

Gilding the Needle

"A few stitches today – an heirloom tomorrow"

A chapter of the Embroiderers' Association of Canada
(EAC) eac.ca

Member of Ontario Network of Needle workers
(ONN) onguilds.ca

President's Message - Spring, 2013

Spring is just around the corner and time to welcome back all our out-of-town members - we missed you.

First the good news. Theresa has stepped forward and will take over the organization of the Needle Arts Fair. Thank you, Theresa and I'm sure everyone will help.

Anjali and Roz have agreed to take over the position of programme directors. Beth and Kristeen have proposed the programme for 2013 and in June Anjali and Roz will take over.

Now the not such good news: Jocelyne will be stepping down as vice-president, Sally will be stepping down from hospitality and I'll be stepping down as president. You all know the consequences if these positions are not filled, so it would be great if some of you were to approach Theresa before she starts arm-twisting.

Our first sale of Nancy Baker's books was a great success, over one hundred dollars realized. The balance of the sale of the donations from Nancy's family will be held on June 3rd. So save your money.

Irene Hodge



Cataraqui Guild of Needle Arts

Member of Embroiderers'
Association of Canada

meets
1st & 3rd Mondays
9:30 am — 3:30 pm

at

Edith Rankin Memorial Church Hall
4080 Bath Rd.
Kingston, On

Volume 11 Issue 3

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REMINDER: No meeting on April 1st, our first meeting in April will be Monday, April 8th and on April 15th we will have the Carolyn Mitchell one-day guild workshop.

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**2010 -2012
Executive
of**

Cataraqui Guild of Needle Arts

Suite 802
829 Norwest Road
Kingston, ON, K7P 2N3

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CALLING ALL CROCHETERS !

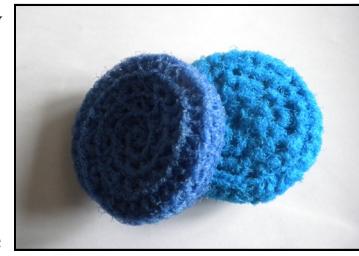
Scrubbies Needed

For many years we have been kept well supplied with wonderful scrubbies which we have been able to sell as a Guild fundraiser.

Some of you may not know that they were generously supplied by the father of one of our members, Kathy Gorman. Sadly, Kathy's dad has passed away.

It is now up to us to continue the tradition of having lots of colourful scrubbies for sale at guild meetings and at the Needle Arts Fair.

Tulle, in a rainbow of colours, has been purchased for anyone interested in participating in this project. There



are lots of patterns available online. This online site might help you:

noelwright.blogspot.ca/2011/08/pattern-for-crochet-pot-scrubber.html We like the size and shape of our scrubbies but have not been able to find the exact pattern as yet. Hopefully, if all the crocheters in the group put their heads together we will have a pattern suitable for everyone to follow at the next meeting.

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A Fine Group of Gals!

Watch for this photo in an upcoming issue of Embroidery Canada. Thank you, Guylaine for making us all look so good.



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Winter Programme - 2013



Members continue to add stitches to their pulled and drawn thread sampler during the morning learn-a-stitch Sessions.



The “Magic Carpet” afternoon group continue to work on their own in preparation for further instructions from Pat Caffery during the upcoming spring session.



Beth Abbott leads an afternoon study group learning Sashiko stitching.



A few members used the afternoon session to work on a Hapsburg Lace project.

Needle Arts Fair 2013 Update

Plans for this year's Needle Arts Fair are coming along nicely. Just to let everyone know, the date is **October 5th** and this year's Needle Arts Fair will be held at the **Seniors' Centre**. We have booked the gym and a large classroom for our fair. Much to everyone's delight, we will not be providing the lunch but will have it done by an outside caterer. That way we get to spend more time looking and enjoying and spending our money as well as doing a shift sometime throughout the day.

I have tried to get a variety of different fibre artists as well as bring back our favourites. Along with our exhibit of members work (so get stitching), we are going to have a special display of white work. This will include any white work you have done over the years in different classes along with examples of white work from yester years. White work was chosen to highlight this year, because the maple leaf sampler we are doing for learn-a-stitch is white work.

Another addition to this year's event will be the addition of half hour demos/mini workshops. To date Carolyn Mitchell and Christine Allen have agreed to participate in this along with Beth Abbott, who will be doing a repeat of her lecture on cotton. (Those of you who were not at our March 4th meeting will have another opportunity to participate in it.) If we get two more that would fill in the day.

I'd like to thank all who have signed up to help with this event and encourage the rest of you to do likewise. As this is our main fund raising event for the year and everyone in the guild benefits from the event please do your bit. I've tried to break down the tasks so it is not onerous for any one person. Sign-up sheets are available at all meetings.

This is a list of all the vendors who have signed up at this point in time:

Knowledge and Needles	Rose Haven Farms	Cornerstone Fibres
Handmaiden	Carolyn Mitchell	Christine Allen
Monkey Business	Trudy Carkner	Beth Abbott
Ballintotas	X's and O's	Hooked on the Lake
Bytowne Threads		

If you know of another vendor you think would make a great addition please let me know so I can make contact with them. All suggestions are greatly appreciated.

Theresa



**Knowledge
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www.knowledgeandneedles.com

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Linda Swaine, Proprietor

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**Fibre arts, books & magazines
workshops**

Membership News

Congratulations Beth & Pat



Beth Abbott's quilt has been accepted into the SAQA show "Metaphors on Aging". It is an international show opening in Birmingham, England in August.

Artist Statement

The balloon is the spirit of my Dad, released from the limitations of age, soaring over the now colourless landscape. The inspiration was a Zentangle I drew, while sitting with him during a long night as he was dying. The earth is lifeless but his spirit is alive with light

Canadian Minerals - Pat McCaffrey

In 2012, Sandra Reford, president of Ad Maiora Canada, sent out a call for pieces of fibre art relating to the minerals found in Canada. The aim of the exhibit was "To show the beauty of minerals through textile expression while bringing together two disciplines, art and science." The jurors included Hernan Ugalde, Ph.D., Senior Consulting Geophysicist, PGW; Stephen Reford, B.A. Sc., P. Eng., Senior Consulting Geophysicist and Vice President PGW; Tom Drivas, President and CEO, Romikos Gold Resources Inc.; Patricia Sheahan, BA (Geology), Director.; Diane MacLeod Shink, quilt book author, American Quilter Society Certified Appraiser; and Sandra Reford.

Sixteen pieces were juried and exhibited during the Prospector and Developer Association of Canada convention in Toronto in March. This was a private exhibit and not open to the public but I understand there were several thousand delegates that attended the convention.

My entry "Below the Surface, Gold" was one of the pieces included in the exhibit. This exhibit is now enroute to the Verona Tessile event in Italy. From there it is expected to travel to England and later to France.



Irish People, Irish Linen by Kathleen Curtis Wilson

I came across this book recently at the public library and found it very interesting. I thought I would share with you some of the little tidbits of information I found most enjoyable.

The book itself is a history of Ireland and also the history of linen and the impact the flax plant had on the economics of the country. I hope I haven't put you to sleep yet. Irish linen was a saving grace for the Irish when the potato famine hit. The book takes you through the development of the linen industry from pre-industrial revolution to fashion trends today. It talks about the importance of women in linen production from spinning to the fancy embroidery done to pieces of Irish linen sold throughout the world. The book gives you a view of how the linen industry developed in Ireland and how its fame spread throughout the world. Linen is a very useful product and has made its way into many different parts of our lives.

1 ½ bushels of flax seed = one acre of flax

1 acre of flax = 25 yards of material 1 yard wide

Properties of linen:

- It doesn't dye as easily as cotton or wool
- It wrinkles
- It is valued for its durability and strength even when wet
- The strength of linen yarn is 2X that of cotton and 3X that of wool
- It has high heat conductivity
- It is extremely absorbent- up to 20 times its dry weight which explains why it is always fresh and cool
- Does not accumulate static electricity so doesn't stick to skin
- The more it is washed the softer and smoother it becomes
- Silica in flax fiber protects against rotting which explains why Egyptians wrapped mummies in linen to preserve them
- Rejects dirt—doesn't pill or tease
- Doesn't fade or lose its shape as cotton does

Bet you didn't know

During the 19th century women and young girls used to do "outwork" in the linen trade, meaning they would work on the embroidery of fine linen in their homes. This was a very lucrative business for many women and although they were poorly paid by our standards, it meant the difference between living comfortably or starving. One of the tricks of the trade, instead of using a thimble, they would quite often toughen the skin on their middle finger by burning the flesh over a candle. Over time it became calloused and yellow stained. This stain would not wash off. During the potato famine when young men of a marrying age who could not find work would look to marry a young woman with stained fingers as these talented lace makers might support a family with their skills.

IRISH PEOPLE IRISH LINEN (continued) from page 7

Do you know the origin of the word **spinster**? Today it means a woman that never married, but in by gone times it denoted an occupation—a spinner.

Warp has been used as a weaving term since the 8th century. The many individual lengths of yarn that bend across a beam at the back of the loom to the front are warp threads and usually have a tighter twist than the cross yarn (weft). If a person has a “warped” personality, then it is somehow twisted or bent out of shape.

Diaper is used to describe any disposable cloth needed for incontinence. In the 15th century, diaper referred to a type of linen cloth woven in a small diamond shaped pattern that made it highly absorbent. It was particularly suited for toweling or napkins to keep babies dry. In Great Britain today, babies' diapers are called “nappies”, a word evolved from napkins once made of linen.

A **fugitive** currently defines a person hiding to avoid police arrest. In textile, people know that some dyes, particularly early synthetic dyes, were called fugitive because they faded away or disappeared after the original colour was set. Dyes that remain strong and true are called **fast** or today, colourfast.

Other expressions that come from the textile industry: **white collar crime; run of the mill; sloppy; cut from the same cloth; to wash one's dirty linen at home; to air one's dirty linen in public; pounce; lingerie from the French word for making or selling of linen cloth; and knocking off work.**

Submitted by
Theresa Lawrence

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Cataraqui Guild of Needle Arts

Spring, 2013 Programme

March 18	AM	Learn-a-stitch - Preparation for drawn thread work, hemstitch and cutting/drawing threads - Pat Caffery Show and Share
	PM	Magic Carpet - Pat Caffery Finishing Techniques - Mary Lou Wilson Blackwork - Royal School of Needlework - Techniques study group - Theresa Lawrence, co-ordinator
April 8	AM	Learn-a-stitch - Simple drawn thread borders - Pat Caffrey Fibre Talk - Flax and Linen - Beth Abbott
	PM	Magic Carpet - Pat Caffery Finishing Techniques - Mary Lou Wilson Blackwork - Royal School of Needlework - Techniques study group - Theresa Lawrence, co-ordinator
April 15	AM	Carolyn Mitchell's one-day guild workshop
May 6	PM	Magic Carpet - Pat Caffery Finishing Techniques - Mary Lou Wilson Blackwork - Royal School of Needlework - Techniques study group - Theresa Lawrence, co-ordinator
	AM	Learn- a- Stitch - Herringbone border, Barb Jackson Show and Share
	PM	Magic Carpet - Pat Caffery Finishing Techniques - Mary Lou Wilson Blackwork - Royal School of Needlework - Techniques study group - Theresa Lawrence, co-ordinator
May 20		(Victoria Day) - No Meeting
June 3	AM	Learn-a-Stitch - Pea hole hem stitch border - Ann Miller studio sale
	PM	Magic Carpet - Pat Caffery Finishing Techniques - Mary Lou Wilson Blackwork - Royal School of Needlework - Techniques study group - Theresa Lawrence, co-ordinator
June 17	AM	Annual General Meeting Show and Share
	PM	Potluck Luncheon Fibre Talk - Silk - Beth Abbott

SPRING IN REVIEW

