this three day extravaganza was a revelation. We were well treated by Barb Till, Retreats Coordinator, who dished up two home cooked suppers that I only had to clear my plate for. Works for me!

Next month I'll be trying the out-of-town retreat and hope I have as good a time. Barb is still taking names for that one so maybe I'll see you there. It is a slightly different concept where the Retreater is pampered with a complete hotel experience. I've heard

that some attendees at the Nav Can retreat like to add cross-border shopping to their itinerary but I'll be staying close to my machine. I already have plans and fabric for enough projects that I can't get to. I don't need more pressure at the moment.

At any rate, thanks to the Retreat, my Christmas sewing is accomplished (one cute wall hanging for aged Mother-in-law), and a good bit done on my own quilt which will surge forward over the Cornwall weekend. Woo Hoo! I'm on a roll!!!

Next Meeting

November 11, 2008

Programme

Janet Hope

I am very pleased to announce that in November we will be having Michele Gagné, from Quilty Pleasures, join us for a trunk show!!!

SHOP OF THE MONTH

Dragonfly Fabrics

FAT QUARTERS THEME

Bears and Nature

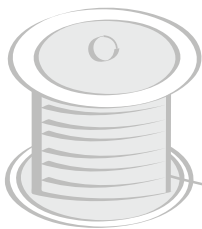
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To reach members of the executive write to info@commonthread.on.ca



Announcements

Summer Quilt Contest

The summer Quilt Contest winners were awarded their prizes at the October meeting

QUILT TOP

Pat MacDonald chose to use her \$10 at Quilty Pleasures

FINISHED QUILT

Michelle Clouthier spent her \$40 at Julee's Homecrafts

Guild Workshop

Victoria VanderLinden will be leading the Guild Workshop on November 22. The pattern featured that day is Patchwork Plaid. We will show you a great way to use squares of patterned fabric: think Christmas/holiday, or Charm Pack, or I-Spy, or just anything! See Sylvie Proulx at the Workshop table for details.

You can call me anything you like . . . just don't call me late for dinner !

It has been a very long time since we've had an end of the year Banquet. What I am proposing is a banquet in May or June and not on the second Tuesday of the month. We hope to make it a fun and relaxing evening for all. Not sure of the location, as that all depends on how many people are interested. There will be a small deposit required to hold a place for you at the table. If you are interested in attending or being part of the committee, currently a committee of one, please see me on Tuesday night.

PS. I hate to eat alone, so why not join and have some fun.

Quilt Musings for November

You know how it is, as we age, we discover things about ourselves. I have discovered that I don't do 'random'. By this, I mean, that if I am given the slightest choice in the matter, I either have to find a pattern in something, or I have to put something together in a pattern.

I have a book with quilt patterns in it. (Oh, I need to digress slightly. I am a Library Technician in my 'real' life. I was in my forties before I discovered that I was going to be a library technician when I grew up - and now that I am 50 something and I'm as grown up as I'm going to be, I've discovered that I like patterns. And, if there was ever a job where you needed to like patterns, working in a library is it!) Okay, back to the quilting book. This book is lovely. It has a pile of patterns in it that are made with 6 different fabrics. In a couple of the patterns, each piece of fabric is cut in the same way, into the same number of squares and rectangles and then they are combined to make a quilt.

All of the quilts are represented in the book in two different colour combinations, which I think is brilliant, because, not only am I opinionated on patterns, I'm opinionated on colours as well—and contrast... but those are topics for another evening of musing!

The first quilt in the book is done in two different colour combinations—one is done in pastels and the other is done in some darker prints. And the 'pattern' is the same. To me they look as if the ladies who designed the quilt took all the little squares and rectangles, blindfolded themselves, spun themselves around a couple of times and then threw each piece at their design wall, and when they took off their blindfolds, their only rule was the blocks could only be moved enough to make them oriented properly so that they fit into a rectangle to make a quilt.

Now, this makes it sound as if I don't respect the ladies who designed these quilts, and I wish to hasten to inform you, that I LOVE all

the rest of the quilts in the book—but all the rest have a recognizable pattern. If there is a pattern to the first quilt, I can't see it. (And I can't pick it out in either colour. In fact, the two quilts appear, to me, to be NOTHING alike - because I can't find a pattern in either of them.)

All this to say, I have been sort of discovering this little quirk about myself over the past 10 or 12 years. I knew that I liked certain quilts more than others (hey, who doesn't?) And I knew that I liked certain colours and certain colour combinations better than others. But it wasn't until I got a Community Quilt to put together that had an odd colour combination AND was missing blocks that I discovered that I couldn't JUST put it together. It took me three years to decide that I ought to JUST give it back, but before I admitted defeat—I took it out of the bag, read the instructions I had been provided with (which were to cut MORE ugly blocks and then put the thing together) when I remembered Victoria's plea that the quilts were not to be so big that the back needed more than one width of fabric. And I had that moment of epiphany. I could get past the ugly colour IF I could find a pattern that I could live with (and if, incidentally, I didn't have to make MORE ugly blocks.)

So the whole thing went up on my design wall that Flannel sheet!) and I moved the four patches around with the sashing fabric, and I moved them around and I moved them around, and FINALLY, a pattern emerged.

For me, in short, the WHOLE thing is about patterns. What about you? Do you do 'random'? Do you like it? My guess is that there are lots of quilters who like patterns, even if they are patterns that only they can see.

Enjoy your quilting!

Jane Maddin



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Shopping excursion to Montréal

On September 29, six CTQG members set out to find fabric and fun in Montreal.

In addition to three fabric store stopovers, our hosts made sure that we were comfortable, had a good lunch and took us to morning and afternoon snacks at Tim's in Rigaud.

Some of us found fabric while others found batting, embellishments and more. Most importantly everyone had a good time!

NOTE: More excursions are planned for Spring of 2009.

Be sure to see Sylvie, our Workshop coordinator for more details.



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Community Projects

Victoria Van der Linden

Community Projects Committee: Victoria Van der Linden, Catherine Senecal, and Barb Donaldson

How does the committee work? You can sign out a bag of donated fabric, or a quilt top to be quilted, or donate a quilt, or donate fabric and batting-come see us for details.

Want to try out your machine quilting skills? Visit our table at the right of the stage to join in finishing our 25+ quilts for the following charities:

- 1) The Common Thread Quilt Guild collects monthly donations of Cuddle Quilts for use on the isolettes at the General Campus. The tiny at-risk babies look less clinical in their quilt-covered bed, and the families take the quilts home. Barb Donaldson can tell you more about sizes, can show you patterns, and can give you donated fabrics.

Thanks to the generous response to our call for more Cuddle Quilts, 59 were delivered last month! We appreciate your thoughtfulness.

- 2) We support the Victims of Violence outreach program with young child/teen/adult themed Comfort Quilts (40" x 60").
- 3) We support the St. Mary's Community Outreach Centre with baby/child themed quilts (anything from 30" x 40" to 40" x 60"). The young mothers benefit from counseling and instruction.

FREE PATTERNS: the 2007 pattern booklet is available from Barb Donaldson.

THANK YOU FOR THE BABY GIFT

To the ladies of the Quilters Guild: Our baby daughter received one of your quilts in the NICU at Ottawa General Hospital. It was beautiful and obviously made with tender loving care. We were so pleased to be told that we could bring it home. We will always treasure it!

Many thanks,
Pat, Jennifer and Madeleine



Frances O'Neill
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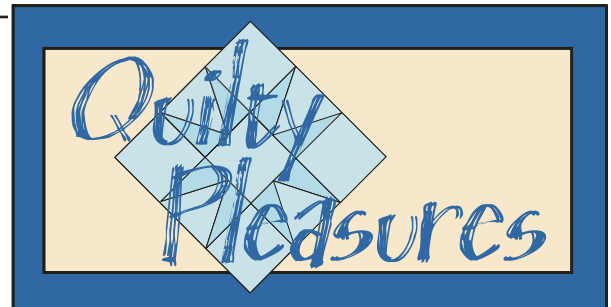
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Retreats

Barbara Till

Happy November everyone!

It sure is getting cold out, and that can only mean time for sewing!

We just had an in-town retreat at Notre Dame des Champs Community Centre. It was my first retreat ever, and I must say: "I liked it". There were only 6 of us, but, we made new friends as we sewed and chatted. In addition to cutting and sewing, two in our group managed to sandwich some 6 or 7 quilts—and how quickly that went! It would seem that a large room with some large tables to work at makes the task so much easier than moving furniture and chasing cats away! I personally got lots of 'planning advice' for which I have to say a big thank-you!

Our next retreat is at Navcan in Cornwall—Friday Nov. 28th to Sunday Nov. 30th. (Do you have a Christmas project you need some uninterrupted time for?)

Special weekend rate is \$266.20 (including taxes)—for 2 nights.

Check-in is 16:00 but we can start sewing at 15:00.

Check-out is noon; we can sew until 15:00.

If you can't make it for the whole weekend—there is a single night cost of 193.55 (including taxes).

Hope to see you there!

Barb



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Member- ship Desk

Pauline McNally

Our membership is now at 196. You may pick up a newly designed guild pin for \$5.00 when signing in at meetings. The name tags recently purchased have magnets instead of pins. We would appreciate your comments on these tags. i.e. do you prefer pins or magnets?

Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard

We have received a thank you letter from the food cupboard. During November and December we will once again be collecting toothpaste and toothbrushes or other toiletry items for the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard. These items will be distributed to residents requiring assistance throughout the Xmas season. Toiletry items are not normally purchased by the food cupboard therefore they are a bonus item for the residents and always bring a smile when they are available for distribution. If you would like to visit the operation please contact Gwen Bouchard at 613 749 4728.



Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard
Centre de secours alimentaire de Gloucester
2040 Prom. Avonshire Dr, Gloucester, ON K1J 8V9 613-749-4728
www.gefc.ca

October 16, 2008

Common Thread Quilt Guild
c/o Pauline McNally
Ottawa, ON

Dear Friends,

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard. Your donations of toiletries including toothbrushes and toothpaste are always greatly needed and appreciated.

We are a community organization. With support from you and the volunteers who help in all aspects of the program, we are striving to meet the growing needs of the hungry and needy people in our community. Last year the Gloucester Emergency Food Cupboard provided emergency food and basic necessities for over 18,000 people, 45% of which were children 18 and under.

We are hoping that you will once again consider providing toiletries for those we assist. When people have a family to care for, sometimes food becomes more of a priority than basic toiletries so for many who come to use our program they are so pleased to be able to choose some basic toiletry items as well.

We look forward to a continued relationship with Common Thread Quilt Guild. If any of your members would like a tour of our operation please call, and I would be pleased to arrange one.

Sincerely,
Gwen Bouchard
Executive Coordinator