



Ottawa Valley Weavers' & Spinners' Guild

May 2014 Newsletter

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Upcoming Meeting:

Monday May 5th, 2014
at 7.30pm
Heartwood House
404 McArthur Avenue
Ottawa, ON

Program:

- AGM
- Show and Tell

Next month's meeting:

Monday, June 2nd,
2014, at 7.30pm

President's Message

As we wrap up another fiscal year for the guild - May 1, 2013 to April 30, 2014 - it is a time for reflection on the last year and looking forward to our new year.

Events of 2013-2014 include:

- * Finally, we moved! And, we are getting settled. We have an amazing new space
- * Changes in the federal Not For Profit Corporations Act necessitated filing for a "Certificate of Continuance" which was granted.
- * As a result of the changes in the Act, we changed our Executive structure. The crux of that change is that we have a two-tiered system, whereby the newly created positions of Board Chair and Board Vice-Chair represent the members' specific interests. The Operations Executive now consists of the positions of President, Treasurer, and Corporate Secretary. In addition the new board / executive passed a resolution to add the Education Coordinator and Studio Manager to the executive table.
- * There was a change in President
- * We have applied for Charitable Status
- * We have again applied for the three-year City grant
- * Demo season has begun

Anticipate these new and upcoming events for 2014-2015:

- * Plans are underway to set up the 100-inch loom
- * The making of the 2014 Raffle Prizes is underway utilizing a broader input and representation of all members to create a handspun, handknit shawl and a handwoven item.
- * In the fall we will celebrate the OVSWG's 65th Birthday!
- * Space is booked, vendor stalls have been purchased and work is underway for November's annual Exhibition and Sale at the Glebe Community Centre.
- * The City exhibition at the James Bartleman Centre scheduled for August 13 to September 5th

As we wrap up this past year and anticipate our next year, what will your role be in your guild? Will you have some items to sell at the community table at the Exhibition and Sale? Have you been on a trip where you had a “fibre experience” that you’d like to share with members at a general meeting? Are you going to try a new technique this year? Will you throw the shuttle for an afternoon to help make the Raffle Prize?

As I type up these questions to stimulate your thinking about this next year, I am already excited as to the possible results. And, I note the many activities in which each of us can and do contribute to our guild. Participation is the life of our organization. Without the participation of the membership - and in particular new members - the success of the past year would not have been possible. A big thank you to all, for the past year and the upcoming year.

Happy New Year!

Kelly

Announcements

Workshops

Workshops are winding down for the summer but there are still a few left with remaining spaces between now and the end of June. See the catalogue on the website for details.

Intro to Spinning - Wheel - Saturday May 31

Spinning - Gaining Control - Saturday June 14

Spinning Study Group - Bast Fibres (flax, hemp, ramie) - starts Saturday June 21

Intro to Spinning - Spindle May 3 - FULL

Beginning Weaving - May 4 - FULL

Note that Beginning Weaving's fall session is already filling up. Sign up early to avoid disappointment.

Inkle Too! is being rescheduled. If you are sorry because you thought you missed it, let me know and we will try to include you in the new session.

Elizabeth Watt

An Invitation

Heartwood House Grand Opening

"Best Wishes for Heartwood"

A CELEBRATION with MAYOR JIM WATSON

Tuesday May 27th at 404 McArthur Avenue

4:00 pm to 7:00 pm

4:00p.m. to 5:15p.m. Tour the Building
5:15p.m. to 6:15p.m. Celebration Ceremony
6:15p.m. to 7:00p.m. Tour the Building

Live Music and Refreshments

Please join us to learn about the wonderful things happening in Heartwood's new building

**Summertime and the Living is Easy!
It's Time to Plan Your Summertime Equipment Needs**

Rent Guild Equipment from June to September for the cost of only one month.
Tell the Equipment Coordinators at rental@ovwsg.com about your needs now. It is first come, first reserved.

See the addendum at the end of the newsletter for available items and prices.



St. Distaff Day

If you did not register for St. Distaff Day but would like to take the opportunity of having thirteen vendors under one roof, then you are invited to visit us in Williamstown, St. Mary's Community Centre, on May 24th between noon and 1h15pm and 3h to 4pm. Visit our website twistle.weebly.com to have the list of all the vendors. No need to register for the day.

Ex and Sale News

100" Loom

Weavers who are interested in working in pairs on the 100" loom this summer (June - September), please contact Ruth Cooper (recooper424@gmail.com), so we can start to set up a schedule. Please only those who can weave, including beginners, should volunteer. Thanks!

Exhibitor photo shoot

We are going to have a small photo shoot for this year's bookmarks and posters. Could exhibitors for the Exhibition and Sale please bring an item that they would like photographed, to the next Guild Meeting. Of particular interest are colourful woven items that will show up well on a white background. Please package and label your item. Sayward Johnson will be collecting them in a large bin during the May meeting. All items will be returned at the June meeting.

November Ex & Sale Community Table

As I mentioned in the April newsletter, we are already planning for our next Exhibition and Sale in November. Heidi Petersen has agreed to assist me again this year with the organization of the Community Table. Last year was very successful with sales over \$1,000. The addition of more display equipment, relocation of the booth, and the fantastic products produced by our members gave the booth a professional appearance. We had a great variety of spun yarns, roving, handmade spindles, felting, knitting and weaving. Thank you to all who participated last year.

The Community Table is open to all members to participate. Your products must be submitted for the jury process (Heidi and I will help you with this) and we ask that you volunteer a few hours to "man" the booth. A commission of 10% is charged on the total of your sales. This is a good opportunity to sell a few of your excess items and make a little money to feed your habit. It is a fun, wonderful way to get to know other members of the guild and a great source of inspiration for your next project.

Next time you are weaving, spinning or felting do a little extra for the Community Table. We will have sign up sheets at the monthly meetings. We had a few members sign up during the April meeting. You are also welcome to contact me at kathleenschwass@hotmail.com or treasurer@ovwsg.com

Kathleen Schwass

Other Announcements

May 11 Rib Basket Class with an emphasis on using native materials.

The class begins with a ramble through local wetlands to identify and gather plant materials that grow in Eastern Ontario. The class takes place on my veranda and my studio, which is near Winchester ON. Every student will make a basket with or without a handle. Time 9-4 Cost 75.00.

Please register at least 2 weeks in advance so that I will have time to get everything ready for you. Sometimes it is possible to register closer to the date. Please email me handweaving@gmail.com or check my website www.handweaving.ca for more details.

Janet Whittam

Knitting with Copper Wire

If you have ever wanted to try knitting with copper wire, Sayward Johnson is giving a workshop, "Art Knitting with Copper Wire," at Wabi Sabi. The date is Sunday, May 31st, from 11am to 2pm. The cost is \$67.50. Registration is available online or in person at Wabi Sabi. <http://wabi-sabi.ca>

Did you know that...

The OVWSG:

- is the only expanding weaving and spinning Guild in Ontario because we have the Studio at Heartwood House to hold the equipment needed to teach weaving, spinning, felting and related fibre arts;
- is the only source for learning traditional weaving in Eastern Ontario because we have the equipment in a Studio . No college or university offers such courses;
- has the largest library of fibre-related books in the province -- again because we can house them in the Studio.

Extreme Weaving

By Janet Whittam

I always enjoy using found objects and quirky additions to my cloth weaving or basketry. The most recent example of this was ...

"THE GREAT BATHING SUIT PROJECT."

See the complete story at the link below:

<http://handweaving.ca/bathingsuit1.html>



How Far Would You Go?

By Heidi Petersen

I began spinning some four or five years ago ... I think. Time has come to do weird things in my mind these last years. My life seems to have divided itself into three chunks: before I had kids, after I had kids, and when I was a kid myself, not necessarily in that order, and the most recent chunk is the one of which my recollections seem the least clear. But learning to spin came after I had kids. And as time passes and I find out more and more about spinning and how much there is to it that I don't yet know, I kind of feel more and more like a beginner and less and less like I have any idea what I'm really doing, apart from the fact that I'm having a good time.

And like many spinners wending their way through this particular corner of the world, I have found that I really and truly enjoy the whole process, taking the fleece right from the sheep (well, right from the farmer who has taken it from the sheep) and going through the whole washing, dyeing, combing, spinning she-bang. That's really the attraction, more so than the finished product. People ask, "And what will you do with this when you're done?" and I have no sweet idea. Okay, sometimes I do. But generally that is never the point. Give it, sell it, weave it, knit it, add it to my collection of handspun yarns that some day I'll do something with, whatever. I'm not someone who plans ahead; I spin to enjoy the moment. Here I am, the wool is in my hands, could life get better than this? To others be the dry contemplation of the future.

My discovery that there are many ropes to learn in the fleece-buying world will be news to no one. Like everyone else, I've spent a lot of time looking in all the usual places for raw fleece I want to work with something that's not too harsh and not too short and not so awfully vm-y that it will make me cry. It's nice to buy local; it's nice to buy cheap. I've bought from near and I've bought from far, online and in person, and my children and husband are getting used to weekend drives involving stopping off at a farm somewhere and meeting the sheepies. And I've made a lot of terrible fleece mistakes. (Ah, the stories I could tell...) As I said, I'm still learning and I have far to go.

Some years ago I came across Rupperts' Corriedales in Pennsylvania. They've cross-bred their Corries with Australian Corries and they coat some of their flock for sale to handspinners. They don't post pictures of their fleece online as some farms do, but you can write in and get on their waiting list and they'll send you a description of what's available when they shear. Maybe three or four years ago I bought my first smallish fleece from them. It was beautiful, lovely long staple, on the soft side, and so clean and marvellous to work with. It was my first coated fleece and you never forget your first coated fleece. But that box of fleece got a major ding in custom service charges crossing the border; holy smokes! Not custom charges, not GST, it was just a service for transporting it through customs. Ouch. Two years later, I bought two more fleeces from them, a Corriedale and a Cormo-cross, and this time they tried mailing it differently in hopes of missing the custom service charge -- no luck, again a major extra expense. So even though those fleeces were amazing, even though they brought nothing but joy to my life, I had to come to terms with reality and I promised myself: never again. "Never again," I told my husband. "Never again," I said to the Rupperts' Corriedales website. "Never again," I told my empty bag of Corriedale fleece. I just can't afford being fleeced for fleece. Plus, I have a ton of

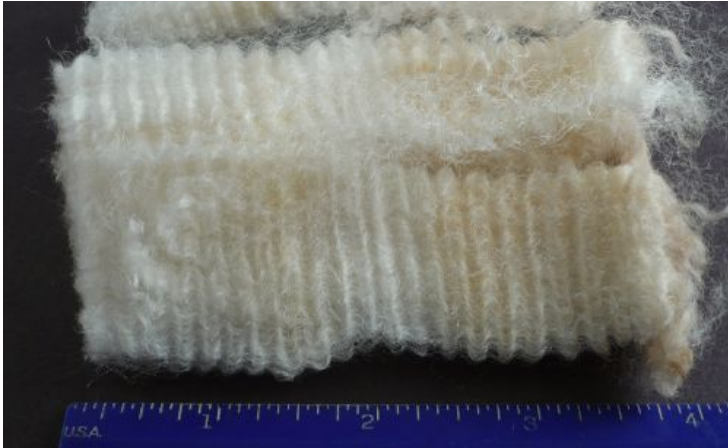
fleece now. A ton. What do I need with more fleece, even if it's irresistibly beautiful and brings joy to my life?

Then six weeks ago I got an email from the Rupperts telling me they'd done their shearing and I was at the top of their waiting list and had my pick of the crop. Inexplicable surprise. How did that happen? There was only one explanation: the fleece fairy had struck again! I knew it was a sign from the Spinning Powers that Be, and one that shouldn't be ignored. It's just not wise. So I went and explained to my husband about the fleece fairy, and suggested it was probably his idea that we could drive down and bring back the fleece ourselves rather than pay that ridiculous custom service charge, and wasn't he clever to think of it in the first place. He agreed (he is clever guy, that's why I married him), and Easter weekend we drove down to pick up the two fleeces I'd chosen from my glorious position at the top of the waiting list: one Corriedale ram and one Cormo ewe.

The farm is just outside Gettysburg, so to make it seem more like a family weekend road trip and less like spending a long weekend going to a farm really far away so Mum could satisfy her bizarre wool addiction, we decided to drive direct to the farm on Friday, meet the family, love the sheep, get the fleece. Then Saturday morning would be an educationally satisfying exploration of Gettysburg, and Sunday a visually stimulating scenic drive up through the Adirondack Mountains.

Alas. Although we'd counted on a certain delay crossing the border, we had no idea it would take so long just to get through the toll booth to cross the bridge to get to the border. ("What, you don't have sheep in Canada?" asked the border official.) We didn't arrive in G'burg until 8 pm, after dark. It wasn't an unpleasant entrance: the main street is all quaint historic buildings and lined with pear trees which happened to be in full majestic blossom, lit by old-fashioned street lamps, so we had a spectacular drive around town. But the kids were tired and wanted to stay at the hotel, claiming they'd seen enough sheep farms for one lifetime, anyways. (Ha! dream on, my pretties.) So my husband and I bravely set off in the dark and picked our way through complicated country roads with few road signs and no lighting to speak of and somehow managed to find the farm. Clearly, the fleece fairy was still smiling kindly down on the expedition. Didn't meet the sheep (didn't even meet most of the family because they'd had to go out) but there were my fleeces, all bagged up and ready to go. Mummy's here, my darlings!

And the rest of the trip? Well, it happened. And whatever was going past our car windows on the outside, inside my brain was the constant refrain, "Beautiful fleece, all mine, all mine! Beautiful fleece, all mine!" And then at some point we arrived home again.



Raw Corriedale fleece from Rupperts' Corriedales

So was it worth it? Need you ask? Just the anticipation of the upcoming slow whirlwind of washing, dyeing, combing, spinning is providing untold enjoyment (untold except for what I'm telling you now, that is), not that they really need washing -- even raw they look so clean. And what will I make with them? No sweet idea. I'm just loving it.



Raw Cormo Fleece from Rupperts' Corriedales

Marketplace

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 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 Shumovsky at marketplace@ovwsg.com

LOOM FOR SALE

4-shaft 36" Leclerc Fanny counterbalance loom for sale. Excellent condition. Great for everything, from silk scarves to rag rugs. \$350. Contact Natalie at nsh65@hotmail.com or call 613-834-4159 for photos and more info.

FOR SALE

60" 8 shaft countermarche loom

handmade by Deider Swartz

with "Texsolv" heddles, overhead beater, and 12 dent reed

\$ 500. or best offer

contact: Anne Rombeek 613-839-5288 email: anne.rombeek@gmail.com



Highlights from last month

Lori taught a pine needle basketry class:

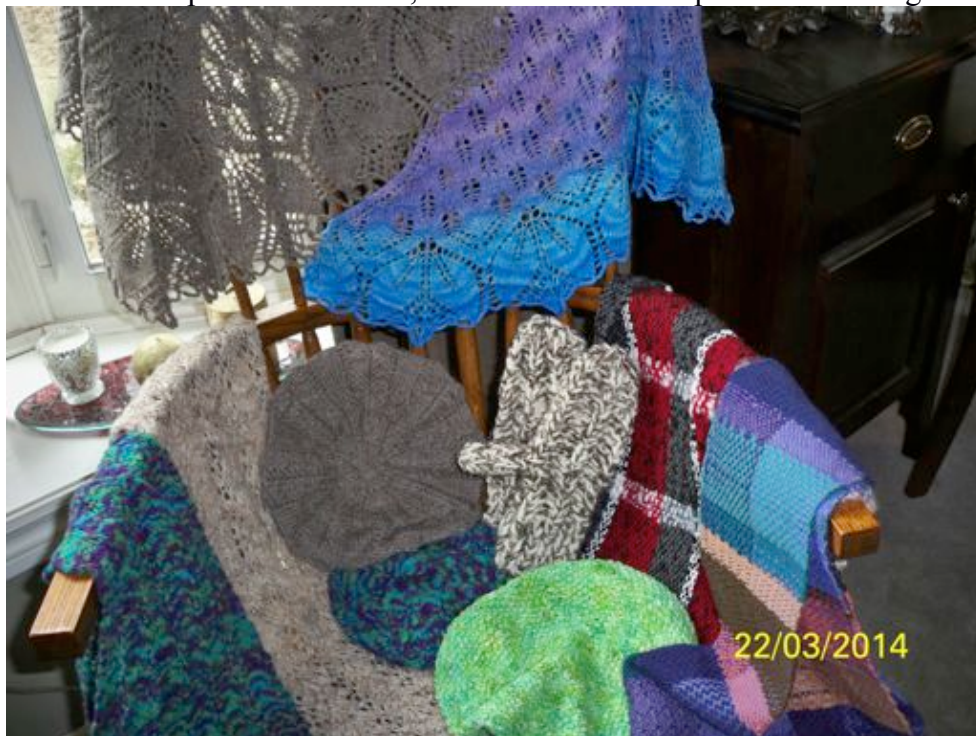


Ann taught a felted birdhouse class: We had a great time at the felt bird making class. I had 3 enthusiastic students who made teaching a breeze. I think I have created another felting addict with Linda. All the birdhouses turned out great and went home with balloons blown up inside so they will have a nice round shape when dry. I hope they will bring their creations to the meeting for all to see. They all went home with several resist patterns so maybe they will have others to show too.



Show & Tell – Jan was not here, so all members submitted their own show & tell photos.

Tricia's handspun knitted items, woven scarf and sampler from the Beginning Weaving class.



Natalie's turned undulating twill and space-dyed scarves:



General Membership Meeting 7 April 2014

Chair: President Kelly MacGregor

- Chair welcomed all and **new members** and any **guests**.

Business:

- Introductions of the executive.
- General remarks made about remembering to sign in and out of the studio. This is our record for numbers of members who use the studio, that can be used when applying for the City grant.
- Members are reminded to only do quiet tasks when a speaker is presenting, so as not to disrupt the talk.

Program:

- Denise Furukawa introduced Raphael Kerem. Kerem is a woodworker, designer and yurt maker, who runs the Kingsford Yurt Camp in Godfrey, Ontario. Kerem took us on a journey to Mongolia, where the yurt or “ger” has been made for thousands of years. Since the culture is primarily nomadic, they acquire very few possessions, but the ones they have are ornate. Silverwork is very fine. Up until around 2000, horseback riding was the main mode of transportation. (Now Russian motorcycles are popular.) Saddles are very ornate and Tibetan blanket cloth is used on them.
- The yurt 8-spoked roof wheel is made by men and then decorated by women. Satin curtains drape the inside of the unpainted wooden lattice walls. There are usually 5 lattice sections to one yurt. All the rest of the wood is painted. Orange is a popular colour in the yurts. Blue silk scarves or *khata* are hung in the centre of the wheel and door as a sign of respect and luck. Furniture is placed in most yurts in identical locations. Furnishings are placed inside before the yurt is put up around them. Men sit to the left and women go to the right in the yurt. The sizes of yurts have also stayed the same for centuries.
- Travelling to inner Mongolia, Kerem lived with a yurt-making family and learned how to make a yurt. Mainly made of pine and Siberian larch, for each tree cut, another is planted. The larch, high in resin, is flexible and used for rafters and the accordian lattice. The rest is made of pine.
- A thin, white cotton lining is a wrapped first around the frame to stop felt shedding and to show off the painted wood interior. Then, $\frac{3}{4}$ ” to 1 $\frac{1}{8}$ ” thick felt is put on over the cotton lining. Braiding is often sewn onto the edge of the felt. Sometimes two layers of felt are put on for cold winters, that often drop from -30 to -50 degrees C. To protect the felt, sometimes white canvas covers are put on top. Horse hair ropes secure the cover, wrapped around the circumference.
- There were felt making factories in China, but now there is a revival of making felt in camps again. Kerem saw no spinning or weaving while there.
- Short 15 minutes BREAK and we toured our new facilities and storerooms with Say Johnson.

OHS President Sandi Nemanyi:

Sandi thanked our guild for caring for the OHS In-Depth Collection. It is a valuable resource and we are fortunate to have it here.

The OHS connects weavers and spinners and holds a conference every two years, to connect local guilds and share ideas.

The Education program is offering spinning courses in Haliburton now. The weaving is generally a Home Study of 18 units, but it could be set up in a guild if there was enough interest. Some students are from outside Canada (Holland, New Zealand, etc.) who take the courses.

The OHS is looking "*beyond the pioneer*" to see if there are other areas where our guilds could match spinning and weaving with the Ontario school curriculum. If there is interest in helping with this project, contact the OHS.

"*Fibre Focus*", the OHS magazine, comes out 4 times per year, informing members of activities around the province in local guilds.

The OVWSG is a member of OHS, but one can become an individual member as well. It informs beyond what a local guild can do, regarding fibres interests within the province.

Business (Continued):

- Our next meeting is on May 5th, the Annual General Meeting. Being year 2, we must all cast our votes for the new slate of nominations for all positions. Memberships for the new year, starting May 1st, have to be paid up in order to vote. Thanks to Julie Anne Zdunich and Mary Morrison, there is a full roster for all positions. (Jean Sharp has agreed to stand for AV/set-up person for meetings.)
- We have submitted our application for Charitable status. Thank you to Mandy Heggveit and Ann Sunahara for working on this.
- Shirley Browsky has volunteered to do a guild challenge. More details will be announced at the June meeting.
- Please make sure that all guild demonstrations go through the demo co-ordinator (Samantha Van Noy or Carole Stuart) Samantha purchased a portable gazebo and folding wagon for demos. There is a need for Great Wheel Spinners at Upper Canada this spring.
- We are running a "Name the Newsletter" contest. Put on your thinking caps and get the ideas flowing! Provide your ideas for naming our guild Newsletter. Submit by email to any member of the executive by May 25th. The winner will be selected by the executive and announced at the June meeting. The contest winner will receive a one year guild membership, the value of a single membership at \$40. Please ensure your submission does not infringe on any copyrights.
- For the 2014 Ex and Sale, Kathleen Schwass is asking people to sign up if interested in contributing to the Common Guild Table. Any weaving or spinning must be juried and there is a 10% commission for sales to the guild.
- The front window display in Wabi-Sabi has been co-ordinated by Jean Sharp and Ann Middleton for last five years, to advertise for the Ex & Sale. Carole Stuart is taking over the job. Patricia Moore will help Carole.

- Members are reminded not to cut through the laundry for Saturday workshops. There are often women at risk there and we do not want to alarm them.
- Gallery 112 is hosting our Guild in August and early September. Say Johnson and Sam Van Noy are co-ordinating the show. Bring old and new work to them for possible show items.
- Reminders to please bring in any over-do library books back!

Show & Tell:

Patricia Moore	Woven shawl that was handspun.
Wilfred Gilchrist	Beginner wool sampler. Floor loom returned after 38 years!
Ride Hanna	Felted items, such as Golum, Green Man, Maori faces and Marilyn Monroe.
Erin Malette	Pine Needle Basket from workshop
Natalie Shumovsky	2 scarves, made on 8-shaft. Undulating turned twill, with mercerized and space dyed cotton.
Carlene Paquette	Tweedy woven scarf made on rigid heddle.
Mandy Heggveit	Linen table runner, made on 4-harness, with 4 block crackle. From Crumb warp workshop.
Patricia Moore	Scarves and knitted shawl. Beginner sampler from rigid heddle loom.
Ann McElroy	Nuno felted hat and purses, lined with silk.

**NEXT MEETING : ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING – MAY 5th, 2014.
7:30 pm**

Available Rental Equipment

Weaving Equipment	Fee	Deposit
Ball winder	\$5	\$50
Looms, frame - individual/bulk	\$2/\$10	\$0
Loom, inkle floor	\$10	\$300
Loom, rigid heddle, 16"	\$10	\$300
Loom, rigid heddle, 24"	\$10	\$300
Loom, table - 4-harness 16" Dorothy + accessories (+2reeds 10/12?)	\$10	\$500
Loom, table - 8-harness Dorothy (extra castle added) + accessories	\$15	\$500
Loom, table – 8-harness Voyageur	\$15	\$500
Loom, tapestry	\$10	\$300
Marudai (round&square bases) + 8 bobbins	\$10	\$100
Raddle >15" (specify width on rental form)	\$5	\$100
Reed >15" (specify width and dents per inch on rental form)	\$5	\$100
Warping board + 20 pegs - warps 13 yds	\$5	\$100
Warping mill + 6 pegs - 2 yds/turn	\$10	\$300
Spinning Equipment	Fee	Deposit
Ball winder	\$5	\$50

Carder, drum	\$10	\$300
Carder, Mark IV Drum - medium carding cloth	\$10	\$300
Carder, handcards - fine	\$5	\$100
Carder, handcards - medium	\$5	\$100
Carder, handcards - coarse	\$5	\$100
Combs, wool	\$5	\$100
Picker	\$15	\$100
Spindle, drop	\$2	\$20
Spinning wheel, Ashford + 3 bobbins + Lazy Kate	\$15	\$500
Spinning wheel, Haldane + 3 bobbins + Lazy Kate	\$15	\$500
Spinning wheel, Leclerc + 3 bobbins + Lazy Kate	\$15	\$500
Spinning wheel, Lendrum + 3 bobbins + Lazy Kate	\$15	\$500
Spinning wheel, Louet + 3 bobbins + Lazy Kate	\$15	\$500

Ceud Mìle Fàilte
(a thousand welcomes)



St. Distaff Day

Hosted by The Twistle Guild of Glengarry

May 24, 2014

St. Mary's Community Centre, Williamstown

**Vendors will be open to the public between
Noon – 1:15pm & 3:15 – 4pm**

*Hand painted yarns, mohair, alpaca,
Llama, wool fibre and yarn
Buttons, patterns, books, accessories
Knitting, spinning, weaving equipment*

Visit our website – www.twistle.weebly.com

Or

www.facebook.com/groups/1412162662366487/