



Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild

Volume 31 Issue 3 January-February 2026

Meeting Location: Meridian Community Centre
100 Meridian Way, Fonthill ON

Mailing Address: P.O.Box 284, Thorold, ON L2V 3Y9

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General Meeting Dates

Fourth Wednesday of the Month

September 24, 2025

October 22, 2025

November 19, 2025

January 28, 2026

February 25, 2026

March 25, 2026

April 22, 2026

May 27, 2026



BRING WITH YOU

Face Mask- Personal Choice
Name Tag
Community Quilts
Placemats
Neonatal Quilts
Show and Tell Quilts

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)

Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild

Activities, Meetings & Workshops Are

SCENT FREE

For the Health & Comfort Of All Members



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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Happy New Year! May it be a year filled with joy, creativity, and community building.

Joy: Thank you to everyone who came out to our last general meeting in November and participated in the Christmas crafts and social gathering. Thank you to our social committee for organizing the food and beverages and to our program committee for coming up with Christmas crafts that could be completed in the time allowed. The most important part of the evening was to promote a comfortable and relaxed atmosphere as we connected with each other. As we enter the new year of 2026, I hope that you continue to experience joy as you sew, create, and meet other quilters who share your love of quilting.

Creativity: After our November meeting, many people went home with a piece of interesting fabric for the V.P 2026 Ugly Fabric Challenge. It will be interesting to see the creative ways the fabrics will be incorporated into quilts.

Community: During our general meetings, I see a lot of community building. We have a lot to share as we greet each other, walk around, and finally during the show and tell time. But we are also part of a larger community. Thank you to everyone who made placemats for the Meals on Wheels program and for helping with making community quilts. Your work and creativity are being noticed and appreciated by many people in the Niagara Region community.

See you at our next meeting in January. Should there be a need to cancel a general meeting due to bad weather, an e-mail will be sent out to all current members and a phone tree will be established for those members who do not have e-mail. If you personally feel the weather is not good for traveling, your safety must be the priority. Do not venture out to a meeting.

"Quilts keep on hugging' and thus are a great symbol of compassion." – Unknown

Irene Bootsma (President)



HAPPY NEW YEAR



PAST PRESIDENT MESSAGE

Happy New Year

May 2026 brings you all health, wealth, and happiness.

The Officers to be elected at the 2026 Annual General Meeting (AGM) in the even numbered year are the President and Treasurer. Normally an officer can only hold office for two years except for the treasurer position, however they still need to be elected.

We are also in need of a Fundraising Chair.

For more information on these positions please refer to the Constitution and Bylaws. The Fundraising Chair role will need to be redefined.

To get the process started I would like two or three member volunteers to serve on the election committee. If you have been a guild member for more than 5 years, please consider helping me with this responsibility. I will be asking for election committee volunteers at the January general meeting.

Carol McRae

VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE

What a tremendous response to the Vice President challenge. Forty-one people brought in a piece of what they considered "ugly" fabric and went home with something completely different. There certainly was a wide variety of fabric exchanged.

The idea is to make something quilted using as much of the half metre of fabric as you can possibly use. You may add as many other fabrics as you like but we need to be able to find your "ugly" fabric on the front of the quilt. In order to be eligible to win a prize it must be fully finished but even if you don't manage to finish your creation, we would still like to see it. Have fun with this.

You will be asked to fill out a form to go along with your quilted item when it is time to hand them in at the April Guild meeting. You will be asked what you initially thought about your fabric, did you agree that it was ugly? Describe the fabric so we know which one was the ugly fabric. Did you have trouble deciding how to use it? If you don't use all your fabric, please pin your leftovers to the quilt so we can see how much you have left.

At the April 22nd Guild meeting your completed creations should be handed over to the Vice President in a bag so no-one can see them. They will be returned at the May 27th meeting when prizes will be awarded. Viewer's Choice will be voted on at the May meeting.

Dorothy De Rose

GIVING BACK

The Giving Back committee has been busy as the end of the year approaches.

Fifteen Lap quilts were delivered to Brock International Students for them to select from should they desire one. Ten Twin size quilts were delivered to the new Hospice site in Welland.

Four Hundred Meals on Wheels placemats were delivered to the following locations: Fort Erie (100) for the first time, St Catharines (150) to be added to the 150 they already had on site, and Niagara Falls/Niagara-on-the-Lake (150) along with the same number of signed Christmas cards to each location. With the gracious help of The Rose City Quilters, who donated 100 placemats to the cause, we helped make this Christmas Season special for many Seniors and shut-ins.

Over 100 Neonatal quilts had been delivered earlier in the fall along with 21 quilts to the YWCA to be distributed to three locations in the area.

The total number of quilts donated in 2025 was 86 along with 177 Neonatal quilts and 1 pillowcase.

Our next sew day, in 2026, will be Thursday, January 8.

On behalf of the Giving Back Committee, we'd like to thank you all for your amazing support this past year. You have all contributed so much to make life better for so many.

Gloria Meyer & Sharree Eidt
Co-Chairs Giving Back

Instructions for Tourniquet Patches

The Tourniquet patches can be made in 3 sizes. These will be used in the NICU and Pediatric departments at the St. Catharines General Hospital.

Cut 2 ½" strips of flannelette in lengths of either 13", 15" or 17".

Each one is folded in half, so it is still 2 ½" wide. Sew down each long side of the strip, leaving the short end open. Turn it inside out.

Tuck in the raw edges of the short end and top stitch all around. These should now measure 2" wide by approximately 6", 7" or 8" in length.

PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

Happy New Year from your Program Committee! I hope everyone had a good time at our Christmas in November Meeting, crafting Gingerbread people with Luci, embellishing Christmas tree napkins with Andrea, creating Rag-Tag ornaments with Lynda and Christmas ornament balls with Jean and Gloria. For anyone who wants to make additional No-Sew “quilted” balls, you can find the tutorial by Jennifer Bosworth of Shabby Fabrics on YouTube. Just search for No-Sew Quilted Christmas Ornaments. If you missed the meeting, here are some of the highlights.



JANUARY 15th is the deadline to sign up for **Lynne Wilkinson's notions bag workshop**. You can still register on the website. The fee is \$45 for members and includes the pattern. The workshop is March 26th, but we need extra time to order the patterns.



Our January meeting will feature two demonstrations of different techniques to allow you to quilt on your domestic machines. My friend Sharon will demonstrate “edge to edge” quilting that can be done on an embroidery machine. Sara from Kindred Spirits will show us how to do ruler quilting on our domestic machines. You will have the opportunity to see both ladies at work.

After another successful UFO Sew Day on December 1st, it was decided amongst the participants that we would hold another one in February. I have booked the Lions Hall for **Thursday February 19th**. You can sign up at the January meeting. The fee is \$10 for the day. We start at 9:30 and can stay until 3:30.

Our February general meeting will feature a demonstration by Anita Hardison. She will show us how to make a Disappearing Pinwheel. This, too, was a suggestion given to us by one of our members. That same evening, Carol McRae will take us on a tour of our Niagara Heritage Quilters’ Guild website. She will show us all the things that we didn’t know we could find on our website, along with the links to other guilds and events that might interest us.

At the time of writing this, Maureen Morrison’s Feb 26th Dear Jane workshop is in danger of being cancelled due to low participation. Your Program Committee asked Maureen to present this workshop based on the results of last Spring’s survey. Perhaps the lack of registration was the result of how busy everyone was crafting and feasting at the November meeting. You can still sign up on the website or at the January meeting. Don’t miss this opportunity to fine tune your handwork. You don’t have to commit to making an entire Dear Jane quilt; just come and learn some useful hand-piecing techniques from an experienced teacher. Maureen’s quilt was on display at the November meeting, but you may not have seen it. Here it is, pictured below.



Our March meeting will be something new: a **Member Vendor Evening!** Members will be able to pay a small fee to rent a table to sell anything quilting or sewing related. You can even share a table with a friend. Clear out your stash and maybe find some treasures among someone else's stash. Start thinking about what you might want to sell that evening. We hope that this will be a fun "treasure hunt" for all!

Your Program and Workshop Team

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

Welcome to 2026. Hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season.

Just to clarify our membership year runs from June 1st to May 31st . That means the membership fee is due June 1st. Please make sure you get your membership card as it is confirmation of payment.

It's not too late to join. At the January meeting dues will be reduced.

Orders for name tags will be extended to February 1st to allow new members to purchase a name tag. Please see me at the January meeting or contact me as I will be placing the order on February 1st.

Looking forward to seeing you at the January Meeting.

Towana McMeekin
Membership Chair



ADVERTISING

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING WITH US?

E-Mail us at: info@niagaraquiltersguild.com and request our advertising application form or visit our website and download the form which can be found on the Newsletter page at: www.niagaraquiltersguild.com

(PLEASE NOTE THAT PAYMENT IS DUE BEFORE THE AD IS POSTED ONLINE OR WITHIN THE NEWSLETTER – THANK YOU.)

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We've Moved!

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We'll be holding our Grand Re-Opening on Saturday January 17th from 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. Join us for sales, refreshments, giveaways, and prizes. See all the fun the new store has to offer!

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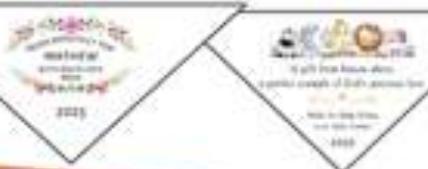
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QUILTING NOTION OF THE MONTH

JANUARY NOTION



BEST PRESS

Provides a nice crispness to your fabric which makes it easier when piecing. Also get wrinkles out, does not shrink your fabric and it smells great.

FEBRUARY NOTION



CLAPPER

A sewing tool for flattening seams. The wood absorbs the steam and traps the heat inside of your fabric. They come in various sizes and shapes.

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The Fabric Artist's Best Friends

Whether you're piecing together a cozy quilt or stitching an intricate embroidered design, thread is the lifeline that holds your vision together. The right choice of quilting or embroidery thread doesn't just affect the durability of your work — it influences texture, appearance, and even the way light plays on your finished piece.

Hamilton Sewing 1564 Main St. W. Hamilton Ontario
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Hello, my name is Leonard, co-owner with my wife Michele of Hamilton Sewing since 1988. We specialize in Sewing, Quilting, and Embroidery Machines. After working as a technician for a major Sewing Machine Company for 20 years I'm very confident in my abilities to repair all makes. If you have any questions, need help please contact me at 905 388 9400, or email: hamiltonsewingcom@gmail.com or visit my shop at 43 Bigwin Road. Hamilton... hamiltonsewing.com



Exciting News at Hamilton Sewing! Please join us in welcoming John Stam, retired from Brampton Sew N Surge, to our team! John brings over 40 years of experience in the sewing machine industry and is our newest technical expert here at Hamilton Sewing. Whether it's repairs, tune-ups, or expert advice, John's knowledge and skill are second to none. We're thrilled to have him on board and know our customers will be too!. John and I will be working as a team and be more efficient with faster turn around times



CLASSIFIED ADS

For Sale



Stitch Cutter \$50 (cutter with support block)

Artisan made, Celtic design, solid maple. Support block holder permits hands-free use. Support blocks available in a variety of styles, made of various woods. Replaceable 45mm rotary cutter. Also available; clappers (7" & 13") and magnetic pin blocks

Maker: Rob Stevens 905-906-5801

robstevens7777@gmail.com

Pickup (Niagara), delivery and shipping possible (extra charges may apply)

Help Wanted

Nomination Committee Volunteers

Need 2-3 volunteers with a minimum of 5 years guild experience.

Work with Past President to create a list of potential candidates for various position.

Help prepare and count, secret ballots if required.

Contact: Carol McRae: cmcrae0410@gmail.com

