

PENELOPE'S NEWS



December 2016

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

Marianne Heggveit.....*Board Chair*
Sayward Johnson.....*Board Vice Chair*
Ruth Cooper.....*President*
Laurie Holcombe.....*Treasurer*
Candace Vanskiver....*Corporate Secretary*
Laurie Harkin-Chiasson...*Studio Manager*
Elizabeth Watt..... *Workshop 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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Dear fellow guild members,

We are approaching the holiday season. It signifies many things for all of us but mainly, this is often the time that extended families and friends get together and share time with each other. Often it generates stress for some people as they wind their way through crowded stores, searching for gifts. It can be easier and more meaningful. In our guild, we are striving to educate the public "...in the knowledge and appreciation of the crafts of spinning, of weaving and ...felting and basketry." What better way this year than creating fibre gifts, handmade by yourself for those closest to you? They will be valued much more than a store purchased gift and you will be certainly helping to extend the appreciation of our fibre art traditions.

I wish you all a heartfelt healthy and happy holiday season and may your creative fibre "juices" be flowing!

Wishing you the best for the holidays and upcoming 2017,

Ruth



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Meeting Info

This month's meeting:

Monday, December 5th, at
7.30pm

Program:

Rosepath Auction; equipment
auction

Next meeting:

Monday, January 9th, at 7.30pm

General announcements

This Month's Program

In December we will hold again our ever so popular yearly **Rosepath Auction**, one of the Guild's most important fundraisers and great all around fun. Everyone is encouraged (but not required) to contribute items they no longer require that someone else might need. This includes just about anything from fibre and yarns, to tools, equipment, books (including novels), household items, gifts, etc. Please bring your items to the December meeting by 7:15.

After more years than anyone can remember, we are raising the price of Rosepath numbered bidding envelopes from \$2 to \$3. There will still be the generous 50 bidding tickets in each of them, but we are just trying to catch up with the times!

How it works: members may buy one or more envelopes of 50 tickets bearing the same number as the envelope. These are all yours to place in whichever margarine container is located near the item you wish to bid on. After all the tickets are distributed, a designated person will draw a number from the container. The person who has the envelope number that matches the number drawn wins the item. Please do not move the margarine containers.

Next Month's Program

The January program is 'Your Studio' on setting up and maintaining a working space for weavers, spinners, etc. The program will be in a panel discussion format with guild members sharing their experiences. We are currently contacting potential participants and will announce their names as soon as their participation is confirmed.

December Equipment Auction

Shopping opportunities at the December meeting!

Bring your chequebook to treat yourself!

At the December meeting the Guild will be selling excess equipment. In addition to small items at small prices (eg shuttles, peg loom, reeds, tapestry looms, frame looms) there are big things to be sold by auction including:

1) A Drum Carder: minimum bid \$50



2) An Antique Skein Winder: minimum bid \$50



3) A 24" Leclerc table loom that

- is almost pristine,
- is properly set up with 150 heddles per shed,
- is capable of folding for transport,
- has the holes on the side levers to permit its the conversion to a floor loom if you can find or make a stand (Leclerc doesn't make them anymore —
See http://www.leclerclooms.com/draw_inst/dorst4.pdf for a picture of a stand),
- comes with a 12-dent reed, and
- should be capable of conversion to the ergonomic top levers like the 15" Dorothy looms.

Minimum bid \$150

4) Two large (5-foot tall) Warping Mills



Katherine Kelland: 1918-2016

President Ruth Cooper's message in the November issue of the newsletter about mentoring brought back memories of one of my mentors, Katherine Kelland, an early Guild member who passed away in August of this year. Ruth's article reminded me of my own experience as a beginner in 1970. We had mini workshops on Saturday mornings when our experienced members demonstrated the art of warping, dressing the loom, weaving plain weave, twill and rosepath. Those sessions were important to connect with fellow weavers to learn their special tips, which I still follow today. Katherine was one of those mentors. Her obituary lists her as a "famous weaver" but we knew her as a lady who loved to sample. Katherine was also very generous in giving away her looms to those in our Guild who needed them.

Ruth's encouraging of mentoring brings forward an important tradition of the Guild. I hope that there are others who still remember Katherine and the many mentors who guided us in those early years of learning. (Katherine's obituary appeared in the Vancouver Sun and Ottawa Citizen in early September)

Nancy Ingram

Announcements from guild coordinators

Library

The library should be open by about 9am on the meeting Monday and will be closed by 7:15pm so the librarians can attend the meeting too.

If you are unable to return your items at the meeting please contact the librarians at library@ovwsg.com to renew them. If you forget there is a \$1.50 per month per item overdue fine to help purchase new books. If we have horrible weather and the meeting is cancelled we will be sure to renew everyone's books!

Remember to come in early so you can read up on last minute x-mas present ideas!

We will hope to see all of you Monday before the meeting!

All for now from the Librarians

Workshops

Jan and I spent October putting the 2017 Workshop Schedule together. I couldn't do it without Jan. Only she can keep me sitting at the table for 5 hours straight to make sure the job gets done, and then she turns that list of dates and workshops into the most stunning catalogue! Judy has now transferred all the information to the website, but the catalogue is worth downloading just to turn the pages and be inspired. Please take the time to look at it soon and start registering, there are lots of new workshops, some new instructors and new areas to explore.

Some changes to note for 2017: unfortunately, we are the victims of our own success and the Guild has had to pay HST on workshop fees for some time now. This year prices had to go up slightly (\$5 per workshop day) to ensure that all workshops break even with 4 member registrations. We also have changed the payment and cancellation policies. Workshop payments will be due no less than 8 weeks before they start. The treasurer will cash all cheques received at that time. Cancellations between 2 and 8 weeks before the workshop start will be refunded 75% of the registration fee. No refunds less than 2 weeks before the start date. If we have insufficient paid registration (i.e. fewer than 4 students) 2 weeks before a workshop starts it will be cancelled and there will be a full refund to anyone registered.

Workshops left in December:

Prolonging Your Fun, Ergonomics for Fibre Artists: Dec 10

Nuno Felted Scarf: the Dec 11 date is full, so we added Dec 4 and there is one spot left

Intro to Rigid Heddle Weaving: Sat Dec 3

Spinning for End Use: Sun Dec 4

Looking to January:

Felted Hat: Spikes and Swirls: Sun Jan 15

NEW: Fun with Krokbragd: Sat Jan 21

Intro to Spinning Part 1: Spindle: Sun Jan 22

Pine Needle Basket: Sun Jan 29
Intro to Inkle: Sat Jan 28
NEW: Copper Weaving: Sat/Sun Feb 4, 5, 11 & 12
Weaving for the Home: Sun Feb 5, 12, 26

Please see the website for details and to register.

Elizabeth Watt
Workshops Registrar

Ex & Sale

Hi everyone,

Another successful Simply Unique event is over. I wanted to take this opportunity to thank all the Vendors and Volunteers that made it possible.

Carole

Studio

Wanted! Work to hang in our studio gallery space. Our studio walls are currently empty. Let's show off our work and fill the walls with inspiration. Please contact Sayward at saywardjohnson@gmail.com or bring something to our next meeting.

Welcome New Members!

Debbie Jones
Michelle Graham
Annie Burt
Paula Kelsall
Leah Stolarski
Madura Sornarajah

Returning Members:
Laura-Lee MacDonald
Kimberly Webster
Christine Walter

Art Show to celebrate Canada's 150th birthday!

Update:

I'm pleased to report that I have picked up our order of canvases for the 12"x12" art project. Yeah! So far about 1/3 of our 150 canvases have been reserved or picked up. If you have been on the fence about making a piece (or a couple of pieces) for the show I encourage you to PLEASE JOIN IN. The more people contribute, the better our show will be.

We don't have a ton of space at the guild and I'd really like people to pick up canvases at the Dec meeting so we are not storing the canvases at the guild or at my house. Thanks!

Remember, if you have not pre-paid, the canvases are \$10 each. Thanks!

Carlene

Events

The 18th Annual Chesterville Spin-In

Wednesday, Feb. 15, 2017 from 9a.m. to 4p.m. Requesting a \$4.00 donation at the door.

Now on Facebook [@ChestervilleSpinIn](#)

*****New Location*****

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 434

167 Queen St W, Chesterville, ON K0C 1H0

613-448-1997

[Directions](#)

Our theme for this year is "Rare Breeds" (any fibre spun/knit out of Rare Breeds). The 2016 theme of Rare Breeds is in conjunction with the Wovember.com theme (a month long blog on everything woolly).

Some surprise displays and many more vendors in attendance in 2017.

Please show our vendors your support for always helping to feed our passions.

Non-alcoholic beverages supplied by the Legion. Bring a lunch or you can visit several venues in town.

Regards,

Nancy MacMillan

[613-448-1411](tel:613-448-1411)

nancy.macmillan021@sympatico.ca

Colour Unboxed by Out of the Box

December 20, 2016- February 25, 2017

Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

Vernissage: Saturday, January 14, 2017

The 12x12 colour challenge pieces will all be hung, which might be an inspiration for OVWSG guild members. OOTB has also produced a book on the colour challenge.

Classes

Learning to weave on a Rigid Heddle Loom - December 3, 2016 @ Carriageway Studios, Almonte.

Contact latelierweavingstudio@gmail.com 613-882-6893

Learn to weave and play with copper wire in February!

This four-day class (Sat/Sun Feb 4, 5, 11 & 12) covers the basics of weaving with copper wire. Students will create a variety of woven samples with which they can experiment. The class covers techniques for hammering and shaping, using green patina solutions, black patina, and heat. This class is flexible and can accommodate all levels of experience. Experimentation is encouraged. A brief intro to knitting with copper wire can be included.

Japanese Braiding (Kumihimo) Workshop

Sat. Jan. 14, 10 – 4pm, in the classroom. Use a traditional braiding stand (Marudai) and weighted warp bobbins (tama) to produce braids. We will be making samples of a Square braid, Flat braid with chevrons, Spiral braid with a Core and a Flat braid with 3 dimensional hearts. All equipment is supplied; just bring some scissors. Braids can be used for trim, straps, shoelaces, jewelry cords etc. History, warping, end uses, and using jewelry findings for finishing, will be covered.

Pine Needle Basketry Workshop

Sun. Jan. 29, 10 to 4 pm, in the studio. Using long pine needles we will make an oval basket, with swirling wheat stitch design. This is a coil structure of basket which means coils are sewn together using traditional stitches. This basket starts out round and then a technique of extensions transforms it into an oval basket. Note: There will not be enough time to completely finish your basket in the time allotted. However, at the point where we stop, you will have been taught all the techniques you need to continue at home, to finish your basket.

SIGN UP ASAP for these workshops, as materials need to be ordered soon.

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 or newsletter@ovwsg.com

Lambskin rugs available. A unique, made in Ontario gift. Also fibre: **wool roving and wool-alpaca roving**. See our Kinnaird Farm Facebook page. Let me know if there is anything in particular you would like me to bring to the December meeting. KellyMMacGregor@gmail.com or KinnairdFarm@gmail.com

Spinning Wheel For Sale \$95 OBO

Garry Fancy 613-836-2829
cherokee1970@rogers.com



Créations Christine

Représentante d'Ashford Dealer

Pour plus d'information - For inquiries: 819-405-2007
cgagne40@gmail.com Christine Gagné

For Sale: Strauch drum carder 400\$ obo

carmspace@hotmail.com 613-241-2863

For sale: 15 dent 45" reed, \$80. Flying shuttle beater for 45" Leclerc with 2 shuttles, \$225.

Wanted: Ski shuttles & temples for rug weaving anywhere between 20" and 40".

Please email Samantha at Trailheadyarns@gmail.com for more information.



Marie-France Gosselin

**L'Atelier Weaving
Studio Tissage
Workshops and
Weaving Supplies
Ashford, Louet, and
Mirrix Dealer**



Marie-France Gosselin
Fournitures pour le tissage à la main.
Représentante de produits Ashford, Louet & Mirrix.

Ashford, Louet & Mirrix Dealer.
Weaving supplies.

latelierweavingstudio@gmail.com
613 - 882 - 6893

[f/latelierweavingstudiotissage](https://www.facebook.com/latelierweavingstudiotissage)

November Program

Lori and Matt Noble from Noble Fibre Mill gave a talk about their operation, and brought samples!



Show & Tell



L-R, T-B: Dyane's scarves; Candace's bath towels; Carlene's woven jacket; Judy's Lego charkha; Liane's Amish basket; Jan's lost sheep; Melanie's orifice hook; Carmen's towel, Student samples of textured weaves from Francesca's class.

November 2016 Meeting Minutes

General Membership Meeting 7 Nov 2016

Chair: Mandy Heggveit

- Chair welcomed members, new members, and guests. (59 members in attendance, plus four new members).
- Executive was introduced.

Business & Announcements:

- **Workshops:** The new workshop catalogue is out! It should be up on the website in the next couple of weeks.
 - We've got new classes and there is a new rating system that identifies the workshop's required proficiency level, so be sure to check it out.
 - HST is now included in the prices that are listed.
 - **Cancellation policies are in place now – please read them carefully.** Contact workshops@ovwsg.com if you have an urgent/compelling reason for cancelling a registration outside of the policy parameters.
 - Prolonging the Fun: ergonomics workshop is coming up and still has spaces. This workshop is highly recommended for those who would like to gain instruction for how to avoid injuries and strains while weaving/spinning/felting.
- **Heartwood House Liaison:** Marie-France Gosselin has volunteered – Thank you!
- **Guild Call for help:** We still need another volunteer to join the equipment team.
- **Guild seeking:** any member or member's spouse who is a corporate lawyer who would be willing to help with a small audit question. Please contact Ruth Cooper.
- **Ex & Sale:** The sale went very well, thank you to our Ex & Sale Coordinator Carole Stewart!
- **Ex & Sale Co-op Table:** Quite successful! We were only \$50 less than at last year's show which spanned three days instead of two!
- **Sheep to Shawl:** Kelly MacGregor is the guild contact organizing this event.
 - So far we have almost enough people for two sheep to shawl (S2S) teams.
 - Kelly passed around the sign-up sheet again for those who didn't get a chance to sign up last month.
 - Woolgrowers @ Lambsdown are not having a competition this year, just a demo.
- **Grant Coordinator:** Kelly MacGregor is our new Grant Coordinator. She has printed out the forms and will be working on it.
- **Fibre of Our Being - Works of the OVWSG:** 150 yrs 12"squares Gallery Show: Carlene Paquette is heading this event and needs more people to create submissions!
 - Anne McElroy offered some creative help for those who are wondering what to do for a submission. Basically, she had some pieces of felt she wasn't using so she places it on the canvas, covering the whole thing, and VOILA! Art!
 - \$10 covers the canvas and the hanging expenses.
 - Julie will be warping a Dorothy for spinners to weave on and show their work.

- The due date for submissions is the 2017 April 3 Meeting.
 - **Q: Is the material being juried?** A: Yes, and that includes tips to ensure the submission makes it into the show.
 - **Q: How many canvases have gone out?** A: Only about 10! Need more help!
 - **Open Studio:** This is for everybody. You can come in by yourself simply ask the executive for the lockbox code or Shane at Heartwood House to let you in. There are usually lots of people in on Tuesdays & Fridays.
-
- **Clarification from last meeting:** “People should be sure to sign into the studio when the Heartwood House office is not open.” **PLEASE ALWAYS SIGN INTO THE STUDIO.** Members should always sign in as it shows us the time usage of our rooms and helps us justify our grant money for City of Ottawa. The studio sign-in has no relation to the Heartwood House sign-in.
 - A member pointed out that it's redundant to sign into the front desk then, but they insist that people do so. *Mandy will follow-up to clarify.*
-
- **Seguin Mechanized Loom 16 harnesses:** This loom could be rented for four people to share the cost of approximately \$400/month and have 1 week each to use it.
 - *Need to be familiar with Fibreworks weaving program for the design and to run the loom.*
 - Interested? See Ruth Cooper.
 - **Heartwood House Concert Bake Sale October 21:** was a success! Thanks to those who helped! Liane Thiry-Smith, Alison James, Lee-Ann Scott, and Ann Sunahara.
 - **Heartwood House OC Transpo Lost & Found Sale:** Thanks to Ann Sunahara and all who helped out!
 - **December 5 Guild Meeting:**
 - **Rosepath Auction: CALL FOR HELP Coordinator & auctioneer:** Call was answered by Kathleen Schwass, Carl Stewart, Carmen Deschenes, and Sayward Johnson. Additional volunteers please talk to Kathleen Schwass.
 - Several items already gathered to auction: 2 large warping mills, 24” Dorothy Loom, antique skein winder, carder, many accessories (shuttles, temples, spindles, swifts, etc.)
 - *Mandy explained what the Rosepath Auction is:* Donate anything from around your house and bring it the night of the auction: books, mugs, equipment, furniture, etc. Buy some envelopes of auction tickets, then go around and bid on items you want. Once all the tickets are all sold, then the tickets are drawn.
 - **Break:** bring goodies to share. *List ingredients for homemade items, please.*
 - **Mary Morrison:** presentation of honorary life membership due to her dedication of many decades of support to our guild (since 1973), also the provincial OHS.
 - **Membership update:** 12 new members in Oct. We're up around 200 members again.
 - **100” Coverlet:** Ann Sunahara brought in the coverlet that her husband won from the raffle and laid it out for us to view it. She wanted us to know that it went to someone who knows the amount of work that went into it. He appreciates the work and design.

Program: Noble Fibre Mill Talk with Matt and Lori

*The events of the program are transcribed as best as possible during this fast paced talk.
I offer my sincerest apologies for any omissions and variations in wording.*

*Mandy welcomed and introduced our guests
Mathew Nobles & Lori Bulmer to the membership*

Matt began this talk by covering his reasons for getting into the fibre business. He described having a history and experience in the field as a child and youth with his grandparents and parents operating Belfast Mini-Mills Ltd (*B.M.M.Ltd.*). Matt was surrounded by and part of the industry as he grew up, but he didn't initially see this as his future and he went into masonry. Before long Matt found that doing masonry work hurts the back! Fibre is more fun 😊

Towards the present day, Matt and Lori have lived in the region for 6 years and had some animals. Their overall goal with their mill is to be an addition to the fibre culture here. They feel that they have a rich history in this area and Lanark where they live. They've seen many sides of the industry. An example of this is reflected in them having sourced some fibre from Nunavut which arrived as fresh hides and required them to work on them quickly. As they continue with the mill processes they're getting more and more into it.

Noble Fibre Mill is currently a very small operation based out of their double car garage and basement. They have about 12 machines including a needle felter and wet felter, and are looking to obtain some more for spinning. Currently they can produce rovings, felt, carded fibre, and can only produce core-spun yarns from their carder.

In terms of products Matt and Lori will focus on small amounts of unique products which they feel is their upper-hand over the big industry. For their production, they find that the more complex the blend or finer the fibre used raises the price as the machine must be adjusted and they must be more attentive throughout the process. Humidity is a huge factor for them in their current workspace. Merino is their workhorse fibre they use the most as they like to use it to make shorter fibres more spin-able.

~Several samples were passed around of their different roving, core-spun, and felt.

In addition to producing some small batches of their own creations, Noble Fibre Mill will do custom processing for people. They're expanding offerings as they become comfortable with production, and they're working towards having more to offer.

Q/A/Comment

Q: Do you only process animal fibres?

A: No; bamboo, superwash, flax... putting it through in blends. There is a 6" maximum staple length when putting fibre into the machine; otherwise, it wraps around the 6" drums of said machine.

And for felt we have a wet felter, pre felt, needle felter, felting loom. *Matt described the machine's working.*

Also, We only do really small batches and only accept orders from the local area. 2.5-3lb batches at least, wash it well – they'll likely have to wash it at the mill anyway. During the process you can lose upwards of 30%, so you can bring small amounts in but you'll have proportionally more loss through the process because of the minimums required to run the machine.

We also do blending.

We try to bring in unique products to avoid having a conflict of interest with other fibre vendors. We try not to come to shows with the same things that we've been processing for people. We really want to be complimentary to the fibre community.

Q: Do you produce alpaca batts?

A: Yes! We have lots: 200-300lbs of alpaca blends.

Q: Do you offer combed top or roving?

A: Roving. We do very good roving with well aligned fibres. We expect to get a machine in the next batch of 4 pieces of equipment that will make top, so probably within a year.

We're moving towards more spinning products.

We were also shocked at how quickly we were accepted into the community. Thought it would take some time. Who knew there were so many *fibreheads* out there!

Q: Do you do all your own cleaning and washing?

A: Fleeces must be skirted before they arrive. We have a 3 chamber 50 gallon centrifugal washing machine. Organic soap is in a huge tub beside it. Alpaca is the hardest to wash! You can't always tell if it's clean. It needs to be clean because it really gunks up the machines. We have dry racks, and the picker requires its own room. The fibre separator machine can get out guard hairs etc. Cashmere...it's a slow machine.

Maybe you can help me with something...I have lots of felt strips from cutoff...
& I don't know what to do with it...

The guild audience became extremely excited! Members volunteered to supply ideas.

Q: Where are you located?

A: Between Almonte and Perth.

Q: Do you offer tours?

A: We're hesitant because there isn't much space to move around since it's all set up in a house. There are liability concerns with the lack of space to move around.

Thank you to everyone. Most of our support has come from the guild.
We want to have a full mill, a store, buy locally, and serve locally 😊

Mandy thanked Matt and Lori and asked that they keep us up to date on how things are coming.

Break

- **Member Update:** Catherine Barrette wished to thank guild members for all the support after her house fire. She expressed that this meant so much to her. She intends to take people up on their offers, just not right now. She lost everything. She says, "thank you, it did a lot of good for me."
- **MAFA 2017:** Mid-Atlantic Fibre Association Conference will be held at Millersville University, PA, July 20-23, 2017
 - A worthwhile event to participate in, the website has courses www.mafafibre.org
 - You can't register until Feb 1, 2017, includes dyeing, spinning, weaving, felting.
 - D. Seguin is considering getting a van to share a ride. Tell Ruth or Marie-France if you're interested.
- **NOTICE:** Any doors other than the lobby must be pulled shut. Please make sure they are all the way closed when you use them.

Show and Tell

Dyane Leclerc	<i>Many scarves she had made</i>
Carlene Paquette	Pampa Loom Jacket
Melanie Lukech	Orifice/sleying hook
Judy Kavanagh	LEGO charkha
Kathleen Schwass, Julie Anne Zdunich, Karin Hendriksen, Sylvie Fournier	Textured weaving samples <i>-made in a textured cloth workshop taught by Francesca Overend</i>
Candace Vanskiver	Bath towels - <i>cotolin</i>
Carmen Deschenes	Tea towel
Liane Thiry-Smith	Basket (Amish)
Jan Scott	Lost sheep
Alison James	Mommy brag & boast <i>daughter had an article published.</i>

Thanks to all. Meeting adjourned 9:35pm.

Next meeting takes place Monday December 5th, 7:30pm.