



### Executive Update

#### Hello RCQG Members,

I'm incredibly proud to be a member of our Guild and honoured to work alongside such a dedicated and passionate Executive committee team. They work quietly behind the scenes, but their efforts have a lasting and visible impact on everything we do. Their commitment to our mission is unwavering, and their contributions are deeply appreciated.

This issue of the newsletter includes their annual reports. I encourage you to take a moment to read them — you may be surprised by how much they do on your behalf. If you see them at a meeting or event, please take a moment to share your thanks. A quick email note of appreciation goes a long way too!

A quick reminder: our June meeting will include a brief Annual General Meeting, followed by our guest speaker, Lilo Bowman. We'll also be sharing exciting updates about our upcoming **35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration** — you won't want to miss it! We'll wrap up the evening with our always-popular **Show and Share** and **Quilt Whispering** sessions.

A huge thank you goes to the incredible team who have worked so hard to put together a fantastic lineup of speakers and workshops for our anniversary year: **Ann J, Cheryl C, Sherri G, Becky F, and Dawn H**. Please join me in thanking them the next time you see them — or feel free to send a thank-you email!

Membership invoices were sent out on **May 14<sup>th</sup>**, and I encourage you to renew as soon as possible. If you renew by **June 9<sup>th</sup>**, you'll be entered into a draw to win a **free membership for next year!** You can renew easily through our online store as well.

Finally, a heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers. Your time, energy, and enthusiasm are what make this Guild so special.

#### Happy Quilting!

Warmly,

**Cindy**

President, RCQG

On behalf of the Executive Committee

## June Program Guest Speaker

Lilo Bowman  
Fort Worth TX

### Small Spaces: Tiny Studios

If you subscribe to The Quilt Show, you are probably familiar with our last speaker of our Guild year. Since 2007, Lilo Bowman has been the editor-in-chief of TheQuiltShow.com. She is also the author of “Love Your Creative Space”. Lilo will be sharing strategies to make our spaces work for us!

“Don't let the small size of your space keep you from having hours of fun; it's about learning how to prioritize. Let me show you some creative ways to utilize every square inch of your playground.”



### LOVE YOUR CREATIVE SPACE

A Visual Guide to Creating an Inspiring &  
Organized Studio Without Breaking the Bank



We will provide a comprehensive hand-out to Guild members, prior to the meeting, for reference during Lilo's lecture.

Signed copies of *Love Your Creative Space* are available on Lilo's website <https://www.lilobowman.com/#shop>

## 2025 – 2026 Guild Leadership

Changes are marked with an \*. Officers and chairs to be confirmed at Annual General Meeting on June 10.

### Officers

**President:** Cindy K

**Vice-President:** Kim H

**Secretary:** Catherine C

**Treasurer:** Helen K

**Past-President:** Becky F

### Committee Chairs

**\*Advertising:** Flo B

**Library:**

**Membership:** Sharon B

**Newsletter:** Ruthie S

**\*Outreach:** Ann J and Monica F (Quilts of Valour)

**Programs:** Dawn H

**Social Convener:** April T

**\*Workshops:** Cheryl C

### Key Volunteers

**\*Show and Share/Quilt Whispering:** Linda M

**Virtual Sew Days:** Aly A

**Facebook/Social Media:** Team (Kim, Dawn, & Catherine)

### Special Interest Group Leaders

**12 x 12:** Cindy K

**EQ 8:** Daytime: Flo B; Evening: Cheryl C & Becky F

**Mystery Quilters Anonymous:** Sharon D

**Stash Busters:** Sue F and Adriana F

### **New Outreach Policy and Updates to Standing Rules**

At their May 15 meeting, the RCQG Executive approved a new Community Outreach policy and made several updates to the Guild's Standing Rules.

Members will have an opportunity to learn more about the new Outreach policy at our September 2025 meeting. The revised Standing Rules now include details about the Refer-a-Friend program and a reduction in meeting attendance requirements for committee chairs.

In recognition of the time and effort Workshop committee members dedicate during workshops — often at the expense of their own participation — the Executive also approved a new policy reserving one tuition-free seat in each workshop for a member of the Workshops committee. Both the new Outreach policy and the updated standing rules are available on the Governance page of the RCQG website:

<https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/about/governance>

# 2025-2026 RCQG Calendar

Month	Workshops	Meetings	Virtual sew days	In-person events	Special events
Sept		9 - Quilt Alliance	13 - Virtual Sew Day	20 - Mingle	
Oct		14 - Shannon Gustafson	11 - Virtual Sew Day	20 - QOV	30 - Fireside Chat
Nov	1 - Krista Moser	11 - Becky Goldsmith	8 - Virtual Sew Day		24-28 - Fall Retreat
Dec		9 - Lynn Dykstra	13 - Virtual Sew Day		
Jan	31 - Melissa Marginet	13 - Ana Buzzalino	10 - Virtual Sew Day	17 - Mingle	
Feb		10 - Quilters Hall of Fame	14 - Virtual Sew Day	6 - QOV	
March		10 - Veruschka Zarate	14 - Virtual Sew Day		21 - IQD
April	18 - Lynn Dykstra	14 - Bethanne Nemesh	Need to reschedule	11 - Mingle	30 - Fireside Chat
May		12 - Mississippi Valley Textile	9 - Virtual Sew Day	25 - QOV	
June		9 - Helen Martin	13 - Virtual Sew Day		

## Summer Mystery Quilt Sew Along

Looking for a fun and scrappy quilting adventure this summer? Join Twinkle Scrappy, our 2025 summer mystery quilt project coordinated by Kim H.!

Designed by Merry Mayhem, Twinkle Scrappy is a stash-friendly project that's perfect for using up your fabric odds and ends. Weekly clues will be released starting Sunday, July 7, so you can stitch along at your own pace all summer long.



*Image generated by AI on ChatGPT*

### How to Participate

Participation is open to paid-up members for the 2025-2026 guild year. You can use your own fabrics or request a free fabric kit from our Outreach team.

### Want a Kit?

Request by **May 28** and Kim will bring your kit to the May 31 Mingle, or request **after** May 28 and Kim will arrange another pickup time with you

Sign up now using this [link](#)



## May Mingle

Don't Miss the Final Mingle of the Year!

Saturday, May 31, 10 a.m.– 4 p.m., Guelph Legion, 57 Watson Pkwy S. Guelph.

Join us for one last day of quilting camaraderie and celebration before summer begins! The final Royal City Quilters Guild Mingle of the year takes place on Friday, May 31 at the Guelph Legion. Whether you're wrapping up a project, helping with Outreach, or just coming for the cake and conversation, this is a day you won't want to miss.

### Here's What's Happening:

1. Outreach Pick-Up & Drop-Off  
Return completed quilts or pick up a new project to work on over the summer.
2. Mystery Quilt Kit  
See Kim to participate in the Summer Mystery Quilt. Pick up a kit or work from your own stash.
3. Panel Kits Available  
Outreach has panel quilt kits ready for pick-up if you'd like to join in.
4. Guild Quilt Rack  
Need a great photo of your latest masterpiece? Bring it along and use our quilt rack for a stylish shot.
5. String Blocks  
Bring your scraps and help finish up the cheerful string blocks started at WeftFest.
6. Anniversary Cake  
We're celebrating our 34<sup>th</sup> anniversary with cake, laughter, and a few surprises!



Feel free to bring your own projects, sewing machines, or hand stitching, or simply drop in to enjoy the company of fellow quilters. There will be door prizes, draws, and plenty of time for friendly chatter.

### What to Bring:

1. Basic sewing supplies and sewing machine
2. Your lunch and a mug (coffee and tea will be provided)

Before you leave, don't forget to check the Lost & Found. Please look through the box — rulers and cutters often get left behind.

**Looking Ahead:** This is the last mingle of the season, but mark your calendars — our ever-popular Sew a Jelly Roll Day returns on September 20, 2025. **Let's make this last Mingle of the season a great one!**

### Help Shape the Future of RCQG Outreach

Over the past few months, we've invited members to suggest new directions for our Community Outreach program. We're now pleased to present four promising opportunities for the Guild to consider. Each initiative offers a meaningful way to support vulnerable individuals in our region through the gift of a quilt.

We will ask members to provide input on these options at our Annual General Meeting on **Tuesday, June 10<sup>th</sup>**. Here's a quick overview of each opportunity:

#### 1. Project Linus

*Whom it serves:* Children and youth facing serious illness, trauma, or other challenging circumstances.

*Need for quilts:* Project Linus chapters collect and distribute handmade blankets to offer comfort and security. There is always a strong need for quilts in a range of age-appropriate sizes.

#### 2. Stepping Stone/Wyndham House

*Whom it serves:* Youth and families experiencing or at risk of homelessness in Guelph and Wellington County.

*Need for quilts:* Stepping Stone and Wyndham House provide shelter and transitional support for youth and families. Quilts can be used in residential programs and/or given to the unhoused when they move into independent housing.

#### 3. Immigrant Services

*Whom it serves:* Newcomer families and individuals settling in the Guelph area, including refugees.

*Need for quilts:* A quilt can be a warm welcome to those starting over in a new country. Quilts may be given to families as they establish new homes, especially during colder seasons.

#### 4. Child Witness Centre

*Whom it serves:* Children and youth who are victims or witnesses involved in the criminal justice system.

*Need for quilts:* The Centre provides support and advocacy during what can be a frightening time. Quilts offer tangible comfort and reassurance to children dealing with trauma and court appearances.

We look forward to gathering your feedback to help guide the Guild's outreach efforts in the year ahead.

Let's continue to wrap our community in warmth — one quilt at a time.

Thank you for Making WEFTFest a Success!

The Royal City Quilters Guild was proud to participate in this year's WEFTFest in St. Jacobs, and it wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of our incredible members.

A heartfelt thank you goes to everyone who contributed to this vibrant community event. From those who submitted quilts for display, to those who helped deliver them, your talent and generosity were on full display. Special thanks to the volunteers who helped hang quilts with care and precision — your efforts helped create a beautiful and inspiring exhibit for festival-goers.

We also appreciate the members who took time to staff our booth throughout the long weekend. Whether you answered questions, demonstrated string piecing, or simply welcomed curious visitors, your presence helped showcase the creativity and community spirit of RCQG.

Together, we showed what makes our guild so special — collaboration, artistry, and a warm welcome to all. Thank you!

### People's Choice Winner

#### RCQG Member Wins People's Choice at WEFTFest

We're pleased to share that RCQG member Becky F received the People's Choice award at WEFTFest over the Victoria Day weekend. Her quilt, **DINNER PLATE DAHLIA**, was well received by visitors to the festival.

The pattern was designed by Judy Niemeyer and the custom quilting was provided by Pat Donovan. Becky completed the quilt top using her favourite technique — foundation paper piecing.

Len's Mill Stores generously sponsored the prize basket.

Congratulations, Becky and Pat, and thank you for representing the Guild at WEFTFest.



*Dinner Plate Dahlia wins People's Choice at WEFTFest 2025*

Royal City Quilters Guild members Ann J and Kim H recently had the unique opportunity to help install the “*Quilt of Belonging*” at WEFTFest in St. Jacobs. The quilt—stretching an impressive 120 feet—is a monumental textile artwork that celebrates diversity, with blocks representing all of Canada’s First Peoples and every nation in the world represented in Canadian society. Ann and Kim joined the volunteer crew for a behind-the-scenes look at how this remarkable exhibit comes together. “We spent several hours with our white gloves getting the sections out of their storage boxes and hung,” Ann explained. “Only one small step ladder was used when setting up the poles and crossbars to make the framework. We had plastic on the ground at the base and fixed the top of the quilt sections to the horizontal bars with the velcro strips.”

The installation began with the centre section and worked outward—first to the right, then to the left—before the final sections were added. “About the time we were leaving, they had raised the whole thing so the tassels could be hung underneath. It was quite a production!”



*Ann is all smiles as she helps hang the Quilt of Belonging*

Despite being immersed in the setup, Ann was struck by how much there is to take in. “It needs much more time to examine and appreciate than I had. I may need to spend some more time with it. There is so much to see,” she noted. Kim described the quilt as “spectacular” and started a photo album in [groups.io](https://groups.io) to share pictures of the volunteers and some of her favourite blocks with RCQG members. View the photo album at <https://rcqg.groups.io/g/members/album?id=302474>

To learn more about this extraordinary project—including a moving documentary about its creation—visit the official website at [www.quiltofbelonging.ca](http://www.quiltofbelonging.ca).



## Membership

I wish you all a safe and restful summer. May you have lots of time to enjoy the beauty of Mother Nature.

Five new members have joined for the 2024/25 year since our last Newsletter – Susan H; Cloe L; Rhondda L; Carole P and Joscelyn S. We also have four new members for the 2025/26 Guild Year – Bonnie A; Sunny K; Joyce M.; and Carole P. Five of the nine joined us because of our *Refer a Friend* Program. I hope you will take the time to make them feel welcome if you meet in any of our forums.



### Renewal for 2025/26 Guild Year & Early Bird Registration

On May 14<sup>th</sup> current members received a renewal invoice for the next Guild Year. Ideally you will take advantage of the *Early Bird Registration* and qualify to win one of two draws to win back your membership fees. Using the invoice **Pay Now** button makes it easy and convenient. The deadline for this is Monday, **June 9, 2025**, at midnight, EST. Winners will be announced at the June 10<sup>th</sup> meeting. The final deadline to renew for next Guild year is **September 5<sup>th</sup>**.

**Note:** If you intend to renew, it would be of great help to me if you do so well ahead of the above noted final deadline. There is much administrative work required behind the scenes in preparation for our first meeting on September 9<sup>th</sup>. Conversely, if you will not be renewing, please drop me a line at [membership\[at\]royalcityquiltersguild\[dot\]ca](mailto:membership[at]royalcityquiltersguild[dot]ca). By doing so you will not continue to receive reminder invoices.

### Membership Handbook and Directory

I issued the Spring edition of this document on May 7<sup>th</sup> asking all members to verify their information. If you have not already done so, I would ask that you take a few minutes to view the document. I will send out a final version in June once necessary corrections have been made. It is also housed in the Groups.io Members group should you forget where you filed your email copy:  
<https://rcqg.groups.io/g/members/files>

Till the next time we “chat”,  
Sharon B  
Membership Registrar 2024/25

## Show and Share Presentations and Quilt Whispering

### Special Request

#### Show and Share: Your Best Sewing Room Tips and Tricks!

Our June meeting features guest speaker Lilo Bowman, known for her practical and inspiring advice on organizing and optimizing creative spaces. In keeping with her presentation, we're inviting members to participate in a special *Show and Share*!

We'd love to see your favourite sewing room or studio tip — a clever storage hack, a favourite setup, or anything that helps you make the most of your space. Snap a photo and send it in with a brief description of what makes it work for you.

### Deadline

Submissions are due by 6:00 p.m. Eastern on Sunday, June 8, 2025.

Email your photo(s) and tip to [showandshare \[at\] royalcityquiltersguild \[dot\] ca](mailto:showandshare@royalcityquiltersguild.ca)

Let's celebrate the creative ways RCQG members make space for quilting — big or small!

Would you like some quilting design help for a quilt top? Photos of your quilt tops for Quilt Whispering should be sent in by 7:00 p.m. Sunday evening prior to our regular monthly meeting. You can send them via the "Get Involved" page of the Guild website or by e-mail at [quiltwhisperer\[at\]royalcityquiltersguild.ca](mailto:quiltwhisperer@royalcityquiltersguild.ca)

We'd love to see your latest projects!  
Thanks,  
Susan and Linda



### Last Months Show'n'Share

The link to our most recent display of members' talents can be found by clicking on the image:



## Stashbusters

### Stashbusters Summer Projects: Scrappy Islands & Improv Curves



As we ease into the quieter summer months, the Stashbusters are keeping the creativity flowing with two exciting projects! While many guild activities will be on hiatus — and members will be enjoying summer travels, family time, and perhaps stitching away on the Summer Mystery Quilt — our Stashbusters group will continue to gather and inspire on the first Wednesday of each month.

#### June/July: Scrappy Islands

Adriana will guide us through a playful variation of the potato chip block called *Scrappy Islands*. This is a perfect project for using up those colourful bits and pieces from your stash. The pattern is available [here](#), so start gathering your scraps and get ready for some summertime sewing fun!

#### August/September: Improv Curves

Our August/September project will take the form of a fun and informal mini-workshop rather than a traditional published pattern. Led by Stephanie S, we'll explore the art of cutting and sewing improv curves

—no pinning required!

Using 10" squares and a simple stack-and-cut method, Stephanie will guide us through creating gentle, freeform curves in each block. This flexible technique can be repeated to make a quilt of any size, making it perfect for both beginners and seasoned quilters looking to try something new. You'll be surprised how quickly you can master this technique and turn it into a one-of-a-kind quilt.

Whether you stay close to home or take your stitching on the road, Stashbusters has plenty to keep your quilting spirit alive all summer long.

Our Stashbusters group continues to build momentum! Join us for the May meeting as we finish up Pauline's 4-9-16 project, making great use of those 2.5" squares and strips we've been collecting. It's been wonderful seeing everyone's creativity and progress.



Mark your calendars, prep those rectangles, and join us for stitching, inspiration, and camaraderie. Have questions? Reach out to us at [stashbusters@royalcityquiltersguild.ca](mailto:stashbusters@royalcityquiltersguild.ca).

We look forward to seeing you there—happy quilting!

## Library

### Summer Book Loans!

As we did last year, you may borrow up to 8 library books for the summer, provided you have paid your membership for the next guild year. I plan to have an in-person opportunity to borrow books for the summer. More details will be sent to you as soon as the logistics have been finalized.

### How to Borrow Books for now:

Previous newsletters have explained how to order books and where to pick them up. You can pick up or return books at our next Mingle on May 31, 2025 at our local Legion. Before then, I can arrange with you when and where to pick up or return books. Important: All books currently out must be returned before or on May 31, 2025.

If you currently have borrowed books at home, please return them asap as other members may have requested them. Contact me if you want to return any books.

Please have a look through our catalogue and let me know which books you wish to borrow! Happy quilting! MaryAnne, Librarian

## RCQG Executive Reports-Guild Year 2024-2025

### President

As we wrap up another year at Royal City Quilters Guild, I am delighted to share this overview of our many accomplishments and to offer heartfelt thanks to the volunteers, members, and community partners who make our Guild such a strong and welcoming place to belong.

This year, we celebrated meaningful growth and deepened our connections—both within the Guild and throughout the wider community. Our membership reached 206 individuals, including 70 new members from across Canada and the United States. The success of our “Refer a Friend” initiative and our ongoing commitment to virtual programming have allowed us to expand our reach and welcome quilters all over Canada and into the US.

Throughout the year, our dedicated volunteers delivered outstanding programming. We hosted ten dynamic guest speakers representing a wide range of quilting genres, three well-attended virtual workshops, and a full day of celebration for International Quilting Day, which drew 375 registrants. Our Special Interest Groups, Saturday Sew Days, Summer Mystery Quilt, and in-person Mingles offered additional ways to stay connected and inspired.

Community Outreach remained at the heart of our mission. This year, we delivered quilts to the 65 Delhi transitional housing project, St. Joseph’s Health Care Centre, Quilts of Valour and concluded our multi-year commitment to the Home for Good initiative. We are grateful for the ongoing support of the Lions Club, the City of Guelph, and the United Way, all of whom make our outreach efforts possible.



Behind the scenes, our leadership team ensured sound governance and financial stewardship. Our Zoom platform was upgraded to accommodate growing attendance, and our partnerships with the Guelph Legion and United Way provided us with meeting space and storage at little or no cost. We are especially thankful for their generosity.

As we look ahead to 2025–2026, we are filled with excitement. It will be a very special year—our 35th Anniversary! Plans are already underway to mark the occasion with special programming, commemorative events, and new opportunities for connection and celebration.

I encourage all members to read through the annual reports that follow. They reflect the energy, creativity, and care that go into every aspect of our Guild’s work. Whether you participated in a workshop, sewed a quilt for outreach, served on a committee, or simply showed up with enthusiasm—we thank you. This Guild is what it is because of you.

Here’s to a joyful, inspiring, and celebratory year ahead!

Cindy K.

#### Vice President

I was inspired by the Royal City Quilt Guild activities to volunteer to serve on the executive. The role of Vice President is to assist the President and learn the varied duties of the position in preparation to step into the role after a 2-year apprenticeship. To this end, I have participated in and chaired executive and general membership meetings. Tasks included:

- delivery of outreach quilts
- sorting of donated fabric
- collating fabric kits for outreach
- assisting with Mingles
- collecting, delivering and returning quilts displayed at WEFTFest
- running the summer mystery quilt
- Served on the IQD planning committee

With respect to the learning aspect, a great deal of the task is learning the software we use including groups.io, Zoom etc. Challenging but interesting.

I recommend getting involved with the operation of the guild. Volunteering for an executive or special committee position is very interesting and rewarding.

Kim H

## Past-President

The Past-President has three primary responsibilities: nominations for the coming year; arranging for meeting facilities; and arranging for insurance. Additionally, I chair the planning committee for International Quilting Day.

The nominating process for the coming year is complete. Most officers and committee chairs agreed to return for the coming year, and we have filled any vacancies. The majority of our key volunteers will continue in their present roles, and new volunteers have agreed to fill out the rest of our roster. The complete list of personnel is available elsewhere in this newsletter and members will vote to confirm the nominations at our Annual General Meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>.

RCQG needs facilities for both in-person and virtual meetings. Guelph's Royal Canadian Legion graciously opened their doors to us for our in-person meetings at no cost. Their generosity is in recognition of the work Guild members do for the community. In gratitude, we provided a poppy-themed quilt for the Legion to raffle as part of their Remembrance Day program. The Guild's virtual events continue to be held via Zoom. Our Zoom Business plan permits unlimited meetings with 300 participants at each meeting. We recently upgraded from the 100-person plan to the 300-person plan when attendance at the April meeting exceeded 100 people.

Our community outreach initiatives and in-person meetings lead to modest storage needs for supplies such as batting, fabric, ironing boards, irons, boxes of power strips, cutting mats, and rulers. The United Way of Guelph Wellington Dufferin provides space in their building at a below-market rental price for the storage. We are grateful to them for their support of our work and are pleased that our rental fees support their work – a true win-win arrangement.

RCQG purchases insurance through the national Canadian Quilters Association provider. The plan includes general commercial liability insurance (bodily injury or property damage); directors' and officers' liability (personal liability against lawsuits); and property damage (for the storage unit).

International Quilting Day 2025 was a success. We had 375 registered attendees; two keynote speakers; three concurrent session speakers; several vendors; prizes, discounts and an inspiring virtual quilt show. The committee is actively planning for IQD 2026!

Thank you to everyone who helped make this year a success — from our leaders and volunteers to those who simply joined in with enthusiasm and a helping hand. Every contribution, big or small, has helped keep our guild strong and welcoming. I'm proud to be part of such a creative and caring community.

Becky F

## Program

This year we once again had ten guest speakers from across Canada and the United States. We were also able to record all of our speakers so that guild members could watch at their leisure, or re-watch.

Our speakers represented a broad swath of contemporary quilting genres: modern quilting, scrap management, studio design, thread, quilts that literally tell a story, geometry and math in quilts, Japanese quilters, and the influence of quilts on contemporary culture.

The committee made a real effort to keep costs under control and to feature as many quilting genres as possible. Although still quite economical in comparison to in-person speakers, costs for Zoom presentations have increased. Nevertheless, we were well within the program budget for the year.

In conjunction with the Workshop committee, we have arranged for speakers for the upcoming year. Thanks to Sherri G. and Becky F. for spearheading a Preview video to share with members at the May meeting and on the Guild website.

Dawn H. and Sherri G.

## Treasurer

In the summer of 2024, the Guild's financial records were reviewed by the accounting firm, Caissa LLP in Cambridge ON. Caissa's report and the 2023-2024 income and expense report were presented in October 2024, at part 2 of the Guild's Annual General Meeting. The report was voted on and approved by the members.

GNUCash, an accounting software program, is used to record and monitor the Guild's revenue, expenses, and specified allocations of funds provided by community organizations and government grants. Each month, new updates to the income and expense report are provided to the executive committee for review, questions, and approval.

The Guild's financial year ends on June 30<sup>th</sup>. When all outstanding transactions, such as payment to the speaker in June, are completed, the financial records will be reviewed by an independent party. The final financial report will be presented to the Guild members in the fall of 2025.

Helen K

## Workshop

RCQG offered three virtual quilt workshops in 2024-25. Our first one was "Half-Square Triangle Quilts with Tube Piecing", given by Irena Swanson. Audrey Esarey gave the second one, "Mobius Radial – Quilt Assembly Workshop". Finally Karen Miller presented "A Quilter's Doodles". Members filled each workshop offered, and provided positive feedback. Karen Miller We aim to ensure that the Guild does not need to subsidize the workshops

Ann J

## Membership

Our membership now consists of 206 talented and inspiring members. We were joined by 70 new members this year. Of those, 31 joined the Guild because of the **Refer a Friend** initiative that was introduced in 24/25. Keep up the good work everyone as this program will continue into the next Guild year.

Our membership is geographically diverse, given the virtual nature of our Guild. We are enriched by members from coast to coast in Canada, and 4 of our members join us from the USA, hailing from Alaska, California, Washington and Indiana.

Obviously not all members can partake of the “in-person” activities. However, thanks to modern technology, we offer a wide variety of online opportunities: inspiring Monthly Speakers; a full day of celebration on International Quilting Day in March; virtual Workshops throughout the year; Special Interest Groups led by members; an annual themed QAL; Saturday Sew Days; and a Summer Mystery Quilt for renewing and new members. It is easy to be involved, be inspired and make new friends.

The updated Membership Handbook and Directory was released to the Membership in the Fall and Spring.

The Executive hosted a Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 Fireside Chat for new members. These chats provide an important “getting to know you” opportunity, and orient new members to the Guild to ensure maximum participation and enjoyment. Next year’s chats will take place on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2025 and April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2026.

Our early bird draw incentive began May 14<sup>th</sup> with an emailed invoice and a deadline of midnight ET June 9 to participate in the draw. The two winners of this draw will be announced at the June 10<sup>th</sup> monthly meeting, and will each receive a refund of their membership dues for the 2024/25 year. As of the date of this writing, 90 of the 2024/25 members have renewed. The last date to renew your membership for the 2025/26 Guild Year is September 5<sup>th</sup>. Don’t miss out on the exciting upcoming year as we will be adding special initiatives to celebrate our 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

It has been my honour to serve the Guild as a volunteer Membership Registrar this year. I have agreed to continue in this role for 2025/26. I hope you will consider how you might contribute to this Guild from wherever you live. Each contribution makes our Guild strong and vibrant for all our members.

Sharon B

## Outreach

Our Outreach effort received a further donation from the Lions Club of Guelph to help with costs to produce 40 quilts for the new residents in the community Long-Term Transitional Housing project, which has been set up to assist formerly homeless residents of Guelph improve their lives. Twenty-eight quilts have already been delivered to [65 Delhi St](#) and a further twelve will be delivered shortly.

A grant from the city of Guelph, assisted by an endorsement from the United Way, will give some further funds for our Outreach effort.



Since our previous year-end, the Guild delivered the final group of quilts for the Home for Good project, bringing our total for that effort to 90 quilts.

In keeping with our pattern of donating quilts to hospital clinics to provide comfort, we delivered 16 quilts to the Palliative Care Unit at the St. Joseph's Health Care Centre.

The Quilts of Valour program has submitted 18 completed quilts. We have approximately 12 quilts ready and 10 in process of completion.

Throughout the Guild year three of the sew days were promoted as a Quilt of Valour sew days. The Guelph Legion supports our sew days by donating space for our Guild to use. The Guild showed its appreciation by giving a quilt to be used for a Guelph Legion fund raising opportunity. Fabric is available for use in QOV kits.

**We look forward to new initiatives as we continue to share our creations with those in need.**

Ann J and Monica F

#### Mingles and Retreats

Over the past year, we've made a point of hosting one social event each month, alternating between Quilts of Valour days and the Mingle. Everyone is welcome to attend! You can bring your own projects to work on, or lend a hand with outreach quilts.

We're especially grateful to the Guelph Legion for generously providing us with free space to hold these in-person sewing days. While many have enjoyed these gatherings, there's still room for more participants — and we'd love to see more locals join in!

Last year, we held our very first retreat at Hidden Acres Camp. It was a five-day event that was well attended, and everyone had a wonderful time. When we opened registration again this spring, we sold out quickly — a testament to how much it's appreciated!

Next year marks the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Guild, and the committee is already hard at work planning the celebrations. I look forward to meeting many more of you as we continue building our community together.

April T

#### Newsletter

Cheryl C left me a wonderful template to use when writing the newsletter. I was able to use LibreOffice, an open-source program, to write the newsletter. This is a very powerful software package, which works on all computers and is free for anyone to use.

I would like to thank all the committee members who submitted great articles and images for me to put into the newsletter.

I would also like to thank Becky F for proofreading the newsletter, and for all her technical support.

Ruthie S

## Advertising

Remember to visit your local quilt stores and service providers! We would like to thank all our advertisers for their continued support of our Guild, and we need to ensure that we also support them. Clicking on an advertisement will take you to that company's website, so that you can further explore their offerings. If you would like to advertise your business within our newsletter, please contact:

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### Get Involved with Quilt Canada 2025!

The Canadian Quilters Association (CQA) is gearing up for *Quilt Canada 2025*, and there are some great opportunities for Royal City Quilters' Guild members to get involved!

### Volunteer and Earn Perks

CQA is currently recruiting volunteers to help make Quilt Canada a success. Volunteers who contribute more than 4 hours of their time will receive a free day pass to the event and a commemorative pin. It's a fantastic way to support the quilting community while enjoying the show. A wide variety of roles are available—from white glove duties to admissions and classroom support.

Check out the job descriptions and shift sign-ups here: <https://canadianquilter.com/quilt-canada-2025/>

### Vote in the 2025 Youth Challenge

CQA is also inviting everyone to vote in the 2025 Youth Challenge, showcasing young quilting talent from across Canada. Quilts are grouped by age:

- 5–9 years
- 10–14 years
- 15–19 years

View the entries and cast your vote online today: <https://canadianquilter.com/2025-youth-challenge-gallery>

Let's show our support for both the next generation of quilters and the dedicated volunteers who help bring Quilt Canada to life!



## Celebrating National Sewing Machine Day:

### Guelph's Legacy of Innovation

June 13 marks National Sewing Machine Day — a perfect moment for quilters to reflect on the rich history of the machines that have stitched together generations of creativity. For those in Guelph, Ontario, this day holds special significance, as the city once stood at the forefront of sewing machine manufacturing in Canada.

### Charles Raymond and the Birth of a Canadian Sewing Empire

In 1862, American inventor Charles Raymond relocated to Guelph with 15 skilled tradesmen, establishing the Raymond Sewing Machine Company. Initially producing chain-stitch machines, the company evolved to offer a range of models, including the popular "High Arm" lock-stitch machines. By the 1870s, Raymond's enterprise employed nearly 80 workers and produced machines valued at \$100,000 annually, exporting to markets in Europe and the United States.

### The Guelph Sewing Machine Company: A Homegrown Competitor

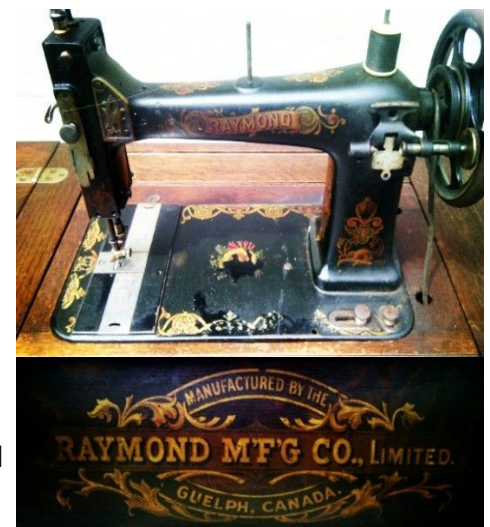
Founded in 1869, the Guelph Sewing Machine Company, also known as Keables, Osborn and Company, introduced innovative machines like the "Guelph" chain-stitch and the "Osborn" lock-stitch models. These machines were celebrated for their Canadian design and craftsmanship, earning numerous awards. However, by the early 1880s, the company faced challenges and was eventually sold in 1882, ceasing operations by 1887.

### A Stitch in Time: Guelph's Industrial Heritage

Guelph's contributions to the sewing machine industry are a testament to its industrial heritage. The Raymond Sewing Machine Company's factory, once a bustling hub of innovation, still stands today on Yarmouth Street, serving as a historical landmark. The Guelph Civic Museum houses a collection of Raymond sewing machines, preserving this legacy for future generations.

As we celebrate National Sewing Machine Day, let's honour Guelph's role in shaping the tools that have empowered countless quilters and sewists. The city's legacy is stitched into every quilt, reminding us of the ingenuity and craftsmanship that continue to inspire.

*For more information on Guelph's sewing machine history, visit the Raymond Sewing Machine Research Project at [raymondsewingmachineresearchproject.ca](http://raymondsewingmachineresearchproject.ca).*



*Antique Vintage Treadle Sewing Machine by Raymond Manufacturing. Photo retrieved from Pinterest.*

*For more of the history of the sewing machine, click on the image of the sewing machine.*

## 2026 – Textures of Canada

### Contemporary Fibre Artists Explore Canadian Identity

Announcing a third touring exhibition of Canadian Fibre Art curated by Judy Weiss, Edmonton, AB.

Click on the photo to find out more.

