Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild

Volume 31 Issue 5 May - Summer 2026

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

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

www.niagaraquiltersguild.com
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

This is my last message as president of the NHQG. As I reflect on the last two years, I can't believe how fast they have gone by. When I accepted the position of president two years ago, I felt rather overwhelmed that night. However, the executive committee and all the guild members have made this journey a joy. Thank you for all your support.

During the last two years we have had a few changes, such as a new venue to meet in and with that came fundraising changes as well. Everyone has adapted well to the changes, and we are all enjoying the beautiful new meeting room and the welcoming atmosphere of the Meridian Community Center. This past March and April, we were also happy to see the beautiful quilt display in the hallway leading to our meeting room. What a wonderful way to promote the art of quilting in a Community Center.

As you read through this newsletter, you will see how the various committees have been busy with fundraising ideas, developing the program and workshops for next year, the V.P. Ugly Fabric challenge, the new venue for the AGM in May, maintaining the website, making and distributing community quilts, organizing the membership list, the scholarship applications, the budget, etc. From this list you can see that there are many ways that you can contribute to the guild by volunteering to be on a committee. Please consider how you can get involved.

Being involved can also include showing up at the general meetings, sharing your ideas, talking with someone you don't know, bringing in a show and tell, contributing to the fundraising spool, or just giving an encouraging smile to those you meet. As president, it was my goal to encourage a caring community of quilters, that meet in a safe and caring environment where we can all grow in our quilting journey.

Have a wonderful and safe summer!

Irene Bootsma, President

PAST PRESIDENT

"VOLUNTEERS DO NOT NECESSARILY HAVE THE TIME: THEY HAVE THE HEART"

This is how I would describe the guild executive, full of heart.

My last official duty as Past President is to Chair the Nomination Committee and conduct the election of officers at the May AGM which is just weeks away. ***As you all know, we need to elect a President and we need to re-elect our treasurer. We must have these officers in place to continue our guild.***

We need a volunteer for the Fundraising Chair. Please don't let this position intimidate you. You would be responsible for investigating fundraising opportunities and create a team to implement these opportunities. This is a team-based effort. The White Glove & Greeters Chair position has been filled. I will reveal that information at the AGM.

Keep in mind, this may change by the time the AGM rolls around.

Carol McRae

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	Community Quilts	Gloria
	Sharree Eidt		CQ Team
		Meals On Wheels	Sharree Eidt
		Neonatal Quilts	Gloria & Sharree
		Raft	Julie Bayza
Membership	Towana McMeekin		Tania Malaschenko
	Jane Ann Morland		Doreen Sherk
Program & Workshops	Jean Christie		Coby deJonge
	Andrea Frances		Luci Ronald
			Lynda Iannandrea
Publicity	Carol McRae	Newsletter	Pat Andres
		Publicity	Maureen Augerman
		Facebook	Shannon Vary
		Facebook	Jean Christie
Scholarship	Dorothy DeRose		Anne Converset
			Marlene Paulak
			Carolann Danch
Special Events	Gloria Simon		Linda Anderson
	Marty Crowder		Shannon Vary
White Gloves & Greeters	Donna Rauscher		

VICE PRESIDENT

Thank you to everyone who participated in the VP 'ugly' fabric challenge this year. It was great to see so many of you rise to the challenge of what to do with that piece of fabric you received. A few prizes will be awarded, and you will have an opportunity to vote for the one you like the best at our May AGM.

The quilts will be returned at that meeting, please remember to collect your quilt before heading home that night or name someone to collect on your behalf if you are unable to attend the meeting.

If you were not able to complete your challenge quilted item in time for the hand in at the April Guild meeting, please bring it along to the May meeting so we can all see how you used your fabric.

Dorothy De Rose

FUNDRAISING

The 2025-2026 Guild year was a year of adjustment and learning different ways to bring extra cash into the Guild. The cancellation of our 50/50 Draw and Loonie Draws meant we had to come up with other ideas.

The Spool was adopted to earn extra cash for the Guild operations The ideas was for the members to drop loose change or any monetary amount into the spool, at the Monthly Meetings, to help with additional operating costs and needs that can occur. A huge thank you to all the members who have supported this venture, you have been very generous. Your donations have helped us keep the Guild going.

At our September 2026 General Meeting we will be holding a Silent Action. Auction items will be gratefully accepted from our members and do not have to be quilt related, but must be in good condition. At present we have had a few quilt kits, quilting gift certificates and current fabric yardage donated. We are hoping to have a large variety of items up for auction that night. Think Christmas shopping, maybe?

If you would like to donate an item to the auction, please bring your item to the May General Meeting or contact myself at 905 651 3036 before September 1, 2026.

Debbie Hipple

GIVING BACK

Thank you to all the members of the Guild for all your support this last year. Since May 2025 we have gifted 157 neonatal quilts to the hospital, 106 quilts and 20 pillowcases to Gillian's Place, YWCA Women's shelter etc. and 400 placemats to Meals on Wheels.

We will continue the "sew days" throughout the summer months. We are grateful that Terry S. continues to allow us to use a good portion of his basement for all our efforts.

Gloria Meyer & Sharree Eidt

SCHOLARSHIP

Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild offers 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 is available on our website and must be submitted by May 15th.

Dorothy DeRose

MEMBERSHIP

It is a beautiful day today and I sure hope it is a sign that spring is here to stay. Before you know it, we will be enjoying the lazy days of summer.

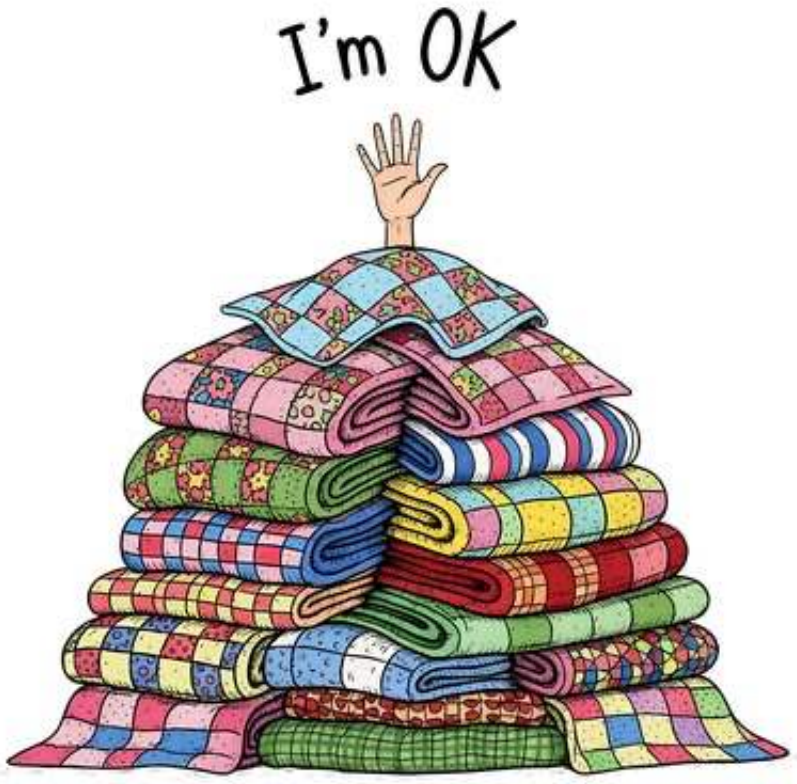
It is also time to renew your membership.

As I explained at the March meeting, the executive agreed there was a need for a small increase this coming year to offset rising costs and enable quality programs. To do this we need the approval of the membership at the AGM. Membership fees will be announced after the members have approved the changes. Present members do not have to fill out a new registration form, just check that the information is correct and that all questions are answered.

Thank you all again for all your help and support during the past year. It is greatly appreciated.

Sew long for now!

Towana McMeekin and Jane Ann Morland



PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

We started the year off in September with Tanya Denyer's presentation of her creative quilts. They were so much fun! She was fun and inspiring at the same time!

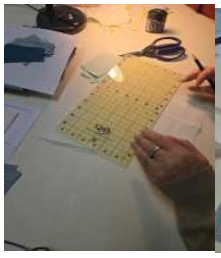
Lorna Costantini brought new horizons to our October meeting with her Modern Big Stitch presentation. Her workshop was our first at the Lion's Hall and was attended by 11 members who had done their homework and were all delighted with their completed pillows.

November's craft session was well-attended. We had a terrific time crafting, eating, and socializing.

Everyone outdid themselves with their contributions to the festive feast. The Social Committee and the Program and Workshop Committee were both pleased with the members' feedback.

In January, many members braved the elements on a nasty evening and came out to demonstrations by two guests of quilting methods for domestic machines. We'd like to see some of our members try these methods out. The Giving Back Committee is always looking for new volunteers to quilt the smaller quilts for our Outreach program.

The February meeting brought us a website adventure of our Guild website by our own Carol McRae and a Disappearing Nine Patch demonstration by our member Anita Hardison. Anita has promised to do a workshop in the coming season.



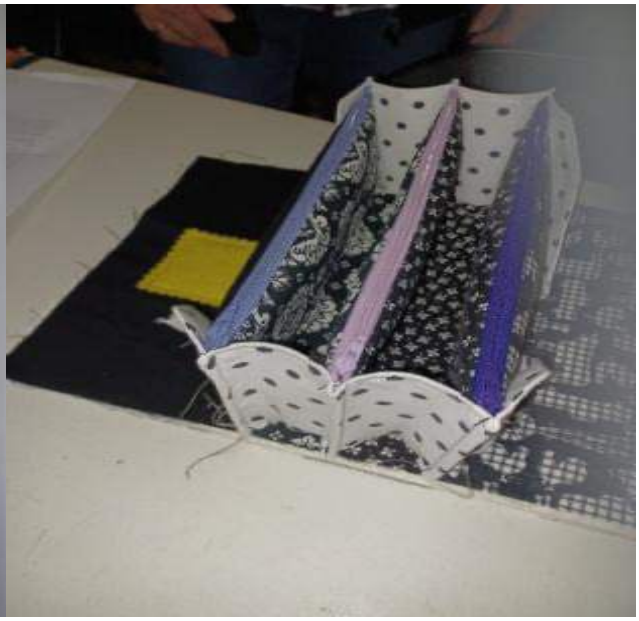
Our February workshop was Hand Piecing with Maureen Morrison. One particular member of our Guild was delighted to learn just how relaxing hand piecing can be.

Our Member Vendor Event at the March meeting was well attended and almost everyone went home with a treasure or two. Monies raised for the Guild and for the Giving Back Committee were a bonus!

Our mini survey that evening netted the Program and Workshop team only 14 responses; thank you for those. For those of you who suggested Laura Coia as a trunk show presenter, I'd like to share with you that we had approached her last Spring and were told that she was not doing trunk shows at that time.

Al Cote had done a trunk show for us just 3 short months before we began our planning for this year. We have followed up with your suggestions and at least two of the people suggested have been approached for next year.

The March workshop was a wonderful success. Lynne Wilkinson had ensured that everyone was prepared for the day, and everyone went home with their notions bag either complete or just needing a few more stitches to finish it off.



As I write this, I am looking forward to April's program of Debra Rolfe's Stack 'n' Whack workshop and Peter Byrne's trunk show.

I am already excited for next year and hope you are too!

Jean Christie

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.)

KINDRED SPIRITS
EST. QUILT CO. 2010

Your Fun Summer Adventure Awaits

the july shophop!
it's time to shop, hop and win!

Planning your summer travels? We are once again participating in the annual July Shop Hop.
Whether you're discovering new shops, reconnecting with familiar favourites, or simply enjoying a summer road trip with friends, the July Shop Hop is all about exploring, stitching, and making memories. This year, with new participating stores, you won't want to miss out!
Find full details at julyshophop.com

Kindred Spirits Event Space

Working on larger quilts and need more room than you have at home? Want to get together with a group to sew-cialize? Our new location has a 16' x 32' bonus room that is available to rent. Come use our tables, our chairs, our cutting mats, and our irons for a day.
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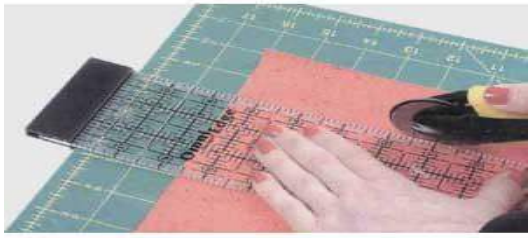
QUILT NOTION OF THE MONTH

May Notion – Lip Edge Ruler

Lip Edge Ruler is a great slip free cutting tool for quilters, sewers, and crafters to use. You can also buy the lip separately that will attach to your other rulers.



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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.

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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 emai: 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

“You are so much sunshine in every square inch.”
– Walt Whitman