

September 2007

**Ottawa Valley
Weavers and
Spinners Guild**



Newsletter



The Guild in the news (EMC newspaper, July 27th, 2007):

"It was discovery day at Pinhey's Point July 15. The theme was From Wool To Wheel and allowed people to follow the journey wool takes from sheep to yarn. Here, members of the Ottawa Valley Weavers and Spinners Guild - Cindy O'Gorman, Mary Patterson and Francine Deguire - demonstrate how wool is spun."

President's Message

Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Great news - we got our grant money cheque from the City in the amount of \$10, 500.00! Here's wishing a good year to all guild members.

September Meeting

Monday, September 10th, at 7:30pm

"How I spent my summer holidays"

All members, new and returning, are invited to bring items for a show and tell session. Please bring projects you have finished recently, are still working on, or that you need help with. We hope this informal session will be a way to share ideas and tips with fellow members, and also act as an ice-breaker for new members.

Books & yarns for sale

There will be a big sale of yarns and books at the September meeting. We have accumulated a lot since our last sale. Bring your cash----add to your stash----all in a good cause!

General Announcements

Recent Library Acquisitions

Jan Scott

The Library has been very fortunate to have been gifted with 2 collections of books and magazines as well as being able to purchase a large selection of the OHS Library as it closed. Our amazing president, Laurie, was instrumental in the acquisition of OHS books, so please thank her for her hard work when you see her! From the collections of Ms Grace Eades and Ms Betty Petolas, we will be keeping some of the books and magazines and selling the ones we have already. The Guild members able to come to the September meeting will be able to peruse and buy! The new book list is extensive (see enclosure with this newsletter)! Please come out and see them in person!

PS!!! Please remember your library books to return at the meeting or call and renew them if you can't make it!

613-828-3256 or jsrmt@hotmail.com

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Announcements cont'd...

Weaving project in Squamish, BC

Janice George

My name is Janice George, my husband is Buddy Joseph. I want to let the guild members know we are getting to completion of the weaving project here in Squamish Territory, Vancouver BC. The program has been successful and we will see all of the weavings hanging in our Cultural Center in Whistler BC. If you could announce this at the next meeting that would be great. We would be glad to hear from any weavers, and welcome any questions people may have. Thank you, Janice.

Skye Morrison, guest speaker June 2007

José Gélina has written up some notes about our guest speaker from the June 2007 Guild meeting, Dr. Skye Morrison. These are included on a separate page with the newsletter.

Upcoming Activities

Alpaca Canada Competition

It is with much enthusiasm that Alpaca Canada extends an invitation to the members of the Ontario guilds to participate in the 2007 Alpaca Canada Yarn & Garment Competition taking place at our annual Conference in Kelowna, BC from September 29 to October 1, 2007. It promises to be an exciting event and we expect many entries from across Canada.

In general, entry and competition rules are as follows:

- all entries must consist of 50% or more alpaca fibre (yarn can be either domestic or imported);

- all items must be a one-of-a-kind crafted by the Exhibitor;
- a maximum of 1 entry per category per exhibitor; and
- judging will be based on creativity, craftsmanship, hand-feel, appropriate use of the alpaca, technique and visual appeal.

Entry fees are \$10/entry and ribbons will be awarded from 1st to 3rd place for each division/class/category with a Grand Prize Ribbon & \$100 cash prize awarded to the entry with the highest overall score. The Grand Prize winner will also receive a take-home trophy and their name will be affixed to the Alpaca Canada/Alpaca Plus Inc. Fibre Arts Competition Trophy which is permanently displayed at the Alpaca Canada office in Calgary, Alta. As well, pictures of the winning entry will be displayed on the Alpaca Canada website.

Complete rules and entry forms can be found on the Alpaca Canada website: <http://www.alpacainfo.ca/agm-conference-03.htm>. If you are not using this specific address, simply go to www.alpacainfo.ca and click the Conference & AGM tab.

We encourage guild members to take advantage of this opportunity to showcase their artistic talents.

Sincerely, Alpaca Canada Conference Committee

MERA Happenings

Ellen Good

Shibori Workshop to be held at the MERA Schoolhouse in McDonald's Corners on Sat/Sun Oct 20/21 taught by Ellen Good. Go to the MERA website meraschoolhouse.org for more details or phone Ellen at 613 479-2659. Register with Marilyn Barnett at 613 259 2269. Cost \$135 for non-members, \$125 for members.

Watch for details of the book launch for "Fabrics of Pioneer life: Tools of the Textile Arts", a catalogue of the exhibition held at the Rideau Canal Museum Smiths Falls last summer. Supported by the Ontario Arts Council. Author: Ellen Good; Editor: Heather Sherratt; Photography: David Zimmerly; Graphic Design: Carol Porteous; Administrator: Ankaret Dean.

Spinning morning on Thursdays at 10 am, Fiberarts program Thursday afternoons. More details Ankaret Dean 613 278 1203.

“Behind the Cloth” at Carleton U.

Judith Rygiel

Carleton University's Learning Initiatives program will offer this six week non credit interest course with no prerequisites and no assignments. Contact Sonia Smee at Carleton, 613-520-6624 or see the website www.carleton.ca/cie Fee is \$90.

Behind the Cloth: A Textile Detective Uncovers the Social and Economic History of 19th Century Maritime Communities

Wednesdays, November 7th – December 12th
10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m., Room 124 Leeds Residence
Dr. Judith Rygiel

Textiles and textile tools were common and often lowly items of 19th century Maritime households. However, they can also provide important clues in evaluating householders' economic and social status, trends in commerce, transportation linkages, political decisions and ethnicity. The shift in gender roles and shopping habits during the 19th century are also evident as textile workers adjusted to modernity and industrialization.

This course uses primary documents, including textile artefacts, to uncover the hidden messages between the fibers of 19th century Canadian Maritime textiles and costume. Participants will use textile clues to expand their knowledge of 19th century Canadian history. They will also hone their skills of observation and analysis by becoming, in essence, textile detectives.

Dr. Judith Rygiel is a specialist in 19th century Canadian material culture but especially domestic textiles. As a Master Weaver and Textile Artist she has operated a weaving studio for the past thirty five years in the Ottawa area.

Exhibition & Sale Update

Exhibition news:

Glebe Report article

Shirley Browski

An article has been written for the Glebe Report stating that there will be some pretty unusual fibres being shown at this year's exhibition and sale. Hence the appeal to you all to actually bring some of these experiments, articles, strange fibres to demonstrate, etc. Some of these are: bamboo, soy protein, linen, stainless steel & merino, plastic, paper, etc.

If you have any examples of the raw material, spun and or knit/woven that would enhance the learning experience of the public.

“No Animal Fibres Please” Theme Booth

Francine Deguire

I want to thank all of you who have shown interest to make our event a success plus four people (Yvonne S., Cindy O', Jane S., and Jan S.) who have offered their time on demonstrations. Representatives are still needed for the booth. It is an opportunity to learn and share knowledge on fibers.

Also, if you do have items ready for the next Ex & Sale, please bring them over at our September meeting. I will pick up the other ones that are not ready yet at the next October meeting. A label needs to be attached to your project(s) with your name printed on, your telephone number and a brief description of the products. For convenience matter further arrangements could be made, please do not hesitate to contact me. Anyone who would think of something to be ready by November, is very welcome. Please let me know. I am mainly looking for projects made out of soybean, tencel, rayon, wire, plastic, etc.

Guild Promotion Booth

Ann Sunahara

WANTED FOR THE GUILD PROMOTION BOOTH:
PHOTOS of Guild Activities -- for a slide show to promote the Guild at the Ex and Sale. -- Please bring yours to the October meeting or e-mail them to sunahara@magma.ca .
WORKSHOP SAMPLES: for a display of what we have made in past workshops -- a show of creativity! Please bring yours to the October meeting!
VOLUNTEERS: to help "man" (woman?) the booth -- Sign up to spend an hour at the Ex and Sale answering inquiries about the Guild. Contact Ann Sunahara at 613-728-9691 or sunahara@magma.ca.

WANTED

Donations and volunteers Exhibition and Sale Fundraising Booth November 2-4, 2007

Please let us know what your donation for the Fundraising Booth will be, or if you can donate some of your time to be at the booth taking care of sales.

It's for a good cause! Part of the fundraising will go to the Afghan Weaver Women!

Please contact Fatima at fdwovenarticles@gmail.com for more information or to donate.

Sale news:

Nancy Ingram

Booth Participants and Guild Members: it is time to ramp up advertising for the sale. We have postcards and bookmarks available to be placed in community centres, libraries and other public venues. Everyone can contribute to the distribution of information about the Ex & Sale. The bookmark and postcard are also available on-line and can be sent out electronically to clients, friends and relatives. You may want to send out a personal invitation to accompany the message. Contact Ann Sunahara after September 16, if you need postcards or bookmarks; or, sign them out at the Resource Centre; or, pick them up at the Guild meeting on September 10.

We have started to advertise in community newspapers. So far, an ad has been sent to the Mainstreeter, an Ottawa East paper. We intend to target many more with ads along with written articles. Roberta Murrant is our advertising coordinator and is busy getting information out. If you would like to help out contact Roberta at robertaandroy@rogers.com.

Our 20 booth spaces are now filled. I will have a proposed floor plan at the September meeting. Check with me then for your location. We may find the space a bit tighter this year but it makes for an excellent show.

Set up will again be scheduled from 12 to 4 on the Friday. No one can begin to set up individual booths until the hall has been laid out and cleared of extra chairs etc. All booth holders should be available to help -- I will write up a note for booth holders and send it out early in the fall.

We have an interesting mix of booth participants – weavers, spinners, fibre artists and suppliers. It is shaping up to be a great show.

Remember! For a successful event we all have to get the word out: Communicate! Promote! Advertise!

Workshops

Elizabeth Watt

The Fall 2007 schedule is now posted on the website, including a beginning weaving course taught in 4 sections. Spinning, basketry, felting and knit design are all represented. The advertisement in the City of Ottawa Arts calendar is out and we are hoping for a lot of interest from the general public. Classes are small, so register early to ensure a place.

A reminder that if you want to take a class, I need confirmation of your attendance, preferably with payment, at least 1 week prior. Instructors usually need to put together supply packages - they need time to do that. Also remember that materials fees are payable to the instructor, not the guild, please don't include it in your registration cheque.

Workshops contact: Elizabeth Watt 613 692-6115, elizabeth@wattfamily.ca

Marketplace

45" Clement 4-pedal loom
2 bobbin winders (1 electric)
3 reeds, extra shuttles, patterns
\$400
Angele 613-834-1367

A set of new Howard Hand Card. \$ 50.
Contact Elisabeth at info@llamaranch.ca or call
613-774-1514

Advertising rates:

Members: \$12 for first 25 words or less, + \$0.23 for each additional word. Non-members: \$15 for 25 words or less, + \$0.28 for each additional word. Business Card size: \$18/issue or \$150/year; ¼ or ½ page: \$30 or \$32/issue. Commercial: \$15 for 20 words, + \$0.45/additional word, Full page: \$79/issue.

To place an advertisement, phone or email Tuula Talvila at 613-565-3754, tuulat@gmail.com.

Announcements of special events carry no charge to members unless items are specified for sale or services for reimbursement appear in the event notice. Advertisements must be pre-paid.

Minutes

Ottawa Valley Weavers and Spinners Guild – Monthly Guild Meeting

Monday, June 4th, 2007

Gallery, Heartwood House

Written & recorded by Cindy O'Gorman

Chair: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Meeting was called to order at 7:35pm.

Guests and Executive & Convenor members were welcomed and introduced.

-Laurie Harkin-Chiasson set up our **Guild display** of pillows at the back of the meeting room. Our Guild display was previously on display at the OHS conference in early May 2007 to go along with their theme of Old Worlds, New Ways. We decided to bring back a Guild Challenge of several years ago to make pillows using a variety of techniques in the colour theme of all white, all black, or black and white together. We received many positive comments on our display. Great thanks go to Laurie for designing the backdrop/information, setting it up and transporting it back and forth from the conference, and all the members who contributed to the display by creating wonderful pillows.

Business Meeting/Announcements

-Ex & Sale (Nancy Ingram - Chair):

- Roberta Murrant (who is handling promotion for the Ex & Sale) would like to know of community bulletin boards where we could advertise
- 2 booths are left to sell
- business card sized ads will be purchased
- postcards are almost ready
- Tuula Talvila will organize Co-op booth
- Jack Lane is donating a coverlet to the Guild Sale Table and members are encouraged to create an item for the Guild Sale Table as well
- budget for the sale looks good

-Spinning Retreat (Judith Rygiel): Only 6 people are signed up...she'll wait for the June 30 early bird deadline, but otherwise it will be cancelled if we don't get our minimum.

-Demonstrations (Cindy O'Gorman)

-3 demonstration events have already been completed: Cumberland Heritage Museum, Goulbourn Heritage Museum and Dickinson Days (Manotick). Pinhey's Point is coming up on July 15th with several volunteers already. Carp Fair is coming up in late September. We have had 2 new requests for demonstration opportunities: Smith Falls Festival and Kingston for getting a team for a Sheep to Shawl Event. Cindy described the events and said she would pursue them if anyone volunteered for the events otherwise, since they are out of town, we will not be able to attend.

-Back to Back Wool Challenge (Cindy O'Gorman): Three teams took part in this event: West Carleton Woolies (of which 2 members from OVWSG took part; Cindy and Francine Deguire), Mill of Kintail, Mera Knit Pickers. All 3 teams were unfinished after 8 hours when they packed it in, but had a good time.

-MOTION: To accept the nomination of Shirley Browsky as 1st Vice President

-All in Favour

-No abstentions

MOTION PASSED

-St. Distaff's Wrap-Up: Guild Table sales were \$251

-Thank you to Jan Scott for the beautiful creation of the St. Distaff's Day brochure

-Guild RC Brochure: will be updated by Judy Kavanagh soon.

-Indigo Workshop: still spaces available for Saturday only (June 8)

-Workshops (Elizabeth W.): We need workshop instructors and ideas for the Fall Arts Calendar.

-**Membership:** there are about 40 members still to renew. Membership cards will be picked up at the printer's soon.

-**In Depth Studies** (Laurie H-C)

-currently stored under synagogue in 28 boxes. They will be checked soon for starting condition.

-terms of their release to us will be reported soon.

-grant response will be by the end of June

-**Next meeting:** September 10th, 2007

-**Executive meeting:** Monday, June 18th, 2007 at 7:00pm

Show & Tell

-Ann Mc., Kate and Pat T. showed their recent vessel felt workshop creations with Sharon Costello. There were examples of cutwork and "pockets".

-Cindy O'G showed her little black & white handwoven canvas weave bolster pillow with original handspun black Icelandic lamb Blackwork embroidery designs.

-Fatima D. showed her Wool/Sheep wreath

-Mary M. showed her fabric resist samples created during a St. Distaff's day Workshop with Judith Rygiel.

-Elizabeth W. encouraged members to create their own Tit Bits to be donated to the Regional Cancer Centre (they have a drawer waiting to collect our offerings).

Program

Ann Sunahara introduced Dr. Skye Morrison, folklorist and textile designer on her work in India helping women set up spinning/weaving/embroidery cooperatives.

(Report to follow by José Gélinas)

The meeting ended at 9:30 pm.

Ottawa Valley Weavers and Spinners Guild

Meetings & Resource Centre: Heartwood House, 153 Chapel St., Ottawa, Ont.

Correspondence: Ottawa Valley Weavers and Spinners Guild
Heartwood House, 153 Chapel Street
Ottawa, Ontario K1N 1H5

Web Page: <http://www.ovwsg.com>

Yahoo Group: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ovwsg/>

Newsletter Editor: Tuula Talvila (tuulat@gmail.com, 613-722-4808)