

# PENELOPE'S NEWS



March 2015

The newsletter of the Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild

Marianne Heggteit.....*Board Chair*  
Sayward Johnson.....*Board Vice Chair*  
Kelly MacGregor.....*President*  
Kathleen Schwass.....*Treasurer*  
Ruth Cooper.....*Corporate Secretary*  
Sandra Jager, Brenda  
Mills.....*Studio Managers*  
Elizabeth Watt *Education Coordinator*

The Ottawa Valley Weavers' and Spinners' Guild (OVWSG) is a non-profit, incorporated organization, whose mandate is "to encourage its membership to achieve a high aesthetic standard and technical expertise and to promote and foster the knowledge of, interest in, and appreciation for historic and contemporary weaving, spinning, and their related fibre arts."

## President's Message

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### Open Studio Days

Every Tuesday and Friday.  
Everyone welcome. Tuesday is  
potluck lunch.

### Meeting Info

***This month's meeting:***  
Monday March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 7.30pm

#### ***Program:***

Celine Paquette from La Ferme  
le Moment Present

#### ***Next meeting:***

Monday, April 13th, 2015, at  
7.30pm

As I write this message to you the Lunar New Year has begun. It is another celebration and another opportunity to set some goals for the year.

One of my goals this year for the OVWSG is to pull together a Strategic Plan. This process has begun. At the end of January I met with the majority of members who volunteer in operational positions. We had an amazing day together in our new classroom space. We had a potluck lunch and we got some great work done.

We brainstormed and discussed and shared ideas and came up with a draft Vision Statement and Mission Statement for the guild. These are still in draft form and when they are finalized they will be shared with all at an upcoming meeting.

We discussed the overall process of creating our plan. And then we got into groups and created some wonderful ideas for 3-year, 5-year and 10-year goals for the guild. At the end of the meeting a number of members volunteered to form a Strategic Plan Working Group. This Working Group will hash out the details, refining and articulating the goals, along with the "hows" and resources needed to reach the goals.

Goal setting templates abound and we reviewed SMART goals. That is, Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-based. Thus, the final plan will contain SMART goals for the time periods of three, five and ten years. In addition, the plan will include methods and dates for evaluating goals to be sure we are on track to achieving the goals.

My personal guild goal is to have the final Strategic Plan to you, the members of the OVWSG, by the end of 2015. In terms of weaving, I aim to complete my daughter's wedding gift - before

her second anniversary this fall! Currently working away at the Block Weaving course, I am inspired with lots of ideas. I recently realized I have many fluff projects around and will endeavor to completely spin these piles of fluff. The fleece stock will grow at shearing time and this year I have some special fleece in the flock – so, I'd better get going!

So, what are your SMART goals for 2015? Do you have a “guild goal”? What are your fluff goals? What stuff will you do with fluff in 2015, this year of the Ram / Sheep / Goat – all fluff producers!

Kelly,

President

#### **WHERE TO FIND THE OVWSG ONLINE:**

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/OttawaValleyWeaversandSpinnersGuild/>

Ravelry: <http://www.ravelry.com/groups/ottawa-valley-weavers-and-spinners-guild-ovwsg>

## Announcements from guild coordinators

### Workshops

Workshops continue to be very busy over the next while. I unfortunately had to cancel “Intro to Kumihimo” due to insufficient enrolment, but we hope to reschedule it later in the year.

Bringing Overshot into the 21st Century is in danger of cancellation with only one person registered thus far. I need at least 3 more by Mar 2 to run this workshop as students need time ahead to prepare materials.

Looking towards March and April many workshops are already full but there is currently space in the following workshops. Please see the website for details:

March 21: Intro to Basketry - Wool Drying Basket. 4 spaces

March 14, 21: Bringing Overshot into the 21st Century

April 12, 19, 26, May 3: Intro to Multi-Shaft Weaving

April 18: Plain Weave Frivolities Acadian Style

April 25: Wet Felted Bird House

Please use the form on the website to register. It makes it so much easier for me to keep track!

Please also continue to let me know if you want to request a workshop. We are trying some new things, like evening workshops, and will see how they go.

Lastly, I had a request from a lady who is willing to come quite a distance to learn Card Weaving. She asked if we could schedule something the week of May 11-15. If you are interested in joining her, please let me know as soon as possible.

Elizabeth Watt, Workshops Registrar

## Membership

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL time is approaching!

All memberships expire on April 30, 2015, except those members who joined in 2015.

The membership table will start to take your renewals at the next meeting on Mon. Mar. 2, 2015

Please use a membership application/renewal form with your payment. I need a paper trail for my records.

You can renew

1. In person at a meeting
2. Online at [www.ovwsg.com](http://www.ovwsg.com) Membership tab and follow the instructions
3. By cheque (made out to OVWSG) and mailed to:

OVWSG

Heartwood House

404 McArthur Ave.

Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8      Attention: Membership

## 2015 Ex & Sale

We had a very dynamic meeting on Saturday Feb 14. I would like to thank everyone who was able to attend. The venue for this year's sale has been booked and the date confirmed:

November 6-8 2015

Glebe Community Center

**Our focus this year will be to attract more people to attend our event!!** To that end we will need volunteers for the following working groups:

### **Communication and Marketing group**

1. Create a cohesive Communication plan
2. Research all social media opportunities
3. Design poster and bookmark
4. Determine the most cost effective publicity
5. Discuss possibility of radio and TV interview
6. Promote the process of the 100 inch loom and the Linus blankets
7. Promotion to all other guilds
8. Create some advertising in French to tap into that market
9. Yarn bombing the Glebe
10. Wabi-Sabi display window in October

## **Demos**

1. Schedule for the weekend
2. Possibly have a variety of demos every few hours
3. Possibly have fibre prep, spinning, weaving, felting.
4. The goal is to have a more organized approach

## **Workshop table**

1. Volunteers to answer peoples questions regarding workshops
2. Possibility of registering during the Ex and Sale
3. This table is very important for the guild

## **OVWSG table**

1. Greet the people attending our event
2. Find a way to track the number of visitors
3. Develop a quick survey
4. Administer the survey
5. Organize and present information about the guild
6. Sell Raffle tickets
7. Discuss how to display the Raffle prizes

## **Co-op table**

1. Gather products from the members that have been juried
2. Setup of the Co-op table

As you can see this event will need all the hands and minds we can get!! Everyone is able to help in so many different ways and different groups. Anyone who would like to help this year, please email me at [guildsale@ovwsg.com](mailto:guildsale@ovwsg.com) and let me know which group you would be interested in joining. If you have other ideas on how you can help let me know that too.

We need to start organizing our working groups since we need to get some of this information organize as soon as possible this year.

I look forward to hearing from many of you!

Carole Stuart, Ex & Sale Co-ordinator

**Ten Things you shouldn't say when pricing handmade items:** interesting blog post by Chloe (linked by permission)

<https://peskychloe.wordpress.com/2014/01/26/ten-things-you-shouldnt-say-when-pricing-handmade-items/>

# Library

## Contacting us:

It was brought to my attention that a member could not find our email to contact us and renew her book. We are in the process of putting stickers with our mailing address and email in the back of every book. We had been trying to add them during normal circulation and because of the busy-ness of meetings we occasionally miss one but have been trying our best. As we do the full book count this year we will endeavor to put stickers on all the book pockets at the back of the books (a very big job). We have also been trying to put due date slips into the card pockets of outgoing books, which also have our contact information on it. So if you don't see the library@ovwsg.com on the web site it should be at the back of each book (or will be shortly!). This should rectify the contact issue.

## The Book Count:

At this time we have about 5 more shelves to check then it is on to the magazines. This year the library team has been Lynda Beaudoin, Linda Perrier, Heidi, Ann McElroy, Terry and myself. I am very thankful for the help!

Otherwise the library is proceeding as usual:

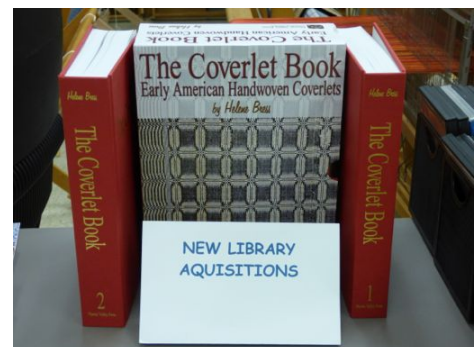
- The Library will be open at 5pm on the night of the meeting.
- If you can't make the meeting please email at library@ovwsg.com and let us know so we can renew your items or make other arrangements.
- Members who do not have any overdue items may take out 4 items, which will be due the next meeting. Teachers and OHS students may take out more than 4.
- If you have overdue items the fine is 1.50 per item per month. The fines go towards the new book fund.

## New Acquisitions:

I am so excited we have acquired **The Coverlet Book, Early American Handwoven Coverlets (2 Volume Set)** by Helene Bress!! These are massive tomes on coverlets covering 4 to multi-harness weaving. There is a CD with PDF's of all the drafts to make it easier to read. I have wanted to get these books for us since they were first published. I had not found them at a reasonable price until Natalie spotted it for sale from the publisher who turned out to be the son of the author. You can check it out at <http://www.thecoverletbook.com/>

It was cheaper to have 15lbs of well-packaged books mailed to the UPS store in Ogdensburg rather than having it mailed directly to Ottawa. Please come in early to check out the new books and make them feel welcome in their new home!

All for now, Jan Scott



## General Announcements

### The Guild Needs Volunteers

Our Guild is a very large organization and depends on the efforts of many volunteers. While all the executive positions are for two-year terms, the others are for a single year with the opportunity to renew indefinitely. Thankfully, we do not have many openings this year but those we have, if left unfilled, will greatly affect our monthly meetings.

Firstly, we need two people to plan our monthly meetings and book the speakers. This task is not as daunting as it seems since only eight of our ten meetings require planning, the other two are taken up by the Rosepath Auction and the Annual General Meeting, and it is time to revisit many topics presented in years past. This position is best suited to someone who has been a member of the Guild for a few years.

We are also looking for a new spinning equipment rental coordinator. This is a great position for someone who wants to get involved but does not have a lot of time. All that is required is that you be available an hour before each meeting to deal with the rental and return of spinning equipment.

Finally, we also need someone to coordinate the making of greeting cards and/or small items to be sold as a fundraiser for the Guild. So, if you like making stuff and like people (and I know you all do!), you are perfect for the job. You could even get people together during one of the networking sessions to make cards.

This is your Guild so please consider giving a little of your time to help keep it running smoothly. If you are interested in volunteering for one of these positions, please email Mary Morrison ([mormmry@rogers.com](mailto:mormmry@rogers.com)) or me ([jzdunich@gmail.com](mailto:jzdunich@gmail.com)).

### Welcome New Members!

Tamesin Grosset

Trina Telford

Susan Allen

Sheilah MacKinnon

### WOOL DRYING BASKET Workshop – Second class added Sat. Mar. 21, 2015, 10 to 5 pm

There are still a few spaces available for this very popular workshop. The first class is full, however a second class was added to meet the demand.

This is a large basket 11" x 11" x 11" with wood feet to keep it off the ground and handles. It can also be used for magazines, rolled up towels etc. No experience required – Beginner level.

For more information go to [www.ovwsg.com](http://www.ovwsg.com), Workshops. under the Basketry tab.





## Ex & Sale Costs 2011 to 2014 – Kelly MacGregor

There was a very lively discussion on email the weekend of the email blip. A lot of interesting ideas came out of that. I also noticed that many members were not aware of the financial aspect of the Ex & Sale.

There was some discussion about the annual Ex & Sale being a big fundraiser for the Guild and that these funds go into the general operating account. Prior to 2013, the ex & sale was a revenue neutral event. In other words, the vendor booth fees covered the Glebe rental and advertising expenses.

In 2013, the Glebe rental costs rose to \$1,936, which was nearly double the prior years. Booth rental fees had to be increased. Additionally, the Executive decided to cover a portion of the expenses because of the floor space occupied by the Information Booth, Workshop Booth and Demo area. Commissions from sales at the Co-op table also help to offset the expenses. Our “profits” from the Ex & Sale are new memberships, filling workshops and the enjoyment of being amongst others that are enthusiastic about weaving and spinning. This also enables us to carry out our mandate of educating others about weaving and spinning.

There was also a lot of discussion about the raffle and whether it really benefited the Guild. In compliance with our raffle license, the proceeds from the raffle must be used to offset our workshop costs. They do not go into the general operating account. This enables us to run some workshops with fewer than six students. The raffle prizes have been a blanket woven by members on the 100 inch loom and items donated by the vendors of the Ex & Sale. In 2011 the Guild raised \$2,714 through the raffle. Sales in 2012 dropped to \$1,982 and in 2013 to \$1,770. Several things contributed to the drop in sales, but by having an enthusiastic coordinator and some super sales people last year, sales rose to \$2,110. If we had been able to have the blanket ready earlier, perhaps sales might have been better. The very colourful 100-inch blanket is ready for the 2015 raffle and we have the items donated by last years Ex & Sale vendors for the second prize. We still require a third prize.

Last year was a very busy year for the Guild. There were fundraisers for Heartwood, Heartwood Open House, the exhibition for the City of Ottawa, our 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration in addition to the Ex & Sale. All of these events required many hours of volunteer time. Now with the growing demand for workshops, we have taken a gigantic step in renting the additional space for a classroom. Excluding the fees paid to instructors, the Guild's expenses are about \$3,000 a month. Our membership fees cover less than three months of operating expenses. We are very fortunate in having a generous operating grant from the City of Ottawa. However, we still must rely on our membership to raise funds to keep this guild strong and thriving.

### Did you know?

2015 is the **Year of the Sheep!** See how many countries are celebrating by issuing stamps featuring the sheep, ram and goat. How will YOU be celebrating?

<http://www.stampnews.com/tags/lunar-new-year-stamps>

### Quiz – by Nancy Gauthier

Weavers, Spinners, Ex & Sale Vendors: do you know what is this year's Pantone Colour of the Year?

Keep reading for the answer...

Hello everyone, I'm Celine from **La Ferme le Moment Present**; I will be the speaker for March to present our farm.

We raise alpacas and Shetland sheep. I'm offering you a chance to become a trader! It is very important for us to offer finished products made from the fleece of our fiber friends!

We need help, so the deal is, we supply the fiber and we split 50/50 for the finished item. We all win and we encourage Canadian hand made all the way!!

We are very pleased to invite OVWSG members to come and visit our farm and meet our friends on Saturday March 21st at 1pm.

Traders will be able to choose their fiber friend to work with when shearing time arrives.

More details will be available during the March meeting. Please confirm your attendance before March 14th

Thank you, Celine [819-766-2022](tel:819-766-2022)

[lafermelemomentpresent@hotmail.com](mailto:lafermelemomentpresent@hotmail.com)

## Events

### EcoEquitable's Fill-A-Bag Fabric Sale is back!

**February 28th | 9am - 2pm** | Come by early to get great deals on fabric.

Basic Pattern-Making Workshop | March 6/13/20/27 | 10am - 4pm | \$200 | Register online: <http://ecoequitable.myshopify.com/collections/frontpage/products/basic-pattern-making-workshop>





## Fibre Fling 4 – Textile Art Show and Sale

April 10-11, 2015

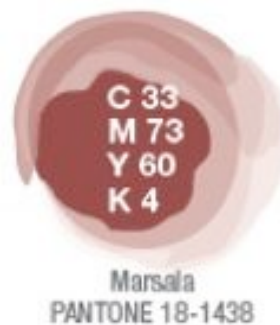
Kitchissippi United Church, 630 Island Park Drive, Ottawa, Ontario

Out-of-the-Box Fibre Artists and the Kitchissippi United Church invite you to a show and sale of fibre and mixed media art on Friday and Saturday in the church hall. This show is a fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation. Hours: Friday 10 am-8 pm and Saturday 10 am-5 p.m. Admission is \$5. High Tea will be available on Saturday 12-5pm for an additional \$10. Light refreshments available throughout the show.

For more information contact Rita Rottman ([ritarottman@sympatico.ca](mailto:ritarottman@sympatico.ca)), or visit [www.out-of-the-box.org](http://www.out-of-the-box.org)

## Answer to the Quiz:

It's Marsala, like the Italian town and wine.

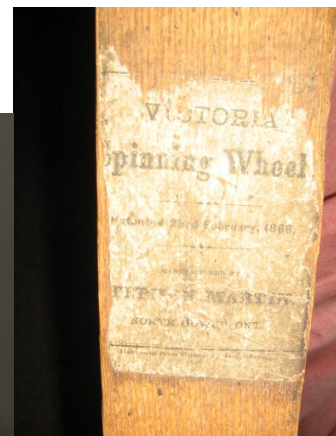


## Correction:

In last month's article titled **Victoria Pendulum Wheel**, the last paragraph should have read

"I hope this inspires you to reexamine your wheels for "hidden" marks that may have long been missed. Marc and Julie Levin in suburban Chicago had just such an experience. They rescued what they believed to be an unmarked pendulum wheel. After hearing of the locations of the Lucas and Martin marks, they re-inspected their wheel and found a dark and dirty, but legible label, effectively camouflaged by age and dirt. They were thrilled to discover that they had a well-preserved Wait and Buttrick wheel made under license from Lyman Wight's patent. The take home lesson is to look carefully at your wheel; it may be trying to share more with you than the first impressions."

Missing photos: 2a, 2c and 3



## THE WHEEL IN THE WINDOW

Have you ever wondered about the history of the Great or Spindle Wheel in the window of our Studio?

It is a very special object – a functional, pre-confederation<sup>i</sup> wheel with a fascinating history and technology. It came to the OVWSG in the winter of 2013, from Wilder and Joanne Miller-Boucaud of Ottawa, who were seeking a good home for her family's antique Great wheel. After Gord Moat, our resident expert on Spindle wheels, confirmed that the wheel was functional and we could use it when teaching courses on such wheels, the Guild agreed to accept custody of it.

### *Technology:*

The Miller-Bouchaud wheel is a typical Great or walking wheel. It is operated by turning the large drive wheel with one hand while allowing the twist generated by the turning spindle to draft fibres out of the other hand. The spinster walks back and forth as lengths of “makes” of yarn are created and wound on the spindle.

The wheel post, the spindle post and the maidens that hold the spindle have all been neatly crafted on a wood lathe by a competent turner. The spindle is driven directly by a belt from the large drive wheel. The belt tension is set by sliding the forked base of the spindle post along the main base. The spindle post is fastened in place by tightening a wooden, diamond-shaped nut on a threaded wood dowel set in the main base.

Both the direct-drive assembly and the style of the tensioning system make the wheel very user-friendly since there is only one belt to adjust set the tension. It is easy to spin on. The wheel could have been made by a skilled woodworker who wanted to avoid the added cost of buying a factory-made accelerating spindle assembly. Direct-drive spindle assemblies predate the commercial accelerating spindle-head assemblies more commonly found on surviving Great wheels in eastern Ontario.

But the Miller-Boucaud wheel still retains its original direct-drive head. And that head is a testament to the skill of its maker. Direct-drive heads had to be custom-made by the maker of the wheel. The presence of a direct drive with a sliding tension system suggests an origin for the wheel in southern Ontario or the United States rather than eastern Ontario. These facts, combined with Joanne Miller-Bouchaud's family history, strongly suggest that the maker was her great-great grandfather, Frederick (Friedrich) Edler.

### *Part 1: The History of the Wheel*

The founding generation of Joanne Miller-Boucaud's family arrived in Waterloo, Canada West, in 1856 from the town of Wheeling in what was then the state of Virginia<sup>ii</sup>. The husband, Frederick Edler, had immigrated to the United States in the early 1840s from the Darmstadt area of what is now Germany. Frederick was a qualified wheelwright and carpenter. He returned to Germany in 1945 to woo and marry Maria Hoelscher Edler and brought her to Wheeling in 1846. Maria, who is described in the Edler family history as a spinner and knitter, bore him 4 children between 1846 and 1854, three of whom survived<sup>iii</sup>.

In 1855, Frederick twice contracted pneumonia. This is a time when there were no unions, no health-care or sick leave for a sick worker, and no antibiotics. Pneumonia was a very serious and very debilitating illness. The 1850's were also a time of political turmoil in Wheeling, Virginia, as those who opposed slavery sought its abolition, while the plantation owners in the coastal lowlands opposed the emancipation of their slaves. Evangelical Protestants, like the Edlers, were opposed to slavery on religious grounds. Virginian laws like those prohibiting the schooling of slaves and free blacks were an anathema because such laws denied illiterate persons the ability to read the Bible – an essential tenet of Evangelical Protestantism. In the mid-1800's, Wheeling, Virginia was a difficult place to live with frequent unsettling protests that would eventually lead to the US Civil War in 1860.

When Fredrick was advised in 1855 by his Virginia doctor to move to a drier climate, he looked for help to the only assistance available – his family. His younger brother, George, had immigrated to Waterloo, Canada West,

and had established himself as a butcher serving the German-speaking population in what is now the Kitchener<sup>iv</sup>-Waterloo area. So, in February, 1856, Frederick, Maria and their three children moved from Wheeling to Waterloo – a journey that was possible for a man suffering the after-effects of pneumonia because it could be accomplished using the newly-built railways in both the US and in Canada<sup>v</sup>. Five months later, in June 1856, Maria gave birth to the twins Caroline and Catherine.

The now seven members of the Fredrick Edler family appear to have lived with the George Edler family in Waterloo for over a year. In the days before antibiotics, a long period of convalesce would have been required to recover from pneumonia. It was not until late 1857 that Frederick and Maria bought an 87 acre farm near North Woolwich. On this farm, Maria had her last child, George, in 1858.

The spinning wheel in the window was probably made in Waterloo in the period between Frederick's arrival in Canada West in the spring of 1856 and the purchase of the North Woolwich farm in late 1857. Frederick had the skills to make both the wheel and the direct-drive head and, more importantly, the time to do it while he recovered his health and the family resided with his brother in Waterloo. It seems unlikely that Frederick and Maria would have carted a Great wheel all the way from Wheeling, Virginia to Waterloo, Canada West, when Frederick had the skills to make a replacement for any wheel that Maria may have had in the United States. It is far more likely that the Miller-Boucaud wheel was made in Waterloo, Canada West, by Frederick in 1856 or 1857.

It is also possible that Frederick made a second wheel at this time – possibly to thank his sister-in-law, Elizabeth Hummel Edler,<sup>vi</sup> for her hospitality to his large family during his convalescence. A very similar wheel to the one in the window has been located in Edmonton and traced back to an antique dealer in Orillia who obtained it in an estate auction “somewhere in south-central Ontario”. The owner of this wheel has graciously sent photographs of her wheel to use as a model for making a missing wedge for the Miller-Boucaud wheel. The second wheel differs from the Miller-Boucaud wheel only in the fact that it has an accelerating spindle-head assembly. A factory-made accelerating assembly was often added in the 19<sup>th</sup> century to a direct-drive Great wheel to improve its efficiency, increase production and keep up with spinning technology. Using an accelerating assembly, one turn of a Great wheel's large drive wheel would produce over 200 turns of the spindle (compared to 60 turns of a direct-drive wheel like the Miller-Boucaud, or the 20 or fewer of modern flyer wheels). Accelerating spindle-head assemblies, however were harder to tension since two belts had to be “tuned” before spinning could begin. Two such similar wheels traced to the same part of Ontario, suggest a common origin and maker.

Unfortunately the surviving census data from the 1850's or 1860's does not include schedules detailing information about the farms in existence at that time. Schedule 4 and 5 of the 1871 census<sup>vii</sup> is the first census recording the details of the farm that the Edler's bought in Pilkington Township in 1869<sup>viii</sup>. Those Schedules describe a mixed farm of 100 acres, 84 of which were improved, 14 in pasture and 1 acre of orchard. Importantly for our purposes, the 14 acres of pasture supported 3 horses, 3 colts or fillies, 6 cows, 12 cattle, 12 swine and 27 sheep. Those 27 sheep produced 80 pounds<sup>ix</sup> of wool. No homemade cloth is listed so it appears that the Edlers did not have a loom – although a neighbouring farm had one. But in the mid-1800s, farm women commonly spun home-grown wool to make knitted goods which they sold to dry-goods merchants to earn cash for their families<sup>x</sup>.

Frederick and Maria remained on the Lot 11, Concession 5, Pilkington Township farm for the rest of their lives. Frederick died in 1891 and Maria continued to reside in the stone house on the farm until her death on December 8, 1904.

## *Part 2: From Maria to Joanne*

The Edler family history and the census entries for 1901 and 1911 allow us to trace the probable movement of the Great wheel from Maria, through her daughter Caroline Miller, to Joanne Miller-Boucaud. The 1901 Census<sup>xi</sup> shows that after her husband's death in 1891, Maria Edler resided with her youngest son, George Edler, on the Lot 11 home farm. Her daughter, Caroline Edler Miller, a recent widow, resided nearby on Lot 3, Concession 6, Pilkington Township together with her four children: Otto 20, Noah 15, Milton 11 and Annie 6.

By the next Census<sup>xii</sup> in 1911, Otto Miller was married and was farming the Lot 2 farm next to his mother's farm. The second son, Noah Miller, was working the Miller home farm on Lot 3.

It is probable that the Great wheel came into Caroline's possession on her mother's death in 1904, or on the death of her brother George's wife, Lydia, in 1909. It remained in the Miller home until Caroline's death in 1930. On Caroline's death, it appears from the recollections of Noah's daughter and Caroline's grand-daughter, Orpha Miller Thrasher, that Noah stored Maria's Great wheel in a shed on the Miller home farm to preserve it. That careful preservation of the wheel by Maria's grandson supports the argument that his "opa" Frederick had made it for his "oma" Maria. Noah would have known both of them and known the provenance of the wheel.

The wheel appears to have remained protected in the shed on the Miller home farm until the late 1960s when the contents of the farm were dispersed on Noah's retirement. At that time, Noah gave his grandmother's wheel to his son, James Miller, Joanne Miller-Boucaud's father. Joanne recalls the wheel residing in her family's recreation room during her youth. When the James Miller home was sold in the 1990s, the Great wheel came into the care of Joanne Miller-Boucaud in Ottawa where it was similarly cared for as a cherished family artifact.

The Miller-Boucaud Great or Spindle wheel, while an antique is fully functional. It was built to last. Well cared for by the likely maker's descendants through the years, it will continue to be used by the Guild to teach new generations of spinners. It appears that Frederick Edler made a strong and elegant spinning wheel of which his family can be proud. We are proud to be custodians of this piece of Canadian history. This Great Wheel has already been used to teach two spinning courses.

Ann Sunahara

Gordon Moat

Bernadette Quade

#### *Acknowledgements:*

The process of researching the history, ownership, repair and provenance of the Wheel in the Window involved using modern technology, a family history, a consultation with Dr. Judith Rygiel, and interviews with the Edler-Miller family and the owner of the apparent sister wheel in Edmonton. We used the Internet and social networking sites to find answers to many of our questions and to exchange digital images with the owner of the apparent sister wheel. The Internet was also the way we accessed Census documents to verify important facts. The authors wish to thank Wilder and Joanne Miller-Boucaud and, Joanne's aunt, Orpha Miller Thrasher, for their co-operation with our inquiries.

#### References

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<sup>i</sup> That is, made before July 1, 1867.

<sup>ii</sup> West Virginia was carved off from Virginia during the US Civil War in 1862.

<sup>iii</sup> Mabel Edler Trask, *A Family History of KARL EDLER and His Descendants -- 1775 to 1975*, (1976 St Jacobs Printery Ltd); The children are John (b: April 20, 1846), Mary (b: March 9, 1849), Elizabeth (b: November 23, 1850) and Karl, in (b & d: 1854), pages 3, 4 and 7

<sup>iv</sup> Kitchener was originally called Berlin. The name was changed during the First World War about the same time that the British Royal Family changed their name from "Saxe-Coburg and Gotha" to "Windsor"

<sup>v</sup> In 1856 the colony of Canada was divided between Canada East (now Québec) and Canada West (now Ontario).

<sup>vi</sup> George and Elizabeth Edler subsequently emigrated to Huron, South Dakota. The date of emigration is unclear. The family history places it in the year the eldest daughter, Mary, married (1866) but census forms continue to list the George Edler family as residing in Waterloo through the 1881 census. If the second wheel had been made for Elizabeth Edler, it is very likely that it would have been sold or given away when the move to South Dakota occurred in the period 1881-1891. Further research is needed on the Waterloo-based George Edler family.

<sup>vii</sup> Library and Archives Canada on-line Census 1871 District 34 Wellington Centre, Division A Pilkington, Page 8, line 14 Microfilm C-9946

<sup>viii</sup> In 1868, Frederick sold the North Woolwich farm and moved the family to a 200-acre farm in Peel Township on the sixth line near Winfield. The soil on this farm proved to be heavy clay unlike the sandy loam of the first farm so, a year later, Frederick moved his family back to the Waterloo area, purchasing a 100 acre farm very near the original farm -- Lot 11, Concession 5 of Pilkington Township.



<sup>viii</sup> Three pounds of wool per sheep was usual for that period of time: Interview with Dr. Judith Rygiel, textile historian, Ottawa, Canada.

<sup>ix</sup> Ibid.

<sup>x</sup> 1901 Census District 124 Wellington Centre, Subdistrict J Pilkington, Division 1, Maria Edler Family 18, Page 2; Caroline Miller Family 36, Page 4.

<sup>xii</sup> 1911 Census District 134 Wellington South, Sub-district 21 Pilkington Township, Alma Village, Caroline Miller Family 53, Page 5 Microfilm T-20409, item no. 7361288; George Edler Family 72, Page 6 Microfilm T-20409, item no. 5257857



The Miller-Boucaud wheel



The direct-drive spindle head



Teaching a new generation

# Marketplace

The Marketplace portion of the 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 availability and file restrictions.

For Non-Members: \$15.00 for the first 25 letters. \$0.28 for each additional word. \$2.00 per image. Contact Natalie at [marketplace@ovwsg.com](mailto:marketplace@ovwsg.com) or [newsletter@ovwsg.com](mailto:newsletter@ovwsg.com)

## FOR SALE BY GUILD -- \$300

36" Leclerc Mira Loom -- disassembled, metal parts need cleaning  
With 12-dent reed, one shuttle, a reed hook, and 5 bobbins  
Contact: Andrea Dixon at [donations@ovwsg.com](mailto:donations@ovwsg.com)

## FOR SALE BY GUILD - \$100

Tapestry loom. Currently disassembled but it is complete.

Contact: Andrea Dixon at [donations@ovwsg.com](mailto:donations@ovwsg.com)



## FOR SALE

Small warping board from Leclerc, used once, \$60. 23"x20", for a warp up to 6.5 yards. Can be used flat on a table or hung on a wall.

Nancy Gauthier [819-772-4969](tel:819-772-4969) or [nancy.gauthierremy@gmail.com](mailto:nancy.gauthierremy@gmail.com)

## Threads Magazine

I have a great number of Threads magazines that I would like to give away. They contain many helpful hints and systems for helping sewers.

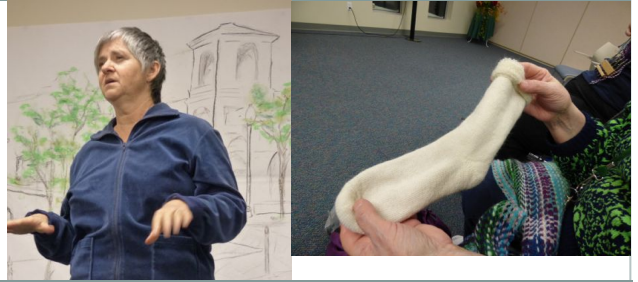
I shall bring some to the meeting and ask that you give a reasonable donation to the Guild in lieu of a set price.

Mary Morrison



## February Program

Theresa Bergeron from Thermohair gave a very entertaining talk about the business of mohair in Canada and the world, and her own mohair business, Thermohair <http://www.thermohair.com>



## Show & Tell



Left to right, top to bottom: Natalie's throw, Linda's samples, Jean's shawl, Alison's v-scarf, Carlene's spinner and yarn, Ruth's pouch, this

year's first prize raffle blanket, Laurie's Kumihimo, Elizabeth's Inkle 2 samples, Jan's felted dragon, Terry's Inkle 1 pouch, Rebecca's thrummed mitts, Samantha's bath towels

# February meeting minutes

## General Membership Meeting 2 February 2015

Chair: Mandy Heggveit

- Chair welcomed all old and new members and any guests in attendance.
- Executive was introduced.

### Program:

Theresa Bérgeron from Thermohair of South Mountain, presented a thoroughly entertaining and informative talk on starting up and running her mohair business. She started with 4 angora goats and built from there, producing mohair products, especially socks, made from the best of the fleece, the fine kid mohair. It is a very strong, yet soft fibre, nicknamed the “Diamond Fibre”. (Angora wool or fibre comes from the Angora rabbit. **Mohair fibre** comes from the Angora goat.) An adult female angora goat can produce about 20 pounds of fleece per year. A male produces about 35 lbs / year of coarser fleece, around 32 microns. This coarser fleece is often used for rugs. Kid mohair, from very young goats, is the finest, yet still very strong and burn resistant. At 6 months old, they are shorn the first time, producing about 2 pounds of fleece. There is very little shine to it then. With the second shearing, there is shine and it is the nicest of the fleeces.

Against the advice of others in the fibre business, she worked to perfect her warm, durable soft mohair socks and find sources (now international ones) to scour and spin her mohair. 25% nylon is added for shape. There are very few mohair sources left in the world, with South Africa remaining the largest producer. Theresa still produces 75% mohair blankets from her own mohair from her farm, at a very reasonable price. In 2012, Thermohair celebrated their 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary, and is still going strong!

### **BREAK** – Refreshments and Visit

### **Business:**

There is a need for Linus Blankets for boys at CHEO. Colours, other than purple and pink are used in the ambulances. These are comfort blankets for young patients at the hospital. They need to be made of acrylic, polyester or cotton, that can be washed at very hot temperatures to clean them. Add no fringe or buttons, as they are choking hazards. The knitting or crocheting openings should be very close together, again, so there are no choking hazards. Weavers can make them on both rigid heddle/table looms and floor looms.

Our new Ex and Sale co-ordinator is Carole Stuart. There will be a information meeting and Carole is looking for volunteers to help with this year's sale.

Our donation co-ordinator, Andrea Dixon, is looking for help with donation sorting and accessing.

A 36" Mira floor loom, with 4 shafts is for sale for \$350.00.

Natalie Shumovsky is interested in making a yarn order from MacAusland's Woollen Mills. There is

a discount if 25 or more pounds are ordered at one time. For a coarser yarn, it is \$9.90/ lb. undyed and \$11.20 / lb. dyed.

Open studio is Tuesday and Fridays and Networking is the Monday after the General Meeting week and Wednesday, Feb.18<sup>th</sup>, from 7-9 pm. In the HH foyer.

Ontario Handweavers and Spinners (OHS) is having their biannual conference, "Panoply", from May 23-24 in Burlington this year. There are a few members going, if people are interested in carpooling.

The Executive reviewed some positions and vacancies and the following are being removed: Fundraising Assistant for the Rosepath Auction; Corresponding Secretary; New Member for Standards Committee.

A new position was created to assist the Equipment Manager, Alison James. This position, or Equipment Assistant, has been filled by Samantha Van Noy. Note that both positions will become vacant in late 2015 or early 2016, due to these members moving. If interested, talk to Alison about shadowing her, to understand the position.

Mandy Heggveit handed out a short survey to new members to fill out.

### **Show & Tell:**

Natalie Shumovsky	Red and black lap blanket from Briggs and Little wool.
Linda Tait	Samples from Drum Carding class. Fleece, rolags, cardings, etc.
Jean Sharp	Drum Carding samples, spun yarns and different carding techniques. Colourful triangular shawl.
Alison James	Saori loom mobius scarf
Carlene Paquette	Indianhead spinner and flyer. (Needs base) Rainbow roving, plied with cream, for yarn.
Ruth Cooper	2015 Raffle wool blanket. Colour check design. I-phone cover from Inkle II class.
Laurie Harkin-Chiasson	Kumihimo and Pine Needle basket examples.
Elizabeth Watt	Inkle II samples, with beads, eyelet, wire, etc.
Jan Scott	Inkle II pouch and felt "Dragon"
Samantha Van Noy	Woven 2/8 cotton bath towels.
Terry Nelson	Inkle I loom scissor case.
Rebecca Cairns	Thrummed mittons (knit in fleece for warmth and design spots)

Meeting adjourned at 9:45 pm.