

Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

November 2008 Newsletter

President's Message

At the October meeting, I advised those present that the Guild had been offered a studio space on the top floor of Heartwood House. We are in negotiations with Heartwood House and hope to be moving in the first week of January 2009. This space will be more conducive to our fibre arts activities and the library will also be located in this room. There is a sink and counter with lots of cupboards and lots of light.

Your Executive has decided to give this new space a chance for one to two years. We hope during that time that more workshops will be held and more people would take part in weaving, spinning, basketry, felting and dyeing in our new space. It has been a long haul with Heartwood House over the years with much frustration on both sides, but now we will reap the reward of patience.

In polling our members, only a few responded to my request for input. The one complaint was that some members felt the neighbourhood unsafe. There is no basis for this as it is one of the most policed areas of the city and most people you encounter on the street are courteous. The parking lot is well lit as it also serves the Synagogue who is extremely security conscious.

We will be calling on volunteers to help us pack up the old studio and move it to the new studio. Please answer that call - husbands and sons will be welcomed.

Our 60th Anniversary Challenge is going strong with 14 paid up teams entered. I am looking forward to seeing these entries in April.

Please remember that our November non-meeting will be held Friday, October 31st at the Exhibition and Sale. There will be no business meeting and the exhibitors are the program. Please take advantage of their knowledge and ask them how they do what they do and if they are willing to present a program or workshop for the Guild.



Inside this Issue ...

- 1 President's Message
- 1 Next Meeting
- **2** General Announcements
- 3 Resource Centre Weaving Studio
- 3 Library News
- 4 Demonstrations
- 4 Exhibition & Sale
- 5 Workshops & Courses
- 5 Other Upcoming Events
- **6** Guild Meeting Minutes
- 7 Editor's Note
- 8 Marketplace
- 9 Calendar of Events

Next Meeting: Friday October 31st

MEETING DATE AND LOCATION CHANGE...

Program

A unique opportunity to gather information from successful fibre artists taking part in this year's Ex and Sale. All members are encouraged to take part in a special survey being arranged to gather information which will be used to guide the scheduling of workshops and programs in the next couple of years. I look forward to receiving your input.

Anne Middleton - Program Coordinator (613-728-0941) amiddleton@inspection.gc.ca

Exhibition & Sale Program

Instead of holding the regular OVWSG meeting on Monday 3 November, the Friday night at the Exhibition and Sale will serve as a special evening for Guild members (although we will of course, also be open to the public). As the program, members will have the opportunity to interact with fellow Guild members and with vendors. You can try spinning and weaving at the demo area, check out the exhibition of work and talk to the executive about the resource centre, programs and workshops. There are many talented artisans exhibiting and selling their work. This is an opportunity for you to talk to any of the 30 vendors about how they produce their work. Approach the ones you like and ask them if they are interested in giving a program and/or a

workshop. There are vendors making baskets, weaving household fabrics, hooking rugs, making hats, felting articles, weaving in wire, weaving fashion garments etc. This is your chance to learn more about your craft. It is also your turn to select what you want to see and hear at a program or what you want to study at a workshop. Take time to talk to the artisans (be respectful if they are dealing with a client) and sign a sheet at the Guild table to indicate your choices. Have fun going around the room to mingle with your fellow guild members and vendors at the Sale. Take time to shop for finished articles and fibre products offered for sale at the various booths.

If you are unable to attend the Exhibition and Sale on the Friday evening but plan to be there on Saturday or Sunday, feel free to identify vendors you would like to have give a program or workshop and fill out the sheets at the Guild table.

Look forward to seeing you at the Exhibition and Sale! Nancy Igram

Studio Tip:

Looking for yet another place to stash more yarn and fibre? Stack new clean paint cans or jars on their sides on shelves and stuff them full of your favorite fibres and yarns!

Adapted from Cloth-Paper-Scissors Studios Magazine, Interweave Press, Fall/Winter 2008, pg 8.

General Announcements

Hostess Needed for Guild Meetings

This is call for volunteers to act as hostess to the monthly Guild meetings on Monday nights. All that is required is to pick up some snacks and beverages to be made available for each meeting. Set up and take down time is minimal. Please contact Pat Trudel at patsy@ncf.ca for more details.

OBITUARY

Peter Collingwood - Master Weaver

On October 9, 2008, the world lost one of its talented authors, teachers and innovative weavers. He died peacefully and suddenly in his studio doing what he loved most. Many of our lives have crossed his by way of the books that he wrote:

The Techniques of Rug Weaving
The Techniques of Sprang
The Techniques of Tablet Weaving
The Maker's Hand
Rug Weaving Techniques
The Techniques of Ply-Split Braiding

Peter Collingwood, born 1922, abandoned his first career in medicine in favour of life as a weaver. He trained in three production workshops before setting up his own studio. Later he began weaving wall hangings and smaller objects like tablet-woven belts. He has exhibited worldwide, notably a large show in 1968 with Hans Coper in the V&A Museum London, which was the first time this museum had shown the work of living makers. A retrospective of his work toured the UK, Sweden and the US during 1998. Throughout his career weaving had been mixed with annual teaching visits to the USA and he has written six books, regarded as definitive on specific techniques, based on museum and field research.

Peter has always been obsessed by the myriad ways, from any time or place, that threads can be interworked to make a fabric - 'converting the linear into the planar'. This has led him to inventing ways of altering the loom to create different effects, such as Shaft-switching. Angelfell and Macrogauze. He was currently working with museums on technical analyses of textiles. From an interview: Peter Collingwood: "Though living from weaving, after abandoning medicine, I have always had an intense interest in any method of thread interworking. After tablet weaving and sprang had been dealt with, ply-split braiding was the exciting next technique I approached. I compiled what I hoped would be the complete book on the subject. What is now apparent is that guite new applications are being found for a technique originally tied exclusively to camel trappings."

This thought stands for almost all of our fibre arts - what was once a utilitarian item has now become art leading into a world of discovery of "what if".

Internet Goodies for Weavers and Spinners

Elizabeth Watts

Did you know that there is a magazine for weavers on the Internet? It's called "WeaveZine" and can be found at www.weavezine.com. The editor is Syne Mitchell, also known for her podcast for weavers called "WeaveCast" which can be found at ww.weavecast.com and on i-tunes.

Never heard of an internet zine? In short they are magazines published on web pages instead of paper. They have articles, advertising, projects, columns etc and usually come out on a regular schedule just like paper magazines. If you want to make project you can print it out, but otherwise, you read it on the screen. There are several for knitters, Knitty.com being the most well-known and oldest. WeaveZine is the first one for weavers. The current issue is the third, it features weaving on Inkle and other looms which produce narrow bands and has several projects suited to these looms. Even I, who firmly DOES NOT WEAVE, was intrigued by the articles and projects. And I could understand them, they were clear and easy to follow with my limited understanding of weaving. One running column is called "Knit 1 Weave 1" and features two coordinated projects, one woven and one knit - for example a knit tank top and a woven sarong. Perfect for teaming weavers, spinners and knitters.

And what's a "podcast"? These are essentially radio shows which you can download and listen to on a computer or MP3 player. There are thousands available on every topic imaginable, but WeaveCast is of particular interest to weavers. Podcasts are usually produced by amateurs with an interest a particular topic and a willingness to share; they are free, though some shows politely request voluntary donations to cover costs. They vary in production quality and style enormously. Syne produces a very professional sounding show with a theme and structure for each episode. The last one I listened to was about teaching weaving. One about Rigid Heddle looms, with an interview with Betty Davenport, had me toying with the idea of (don't anyone get too excited, you know who you are!) maybe, just maybe, trying one. Even though I DO NOT WEAVE I really enjoy this show and learn something from each one. You can download all the episodes either from the website www.weavecast.com or through i-tunes.

Go try these out and next month I'll tell you about other zines and podcasts for the fibre obsessed.

Resource Centre - Weaving Studio

For the rest of this year, Sue Quinn and I will be available to help at the Weaving Studio by appointment. Just call and arrange a time. Mary Morrison, (613) 830-9992 morrmry@sympatico.ca

Samples to Try

There are 2 table looms set up for members to try new weaves in the Studio. Judith Rygiel has set up an 8 shaft advancing twill weave and Shirley Browsky set up a 4 shaft log cabin lace weave. These looms have their treadling and weaving directions and are available for any member to weave a sample. Please identify your sample and when all are completed, they will be cut apart and given to the participants complete with weaving records. If you have never woven, this is a great opportunity to try it. If you have never woven on an 8 shaft loom, now is the time. Please contact Mary Morrison for access. Have fun!

Weave on the 100 inch loom! Now is your chance to help weave a coverlet for the Guild. Spend an hour or two of working in tandem with an experienced weaver to create an overshot coverlet that the Guild can raffle off on its 60th Anniversary. Daytime, evenings or weekends. Contact Ann Sunahara 613-728-9691 or sunahara@magma.ca to learn more.

Library News

Jan Scott

Remember the next meeting will be on Friday Oct 31st at the Exibition and Sale so the library won't be open that night. Please bring your books back for the December meeting.

Weaving Tip:

When warping with more than two ends, place a reed across two chairs over the cones. Thread the ends through the reed to keep threads feeding vertically and to avoid tangling.

Weavers' Wisdom, The Weavers' Guild of Boston

Demonstrations

A Spur of the Moment Demo

Gordon Moat

There was an auction on Snake Island Road west of Metcalfe where an old loom was up for sale. I managed to get a viewing on my way home from work Friday for 10 minutes and met the owner.

As I told him how the pieces were used I could see his interest building. Not only were there the loom and shuttles, bobbins all hand crafted but also the warping mill, spool rack with bobbins and a horizontal skein winder. He gave me permission to photograph it the next morning before it was sold. Of course, everything was all in pieces lying in the bedroom upstairs when I saw them.

On the way to the sale that morning I decided to take a considerable gamble. I offered to assemble the loom which by then was laid out in a mess of pieces jumbled with all the other accessory pieces on a hay rack under the only tent at the sale. Both the owner and auctioneer were agreeable.

I started assembly as the sale started at 10 a.m. and by 12 p.m. was finished. It took a little trial and error but everything I needed was there. Some of the younger generation of the Deschambault family assisted me. We also had all the other pieces for warping assembled in the same time. To do this for items I had never seen assembled before was thrilling. Along the way I can't count the number of people who were told about weaving. As the day wore on many of them kept coming up and commenting about the novelty of the loom.

It was wonderful to see the public learning about weaving as we worked to assemble items. I did have one asset in George Dowson who sat on the rack and kept me on the straight and narrow. He worked in a mill for many years before going to Upper Canada Village and continued in the mill on the big loom there. The purists might have decried my use of the only yellow plastic rope I had in my truck to tie things together for safety (tenons were broken and dowels missing). I realized that the cloth beam was a replacement beam after searching unsuccessful for the attachment for the absent dog to go with the tension ratchet. The loom originally did not have a ratchet tension system but would have had a 'tie the dowel where it is tight' system. The reeds were metal and thus post date 1850 but could also have been addons replacing original reed reeds. The family has memory of a grandmother weaving with this loom in the 1900s. There was no evidence of spinning wheels save a bobbin from a flyer wheel. It was being used in a modified fashion on a dowel.

The auctioneer (Carson Hill) was so taken beyond his ken that he gave me the microphone to describe how everything was used before he sold the loom. The owner was beaming and earned fair dollar because every bidder recognized what was on the block. Suffice it to say the loom has stayed in Eastern Ontario and the new owner has offered to make it available to the museum in Osgoode Township for their Pioneer Days next year should they be interested.

For more information on participating in demonstrations contact Cindy O'Gorman cgo244@yahoo.ca.

Exhibition & Sale

Please take time to attend the Exhibition and Sale 31 October, 1 November and 2 November at the Glebe Community Centre and in particular make a special effort to participate in our special Guild evening on the Friday.

The title of the Exhibition and Sale this year is "More Than Cloth". It is a perfect name for the event and has served us well in our advertising and promotion. We have 23 Vendor booths plus the Guild Booth, adding up to approximately 30 vendors who are selling handwoven household textiles, creative fashions, artworks produced in a variety of techniques plus a select group of suppliers selling yarns for weaving and fleece to felt and spin. This is an opportunity to see the work of some of our best fibre artists in the area and to encourage them to give a program or workshop which will benefit you and the Guild. It is also an opportunity for you to shop for yourself and for gifts for the season. Or, you may want to become involved and volunteer at one of the Guild tables.

This is my last year to chair the Exhibition and Sale and I want to extend my sincere thanks to all guild members and vendors who have worked to promote and organize the event. It is my hope that a new chair person will come forward and we can continue this important Guild

event which promotes our craft and educates the public – both important aspects of the Guild's mandate. It is especially important to continue the Exhibition and Sale as we approach the celebration of the Guild's 60th anniversary. If you are interested in participating next year and want to assist in the organizing of the event, please indicate your intentions by signing a sheet at the Guild table.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable time at the Exhibition and Sale and wish all vendors great success in their sales.

Please see the November Program Notes of further details about the Friday evening.

My thanks, Nancy Ingram

Volunteers needed: Come and help your Guild at the Exhibition and Sale!

We need an hour or two of your time on Saturday November 1 or Sunday November 2 to:

- -- demonstrate weaving, spinning, felting, basketry or another fibre art
- -- discuss the Guild with the public at the Exhibition
- -- watch over the display of objects created by our members or
- -- help to dismantle the display Contact Ann Sunahara 613-728-9691 or sunahara@magma.ca with your availability

See you at the OVWSG Exhibition and Sale!

Workshops and Courses

The OVWSG offers courses and workshops in weaving, spinning, and dyeing, for very reasonable fees. Why not learn a new craft or improve your skill level? Below are some of the courses available this Fall to members (and non-members). For more information please check our website at

http://www.ovwsg.com/ovwsg/classschedulefall2008.pdf

Weaving

Beginning Weaving

This course is taught in 4 parts which will repeated in the Spring Session.

Cost: \$180 members/\$220 non-members.

Materials cost: \$10 Time: 10 am – 4 pm Instructor: Mary Morrison

Part 1: Sunday October 26, 2008 Part 2: Sunday November 9, 2008 Part 3: Sunday November 23, 2008 Part 4: Sunday December 7, 2008

Basketry

Pine Needle Basket

Level: Beginner

Time: 11:00 am - 4:00 pm

Cost: \$80 members, \$90 non-members Instructor: Laurie Harkin-Chiasson

Materials: \$20

Part 1: Sunday November 16, 2008 Part 2: Sunday November 30, 2008

Spinning

Introduction to Spinning

Saturday November, 22 2008

Level: Beginner

Time: 10:30 am - 3:30 pm

Cost: \$40 members, \$50 non-members

Materials Fee: \$12 Instructor: Elizabeth Watt

Sign up now! Space can be limited.

Please make cheques payable to "OVWSG"

Mail to: Elizabeth Watt, Registrar.,

c/o: 1118 West Ave, Manotick, ON K4M 1G6

Contact: 613-692-6115, elizabeth@wattfamily.ca

Please make a separate cheque for each course, Date

the cheque for one (1) week before the course.

Materials Fees are payable to the instructor. Please do

not include them in your cheque for the course.

Other Upcoming Events

Events at the National Gallery of Canada

380 Sussex Drive

OFF-THE-WALL ART WORKSHOPS FOR TEENS

Participate in a series of workshops run by the Teen Council on the theme of Artistic peace. Take advantage of this great opportunity to meet other teens, get to know local artists, and create off-the-wall art. **Cost: \$5**

per workshop (Members \$4). Registration required: 613-998-8888.

Saturday 25 October from 1 pm to 4:30 pm

<u>Invocations of Peace: A Vision Weave with Thoma Ewen</u> and Graham Thompson

In this workshop, **teen** participants will express a vision of peace in fabric, video and the web in a collective vision weave tapestry. The process will be video recorded and transmitted via an online blog, with video segments uploaded to the Teen Council's Facebook page.

A must see exhibit at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum is proud to present our current exhibition 'A Day in the Life of Maggy M.' a traveling exhibition produced by The City of Gatineau's Gallerie Montcalm, Gatineau, Quebec. 'A Day in the Life of Maggie M.' a stitchwork exhibit is on display in the Wool Hall Gallery of the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum. This exciting exhibition provides a new perspective on the routines of everyday life. It highlights the beauty in each activity and is sympathetic to the subject. Michèle Prevost, of Gatineau, Quebec, follows the life of her sister in law, Maggie M. like movie stills. Each piece is a window into her life - her relationships, responsibilities, and thoughts. Each piece is alive with vibrant embroidery and modern lines. This exhibition is a new perspective on art and storytelling, and will inspire visitors to appreciate the culminating activities of daily life.

The exhibition closes November 9, 2008 at 4 pm
The Mississippi Valley Textile Museum is located at 3
Rosamond Street East in Almonte, Ontario. We are open from 10am to 4pm, Wednesday through Sunday.
Admission is \$2.50. For more information contact:
Michael Rikley-Lancaster, Curator
Mississippi Valley Textile Museum
613 256 3754
mvtm@magma.ca
www.textilemuseum.mississippimills.com

First Annual Westport Christmas Show and Sale

(juried) - December 6 & 7 and December 13 & 14 at the beautiful Stepping Stone Inn in Westport. Call Loretta Moore 613-273-8347 or email lbmc@videotron.ca for more details

October Guild Meeting Minutes

Merilyn Mulligan
Monday October 6, 2008
Gallery, Heartwood House

(Written & Recorded by Merilyn Mulligan)
Meeting called to order at 7.30 P.M by Shirley Browsky

Exhibition and Sale

Nancy Ingram advised us of her progress with our Exhibition and Sale. The Flyers must be sent out now and the advertising is now going into the small papers. Sue Quinn and Anne Jackson have organized the free parking and if anyone has any questions they are to contact Sue or Anne.

We have 30 vendors and this will be our opportunity to get some of them to do Workshops and Programs at our meetings, try to have them do demonstrations. Volunteers are needed for the Exhibition and Sale and the Co-op table, please contact Ann Sunahara.

Executive

Shirley Browsky requested that Mary Morrison be appointed to the list of Executive Officers. Shirley Browsky brought forward the motion to appoint Mary Morrison to the Executive and all were in favour.

Resource Centre

Heartwood House has offered us a new room on the third floor, it has windows, space for our library, looms and it also contains a sink.

The Heartwood House general meeting will be held next week and they will then let us know exactly what our rent would be. The move would be after January 1, 2009.

Workshops

Elizabeth Watts advised that we need more people for the Pine Needle and Design Drafting

Programs

Dyanne Beauvalet has stepped down as Programs Coordinator and Ann Middleton has taken over the position.

Dr Judith Rygiel, a member of the OVWSG for 25 years went back to University and earned a PHD in the History of Acadian Textiles.

Judith had attended an Art History conference last week in Montreal gave a very interesting and informative

presentation on Blankets of Beauty and repeated this same for us.

She began with a quote from a weaver she had remembered for several years "I make these blankets to keep my family warm and to keep my heart from breaking"

Canadian Textiles were mostly bedding and these were private and as artwork were anonymous. We saw photographs of women knitting in the springtime as well as a wool-teasing Frolic. This was communal work that made tedious tasks more pleasant and completed much quicker, such as a carding bee or cutting wood. These could be all female or all male or mixed and they chatted, sang and laugh while they worked.

We saw photographs of ladies weaving which were used as advertisements for tourists to entice them to come visit and see exotic people weaving traditional headscarves.

Cloth was listed in three categories, functional, decorative bedding and clothing. Some used clothing was taken apart, shredded, carded, re-spun and rewoven into new fabric.

The weavers in Louisiana make the exact same textiles as those in Acadia.

Show and Tell

<u>Yvonne</u> had a mohair shawl from Russian, very Lacey, very light; also a top made of blue silk and brown keviot, all of the fibre was hand spun.

<u>Laurie Harkin-Chiasson</u> advised us that two of our members have articles printed in the magazine "Fibre Focus". Judith Rygiel on our challenge for our 60th anniversary and Laurie Harkin-Chiasson on our in depth studies showing pictures of our library.

Francesca showed us scarves woven in different techniques.

<u>Judith Rygiel</u> brought in a book bag made of fused plastic grocery bags made in east India by the Indian Women

Ann Sunahara spoke to us about our display at the Exhibition and Sale asking for items we might wish to display and advised us that the 100" loom was set up and ready to use

Meeting Adjourned at 8:45 and everyone went to inspect the de-stash table and to purchase anything of interest to them.

Editor's Note

Melanie Overduin

Whether we like it or not, the computer age is upon us. The constantly changing, ever changing technology can even affect your activities with this guild. Some of you have been having trouble opening the Newsletter. That is because you may need to upgrade your Adobe® Reader®. Adobe® Reader® is the tool for opening PDF files, the file our newsletter is in.

Go to the following link:

http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html to download the latest version of Adobe® Reader® - its free so all it will take you is time! Click on the Download now and let your computer do the rest for you. If you have dial up, just click download now and spin, weave, felt or have a cup of coffee for a few minutes. Then go back to your computer to check on its progress. You may have to restart your computer to activate your new download. This upgrade Adobe Reader should solve the problems you have of not opening the newsletter. Don't hesitate to contact me if you are still having problems. melanie_overduin45@hotmail.com



Marketplace



Looms for Sale from OVWSG

Floor Looms:

 - 45" Leclerc counter-balance, in working order but needs some refurbishing: \$200 or best offer!
 - 36" Leclerc jack-type: \$200

Table Looms:

- two Leclerc 15" "Dorothy" models: \$95 each

THESE LOOMS MAY BE VIEWED AT THE RESOURCE CENTRE during meetings, or by appointment.

Contact Mary Morrison:

morrmry@sympatico.ca or 613 830-9992

For Sale

Nilus Leclerc 36" Floor Loom Includes: 3 reeds, 4 shuttles, bench with 2 open ends, warping board & bobbin winder. Beautiful condition! Call (613) 321-7958; \$1000.

Marketplace Advertising Rates

Members can now advertise for free!

The Marketplace portion of the OVWSG Newsletter is used to promote and assist its members. Current members of the OVWSG can advertise at no charge. Some restrictions may apply as to space availabitlity and file restrictions

Rates for Non-members:

\$15.00 for first 25 words of less; + \$0.28 for each additional word

Business Card Size: \$18.00/issue or \$150.00/year

¼ page: \$30/issue. ½ page: \$32/issue.

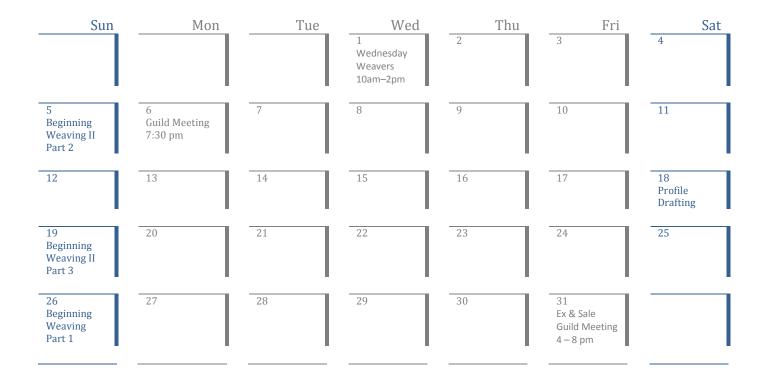
Commercial: \$15.00 for 20 words, + \$0.45/additional

words. Full page: \$32/issue

Contact Melanie Overduin; melanie overduin45@hotmail.com

OVWSG Calender of Events

October 2008



November 2008

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat 1 Ex & Sale 10 am - 5 pm
2 Ex & Sale 10 am – 5 pm	3	4	5	6	7	8
9 Beginning Weaving II Part 2	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Pine Needle Basket Part 1	17	18	19	20	21	22 Intro to Spinning
23 Beginning Weaving II Part 3 31 Pine Needle Basket Part 2	24	25	26	27	28	29

December 2008

Sun	Mon 1 Guild Meeting 7:30 pm	Tue 2	Wed 3	Thu 4	Fri 5	Sat 6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			