



# Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild

Volume 31 Issue 4 March – April 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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[info@niagaraquiltersguild.com](mailto:info@niagaraquiltersguild.com)

## 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, AGM

**Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)**

Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild  
Activities, Meetings & Workshops Are

**SCENT FREE**

For the Health & Comfort Of All Members



**BRING WITH YOU**

- Name Tag
- Cash for Workshops
- Cash for Donation Spool
- Community Quilts
- Placemats
- Neonatal Quilts
- Show and Tell Quilts

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## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**



As I write this message on the morning of Valentine's Day, the sun is shining and there is a light dusting of snow to cover the messy snow. It has been a very cold winter, but I always enjoy the brightness of the snow versus the dull gray days. Not everyone feels this way, but that's okay.

Every creative quilter has their own ideas about their choice of design, colour, materials, and patterns. As the seasons change, the colors change as well. As our lives and circumstances change, we may also change our quilting styles. We are always learning by observing, taking workshops, scrolling through websites, etc. In two weeks, I will be participating in Maureen Morrison's workshop on creating a hand stitched Dear Jane block. Who knows what will happen after that workshop? I am glad our guild provides education in different styles and techniques of quilting.

The executive committee works hard to keep the guild running. Planning for upcoming meetings, workshops, speakers, displays, community quilts, publicity, etc. are many of the monthly activities. Please consider joining the executive in some way for the next year. As you read this newsletter, you will learn more about the different activities we are busy with.

With the theme of Valentine's Day, don't forget that "love is the thread that connects us" Wrapped in love and sealed with a stitch,

*Irene Bootsma, President*

## **PAST PRESIDENT MESSAGE**

I want to start this message by thanking Lynda Iannandrea for volunteering for the Nomination Committee. If there is anyone else interested, please let me know by the March general meeting. Volunteering for the nomination committee does not mean you have to volunteer for a position.

We need to fill the following positions at the May AGM:

President, Treasurer, Fundraising Chair and White Gloves & Greeter Chair .

For more information on these positions please refer to the Constitution and Bylaws.

*Carol McRae*

## **VICE PRESIDENT MESSAGE**

I hear there are some of you who have finished your challenge quilted item, well done you. There are some, like me, who have it all cut out and ready to sew. Or maybe you are still in the planning stage. Wherever you are in this challenge I hope you are having some fun.

The rules are simple. Make a quilted item using your half metre of ugly fabric on the front of the quilt. To be eligible for a prize the item must be finished and use most of the fabric. If it is not finished in time for the April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting deadline, we would still like to see what you have created you just will not be eligible for a prize. Prizes will be awarded for workmanship and use of fabric.

If you are unable to attend the meeting on April 22<sup>nd</sup>, please send your quilted item along with a friend to hand in. All items will be returned at the May 27<sup>th</sup> AGM when the members present will vote on a viewers' choice. If you are unable to attend that meeting, please specify who will be collecting your creation.

At the end of this newsletter, you will find the form to submit in April with your finished quilted item made using the 'ugly' fabric you received. You will be asked to fill in the form, so we have some ideas of what you thought about your fabric and how you decided to use it.

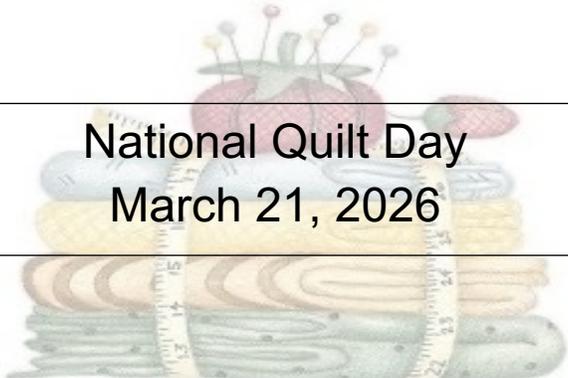
Please attach the form to the front of your quilted item along with any fabric you have left over. Remember we want to see how much of your fabric you were able to use.

*Dorothy DeRose*

## **PUBLICITY**

March is International Quilt Month and to celebrate there will be a quilt display set up at the Meridian Community Centre on the second-floor upper hallway leading to the Accursi Room. The display will go up on March 2, 2026, and will be taken down on March 30, 2026. I hope you all take the time to visit this exhibit.

*Carol McRae*



National Quilt Day  
March 21, 2026

# 2025/2026 EXECUTIVE

As of June 1, 2025

President	Irene Bootsma
Vice President	Dorothy DeRose
Secretary	Barbara Anyon
Treasurer	Theresa Bell
Past President	Carol McRae

## CHAIRS & COMMITTEES

Committee	Chair	Sub Committee / Initiative	Committee Members
Archives	Andrea Frances		
Fundraising	Debbie Hipple		Louise Dalrymple Karen Augerman Maureen Morrison Sharon Watson
Giving Back	Gloria Meyer Sharree Eidt	Community Quilts Meals On Wheels Neonatal Quilts Raft	Gloria CQ Team Sharree Eidt Gloria & Sharree Julie Bayza
Membership	Towana McMeekin Jane Ann Morland		Tania Malaschenko Doreen Sherk
Program & Workshops	Jean Christie Andrea Frances		Coby deJonge Luci Ronald Lynda Iannandrea
Publicity	Carol McRae	Newsletter Publicity Facebook Facebook	Pat Andres Maureen Augerman Shannon Vary Jean Christie
Scholarship	Dorothy DeRose		Anne Converset Marlene Paulak Carolann Danch
Special Events	Gloria Simon Marty Crowder		Linda Anderson Shannon Vary
White Gloves & Greeters	Donna Rauscher		

## **FUNDRAISING**

I would like to thank the members of the Guild for their “Spool” support this year. Your contributions have helped to meet our commitments so far this year. Looking towards the fall, the September meeting will feature a Silent Auction as another way to raise funds for the Guild’s commitments. We are looking for “Sewy” items that are in excellent shape to put together for auction offerings. This may include no longer wanted Quilt Kits, quilt items, yardage, unused patterns etc. Your contributions will be greatly appreciated. Items may be brought to the March, April and May meetings and given to Debbie Hipple.

*Debbie Hipple*

## **GIVING BACK**

A Community Sew Day was held on February 7th, where 7 attendees worked hard on processing completed quilts, sewing on bindings, finding appropriate backings, and preparing quilts for the long armers.

Preparations were started for the Vendor’s sale at the General Meeting, March 25th, where CQ will have a table with fabric for sale. Preparations will continue the next sew day, March 12th.

More pillowcases were received at the last general meeting, and we anticipate a delivery of these and more quilts to Gillian’s Place in the not-too-distant future.

Tourniquets for the babies in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit are still needed and sewing instructions can be found on the NHQG Website.

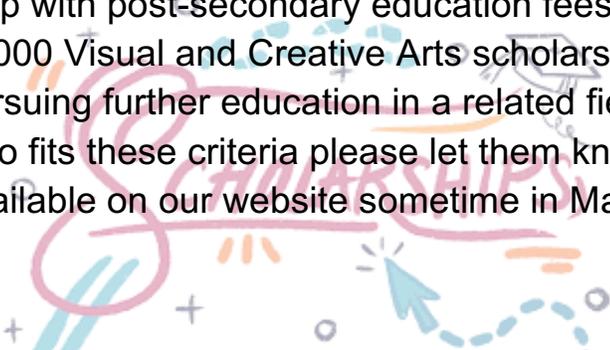
Sew days continue to be on the second Thursday of every month. Looking ahead, March 12, April 9 and May 14 are the dates for the next three months.

*Gloria Meyer & Sharree Eidt*

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

It is almost time for high school students to be thinking about applying for scholarships to help with post-secondary education fees. We at Niagara Heritage Quilters’ Guild offer a \$1000 Visual and Creative Arts scholarship to a graduate of a Niagara high school who is pursuing further education in a related field. If you know anyone, be it family or friend, who fits these criteria please let them know about our scholarship. The application will be available on our website sometime in March and it must be submitted by the end of May.

*Dorothy DeRose*



## PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

As I write this submission for the March Newsletter, I am shivering with the cold, but looking forward to our Spring Events. One of the things I learned this winter was that our sewing machines rebel against the cold weather! Sharon Kirby's issues with her embroidery machine at our January meeting were caused by the cold, as she waited at the curb for me to park and help her inside.

By the time you read this, we will have watched Anita Hardison's Disappearing Pinwheel demonstration and have been taken on a tour of our NHQG website by our webmaster Carol McRae in February.

The March 25<sup>th</sup> Program will be our Member Vendor Event. This was planned at the suggestion of one of our members. Tables are \$25. each or you can share a table with a friend for \$15.each. Our aim is to generate money for Programs and Workshops. Here's your opportunity to clear out some of your excess stash and make some cash to buy more fabric. If you have quilting-related items you don't need or want, but not enough to make it worth your while to have a table, you might want to donate it to the Giving Back Crew to sell. That will enable them to purchase additional batting and backing for the Community Quilts. We will have the loan of a few wagons to assist you in bringing your items upstairs. You are not limited to just selling fabric. I plan to bring a couple of standing quilt racks that my husband crafted to keep himself busy last winter. Please book your table soon so that we can arrange for the room to be set up according to our numbers. If you did not sign up at the February meeting, you can email me at [jchristie@execulink.com](mailto:jchristie@execulink.com) before March 9<sup>th</sup>. Please bring **cash** to the meeting to make purchases. There is an ATM in the Meridian Community Centre if you need it.

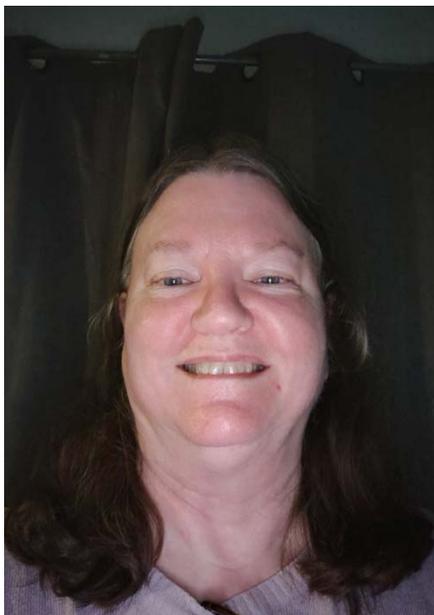
The registration for the March workshop is closed and the patterns for the "Sew Together Bag" have been received and distributed to those who were at the February meeting.

The March UFO Sew Day has been booked for Monday March 30<sup>th</sup>, at the Fonthill Lions' Hall. The fee is \$10.00, which includes coffee and tea. Bring your lunch or go across the street.

The Program and Workshops team will be asking for suggestions for next year at the March meeting. So, start thinking now, about what you will write on the papers, that we will distribute that evening.

On **Thursday April 16<sup>th</sup>**, we will have a Stack and Whack workshop, presented by Debra Rolfe of the Dunnville's Own Tiny Stitchers (DOTS) Guild. This workshop will be held at

the Fonthill Lions' Hall. The fee for the workshop is \$45. **Please note that this is the week before our regular guild meeting night.**



Debra Rolfe

At our April 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting, we will welcome Peter Byrne and his trunk show “ Peter 6 years later”. Peter had a wonderful display of 22 quilts at Quilt Canada in June 2025 that many of us were fortunate to see. He had 10 quilts in the juried show and won 6 awards. Along with many on our bus tour, I had an opportunity to chat with Peter and was excited to know that he was coming to our Guild this Spring.



We hope you will enjoy our Spring Programs, and we look forward to your suggestions for the 2026-2027 season!

*Co-Chair Jean Christie & Andrea Frances*

# ADVERTISING

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN ADVERTISING WITH US?

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

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## QUILT NOTION OF THE MONTH

### March Notion – Ruler Grips

These wonderful grips help keep rulers & templates from slipping when using a rotary cutter, making cutting safer and more accurate!



### April Notion – Thread Pick



This tool is perfect for hiding or removing stray threads. It easily slips through the fabric leaving no marks or punctures. Must have tool for machine or long-arm quilters and hand or machine embroidery. Ask your local quilt shop for availability.

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## Hamilton Sewing Warehouse



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](mailto:hamiltonsewingcom@gmail.com) or visit my shop at 43 Bigwin Road. Hamilton...  
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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





## Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild Vice-President's Challenge

Quilt Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1. Describe your fabric: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Did you find your fabric ugly? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What was your biggest challenge with your fabric?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

4. How did you decide on your design?

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of Maker:

\_\_\_\_\_

To be collect by:

\_\_\_\_\_