



Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild

Volume 32 Issue 1 SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER 2026

**Meeting Location: Meridian Community Centre
100 Meridian Way, Fonthill ON
2nd Floor Accursi Room**

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

www.niagaraquiltersguild.com

nfo@niagaraquiltersguild.com

General Meeting Dates

Fourth Wednesday of the Month

September 23, 2026

October 28, 2026

November 18, 2026

January 27, 2027

February 24, 2027

March 24, 2027

April 28, 2027

May 26, 2027

Multiple Chemical Sensitivity (MCS)

Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild

Activities, Meetings & Workshops Are

SCENT FREE

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Name Tag
Community Quilts
Placemats
Neonatal Quilts
Show and Tell Quilts
Cash Cash Cash

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



We hope everyone enjoyed their summer. During the hot weather, we found time to quilt indoors or enjoy some hand stitching on the deck or by the lake. I composed most of this message as I sat by the lake, at a cottage in Quebec, a few hours northeast of Ottawa. There has been no cell phone service since the July 1st storm that flooded parts of Ottawa, as well as damage here in Niagara. As much as I enjoyed the peace and quiet, I was itching to get back to the quilt project that awaited me at home.

Now it is time to start thinking about the year ahead. As we kick off the season with our longest serving member proudly sharing her World of Quilts, we will also be holding a silent auction to raise funds for the Guild. Items donated by local businesses will be used to support our Giving Back efforts, while items donated by our own members will be used to support Guild activities. Be sure to bring cash to the meeting and bags to carry home your treasures. Although we prefer those purchases be made by cash or cheque, we will also be accepting e-transfers.

You are encouraged to bring a guest and they will not be required to pay a guest fee. We are excited to announce that our new workshop venue will be Club Belvedere in Thorold. The room below the banquet hall is well lit, with plenty of tables and electrical outlets. It is fully accessible from the street below the banquet hall entrance. I hope that there will be plenty of interest in our first workshop on October 22nd.

Gloria and I look forward to seeing you all on September 23rd at the first meeting and in the months to come.

Jean Christie

PAST PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to another exciting and creative guild year. At our last AGM, it was wonderful to see all the various people stand up who are on the many committees and the executive. Having new voices on the committees and executive shows growth and excitement for our guild. Through the hard work of Carol McRae and her committee during the last year, all the positions have been filled. If you would like to help in any way, please let me know. There is always room for new committee members throughout the year. It is a great way to get more involved in the guild and get to know more people. There will be new positions to fill in the 2027/28 year.

Irene Bootsma



VICE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to what looks to be another great year with the Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild. We have so many great speakers to see at our regular meetings and plenty of opportunities to participate in guild activities such as workshops and sew days.

For this year's Vice-President's challenge, we are going to use packaging as our inspiration to create a small quilt. I hope many of you will consider participating again this year. We all look forward to seeing those challenge quilts at the AGM in May.

Box Top Challenge



Your challenge is to create a quilt that uses all the color's appearing on a box top provided to you by the VP. The box tops come from household products such as cereal, tissues, crackers, etc.

Why box tops? Commercial artists are professionals trained to choose coolers that will catch and please the eye of the customer. So, we can expect that the color's on the box tops will lead to striking results. But perhaps just as importantly, this challenge may take you out of your comfort zone. You are put in the position of using coolers and combinations you might not have chosen for yourself.

Challenge Rules

- At the October Guild meeting you will blindly and randomly select a box top.
- If you seriously dislike the box top you drew, you are allowed one chance to draw again after all other participants have drawn their pieces.
- Select fabrics that you feel best match the color's appearing on the box top, including the coolers of any wording. You must use all the box top colors in your piece. You may not use any coolers that do not appear on your box top.
- You may use any quilting design or pattern you choose.
- The quilt may be pieced by hand or machine. Appliquéd submissions may be sewn by hand or machine. You may use fusible web, glue, or interfacing. Embellishments such as hand embroidery, ribbons, buttons, and decorative stitches are welcome.
- The challenge quilt must consist of a top, batting and backing. It must be finished with a binding, facing, or envelope pillowcase style.
- The submission must measure 10" by 21", within a 1" tolerance. The dimensions are those of a small table runner.
- The challenge quilt needs to have your name on some kind of label on the back.
- IMPORTANT: Your box top must be attached to the bottom of the quilt so that viewers can see how the colors of your quilt match the box top colors. Use the two holes and string, thread, or yarn to attach the box top, centered at the bottom edge of the quilt.
- All entries must be submitted to the VP at the April Guild meeting in some kind of bag that hides them from view. They will be returned at the AGM in May when prizes will be awarded. Voting will take place at the AGM for Viewers' Choice.

Dorothy DeRose

2026/2027 EXECUTIVE

As of July 1, 2026

President	Jean Christie Gloria Simon
Vice President	Dorothy DeRose
Secretary	Andrea Frances
Treasurer	Theresa Bell
Past President	Irene Bootsma

CHAIRS & COMMITTEES

Committee	Chair	Sub Committee / Initiative	Committee Members
Archives	Andrea Frances		
Fundraising	Doreen Sherk		Christine Miles Marcia Fehrman
Giving Back	Gloria Meyer Sharree Eidt	Community Quilts	Gloria Meyer CQ Team
		Meals On Wheels	Sharree Eidt
		Neonatal Quilts	Gloria & Sharree
		Raft	Julie Bayza
Membership	Towana McMeekin Jane Ann Morland		Help Wanted
Program & Workshops	Coby DeJonge		Luci Ronald
	Donna Rauscher		Anita Hardison
Publicity	Carol McRae Help Wanted	Website Publicity	Carol McRae Maureen Augerman
		E-Mail Blasts	Help Wanted
		Newsletter	Pat Andres
		Facebook Group	Jean Christie
Scholarship	Dorothy DeRose		Anne Converset Marlene Paulak Kathy Smith
Special Events	Shannon Vary Marty Crowder		Linda Anderson
White Gloves & Greeters	Karen Ciancio		

GIVING BACK

The Community Quilt committee met in July and were busy cutting backings to go with the quilt tops we had on hand. We put out a request for help to get these quilts quilted and many members offered to help. Quilts were delivered to these members. If you are willing and able to quilt any size of quilt, please let us know, as we always have a number on hand that need to be quilted.

It was decided we would take a break in August, as many of us were going to be away. Individual members have been very busy making placemats and our pile is growing. I'm sure many of you have been sewing during this hot, wet summer as well and we look forward to seeing the results in September. Our goal for placemats is 400+ and all will be welcomed.

There is always a need for the many things that you, as members of the guild, sew. Whichever you choose to sew, i.e. Neonatal quilts, pillowcases, placemats, tourniquets, or quilts, they are greatly valued and are delivered to the various groups we support.

Gloria made another delivery of 30 quilts and 13 pillowcases to the YWCA. They were more than appreciative of the quilts and the students assisting this summer were amazed at the talent and variety.

Our next sew day is September 10 from 10-3pm. Perhaps you'd like to join us and take the opportunity to see what the committee is up to. Contact either Gloria or myself for further details.

Thank you all for your help. Without you, our committee would not be able to donate the variety of items made.

Yours in quilting, Sharee Eidt & Gloria Meyer



PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2026 – 2027

Date	Name	Trunkshow	Workshop
September 23, 2026	Nina Stahlschmidt	My Life as a Handquilter	
October 22, 2026	Courtney Tobin		Bargello Wave Quilt
October 28, 2026	Judy Lyons	Canada's Forgotten Artifacts	
November 18, 2026	Elizabeth Klassen	History of Mennonite Quilts	
November 19, 2026	Anita Hardison		Disappearing Pinwheel
January 27, 2027	Member Demos		
February 24, 2027	Dorothy DeRose	From Poland to Pelham	
March 24, 2027	Joanna Dermenjian	Quilting as to War	
March 25, 2027	Anita Hardison		Wandering Ways Quilt
April 28, 2027	Diane Carson	Fabrications	
May 26, 2027	AGM		

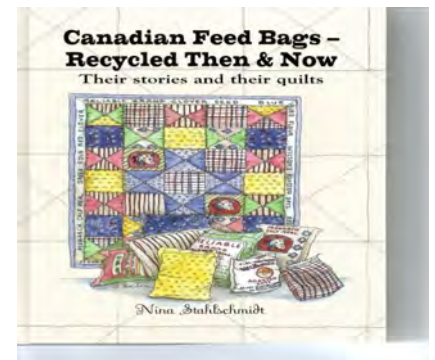
PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS

After our superb Trunk Show by Peter Byrne in April 2026, we have had four months to indulge in our own creative quilting projects and are ready to enjoy another season of speakers and workshops, including heritage themes as well as some modern twists.

We start the year of on Wednesday **September 23, 2026**, with our own **Nina Stahlschmidt**, a founding member and charter member of the Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild, presenting her work and passion in her topic **My Life as a Handquilter**. With some fifty years of quilting experience, Nina has shared her expertise as owner of a quilt store, as mentor to many novice quilters and to friends in Africa, and as researcher, collector, maker of feedbag quilts.



Nina's book on Feed Bags will go to one lucky winner at the Silent Auction.



At the September 23 meeting, members can sign up for a **Village Quilt Sew Day**, planned for **Monday Oct 5** at the Belvedere Club in Thorold where we can sew little house blocks for a finished quilt to be donated to the New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale auction to be held in May 2027.

(Our November speaker will give us more info about this worthwhile cause.)

NHQG: The Village Quilt- Sew Day Mon Oct 5, 2026- Information Sheet

Members are invited to join in the fun and satisfaction of making a quilt to be donated to the annual New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale planned for May 2027. Quilts are sold by auction to raise funds for Disaster Relief efforts around the world when and where help is needed. Our November speaker will give us more information. Since the deadline for donating quilts is February 1, we need to start early to make the quilt top, and have it quilted and bound by January (knowing that Nov 15-Jan1 we tend to be busy with holiday activities).

- We have chosen a free downloadable Moda pattern **Village** which consists of about 130 blocks of little houses, each 5"x7". Pattern will be available on Sew Day.
- We have selected a variety of companionable **fabrics** from our Community Quilters stash. Fabrics will be available on Sew Day.
- We anticipate working as a **group**: some people selecting and cutting pieces for each houseblock, some sewing, some pressing, interchanging roles as needed and/or desired.

What to bring?

Your basic general sewing supplies (see NHQG website), neutral light and dark threads.

Your skill in sewing accurate 1/4" seams so that all blocks are a uniform 5"x 7" size.

Your good humor, teamwork energy, and Lunch... from home, or purchase nearby.

Patience: this is a new adventure where we all learn together 😊

What do we provide?

Cutting mat, irons, ironing boards; tea, coffee, maybe some snacks (?) Pattern details, fabrics

Patience: this is a new adventure where we too are learning together 😊

Cost: To cover facility rental fee and incidental costs- \$10 each participant- for the whole day





Also, at the **September meeting please sign up for the Thursday October 22 Workshop by Courtney Tobin on Bargello Quilts-** a modern dynamic design- easy when you know how, after a day with Courtney! Check at the Program and Workshops desk for details about the pattern and some homework to prepare for a productive day. Professionally, Courtney has worked as an English–ASL Interpreter for the past 24 years, where she has developed a deep passion for mentoring and supporting emerging interpreters. She has carried that same love of teaching into the world of quilting.

Although she has explored a variety of fibre arts over the years, Courtney fully embraced quilting in 2020 and has been hooked ever since. Her work is most often inspired by modern quilt design, featuring bold colours, clean lines, and striking geometrid patterns. From time to time, she also enjoys creating traditional-style quilts, appreciating the craftsmanship and timeless appeal they offer.

DON'T MISS OUT ON THIS WORKSHOP. SIGN UP IN SEPTEMBER TO RESERVE YOUR SPOT.



Wednesday October 28, Judy Lyons will share some of her knowledge captured in her self-published book “**Canada’s Forgotten Artifacts: 1967 Centennial Quilts**”, talking about what was happening then and what we see in our quilts and what you should be looking for when you look at old quilts. Her book will be available for sale at our meeting for \$45 including taxes. Judy Lyons, from Burlington Ontario, is a specialist in the appraising of traditional and non-traditional quilts and fiber art. She is certified with the American Quilters Society and a member of the Professional Association of Appraisers-Quilted Textiles. She is a quilter, a quilt collector and lecturer on the history and valuation of quilts. She is a member of the Canadian Quilters’ Association and has served on the Board of Directors.



As a follow-up to a demonstration that our own **Anita Hardison** did for us last season on **Disappearing Pinwheels**, she has offered to do a workshop on the technique. We have scheduled it for **Thursday November 19**; members may sign up for this at our September 23 meeting. More information will be available at the Program and Workshops Desk and in the November newsletter.



We hope that our Guild members and guests will enjoy and be inspired by our speakers and workshop events this fall!

Donna Rauscher and Coby deJonge

PUBLICITY COMMITTEE

As we kick off a new guild year, I would like to remind everyone that our website is a great source of information about your guild, upcoming events, and other important news.

This newsletter is made possible through the generous support of our advertisers, so please remember to support them whenever you can.

You can also stay connected by checking our Facebook group page for updates and announcements.

You can also share your quilting journey here. Love to see what projects you are working on.

If you have any questions about the newsletter, website, or Facebook group, please don't hesitate to contact me or come and see me at a meeting. I'm always happy to help!

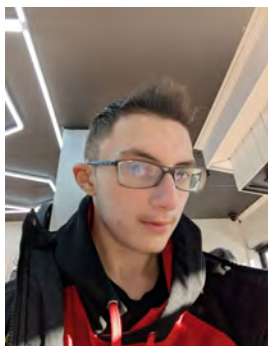
Speaking of HELP... I could certainly use some! If you have computer skills, please come, and see me at the general meeting.

Thank you, and I look forward to another wonderful guild year.

Carol McRae



SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE



The Scholarship Committee is pleased to announce that Mackenzie is this year's winner of the Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild Visual and Creative Art Scholarship. Mackenzie is a graduate of West Niagara Secondary School in Lincoln and will be pursuing 3D Animation at Le Collège La Cité in Ottawa this fall. Mackenzie's application showed high academic standing with glowing references and his portfolio included weaving, crochet, collage, photography, and digital art works. We felt, as a committee, that Mackenzie was a worthy recipient of our scholarship. All the applications we received were from strong candidates and it was a difficult choice. After weighing all the applications, we

decided that Mackenzie fit our criteria just a little more than anyone else. We wish all our candidates the best in their future endeavors.

This year we were disappointed to only receive four complete applications. They were from the two main school boards, so the word is getting out. We have received no applications from the French School Boards or from any private school students.

Dorothy DeRose

GREETERS AND WHITE GLOVE LADIES

Hi Ladies,

I'm the new coordinator for the Greeters and White Glove Ladies, taking over from the great job Donna Rauscher has done for the last couple of years. Thanks Donna on behalf of all the members.

I'd like to create an updated list of who in the Guild is willing to help occasionally, by being a Greeter at our monthly meetings or by wearing white gloves to help display members and presenters' quilts.

I'll be contacting each of you over the next couple of months to see what your preferences are. It will also be a great opportunity to get to know you all a bit more.

If you know how you want to help, or know you are unable or uninterested you can also contact me. I can be reached by email at kmc@cogeco.ca

I look forward to talking to you over the next few months and I thank you in advance.

Karen Ciano



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



September





Fall newsletter is here with lots of exciting new classes

[Click here to read](#)



Handi Quilter Hands on Machine Quilting Classes

We are thrilled to announce our next Handi Quilter event October 21st-24th with Handi Quilter National Educator Manon Hunt. View our website for full class descriptions or call to register.



Baby Lock Machine Embroidery Extravaganza!

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