



Executive Update

Hello RCQG members,

I don't know about you, but I love this wintry weather. It means I have an excuse to stay in my sewing room! I have been getting so much done!

As you know our 35th anniversary activities are well underway. It has been wonderful to see members participating and celebrating this milestone year together.

I've been having fun joining in. I've completed the anniversary quilt block, signed up for the postcard swap, and prepared labels for the quilts I've made this year. Those who have let Catherine C. know that they wish to participate in the postcard swap will receive further details and mailing information soon. I encourage you to take pictures and submit them for the Show and Share portion of our March meeting. If you need more information, please refer to Catherine's original email—I loved the video she included.

Instructions for accessing the Quilt Alliance membership are available in our members group on Groups.io. Once you log into the Quilt Alliance website, you'll find a wealth of resources and opportunities to participate, including podcasts, quilt-along projects, and helpful labelling tools. I'm especially intrigued by the *Go Tell It* video project and am currently deciding which of my quilts I might submit. It's such a meaningful way to share the stories behind our work.

RCQG will be participating in **Weftfest** again this year. It will be held on **April 11 and 12, 2026, at the Hampton Inn Waterloo** (more information is available at <https://weftfest.ca/weftfest-2026/>). This year's event is focusing on *Community Outreach*, and we will be highlighting our successful community partnerships over the past few years. If you are interested in volunteering to help set up, take down, or staff our booth, please contact me—I would love to hear from you.

Thank you for being part of our guild community and for making this anniversary year so special.

Warmly,

Cindy

President, Royal City Quilters' Guild

On behalf of the Executive Committee members.

February Program: “Legacies of the Honourees”

Deb Geyer, Marion, Indiana

Deb Geyer, Executive Director of the Quilters Hall of Fame (photo below), situated in Marion, Indiana, will be joining us. As a creative quilt artist, Deb is passionate about telling stories through the art of fabric and thread. She is committed to supporting the quilting community, both honouring the legacy of past quilters and championing the artistry of contemporary quilters.



The Quilters Hall of Fame celebrates quilting as an art form by honouring the lives and accomplishments of those people that have left legacies to the world of quilting. They are a very diverse group of people: men, women, artists, authors, historians, curators, researchers, TV personalities, business owners. Most were quilters, but some never made a quilt. This presentation will describe a few of the honourees and the legacies they have left to us.



Mingles

Weather is always a concern when planning an event, so it was especially wonderful to see a turnout of 24 people. A heartfelt thank-you to everyone who braved the elements, some travelling a great distance, to be there. Our Mingle continues to be a valuable way for members to connect, network, share ideas, and lend a hand with one another's projects, and this mingle was no different.

Our outreach table was bustling with activity, with many quilts coming and going throughout the day. Kim H. had the honour of delivering three quilts to transitional housing in Guelph, helping to spread comfort and care where it is so deeply appreciated.

Becky F. treated us to a demonstration on how to sandwich a quilt using pipe insulation tubes. She made the process look easy and completely manageable, so much so that I am definitely planning to give it a try on my next project.

A huge thank-you goes out to everyone who contributed their time and energy to make this Mingle such a success. These gatherings truly wouldn't happen without you.



Pat D. Sewing



If you're unable to attend a Mingle to drop off or pick up a quilt kit, you're welcome to reach out to April T. S. for assistance.



Ann, Linda, and Beve sewing

Some photos from our last Mingle are shown below.

Don't miss our next Mingle. We will be celebrating National Quilts of Valour Sew Day on February 6 at the Royal Canadian Legion in Guelph. We hope to see you there.



35th Anniversary Postcard Swap

Celebrate our guild's 35th anniversary by connecting with a fellow guild member. Send an email to [catherine\[dot\]clarke\[dot\]toronto\[at\]gmail.com](mailto:catherine[dot]clarke[dot]toronto[at]gmail.com) by January 31 to participate, using "postcard swap" in the subject line. You will be matched with another guild member with whom you will exchange a fabric postcard. Further information and resources for making a postcard can be found at https://rcqg.groups.io/g/members/topic/35th_anniversary_postcard/117297523

Community Outreach

December marked an exciting milestone for RCQG's Community Quilts initiative! Kim and Ann delivered quilts for the third-floor transitional housing unit at 23 Gordon Street, bringing warmth, care, and handmade comfort to residents of this new facility.



The 23 Gordon Street facility is part of a larger project by Stepping Stone. In addition to the 12 beds in the transitional housing unit, the building will include 24 new shelter beds on the second floor and a daytime drop-in space on the first floor. Construction is nearly complete, and the space will soon begin serving residents.

This delivery completes our Phase 2 commitment to the Home for Good initiative—a remarkable achievement made possible by the dedication and generosity of our members and our community partners, including the Lions Club, Royal Canadian Legion in Guelph, City of Guelph, and an anonymous donor.

Earlier in Phase 2, quilts were delivered to 65 Delhi Street Transitional Housing, and the quilts for 23 Gordon Street now bring that phase to a proud and satisfying close.

Looking back, the impact of Phase 1 was equally inspiring. RCQG members created and delivered 90 quilts to Grace Gardens, Bellevue Youth, and 10 Shelldale, setting the tone for what has become a truly meaningful, multi-phase outreach effort.

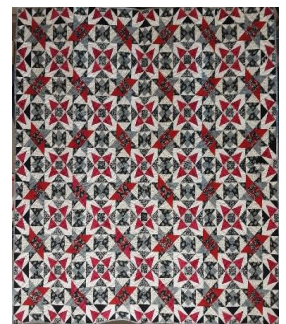
Looking ahead, the Welcome 2 Waterloo project will provide transitional housing for youth when it is complete. The opening has been pushed back to the Fall, which gives us time to finish our most recent request: 12 double-bed-sized quilts. There is still some work to do, but we are happily on track to have them ready for the facility's opening. To learn more visit: [Welcome 2 Waterloo project](#).

Every quilt in this project represents hours of creativity, care, and community spirit. Thank you to everyone who stitched, quilted, bound, organized, delivered, and cheered this project along—you have made a real difference.

Quilts of Valour

I would like to invite everyone to the 8th annual National Quilts of Valour Sew Day February 6, 2026.

Many guilds and individuals will be getting together to support the QOV program. The Royal City Quilters Guild will host our event at the Guelph Royal Canadian Legion, 57 Watson Pkwy South, Guelph on Friday February 6 from 10am to 4pm. I will have some kits available to work on and then take home, cut and sew just for the day or bring your project from home and use the dedicated time and space.



This event is on a Friday so bring some cash and support the Guelph Legion by purchasing your lunch from them. The bar will be open if anyone would like to have an afternoon sip of wine.

You can also sign up online through the QOV Canada website to view presentations (see link below) A zoom link will be sent to you for the event. Please find the attached link if you can not make our sew day and wish to sew from home.

Our 8th Annual National Sew Day – February 6th – [What's New | quilts of valour 2026](#) and you can register [here](#).

Thank You for supporting the Quilts of Valour Program
Monica Ferguson



A red poster with a white border. At the top left is a small image of the Canadian flag. To its right, the text reads "Guelph Sews for Quilts of Valour". Below this, it says "Save the Dates" followed by a list of dates and times: Oct 20, 2025: 10:00 to 4:00; Feb 6, 2026: 10:00 to 4:00; April 11, 2026: 10:00 to 4:00. The location is listed as "Royal Canadian Legion, 57 Watson Pkwy, S in Guelph". At the bottom, it says "Visit rcqg.ca to learn more or email rcqg.qov@gmail.com" and includes the City of Guelph logo with the tagline "Making a Difference".



Let's Sew at Buy the Bolt!

Our next Buy the Bolt Sew Day is February 11th. We have room for eight people. Watch your inbox for the invitation and RSVP to grab your spot early.

THANK YOU! Jeff and Heather Fisher, owners of Buy the Bolt.



Buy the Bolt: Second Wednesday of each month, 9:30 am to 3:30 pm. Located at 450 Woodlawn Rd. West, Unit 11 in Guelph. Any questions? Contact April using contact information in the Guild Directory.

Membership



2026 – WOW. Is anyone else’s life on fast forward? These days I try and make it a point to slow down, count my blessings and make time for calming activities like Quilting. I am grateful to be able to put on an audio book or podcast and pass my time doing something positive, productive and creative. I hope you can find the time to do the same.



Welcome to Our New Members!

Since our last Newsletter, we’ve welcomed 4 new members: Anne L, Helen L, Cathie M, and Catherine P. We are happy to meet you and hope you will enjoy all this Guild has to offer, including our special programming for our 35th Anniversary celebrations. Check out the Guild website if you have not done so already.

Our Refer a Friend program continues to bring us new members because it is not hard to share with other Quilters in our circle what a wonderful experience it is to be a member of RCQG.

Also, a quick reminder, that effective February 1st the membership fee for new members is reduced from \$45 to \$35 for the remainder of the Guild Year. This is a great deal considering that free access to our special event for *International Quilting Day* on Saturday, March 21st is included with their membership. So now is a great time to encourage your friends to join the Guild.

Finally, our next Fireside Chat for new members will be April 30, 2026.

Until next time we “chat”,
Sharon Bourque, Membership Registrar

Show and Share Presentation and Quilt Whispering

Submissions are due by 6pm Eastern on Saturday, February 7th, 2026.

Email your photo(s) 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 7pm Saturday 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, Linda



Click on Show and Share pictures to see December and January show and shares.

International Quilting Day

7th Annual Virtual Celebration of International Quilting Day



Priscilla Bianchi
Guatemalan Quilt Artist, Designer,
International Teacher & Author

The Exciting Life of a
Guatemalan Quilt Artist



Ben Robinson
Supervisor of Guelph Public
Library's Westminster Branch and
Makerspace

Modern Making for Quilters

Information at royalcityquiltersguild.ca/iqd2026
March 21, 2026

International Quilting Day

Our 7th annual Virtual Celebration of International Quilting Day is Saturday March 21st, 2026. Each year, one of the highlights of the event is the virtual quilt show, and we invite you to participate. Please share photos of your quilted creations with attendees from across North America. Your creations inspire others and are a pleasure to view.

All those attending International Quilting Day are welcome to submit up to two quilts to the Virtual Quilt Show. If you've shown an item somewhere else, it's still welcome at IQD. Most of our attendees will not have seen it.

The following information about your entry will be required:

1. Pattern name
2. Pattern designer or original design
3. Quilter, if other than yourself
4. Artist's statement or brief history of the quilt – limit of 50 words
5. Up to five photos of each creation. We recommend an overall view along with several close-ups of interesting details
6. Submissions are open through February 15th giving you time to think about your entries and take good photographs.

Visit the Virtual Quilt Show section of the IQD website to upload your photos and details. You will need to log in to your Google account. If you do not have a Google account, you may ask someone to submit the photos and information on your behalf. Check out the International Quilting Day website for more details: <https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/iqd2026/>

Workshops

Lynn Dykstra – Using Up the Bits: How to Organize and Use Your Scraps

Our third and final workshop is *“Using Up the Bits: How To Organize and Use Your Scraps”*, with Lynn Dykstra on Saturday, April 18th, 2026. This is the first workshop Lynn has presented to RCQG and she is excited to join us. Lynn has so many scrap-busting ideas it is difficult to imagine how she will fit them into a one-day workshop!



For more information, to see pictures of the workshop content, and to sign up, please visit the guild's website at <https://royalcityquiltersguild.ca/2025-2026-virtual-workshops/>

There are only a few seats remaining in these workshops. Don't be disappointed – sign up soon!
Cheryl C, Workshops

RCQG 2026 Retreat Update

We are pleased to announce plans for RCQG's third annual sewing retreat at Hidden Acres Mennonite Retreat. This five day / four-night event offers attendees distraction-free sewing. Due to scheduling issues this year, the retreat will start on Sunday November 22nd at 4:00 pm with departure on Thursday November 26th after our lunch. The staff at Hidden Acres will prepare all the meals (including clean-up!) and provide a day-long snacking table. We begin with dinner on Sunday and end with lunch on Thursday. Spend your days as you please: sewing, socializing, strolling the beautiful grounds and trails, or shopping nearby quilt shops. Mark your calendar now for November 22-26, 2026!



Hidden Acres Mennonite Camp & Retreat Centre is located at 1921 Line 37 in New Hamburg, Ontario. For more information about the venue, visit their website <https://hiddenacres.ca>. Registration is limited to RCQG members starting July 1, 2026. We will open registration to non members on August 1, 2026. The cost for our retreat is \$483 for shared rooms and \$550 for single occupancy rooms. This price includes 12 meals, four nights lodging, day / evening snacks, gratuities and a table for all your equipment and projects. Please visit RCQG's online store on or after July 1st, 2026 at <https://rcqg.square.site> to make a non-refundable deposit of \$50 (shared rooms) or \$55 (single occupancy). Your early response will allow us to make necessary commitments to the facility. The final non-refundable payment of \$433 for shared rooms, and \$495 for a single room, is due September 1st, 2026. While payments are non-refundable, they can be transferred to someone else should an emergency arise that requires you to cancel your attendance. In that unlikely case, we will try to help you find someone interested in purchasing your spot.

All participants will need to bring sheets, towels and pillowcases. Pillows and blankets are provided. Two weeks prior, Monica will ask for all dietary restrictions so the caterer can do their best to accommodate any special dietary needs (e.g. food allergies). Please note the venue is accessible and accommodating. We look forward to spending the last week of November with you!! If you would like to help plan activities for the retreat, please reach out to April Temple-Spears. We want to hear your best ideas! Our email addresses are in the Guild directory.

Retreat Organizers:

April Temple-Spears & Monica Ferguson

February Stash Busters: Scrappy Circles in Action!

Our Stash Busters Scrappy Circle project is moving from preview to action! If you have scraps waiting patiently (or not so patiently) in bins, boxes, or bags, now is the perfect time to put them to work.



At the February and March Stash Busters sessions, we'll be working hands-on with the Scrappy Circle Leaders and Enders quilt pattern. Lynn will walk us through unit construction, block assembly, and layout ideas, with plenty of tips along the way for working scrappily and efficiently.

What to expect at the sessions:

- A step-by-step review of the pattern units and circle block construction
- Guidance on using one or two background fabrics
- Ideas for colour placement and scrappy fabric combinations
- Help troubleshooting sizing, layout, and assembly questions
- Inspiration for adapting the pattern to different quilt sizes



This project is ideal if you:

- Love leaders and enders sewing
- Want to tame a growing scrap collection
- Prefer a flexible pattern with lots of creative freedom
- Enjoy working alongside fellow quilters (virtually!)

You don't need to have everything figured out in advance — curiosity and scraps are enough to get started. The pattern is available in the [Stash Busters groups.io](https://stashbustersgroups.io), and you're welcome to jump in at any stage of the project.

If you have questions before the sessions, feel free to reach out to Lynn (listed in the Guild Directory).

Let's bust some stash — one scrappy circle at a time!

Label it with Love: From Built-In Fonts to Digitized Designs

Machine-embroidered labels offer a clean, professional finish with near-limitless design flexibility. No embroidery machine? No problem. You still have options. If you have a Makerspace near you, find out if they have an embroidery machine. If they do, stop by for a visit! No Makerspace? Many modern sewing machines have one or more built-in fonts and decorative stitches you can use. No matter which approach you take, a sewing machine offers the tools you need to personalize your quilt in a polished way that stands the test of time.

Option 1: Digitized labels with Embroidery Software

Digitizing software allows you to create custom quilt labels with beautiful fonts, motifs, borders, and flourishes. You can purchase pre-designed labels and customize them with your details or design the entire label from scratch.

There are several software options available, including:

Ink/Stitch – This is a free, open-source add-on for Inkscape which is also free and open-source. To try it, download and install Inkscape first and then add Ink/Stitch. Runs on Apple and Windows computers.

Embrilliance – This popular software offers free and paid plans. It runs on Apple and Windows computers.

Creativate – Previously known as mySewNet, Creativate offers free and paid plans. Runs on Apple and Windows computers,

Brand-specific software such as Bernina V9, Janome Artistic Digitizer, or Brother PE-Design.

TOOLS YOU WILL NEED:

1. Digitizing software
2. An embroidery machine with a USB or design import feature
3. Stabilizer (tear-away or cut-away, depending on stitch density)
4. Embroidery thread and tightly woven cotton fabric

WORKFLOW EXAMPLE (USING INK/STITCH):

1. Design your label in Inkscape, convert text to paths, and assign stitch properties.
2. Use **Extensions > Ink/Stitch > Lettering** to insert text.
3. Simulate and preview the design with **Visualize and Export > Stitch Plan Preview**.
4. Export in your machine's file format (e.g., PES, JEF, DST).
5. Hoop your fabric with stabilizer, stitch your label, and trim or frame as desired.

Learn more at: <https://inkstitch.org/tutorials>

Tip: Start with simple text-only labels before incorporating decorative elements.



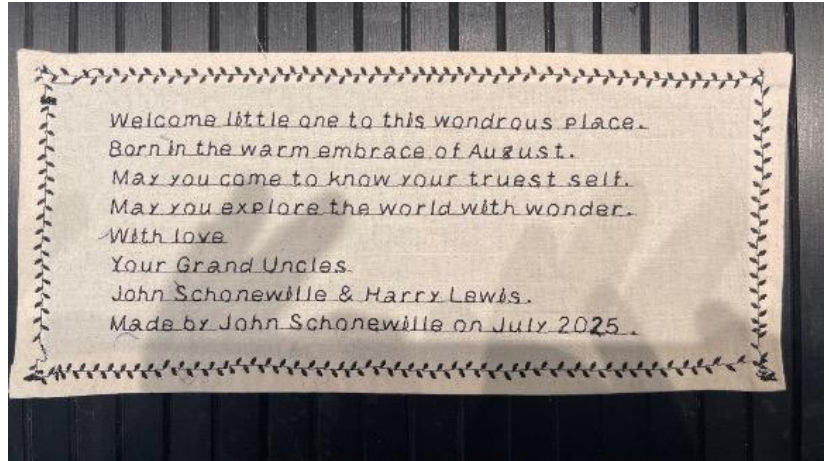
Machine embroidered label deisned in Ink/Stitch

Option 2: Using Built-In Fonts on Your Machine

Many modern sewing machines come with a selection of built-in alphabet fonts. This is a great choice for beginners or those without digitizing software.

Getting Started:

- Choose from your machine's font styles.
- Add lettering one line at a time using your machine's interface.
- Use tear-away or cut-away stabilizer to prevent puckering. Pellon's Shapeflex is another option to stabilize your fabric.
- Adjust spacing and letter size as needed for readability and a pleasing appearance.



John S created this label using built-in fonts

Learn more at one of these tutorials:

- How to Embroider a Quilt Label Using Built-In Fonts (Bernina USA) <https://youtu.be/GtUSF5bYOeU>
- Making a Simple Embroidered Quilt Label (Janome) <https://youtu.be/fQPFuhgctrw?si=W9I9Q-lje8Kp6LXZ>

Tip: Choose bold fonts for visibility and avoid overly script-like options for small text.

Bonus: Stitching Labels Into the Binding

Looking for a sleek, integrated label alternative? Try stitching text into the quilt binding using your machine's built-in font.

This creates a subtle, permanent label that becomes part of the quilt's construction. We All Sew's website has a tutorial for this type of label titled *Stitch Words into Your Quilt Binding* at <https://weallsew.com/quilt-binding-words/>

This technique is another example of integrated labeling presented in RCQG's December/January newsletter.

Share Your Label!

Whether you've created a custom design with software or stitched a line of text into your binding, we'd love to see your machine-embroidered label. Send photos to [showandshare \[at\] royalcityquiltersguild\[dot\]ca](mailto:showandshare@royalcityquiltersguild.ca)

Opportunities

An Ecology of Quilts: The Natural History of American Textiles

The American Folk Art Museum has a temporary exhibit, *An Ecology of Quilts: The Natural History of American Textiles*, and is offering a virtual closer-look tour, led by Museum Educators, on February 9th, 1-2 pm EST.

There is no fee for this virtual tour, and individuals may register via: education@folkartmuseum.org

For more about the exhibition, open <https://folkartmuseum.org/exhibitions/an-ecology-of-quilts-the-natural-history-of-american-textiles/>



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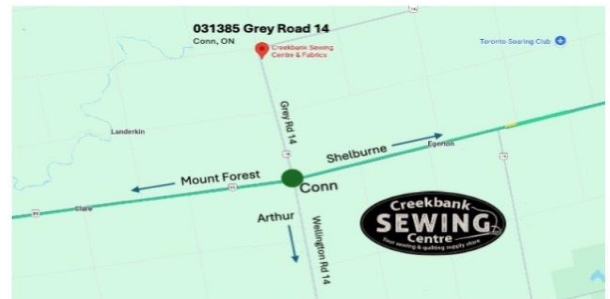
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News from the CQA

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June 17-20, 2026

June 17 (award ceremony at 7:30 pm)

June 18-20, 2026 full program and Show Hall open to public

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canadianquilter.com/quilt-canada-2026/

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RCQG 35th Anniversary Quilt Challenge

Celebrating 35 Years of Quilting, Creativity and Community

We're marking our 35th year with a special challenge just for you! Create a quilted piece that reflects your journey with the Royal City Quilters' Guild.

Challenge Theme: Celebrating RCQG

Design something inspired by your connection to the guild — this could include jade and coral colours (which are our 35th anniversary colours), the guild logo, or our iconic New York Beauty motif.



Challenge Guidelines:

- Any size, any quilted item – quilt, bag, garment, etc.
- Any style/genre – traditional, modern, fibre art, etc.
- Up to 3 entries per member

Submissions must include:

1. 1 full photo + 2 close-up/detail shots
2. A description of how your piece connects to the theme
3. Your name, location, and email

Bonus: Special Anniversary Quilt Option

If you want to go deeper into the anniversary spirit, consider making a quilt that includes these 4 meaningful blocks:

1. Anniversary Block – designed by Dawn P. based on our anniversary logo
2. A block reflecting your first quilt or how you started quilting
3. A block representing where you live (e.g. a provincial flower or symbol)
4. A block showing your current style or latest quilt block

Key Dates:

- May 1st, 2026 – Submission deadline
- May 9th, 2026 – Member meeting & voting instructions
- May 10th, 2026 – Voting opens (Viewer's Choice)
- June 2nd, 2026 – Voting closes
- June 10th, 2026 – Winners announced & non-narrated Show & Share of all entries.

Note: The final number of displayed entries in our virtual quilt show will depend on available space. Each participant is guaranteed at least one piece in the show.