

The Common Thread QUILT GUILD

NEWSLETTER

March 2009

President's Message

Catherine Patterson

I was casting about for a topic for this month's 'Message from the President' and my revered partner wondered if there was any tie-in to today's hottest topic carbon footprint Well is there?

What could be more environmentally friendly than a quilt. I guess the case was stronger when they were made of reused fabric and hand sewn but I think we can still say we are being good to the environment by sleeping under a quilt, not an electric blanket, to keep warm with less energy consumed overnight in the home.

The lap quilt scores points here too. No need to crank the thermostat when we have a quilt to cuddle under while watching TV in the evening oops I mean reading by candlelight.

So I think, all in all, that we quilters can pat ourselves on the back knowing that we are

making our contribution to our nation-wide green goals. Keep up the good work quilting friends, we must each do our bit for the environment!

What's more, quilting keeps us off the streets and out of trouble (if not out of the malls that have quilt shops) so it is an exemplary activity and I think I'm going to head to my sewing room to make my effort for the cause right now.

CALENDAR

Don't forget to check out the Calendar of Events on the last page of the newsletter. There have been some changes since the last issue.

Next Meeting

March 10, 2009

Programme

Janet Hope

March's meeting we will be having Guest Speaker, Kathy Wylie. Kathy is an Ottawa native that has published her own books. Speaking on "Beauty is All Around" and coming with a supply of published books I am sure we will be reminded that Spring will arrive!!!

SHOP OF THE MONTH

Running Stitch

FAT QUARTERS THEME

Pastels and polka dots

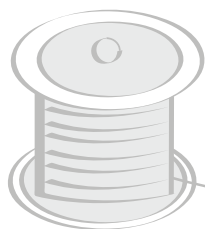
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Community Projects	Victoria Van der Linden
Quarters Club	Gale Joyce Marjorie Hanson Paula Brown

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



Announcements

OVQG Invitation to Bethany Garner Presentation

The Ottawa Valley Quilters' Guild is very pleased to extend an invitation to you and your Guild members to join us for a trunk show Monday, April 6th, at 7:30 pm, at 523 St. Anthony Street (off Preston) in Ottawa. Our guest speaker will be Bethany Garner, a fibre artist and quilter from the Kingston Fibre Arts Group, who will also talk about the judging of quilts. [Check out the flyer on our bulletin board.]

Quilt Exhibit

Exciting news! We have a new upcoming quilt exhibit at Wellington County Museum & Archives, between Fergus and Elora called Quilt Treasures (March 7- June 7, 2009). This exhibit showcases heritage quilts from the Museum, one of the best collections in Ontario. [The poster advertising this event will be posted on our bulletin board.]

Lowell Quilt Festival/Images 2009

The festival and Images quilt show takes place in August and every year we have quilt entries and visitors to the festival from our great friend to the north. Museums and galleries throughout historic Lowell also plan many special activities of interest to all, young and old. You can log on to lowellquiltfestival.org for exciting information about this prestigious event, including classes, special events, and photos of winning quilts from last year. Lowell is only 6 hours from Ontario. Get a group together and come down on a bus or in a van. We offer special group admission rates and a reduced rate for festival goers at our hotel. We'd love to see you...and your quilts... this summer!! [The brochure for this event will also be posted on our bulletin board.]

Membership Desk

From now until May 31, 2009 the membership fee is \$15.00. Guest fee is \$4.00. Membership has privileges.....check out our website. Guild pins are always available for \$5.00.

Quilt Musings for March

Jane Maddin

A friend of mine told me today that "February is over and the back of winter is broken." I had never heard this expression before and it made me wonder about folk wisdom in general. And specifically are there folk sayings about Quilting?

Stitching certainly - A stitch in time saves nine. (You know I always thought I knew what that meant... but a stitch in time? And nine what?) So I decided to have a look on the internet to see if there are any Quilty sayings out there! Well, was my Musing all sewn up or what!?!)

There are WHOLE websites devoted to crafty sayings. There are crafty sayings for knitting, sewing, crocheting and quilting! When I zeroed in on the Quilting ones, I was blown away! There are whole websites devoted to Quilt Sayings, things that you can add to your quilt labels or put on bumper stickers! "Warning: This vehicle stops at Quilt Shops!"

So I thought that I would mention a few of my favourites. How about, "I got a sewing machine for my husband. Good trade, eh?" That one is on many websites. (My husband, besides being patient about waiting for me in Quilt Shops, has been painting all the trim in our house with a small brush, much green masking tape and NO COMPLAINING! I'm not trading him in for a new sewing machine; no, not even a long arm, although that would be pretty tempting!)

"You know you are drinking too much coffee, when you can thread the needle without stopping the sewing machine!" Hmmm, perhaps that explains the odd looks I get when I arrive at the retreats with my coffee thermos!

There are zillions of sayings that explain away the untidiness in my house. "I'm creative, you can't expect me to be neat and tidy too!" "Quilting fills my days, not to mention my living room, my dining room and my closets!"

But you know, my very favourite ones have to do with friends, friendship and love! How about, "Our lives are like quilts - bits and pieces, joy and sorrow, stitched together with love." Or "Memories are stitched with love".

"Love is the thread that binds us" is pretty nice too.

"Quilting with a friend will keep you in stitches". Truer words were never spoken! And "Quilts are like friends, a great source of comfort!"

"The love of quilting is our common thread!" This one seems especially apropos for our group!

So I had a lot of fun reading Quilt sayings and I'd like to leave you with this thought: "In the crazy quilt of life, I'm glad you're in my block of friends!"

Happy Quilting!



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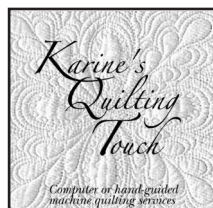
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Community Projects

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 to sew into a top or finished quilt; or a quilt top to be quilted; or donate a quilt; or donate fabric and batting—come see us for details. **Remember: we will pay for your batting if you quilt a quilt for us. Or contact us ahead of the meeting and we will bring a batt cut to the size of the quilt you have made.**

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. *Thirty-eight* Cuddle Quilts were delivered in February. Visit Barb to pick up pre-cut batting for your quilts.

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. **Visit the table to see the pictures of some of the babies on their quilts and read the thank-you note received from the program coordinator, Gerri Thivierge.**

Free patterns: Did you get a copy of the pattern Catherine Senecal demonstrated last month? Pick up one at the table along with the reprinted 2007 pattern booklet with one new pattern.

More free stuff: Are you coming to the in-town retreat in April? Victoria will be there Saturday, April 18, with fabric and instructions to make an on-point strippy quilt. Even if you can't sign up for the whole retreat, start a top for Community Quilts that day and we will provide your supper. Free instruction for everyone, free fabric, and free supper if you only come that day—what is there to not like?

New for 2009: The Odawa Native Friendship Centre, 12 Stirling Avenue, Ottawa has made a request that we consider providing comfort quilts for distribution to their elderly clients. They would be given at an Elder Appreciation ceremony in June. The target number: forty. Twenty-three have been pledged. Some special design elements need to be considered. Interested in participating? Come to the Community Projects table before the meeting, or during the break, to speak to Victoria Van der Linden. She can also be contacted through Julee's Homecrafts in Osgoode: 613-826-1243

Ovarian Cancer: Looking ahead to 2010: Angels in Action have asked if we would consider providing another quilt for them to raffle in Ottawa. The last two quilts were given in the name of Bonnie Parks by her friends and fellow Guild members, with financial assistance from the Guild. If your quilting group would like to respond to this request with a queen sized quilt in blue, delivered by January 2010, contact Victoria Van der Linden for more details.



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Challenge

Yvette Lessard

...Old MacDonald Had a Farm... EE I EE I O

Old Mr. MacDonald is happier today, because I was able to tell him some of the ladies had started their wallhangings. NOW he's sure to have SOMETHING on all that bare land. He says THANK YOU.

Don't forget wallhangings are due by 9pm at April meeting.

You may go a bit larger than 160" but please no big bed quilts.

Judging at May 12 meeting

Quilters Needed

Quilts of Valour Canada is an organization which provides quilts to injured soldiers returning from deployment. We are looking for long arm and/or machine quilters who would be interested in quilting some tops for us (we will provide batting and backing). If you would like to volunteer your skill and time please contact Mary Ewing at marybary54@sympatico.ca or Martine Genest at martinegenest@rogers.com.



Donations of 100% cotton would also be appreciated.

Congratulations Thelma

Common Thread member Thelma Robbins has just had her quilt *Pathways in Motion* accepted as one of fourty-four quilts for a special travelling exhibit in the USA called *Oh Canada*.

Congratulations go out to Thelma for some well-deserved recognition internationally.

The quilt will appear at:

- Summer International Quilt Festival, July 24 to 26, 2009, Long Beach, California USA (open to the public)

- Fall International Quilt Market, October 10 to October 12, 2009, Houston, Texas USA (limited to the trade only, not open to the public)
- Fall International Quilt Festival, October 14 to October 18, 2009, Houston, Texas USA (open to the public)

Calendar of Events

March 6, 7 and 8/09	Retreat	<i>In-Town</i> Notre-Dame-des-Champs Community Centre Friday 15:00 – 22:00 Saturday 09:00 – 22:00 Sunday 09:00 – 17:00
March 7/09	Workshop	Kathy Wylie Workshop
March 10/09	Regular meeting	<i>Program:</i> Kathy K. Wylie Trunkshow <i>Shop of the Month:</i> Running Stitch <i>Fat Quarter Theme:</i> Pastels and polka dots
April 14/09	Regular meeting	<i>Program:</i> Social Tea **Challenge quilts due by 9 pm** **Unveiling of Row Robins** <i>Shop of the Month:</i> The Country Quilter <i>Fat Quarter Theme:</i> Jewel tones and batiks
April 18-19/09	Retreat	<i>In-Town</i> Notre Dame des Champs Community Centre Saturday 08:00 – 22:00 Sunday 09:00 – 17:00
April 20/09	Excursion	Montreal Shopping [CANCELLED]
April 25/09	Workshop	Appliqué techniques by hand and by machine: fused, faced, template-free, reversed
May 11/09	Excursion	Montreal Shopping [CANCELLED]
May 12/09	Regular meeting	<i>Program:</i> Annual Meeting **Row Robin Show** **Voting for Challenge quilts** <i>Shop of the Month:</i> Sew For It <i>Fat Quarter Theme:</i> sweets, cakes, ice cream etc.
June 9/09	Regular meeting	<i>Program:</i> TBA **Membership Renewal for 2009-10** <i>Shop of the Month:</i> Aunt Beth's Quilt World <i>Fat Quarter Theme:</i> Tone on tones