



Snippets – May 2022



*Halton Quilters Guild
... celebrating 44 years of quilting and friendship!*

May 5, 2022

We continue to meet via Zoom at this time.

Guests may join us for \$5. Send a request via the HQG Facebook page or email haltonquilters@gmail.com.

Next Meeting: June 2, 2022

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President’s Message

Darla Youldon

Hello Quilters,

I feel some excitement in the air! I think it’s all these little buds coming out on my trees and the perennials peeking their little green heads up at me. I absolutely love spring because that means summer is not far behind! Having spent the winter here in Burlington, I will be especially grateful for a nice hot summer.



A quilter's garden

I had some wonderful news recently! My son is getting married in a small ceremony at my cottage in Niagara-on-the-Lake – to say we are all thrilled is an understatement!

I’ve caught the Comfort Quilt fever and am busy making quilts as many of you are. Keep at it; the recipients are ever so grateful for them.

I look forward to seeing you all on Zoom very soon,

Darla

*Please join us
at 7 p.m.
on Thursday, May 5th.*



2022/2023 Executive Positions

Jean Decaire



GREAT NEWS!

THREE members, including a soon to be new member(!), have stepped forward to fill the positions of **SECRETARY**, **TREASURER** and **50/50**. **THANK YOU!**

But **TWO** positions still remain open: **VICE-PRESIDENT** and **SOCIAL (1 of 2)**

As previously noted, several current members are willing to help ensure the smooth running of the guild by staying on in their positions. However, it has been an extended term for them so **PLEASE** consider serving on the Guild Executive.

We are also looking for members to help with the preparation of kits for Comfort Quilts which will be organized by **Sue Curran**. Thank you, Sue! Details on page 5.

Please feel free to contact **Past President, Jean Decaire**, if you are willing to volunteer for any of these positions or if you have any questions.

www.haltonquiltersguild.ca



Have a question for the Halton Quilters Guild?
Send an email to haltonquilters@gmail.com and a member of the guild will get in touch with you.

Newsletter Deadline:

Please send items for the June issue of Snippets by **May 16th.**

Susan Atherton, Editor

Newsletter Distribution:

Email: Barb Ross

Are you having any trouble getting your newsletter by email? Please let me know.

Website:

www.haltonquiltersguild.ca

Past issues are available on the guild website.

2022/23 HQG EXECUTIVE

*Volunteers are still **NEEDED** for the next guild year.*

*Are you thinking about helping **YOUR** guild? Do you have any questions?*

*Please contact **Jean Decaire**, Past President*

Advertising Rates

Business card	\$ 15 / mo.
(8 issues + 1 free)	\$ 120 / yr.
Quarter page	\$ 30 / mo.
(8 issues + 1 free)	\$ 240 / yr.
Half page	\$ 40 / mo.
(8 issues + 1 free)	\$ 320 / yr.
Full page	\$ 55 / mo.
(8 issues + 1 free)	\$ 440 / yr.

When visiting our advertisers, please let them know you saw their ad in this newsletter!

Susan Atherton

Editor / Advertising Co-ordinator
haltonquilters@gmail.com

Halton Quilters Guild 2021 - 2022 Members of the Executive

President	Darla Youldon
Vice-President	Leann Goodall
Past President	Jean Decaire
Secretary	Karen St. Aubin
Treasurer	Cathy Lamothe
Membership	Marilyn McKague, Debbie Biller and Shelley Newman
New Member Ambassadors	Sue Curran, Joanne Ellis, Gloria Bilous
Outreach (Comfort Quilts)	Kay Boyd
Outreach (Neonatal)	Ermy Akers and Pamela Simons
Outreach (Quilts of Valour)	Alison McDonald
Programme	Cheryl Laine
Workshops	Katherine Hunter
Mystery Quilt	Katherine Hunter
Block of the Month	Janet Fisher and Donna Vetter
Social	Katalin Lawford + 1
Library	Sarah McCarthy
50 / 50 Draw	Sheila Keating and Brenda Forsey
Newsletter / Advertising	Susan Atherton
Newsletter Distribution	Barb Ross
Website	Susan Atherton
Social Media	Cheryl Laine
Photographer	Desiree Thyme
Historian	Desiree Thyme



THINK about getting **INVOLVED!**

ASKING questions is **NOT** a commitment.

TALK to any member of the Executive.

VOLUNTEERING - After all, it's **YOUR** guild!

Mark Your Calendars - THURSDAY, MAY 5, 2022



As in-person meetings remain cancelled until further notice, the Halton Quilters Guild will continue to hold **ZOOM MEETINGS** to help us all keep in touch. Unless otherwise notified, these meetings will start at **7:00 pm** on the **first Thursday** of each month (September to June).

The Zoom link is emailed out a week before the guild meeting and a reminder sent the day before. If you haven't received the link by the day of the meeting, please contact **Barbara Ross** or **Cheryl Laine** for the link.

Membership

Marilyn McKague, Debbie Biller and Shelley Newman

Our membership currently stands at **118**, which is quite impressive, considering the situation created by the pandemic - not being able to meet in person and connect as easily with our quilting friends. While meeting via Zoom has worked out for many HQG members, we are naturally all hoping to "return to normal" in the fall. So now is the time to remind your friends to sign up so they are ready for our upcoming session of speakers, Sew Days, Mystery Quilt and Block of the Month patterns, workshops as well as lots of Sew and Share.



In June we will begin the membership renewal process. The cost will remain \$40.00 for the guild year. The names of members who renew prior to June 30 will go into a draw to win a complimentary membership for the 2023/2024 guild year. More information will be in next month's Snippets.

Secretary

Karen St. Aubin



Do you know of a member who would appreciate receiving a sympathy or get well card? Please contact me via email or phone.

50/50 Draw

CONGRATULATIONS to **Marlene McDaniel** who won **\$50.00** at the April meeting.

Good luck, everyone!

Sheila Keating and Brenda Forsey



Weekly Chats Update

Wednesday's Happy Hour Chat at 7:00 p.m. will continue, so drop by and say "hello"!

Monday Morning Chats are cancelled for now.

Cheryl Laine



Sew and Share Slide Shows



Please send me the photos of your quilts and they will be added to the slide show for the May meeting.

Desiree Thyme



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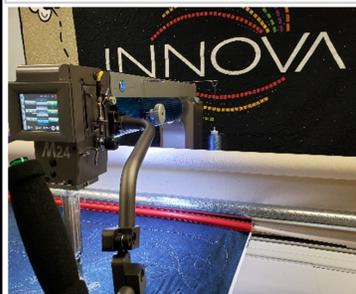
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Programme

May 5, 2022 - Colour, Energy and Those Darn UFOs

Cheryl Laine



This presentation by **Karen Brown** (Toronto) is sure to inspire us all! A quilter, crafter, mother, wife, daughter and businesswoman (not necessarily in that order!), Karen loves to make things and likes nothing better than checking things off the list. She likes trying new things, finding short cuts and discovering new ways of using old things, and then sharing what she has learned with others.

You may have seen some of her YouTube videos, where she shares patterns and great ideas on quilting. I know several members have also participated in her Declutter challenge in January 2022. No doubt this will be an evening full of helpful tips and lots of laughter.

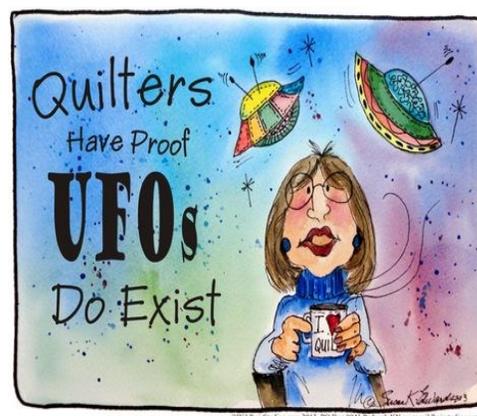
Here are the links to find Karen's website and YouTube channel:

<https://www.justgetitdonequilts.com>

<https://www.youtube.com/c/JustGetitDoneQuilts>



No! My quilt is NOT yet finished ... and I would appreciate it if you'd stop using the "F" word in my sewing room!



Judy Lyons
Quilt Appraiser & Lecturer

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judy.lyons35@gmail.com

Antique, Traditional
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Quilts

Chat Comments from the April Guild Meeting with Melissa Marginet

(64 members in attendance)

I purchased your first book a few years ago and have used it a number of times. Easy to use.

Both of your books are fantastic!

I love the visual simplicity of the 2001 Log Cabin.

I took one of your classes with the Goderich Guild.

Her classes are great!



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Outreach

Quilts bring comfort ... one quilt at a time



An important aim and objective of our guild is to "**participate in community projects**". One common thread among quilt guilds is the Outreach Committee which is responsible for providing quilts to those in need of comfort. The gift of a quilt brightens the bad days and acts as a comforting reminder of the kindness of others.

We have a proud history of making these "comfort quilts" and providing an important service to our community, donating quilts to local groups who make a difference and to individuals in need of comfort.

Members are encouraged to complete a Comfort Quilt kit, make a quilt from their own supplies, sew neonatal items or participate in an Outreach Sew Day. Together we give "**comfort**" to others in our community.

Comfort Quilts

Kay Boyd

As always, **THANK YOU** to everyone who donates their time to make the Comfort Quilts which show those in need that someone cares. We continue to receive requests for our beautiful quilts, both from organizations and on an individual basis.



And now for some **GREAT NEWS!** **Sue Curran** has generously offered to store fabric donated to our Comfort Quilts programme and to organize Kit Days on a bimonthly basis. Members would agree to put their names on a list to be contacted whenever a Kit Day was being organized, and then help out on a one time basis or on several occasions throughout the year!

Editor: I expect, like any other time quilters get together, there will be good times and lots of laughter! On behalf of everyone, thank you, Sue! And you can expect "gifts" whenever you see me as I start to rediscover my basement from under the piles of Comfort Quilt fabric lol



In March we received a special request for a queen-sized quilt from the **Halton Children's Aid Society** for their online auction. While they are very appreciative of our regular donations of comfort quilts, this was a way to include the community. As we had none in our inventory, a request went out and **Sue Curran** volunteered to piece this quilt from her own fabric. It was then made in 3 days, quilted by **Kay Boyd** and bound by Sue, all done by the due date of April 11th! The HCAS was indeed very thankful for the donation of this beautiful quilt!

FOR SALE

This Janome 6260QC was purchased in May 2005 for \$999. Rarely used, it comes with several accessories, including an extension table and feed walking pressure foot.

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Please contact **Sheelagh** at (905) 847-6749.



Janome 6260 Quilter's Companion

Workshops

Katherine Hunter

PLEASE NOTE: The date for the **Cathedral Window** workshop with **Marilyn McKague** has been changed to the following date - **Friday, May 27th.** - at the Small Arms Building (1352 Lakeshore Rd. E., Mississauga). Registration will be required as space is limited to **15 quilters**, so please email Marilyn directly if you wish to participate in this workshop.

Marilyn: *You may choose to use a light and a dark fabric or make the centres scrappy for an interesting look. Fussy cuts are cute for baby quilts. The background may be your light fabric with dark used inside the “windows”. Use your imagination and play with colour!*

You will need to cut your fabrics ahead of time, so for the workshop you will only need your sewing machine, pins, thread, scissors, needle and thimble for a small amount of slip stitching the opening closed. Most work will be done on the sewing machine. An ironing station will be provided.



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Sew Days

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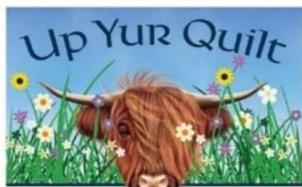
Katherine Hunter

If you haven't had the opportunity to attend any of the Sew Days, why not join us on **May 12th** or **June 16th**? The dates are both Thursdays - 10 a.m. to 4/5 p.m. While we are limited to **15 quilters** in May, the Small Arms Building (1352 Lakeshore Rd. E.) is able to accommodate more quilters in June. If you wish to participate in one or more Sew Days, please send me a message.



Quilting is

There is nothing quite like getting together with other like-minded people who share your passion!



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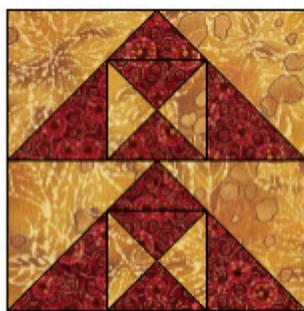
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cheryl@compassquiltcompany.ca

Block of the Month

Janet Fisher and Donna Vetter

I couldn't discover any of the history behind this quilt block so here's a quote about scrappy quilts overheard at a HQG Sew Day.
"With scrappy quilts you just have to jump in!"



Hill and Valley

Comment from someone who made this:
"It looked more complicated than it really is. The trick, I found, is doing one part at a time until it's done, then move onto the next part."



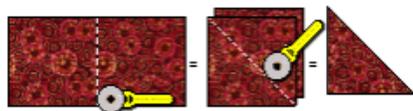
Colour 1 / DARK needs one 3 3/4" square AND one 4 7/8" x 9 3/4" strip AND one 5 1/4" square.
Remember to make this scrappy! It will definitely give it a different look!



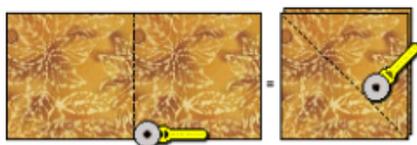
Colour 2 / LIGHT needs one 6 7/8" x 13 3/4" strip AND one 5 1/4" square.



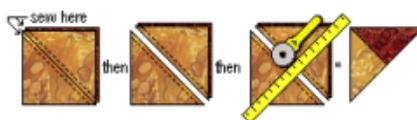
Start by cutting the Color 1 3-3/4" square in half once on the diagonal to make two half square triangles...



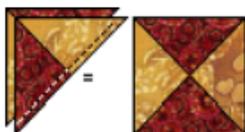
Next mark and cut the Color 1 4-7/8" x 9-3/4" strip into two 4-7/8" squares. Stack these and cut them in half to make four half square triangles...



Then mark and cut the Color 2 6-7/8" x 13-3/4" strip into two 6-7/8" squares. Stack and cut these in half once diagonally to make four half square triangles...



Now speed piece the quarter squares by stacking the Color 1 and Color 2 5-1/4" squares right sides together. On the back of the top square lightly draw the diagonal, then sew a scant 1/4" away on each side of the marked diagonal. Cut apart on the marked diagonal. Cut these on the OTHER diagonal, to make four quarter square triangle units...



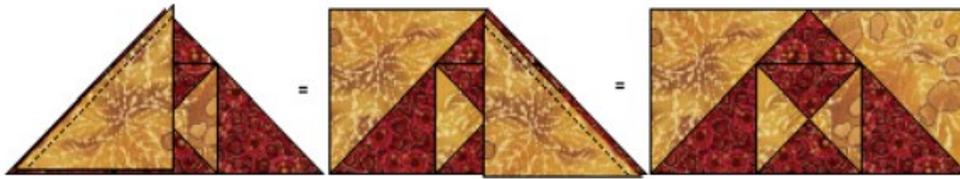
Sew pairs of the quarter square triangle units together using a scant 1/4". Press seams to one side. Make two units like this...



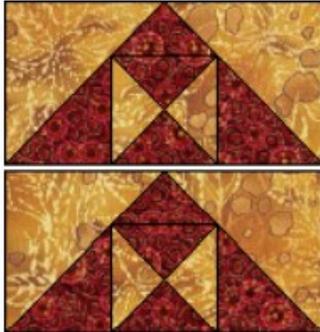
Now sew a Color 1 larger half square triangle to the right and left of the quarter square we just made, using scant 1/4" seams, and pressing seams towards the triangles. Make two units like this...



To the top of each of the two pieced quarter square units we just made, sew a smaller Color 1 half square triangle...

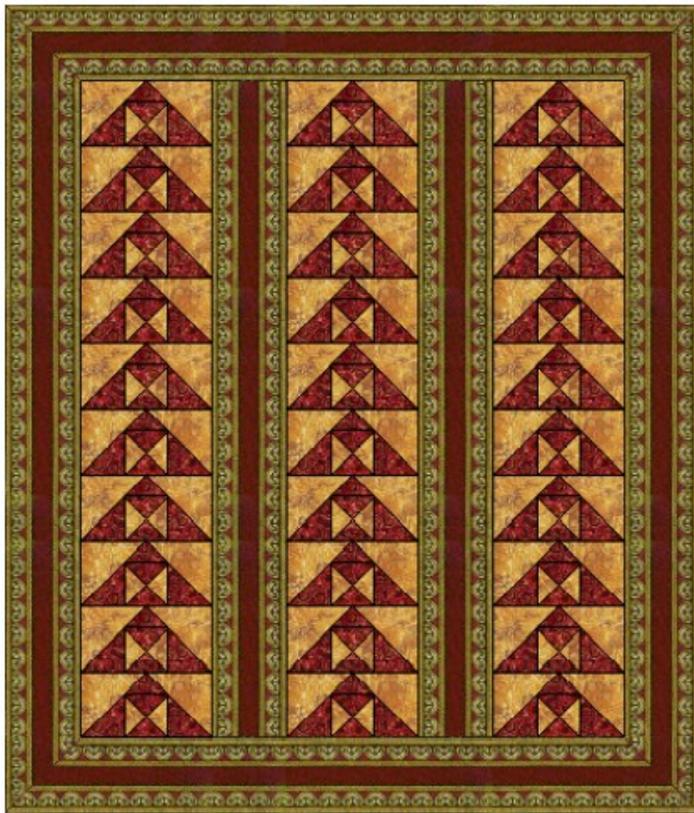


Now sew on the large
Color 2 half square
triangles...



Sew the two halves of the block together to finish it off!

Here's a suggestion: Make a quick job of this quilt, by using rows of border stripes between the rows of Hill and Valley blocks!



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THE TEC FILES

Paul Taylor

Episode 6: Coping with Stress (aka Tension)



Among folks who sew, there's often a lot of tension about tension ... thread tension, that is. Perhaps the following explanation will help to put your mind at ease. So let's look at the sources of your tension, or "tension assemblies". One of them, which is usually only adjusted by a service person, is located in the bobbin case. When you insert a bobbin and pull the thread through the slot, you're feeding it through a tension assembly.

The other one is located in the top section of your sewing machine. The thread passes through it before going into the takeup lever. Sometimes it's visible, and has a numbered dial that allows you to vary the tension directly.

Sometimes it's hidden, and is controlled by the computer inside your machine. If you adjust it manually, then you probably do so by pressing buttons or by touching virtual buttons on a screen.

The upper tension assembly and the one located in the bobbin case look very different, but they both work in the same way. Pressure is applied to a spring which in turn squeezes the thread between two smooth pieces of metal. As more pressure is put on the spring, the thread is squeezed harder and becomes more difficult to pull through the assembly.

There's an important difference between the two tension assemblies. If everything is working correctly, bobbin tension is always present. But when you lift the presser foot, the upper tension discs separate and don't grip the thread. That's why you should only thread your machine with the presser foot up. Otherwise the thread may not slide between the tension discs, and you'll have a messy tension problem. That's called PEBMAC - Problem Exists Between Machine and Chair. PEBMAC is common, and I'm the one sitting in the Chair more often than I like to think about!

Why do the threads require tension? Well, sewing is a bit like tying knots; you can't do that without applying tension to the strings you're tying. Before I elaborate, I suggest that you watch a short video: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rUSeCXVt-jU> The video shows a machine where the bobbin is inserted into the front, whereas many of you have 'top load' machines. In the video the hook also goes back and forth; many of you have machines where the hook just goes around and around. But the principles are the same. What you see in the video is the same as or similar to what happens inside your own machine.

At one minute and fifteen seconds into the video you'll see the takeup lever doing its thing. But what the video doesn't show is the upper tension assembly; it's situated between the thread spool and the takeup lever. As the takeup lever moves up, it is trying to pull the thread both through the fabric AND off of the spool. If the upper tension assembly has a higher tension setting, the takeup pulls a little more thread up through the fabric. At lower tension settings, the takeup pulls a little more thread off of the spool.

The bobbin tension assembly (not shown in the video) allows the bobbin thread to resist the pull that the upper thread is exerting on it. When the two pulling forces balance properly, the bobbin thread and the upper thread meet in the middle of the fabric(s) being sewn.

If the upper tension is too low, or the bobbin tension is too high, the bobbin thread won't be pulled up as far as it should be, and you may end up with a basting stitch. If the upper tension is very low, then regardless of the bobbin tension, you may see "eyelashing" or "nesting" on the bottom of the fabric.

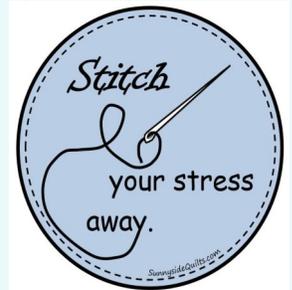


THE TEC FILES (cont'd)

If the upper tension is too high, or the bobbin tension is too low, bobbin thread will be pulled all the way to the top of the fabric. You can end up with something that looks like a basting stitch, but is usually too tight for the top thread to be easily pulled out. Nevertheless, this isn't a secure stitch. With a little bit of wear, or one broken loop, the whole seam can come apart pretty quickly.

The focus so far has been the balance between upper and lower tension. When the tensions are balanced, the upper and lower threads meet half-way through the thickness of the fabric. What we haven't addressed yet is what I might call "overall tension". The upper and lower tensions may be in balance with each other, but may also be too low or too high. This can result in either loose seams that separate too easily, or tight ones that pucker and/or tear the weave of the fabric.

Note that some stitches, such as the basting stitch, are designed NOT to be balanced. Embroidery, satin and some decorative stitches allow the upper thread to show on the bottom of the fabric. Such stitches prioritize appearance over strength, so they try to entirely hide the place where the bobbin thread and the upper thread meet by making sure they meet on the bottom. So if you're using these stitches in a situation where both sides of the work have to look pretty, you may need to increase the upper tension. In this case you'll want to do some experimenting on scraps before you start decorating your project.



What causes the thread tension to be off? Parts acquire wear, springs become weaker with time, and screws loosen with vibration. Sometimes a bit of thread or some fabric fluff gets stuck in the tension assembly. I've removed stray bits of thread and fluff from both bobbin and upper tension assemblies on numerous occasions. Also, thread and fabric choices can make a big difference. Cotton or synthetic, thick or thin, rough or smooth, coarse or fine - all of these properties of fabric and thread can affect both overall tension and tension balance. Another thing to note is that different stitches balance differently. If you set your machine for perfect balance on a straight stitch, and then switch to a zig-zag stitch, you may find that you need more upper tension. I'm still trying to figure out why that happens; I only know that it's very common. It's worse on some machines than others, and it differs even among different machines of the same model.

As always, I recommend experimenting. Do some sewing with different stitch types on scrap fabrics of different thickness and with different numbers of layers. Try using upper and bobbin threads of contrasting colours so you can see whether they meet on the top, on the bottom, or somewhere in the middle. If you're really keen, you can save these samples with notes of what upper tension settings you used to make them. If at some later date your tensions seem to be off, you can go back and compare before you call the service tech.

One final note: tension setting numbers are a guide, not a gospel. It's not uncommon for the ideal upper tension setting to be a bit different even between two machines of the same make and model, never mind between different brands and models. So, if the tension settings you end up with for good results are different from those of a friend, or a book, or a video, or another sewing machine
... don't sweat it, just sew it!

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Check out the website www.barnquilttrails.ca and their Facebook page for more information on barn quilt trails in an area you plan to visit this summer. After all, Ontario is "yours to discover"! AND you can even subscribe to their YouTube channel!



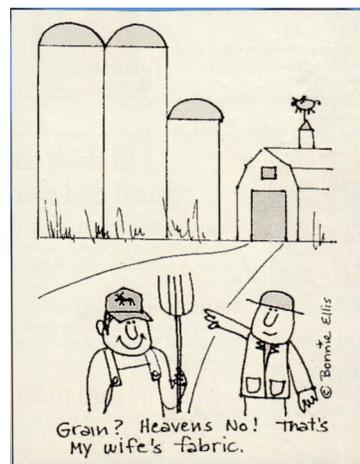
Kirkton Community Centre
Highway 23, Huron County



McClure Beef farm
Highway 25, Blyth Road
between Blyth and Walton, Huron County



Here is the first barn quilt I located this year on a farm near Punkeydoodles' Corners (where Perth County abuts Waterloo and Oxford Counties, Highway 7 and Perth County Road 101).



THANK YOU to Ruth Forbes who sent in these three photos from her recent journey along one of Ontario's many wonderful Barn Quilt Trails!



Are you interested in receiving the Northcott Monthly Newsletter?
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BOLD[®] *Beautiful* **BASICS**

Northcott's range of **Bold Beautiful Basics** offers a wide variety of reorderable blenders and solids to spark creativity and take any project to the next level. Whether it's the subtle suede-look of Toscana, the gold and silver metallics of Shimmer, or the earthy textures of Stonehenge Gradations, these fabrics will add visual interest and depth to any piece.

Head over to the Bold Beautiful Basics category at www.northcott.com to view the full range, and use the Product Finder to see who carries them near you!



Upcoming 2022 Quilting Events

- May 27/28** “Making Memories” Quilt Show, *New Millennium QG*, Mildmay (Bruce County)
- May 27/28** **New Hamburg Mennonite Relief Sale**, New Hamburg
- June 3/4** **Quilts in Bloom 2022**, Hamilton Quilters Guild, Hamilton
- June 15/18** “Reconnected”, Quilt Canada 2022, Vancouver, B.C.
- August 19/20** **Home on the Farm Quilt Show & Tea Room**, Kemptville QG, Kemptville
- Sept. 30/Oct. 1** **Once Upon a Quilt**, Brant Heritage QG, Brantford



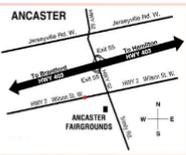
“Making Memories” Quilt Show
 Presented by:
 New Millennium Quilters’ Guild
Friday May 27, 2022 10-6pm
Saturday May 28, 2022 10-4pm
 admission \$10 (cash only)
Mildmay-Carrick Recreation Complex
 24 Vincent St., Mildmay, Ont.
INCLUDES
 • Viewers Choice
 • Vendors Market
 • Tossie Table
 • Boutique (cash only)
 • Lunch Cafe
 • Christmas Corner
 • Bed Turning
 Guest Speaker: Sharon Fisher
 “Gardening Mum Quilts”
 long arm quilts,
 wool applique,
 embellishing stitches
 Free Parking, Air Conditioned, Accessible
 COVID-19 Protocols in place
 Contact: newmillenniumquiltersguild@gmail.com

Hamilton Quilters’ Guild presents:



QUILT SHOW DATES
Fri June 3rd, 2022
 10am to 7pm
Sat June 4th, 2022
 10 am to 4pm

WHERE?
Ancaster Fairgrounds
 630 Trinity Road South
 Jerseyville ON, L0R1R0



Admission \$10
 Cash Only

Buses Welcome
Wheel Chair Accessible

Viewer’s Choice
Member’s Boutique
Merchant Mall
Tea Room
Demonstrations

Provincial Health protocols will be in place. Please check website prior to attending.
www.hamiltonquiltguild.ca



Home on the Farm Quilt Show & Tea Room
 August 19 & 20, 2022
 WB George Centre, Kemptville Campus

Quilt Show Demonstrations
 Bed Turning
 Vendors
 Tea Room
 Quilt Raffle



<https://go.onquilt.ca/hamilton2022/get-involved/quilt-competition>
 Hope to also see you at the IPM Quilt Tent September 20 - 24, 2022.



since 2022

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RETREAT

PLEASE JOIN US FOR OUR
OPEN HOUSE

SATURDAY MAY 28 | 10AM-4PM
 + SUNDAY MAY 29



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- Brand new quilting retreat facility in beautiful New Hamburg, Ontario.
- Large renovated farmhouse set on 140 secluded acres.
- 6 bedrooms that sleep 12 comfortably in separate beds.
- Bright, spacious and fully equipped work room with space for 12.
- Available for rental bookings beginning July 2022!

For more information about rental rates or bookings, call, text or email:
 Kathy - 519.584.5162 | Nancy - 519.635.4320 | springhouseretreat@gmail.com





Planning a road trip this spring? Why not visit a quilt shop or TWO

... and don't forget to mention you saw their ad in Snippets!

BURLINGTON	The Quilt Store 1-695 Plains Rd. East, Burlington / 905-631-0894
COOKSTOWN	Country Concessions 35 King St. North, Cookstown / 705-458-4546
GUELPH	Buy the Bolt 15-450 Woodlawn Rd. West, Guelph / 519-241-6051
HAMILTON	Hamilton Sewing 1564 Main St. West, Hamilton / 905-527-6794
PARIS	Heirloom Treasures 132 Governors Rd. East, Paris / 519-774-5164
SHAKESPEARE	The Quilt Place 3991 Perth Rd. 107, Shakespeare / 519-625-8435
ST. CATHARINES	Kindred Spirits Quilt Co. 211 Martindale Rd., St. Catharines / 905-397-9500
ST. CATHARINES	Up Yur Quilt 395 Ontario St., St. Catharines / 289-362-1443
ST. MARYS	Kalidoscope of Quilts 17528 Elginfield Rd., St. Marys / 226-661-4004
STRATFORD	Ye Olde Fabric Shoppe 327 Erie St., Stratford / 519-273-5773
TEESWATER	Sanity Hill Fabrics 3855 Bruce Rd. 4, Formosa/Teeswater / 519-392-6046

OTHER ADVERTISER SERVICES:

BURLINGTON	Compass Quilt Company (longarm service) 289-230-4310
BURLINGTON	Kay's Quilting & Long Arm Service H 905-332-0363 / C 289-439-2388
BURLINGTON	Honeybee Quilt Studio (longarm service)
BURLINGTON	Judy Lyons, Quilt Appraiser 905-639-2441
BURLINGTON	Sew Tec (sewing machine repairs) 905-638-3814
BURLINGTON	Darla Youldon, ReMax 289-888-1987

Please remember to tell our advertisers that we appreciate their support of our guild through their participation in our newsletter. Remember to call or visit their website to check their hours ahead of your trip.

*Please take pictures to share in Snippets. It would be great to hear about your road trips. Perhaps you might even travel on one of the Barn Quilt routes along the way! Thanks again to **Ruth Forbes** for sending along the great photos on page 13.*

