

GILDING THE NEEDLE



A FEW STITCHES TODAY — AN HEIRLOOM TOMORROW.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

by Lyn Moore

WHAT'S NEW?

**ADVENTURES WITH
FANCY FLOSS BY BETH**

PAGE 3-5
.....

**VOTE ON REMAINING
IN EAC BY LYN**

PAGE 6
.....

EVENTS

PAGE 6
.....

**PRIDE PROJECT
SAMPLE BY CORINA**

PAGE 8
.....

It's official: Today is the first day of Spring! Although there is still some snow on the ground, I have seen multiple signs that the season is starting. Robins are back; the squirrels have started families; and I even saw a chipmunk out of hibernation. The longer days and the clear sunshine are glorious. Now we just need the temperature to cooperate.

We have been busy at the guild working on our 'Sampler'. New season, new project, right?

I have always really enjoyed doing crewel work and so I'm very excited to make this piece.

As always, the guild is about camaraderie, enjoyment and sharing of the art that we love.

A MESSAGE FROM OUR NEW EDITOR

by Christina Gilchrist

We would like to welcome and thank Heather — of stitch by stitch — for recently joining our membership and for being one of our three sponsored ads. Would you like to support a local community group while advertising your business?

Send an email to kingston@eac-acb.ca



Grow your skills with us!

550 Days Road
Kingston, ON
613-389-2223

**VISIT US IN STORE
OR ONLINE**

StitchByStitchKingston.com

CGNA Administrative Committee, March 2026

Executive Officers

President: Lyn M.
Vice-President: Tina
Past President: Donna
Secretary: Tricia
Treasurer: Leola

Standing Committees

Programme: Anjali
Communications: Susanne (Chair & Archives),
Donna (Website),
Tricia (Secretary),
Tina (Newsletter)
Library: Beth M. (Chair), Mary Ann
Hospitality: Nancy (Chair), Francine
Membership: Lynn P.
Special Events: No chair, Tina

ADVENTURES WITH FANCY FLOSS

by Beth Mewhort

Like most stitchers, I learned to embroider using cotton floss, the kind that can be purchased at general hobby stores like Michael's; each skein involves a single colour. When I started shopping at specialized needlework stores, I was blown away by the racks, sometimes walls, of "fancy floss". Fancy floss is the omnibus name for floss which involves several different colours per skein, sometimes the colours are different intensities of the same hue (ombre), sometimes they are different hues. They are created by many different processes and may be referred to as hand-dyed, over-dyed, space-dyed, dip-dyed, variations, variegated,

etc. There must be a dozen different companies who manufacture them, some of the most popular being Weeks Dye Works, Gentle Art Sampler Threads, Colour Complements (they're Canadian!), Classic Colorworks (formerly Crescent Colors), Dinky Dyes, Caron Wildflowers, Threadworx, etc. Fancy floss is so pretty that it's hard to resist buying it up on spec. But, too often, it languishes unused in one's stash, for it can be tricky to incorporate into stitching projects.

What do I mean by "tricky"? Well, today's fancy floss is usually colourfast, but you do have to check this.

And, much of the time, the colours vary with dye lot. Since you may not be able to get the same dye lot you started with if you run out while stitching, you have to buy enough floss for your project at the outset. But, it can be hard to calculate how much floss of a given colour you will need. The skeins of fancy floss from different manufacturers vary in length – a 5-metre skein is quite typical. (The DMC "standard" is an 8-metre skein.) And, stitching technique is different for fancy floss than for standard floss; you may use more floss to stitch and also waste more. It seems like you should just buy a generous amount of whatever colours you've chosen – but, at prices three to seven times the price of standard floss, that isn't always an attractive option. Yes, it can get "tricky".

Several years ago, I purchased the over-dyed silks specified for Northern Expressions' "Twisted Band Sampler" in a special promotion of Dinky Dyes. I also had the pattern in my stash, purchased the year it was first published. So, I was delighted when CGNA recommended the piece as a Learn-A-Stitch project...





Meanwhile, I'd fallen in love with Karen Kluba's "Lacey Cottage Samper" and had acquired the pattern and the requisite skeins of over-dyed Weeks Dye Works floss. I worked on the two pieces in tandem, a process which taught me a great deal about working with overdyed floss.

Firstly, although Dinky Dyes' Silks are recommended for the Twisted Band Sampler, DMC "equivalents" are given.

Furthermore, as one can see by looking at the in-progress pieces at a CGNA meeting, one can effectively substitute other, more personal colour choices.

"Recommended" does not mean "required". For the Lacey Cottage Sampler, by contrast, only the overdyed threads are listed. The particular threads are integral to the design. Clearly, Kluba had the design in mind when she chose the colours, and the colours in mind as she made the design. The message? If you choose to stitch a pattern that uses fancy floss, substituting different colours may or may not work. Study the pattern and specified fibres carefully before choosing your floss.

Secondly, if fancy floss is to add depth and interest – not just speckling – to one's work, one's stitching technique will likely need some adjustment. It's a nuisance not to be able to use a loop start when stitching with two plies, but, with fancy floss, multiple plies must be pulled from the skein and aligned in the same direction or the strands will change colour in different places. Similarly, if one needs a second length of floss to complete a line or motif, the second length of floss should begin with the same depth of colour as the first strand ended (even though floss may get wasted). The need to use the English method for cross-stitching (in which each stitch is crossed before the next one is started) is a more significant adjustment to stitching technique, but one with which I had lots of practice.

Another significant consideration is that one has to follow the shape of the design with fancy floss; stitching in horizontal rows produces stripes. This last consideration complicated my work on the "Twisted Band Sampler" enormously.

I started the "Twisted Band Sampler" by stitching the top left motif in pale pink, following the rows of the printed pattern. It took me a while to understand why it didn't look right: the motifs in the twisted band sampler are all "twisted"; they form diagonals. If stitched row by row, the work puts the eye into conflict: the design encourages the eye to move along the diagonal, but the gradations of colour pull the eye horizontally. I ripped out the top motif (and some of my hair), and restitched it, making stitches along the diagonals. This way of stitching is difficult – it's hard not to miss a stitch or misplace one, and it's hard to make the stitches perfectly uniform when they go in varied directions. When I started cross-stitching the butterflies and flowers, there were further complications. Did I want the deeper shades of the floss in the centres or along the outlines of the motifs? Should each butterfly have the same placement of the various shades of the floss, or should they all be different? Suddenly, I needed artistic judgment that I usually rely on the designer for.

I found it interesting that, even though it was also stylistically a sampler, the Kluba piece involved none of these complications. The lines of the design were largely horizontal and vertical. The house was the main area where I fussed about the placement of various shades of blue: I wanted it to look weather-stained, not striped like clapboard. Because the shape was basically a rectangle, however, I did not find stitching the house to be at all frustrating or onerous. For the “Lacey Cottage Sampler”, the decisions that required artistic judgment were manageable, or had already been made by the designer. In short, it was a joy to stitch.

Now that both pieces are finished and I am thinking about framing options, my perspective has changed a bit. While I was stitching it, the “Twisted Band Sampler” was less than entirely satisfying. I looked at the way the colours blended with each other and was not convinced that the added depth was worth the extra effort it had taken to stitch.

Then, two different guild members told me that, actually, the gradations in colour were beautiful and effective. Leola advised me to hang it somewhere where one could stand back from it, not peer at it from a stitcher’s viewing distance. And, I think she is right.



Felting Workshop Results

Skills taught by Carolyn Barnett
Felted by Lyn & Eileen
Great job ladies!



Nevertheless, the next piece I do that is built on a diagonal (yes, I have already started Northern Expressions’ “Twisted Christmas Sampler”) will be stitched primarily in standard DMC floss. There are enough challenges in it with beads, metallic threads, and specialty stitches that I’m not up for adding in the challenges associated with fancy floss. My next Karen Kluba piece, however, will be “Merlin’s Tulips” – and I can hardly wait to get to Knowledge & Needles to purchase the required Weeks Dye Works threads.

At the December meeting the members made a motion to vote on whether the CGNA should remain as members of the EAC.

A great deal of background research and preparatory work was done by Leola and Tina with regards to the pros and cons of membership. CGNA members were given the opportunity to vote in person at the December and via email throughout the holidays. Also, voting was available at the January meeting. There were only 19 votes cast, but since that represents more than half of the total CGNA membership, and all were in favour of remaining members of the EAC, the vote was unanimously carried. As a result, the CGNA will remain as members of the EAC.

Vote On Remaining in the Embroiders Association of Canada

by Lyn Moore



Knowledge & Needles
www.knowledgeandneedles.com

Cross Stitch Supplies **Ann McDonald**
613-475-4843
e-mail: annmcd@gmail.com
190 Smith St., Brighton, ON K0K 1H0

Fibre Art Events

Art Threads	March 28 - April 19 10AM - 5PM	Tett Centre Gallery 370 King St. West, Kingston
CGNA Meetings	April 14, 28 May 12, 26 June 9, 23 9:30AM - 3:30PM	St John's Anglican Church 41 Church St, Kingston
Stitch Day	April 18th 9AM - 4PM	Joel Steele Community Centre, Main Street West, Winchester
CGNA Pride Booth	June 13th 10PM-4PM	Confederation Park, Kingston





(above) Pastor Robert Porter — of our host Church — shared photos he took at the Anglican Cathedral of the Holy Trinity

CGNA PRIDE BOOTH BADGE PROJECT

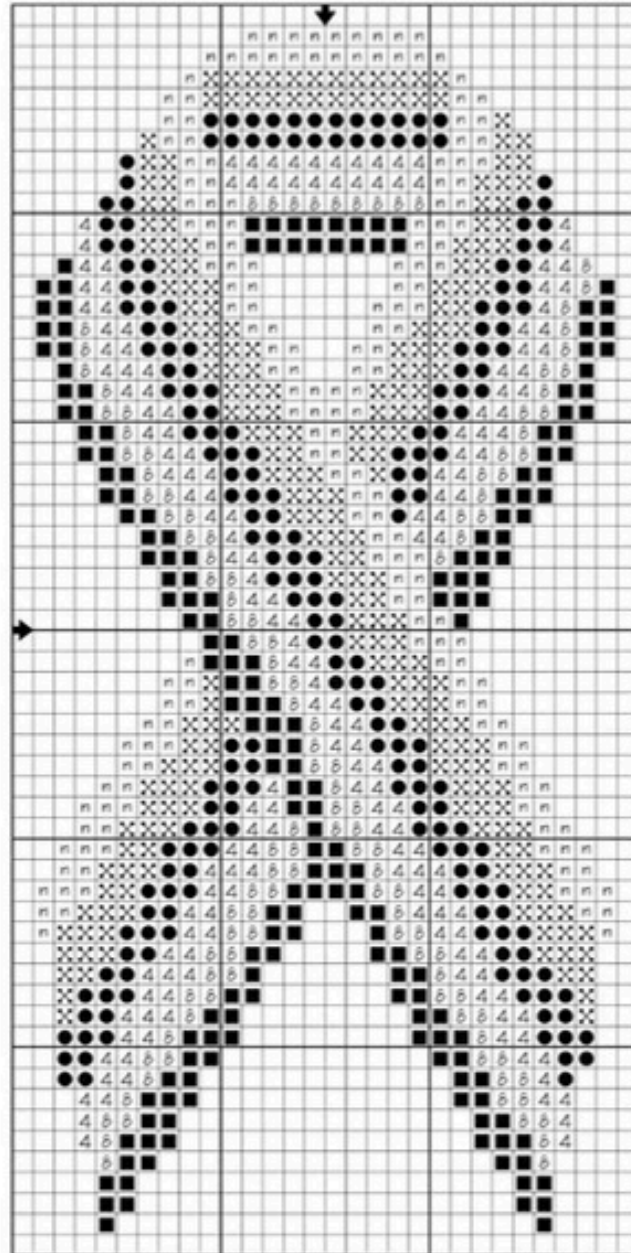


Gay Pride Ribbon

Designed by: Artecy Cross Stitch



www.artecy.com
www.artecyshop.com



Full Stitches

X	Strands	DMC	Color
	2	208	Lavender-VY DK
	2	307	Lemon
	2	321	Christmas Red
	2	701	Christmas Green-LT
	2	741	Tangerine-MD
	2	996	Electric Blue-MD

Fabric:

Use any fabric type and colour you like to stitch on, Aida, Linen etc. To stitch on clothes use Waste Canvas.

Finished Size:

28 Stitches wide x 58 Stitches High

PREPERATIONS FOR KINGSTON PRIDE

by Corina Becker

I have been excitedly preparing for our table at Kingston Pride. I recently finished a sample of the pride ribbon pattern – pictured on the previous page. As I stitched, I found that the pattern colours are different from the actual Pride Flag. After comparing with various charts online, I included the flag colours in the sample. Since the pattern barely uses two lengths of each colour, I was hoping that we could offer people a choice on what colours they would prefer together with a bit of fabric to make a kit.

I also thought that it would be nice to have little things to give away. So I started making pronoun pins and bookmarks using plastic canvas and crochet thread



LEARN A STITCH

by Leola Becker

On March 10th we will begin working on Crewel designs and stitches provided in the Fall 2025 Embroidery Canada to make something of our own choosing.

The proposed Learn-A-Stitch schedule is as above.

Date	Activity	Instructor
March 10	Getting started, transferring patterns, starting to stitch.	Leola
March 24	French knots, Colonial knots, coral stitch	Anjali
April 28	Closed herringbone	Tina
May 12	Bullion knots	Diane
May 26	Single corded Brussels stitch (Needle Lace)	Ros
June 9	AGM, Town Hall, Final Speaker, etc	n/a
June 23	Gather for stitching	n/a