

# RCQG Newsletter Special Edition

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## Special Edition Newsletter

Royal City Quilters' Guild  
Guelph, Ontario, Canada

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### Hybrid Meetings and Location Announcement

The RCQG e-mailing list has seen several messages about what you would like to experience at RCQG meetings in the fall.

The Executive has made a Q&A to give more detail and address your concerns. We are also offering a sneak peek at the new location for hybrid Guild meetings.

We plan to speak more about the plan for hybrid meetings and the new location at our Guild meeting on June 14.

# Meeting Location



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Birds-eye view of Lakeside Church

Since November the Venue Search Committee has been looking for a location for our Guild meetings that will support a hybrid format so that we can meet in-person and also livestream our meetings to members on Zoom.

After coming up with a list of criteria and investigating more than 15 locations across Guelph the committee made a recommendation to the Executive that Lakeside Church be adopted as our new location for the 2022-2023 Guild Year.

Lakeside Church is located on a 90-acre property on Conservation Road, just a couple of minutes' drive beyond the intersection of Woodlawn and Victoria Roads in Guelph.

Lakeside Church not only provides for an excellent in-person experience with good lighting and sound systems, a stage, big washrooms, and lots of space and parking, it also offers all the technology requirements for streaming our meetings on Zoom - and even has a tech person on staff named Ben who will run the technology for us.

We've selected Lakeside's Chapel for our meetings. The Chapel is a theatre-style set-up with comfortable chairs, a 3-step stage at the front and 200 person capacity. This will allow members to spread out according to their comfort levels after returning to in-person meetings. There is space for Community Outreach and the Library to set-up in the hallway, and there are other rooms like the cafe that we can rent for events when needed. Interior and stage lighting are good.

We are excited to implement our new hybrid meetings and this location gives us the chance to present a professional and polished image both in person and online.



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Chapel where RCQG meetings will be hosted in 2022-2023

## Hybrid Meeting Q&A

**Q: Can I attend meetings in-person?**

A: Yes. In-person meetings will be held in September, October, November, March, April, May, and June.

**Q: Will all meetings be in-person?**

A: No. Prior to the pandemic we often had to cancel a winter meeting or two due to bad weather. So, in 2022-2023 we will have Zoom-only meetings in December, January, and February so that we won't have to worry about canceling our meeting or speakers. This will also give us the chance to book speakers from farther away for those three meetings that will happen by Zoom.

**Q: Can I attend all meetings on Zoom?**

A: Yes. We have worked hard to find a new meeting location that has the ability to stream all in-person meetings to an online audience. At the in-person meetings there will be video cameras at the back of the room. Those cameras will stream the live event to people at home who tune-in through Zoom. There will be both body microphones and stationary microphones to make sure that the people at home and in-person can clearly hear the speakers. A tech person will control the cameras to pan-in and pan-out as needed. People at home will be able to ask questions of the speaker.

**Q: How do I participate in Show and Share?**

A: Everyone will be able to participate in Show and Share. We're still working out the details, and the plan is that everyone will be able to participate whether you're at home or in-person.

**Q: Will the speakers be live and in-person?**

A: When a meeting is being held in-person, the speaker will attend live, on stage (Sept, Oct, Nov, March, April, May, June). When there is a strictly Zoom meeting, there will be a virtual speaker who will do their presentation from wherever they live (Dec, Jan, Feb).

**Q: Do I have to choose between attending in-person or on Zoom in advance?**

A: No. The zoom link will be sent to all members, and you can decide on the day of the meeting whether you'd like to join us in-person or on Zoom.

**Q: Is the membership fee different for in-person or Zoom meetings?**

A: No. The membership fee will be the same for all members and will not depend on how you choose to attend the meetings.

**Q: Will I still be able to watch a recording of the meetings if I can't attend?**

A: Yes. The Programme Committee has made arrangements with all the speakers to record the meetings for the coming year. Recordings will be available for 2-4 following the meeting.

**Q: Will workshops be held in-person?**

A: No. For 2022-2023 workshops will continue to only be offered online. Online workshops have been well received and are cost-effective.

**Q: Why did you decide to only offer online workshops in 2022-2023?**

A: The RCQG Executive received positive feedback about our virtual workshops. They directed the Workshop Committee to organize virtual workshops for the coming year.

**Q: Will there be in-person programming?**

A: Yes. We are hoping to re-establish the position of Social Convenor. They will develop both in-person and online programming for members. We anticipate that Special Interest Groups will continue to run both in-person and online.

**Q: Why are you changing what was working before the pandemic?**

A: The Executive decided to try the hybrid format for many reasons:

1. We thought this was an opportunity to accommodate people with various health, mobility, transportation, familial, and geographic limitations. By offering a hybrid meeting, everyone can still attend no matter their circumstance.
2. We know that many people are looking forward to returning to in-person meetings and so most of our meetings will be hybrid where people will meet simultaneously in-person and online.
3. Now that we're familiar with Zoom, it made sense to switch to online meetings during the winter months rather than missing our meetings due to bad weather.
4. We liked the idea of bringing Ontario speakers to our hybrid meetings and scheduling speakers during the winter months from farther away who we couldn't otherwise afford.
5. We didn't know what the future would bring in terms of the pandemic and gathering restrictions. We wanted to be optimistic about gathering in-person and keep the flexibility of virtual meetings.

**Q: Why didn't you poll the membership about all of these changes?**

A: We discussed surveying the membership on several occasions. Each time we did, we realized that the survey results would shift as pandemic restrictions and individual needs shift. In the end, we realized that offering hybrid meetings would serve the needs of our membership in the most accessible way possible regardless of individual choices.

The ten members of the Executive discussed these plans over many months and decided unanimously that the hybrid option would best serve all of our members.

We were grateful when you trusted us in the move to online Guild meetings, and when you forgave us when we faced hiccups along the way. We ask that you please bear with us as we make some new changes.

We know there might again be hiccups along the way, and hope that you'll join us in helping make the meetings a place where together we can gather both online and in-person to "celebrate the art of quilting through inspiring meetings, special interest groups, educational workshops and giving back to our community" (from RCQG Mission Statement).

**Questions or comments?**

Email: president [at] royalcityquiltersguild.ca

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