



# PENELOPE'S NEWS

May Edition 2024

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

[Maira White](#).....Chair  
[Carl Stewart](#).....Vice- Chair  
[Jean Sharp](#).....President  
[Louise Travill](#).....Treasurer  
[Brenda Bekkers](#)..... 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."*

The guild gratefully acknowledges the funding that it receives from the City of Ottawa.

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## President's Message

April showers have brought May flowers...my garden says spring has sprung and I am not going to argue with it!

As the saying goes - no news is good news. Things are carrying on as expected with the studio clean up and activities for the 75th anniversary (June 22, noon to 4pm).

Please let me know if you have any questions!

Jean  
[president@ovwsg.com](mailto:president@ovwsg.com)

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## News from your Chair

The OVWSG Executive has been looking at the space we rent from Heartwood House with an eye to make the best use of it. Over the past four years, the grant that we receive from the City of Ottawa has been decreased by approximately \$4,000 annually while our rent has increased by about 3% annually. We are assessing each of the spaces we rent and looking at its use. Deborah Newhook and Louise Travill have done an incredible job sorting through our storage spaces to determine what equipment we actually use and turning it into funds for the Guild. If you have any thoughts about this, please let me know at [chair@ovwsg.com](mailto:chair@ovwsg.com). We'll keep you informed about this over the next few months.

Maira

## Meeting Info

**This month's hybrid meeting:**  
Monday, May 6, 2024, at 7:15 pm

**Program:** Allison James,  
Spinning Wheels

**February Executive Meeting:** May 20, 2024 @ 7:00 pm

**The next meeting:** Monday, June 3rd, 2024

## General Announcements

### Message from the Editor

The newsletter is released on the Monday prior to the general meeting nine times a year, breaking for the summer months of July and August and for the winter holiday season (no January edition). Submissions for the May newsletter are due no later than **May 24, 2024**.

We welcome contributions from all members, so please feel free to submit photos, book reviews or stories of fibre related activities. The March Newsletter can be accessed at: <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/April-2024-Newsletter.pdf>

### Membership

Membership renewals can be done through SECURE ONLINE PAYMENT at:  
<https://www.ovwsg.com/membership/membership-application/>

Follow the directions and fill in the forms. You may pay through a PayPal account or a Credit card.

Cheque/Snail mail: Cheques should be made out to "OVWSG".  
Mail to: OVWSG / Heartwood House  
404 McArthur Ave. Ottawa, ON K1K 1G8  
ATTENTION: MEMBERSHIP

## Updates from Program Coordinators

### Workshops

Your workshop team is looking for suggestions for classes you would like to take during the summer: weekdays, evenings, and weekends, whole or half days. Let the guild know what you are interested by email to: [workshops@ovwsg.com](mailto:workshops@ovwsg.com)

Jan and I are working on scheduling some workshops for May and June. They may appear as dlibs and drabs over the next week or so, please watch the site.

We are also going to pilot some summer workshops. Those will also get posted as they are available.

Lastly, anyone interested in being an instructor, please get in touch. Planning for September to December starts in June.

These workshops for May still have space:

Weaving 1.5 Just beyond Beginners  
Saturdays May 25 – June 15 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

<https://www.ovwsg.com/events/event/2429-weaving-1-5-just-beyond-beginners/>

## Programs

It's been ten years since Alison James brought in an impressive collection of spinning wheels to lecture about wheels and their maintenance. She'll be doing an updated version of that presentation this month.

In June we have our Annual General Meeting (AGM) and we'll get started with this summer's Fibre Poker Challenge.

See you then.

Liane Thiry-Smith

## Library

Happy May! Remember you have to be a member to take out books from the circulating part of the guild library. So don't forget to check if you have remembered to renew for 2024-2025!

We still have a few members who have not replied to our reminder of overdue books, I know Hotmail is scary, but I now have an outlook account so that should make it past the spam filters. Please be courteous and return your books on time so others may enjoy them too.

The library is open on most Mondays, I will post in our face book group when I get in, or you can call the studio if you are not on Facebook. Books can be dropped off on Mondays, in the studio drop off box or to the librarians. Books can also be dropped off at the front desk of Heartwood house any time the building is open (bagged and Labeled "OVWSG LIBRARY"). For other options contact Library at [ovwsg.com](http://ovwsg.com).

Did you know the library has Books, Magazines, DVD's, Thumb drives and other interesting things to check out? We have a fabulous collection to inspire, to educate and to distract you into other aspects of the fiber arts! Come in and peruse our guild Library!

All for now, Jan, on behalf of the library team.

## Studio Loom Use – IMPORTANT NOTICE

Please note that any loom that is in use at the Guild overnight or longer, **MUST** have a label indicating who is weaving on it, what they are weaving, and - if they are with a class - who the instructor is as well as the name of the class/workshop. **It is the users' responsibility to ensure that their work is traceable.**

There are labels available in an envelope on the wall of the classroom, and just a piece of paper attached to the loom is adequate, provided it has the required information.

Any unidentified project on a loom may result in that loom being vacated and put back into circulation.

## Socials Update

Monday Socials are now from 4-8pm in the studio. Socials occur all Mondays there is not a regular meeting (first Monday of the month) Jan is usually in the studio by 9am working in the library. Everyone is encouraged to pop in and be social (spin, weave, felt, chat etc.) and use the library or equipment. Come and join us and get to know your fellow guild members.

## 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary – Member De-Stashing Event

### May Opportunity Member De-Stashing

Our 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations continue with a “Members De-stash” opportunity before the meeting and at the break. There are only a few opportunities remaining before summer, so please take advantage of this.

The six available tables will be set up around the edge of the meeting room before the meeting. The table costs \$5.00 and must be prepaid via e-transfer to me (details to follow). How you handle your transactions is your business. The doors for the de-stash open at 6:30 and must stop when the meeting begins at 7:15. You will have another opportunity to engage with customers during break. Vendors must stay to help with table take down.

There will not be a jury for materials sold, but we ask that you keep it to fiber related goods if possible. Use your good sense, be aware of your demographic and enjoy yourself.

Send me an email, [bquade@pixelgraphstudio.com](mailto:bquade@pixelgraphstudio.com) before Saturday May 04 with your name so I can confirm you interest. Payment must be sent via e-transfer before Saturday MAY 04 so I can have a table ready for you. If you have any questions, send them to me at that email address. Tables that are not prepaid will not be held; this payment is not refundable.

Bernadette Quade  
75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee

## Annual General Meeting

Without our dedicated group of volunteers, the Guild would not be able to continue to provide all of the services to the fibre arts community that it currently does. Volunteers are responsible for many of key roles and provide a great service to our members. They are responsible for managing our library, editing our newsletter, coordinating our annual exhibition and sale, managing our studio and equipment rentals, coordinating our program meetings and guest speakers, and leading our socials, to name just a few.

In addition to our experienced volunteers, many of whom have been contributing for many years, we need new people to join and provide fresh insight and a passion for the work. To stay relevant to a new generation of weavers, spinners and felters, we need new volunteers to advocate for the future of the Guild.

In addition to helping define the future of the Guild, in my experience, volunteering is a great way to meet other Guild members and really get to know the community.

**Current volunteers** – Thank you for your timely responses to last month’s email and a special thank you to those who are able to continue in your current positions. Our guild couldn’t function without your support.

**New volunteers** – We are always looking for help. If you have an interest in volunteering, please reach out to me at [newsletter@ovwsg.com](mailto:newsletter@ovwsg.com).

**As promised in the April newsletter the following list shows all of the positions that need to be filled for 2024-25:**

### Board Positions

- Corporate Secretary – Vacant
- Treasurer – Louise Travill, our interim Treasurer will be running for her first term
- Chair – Moira White has agreed to run for a second term
- President – Jean Sharp has agreed to run for a second term

Board positions must be elected by a quorum of members. If you are interested in running for any of these positions, please contact [secretary@ovwsg.com](mailto:secretary@ovwsg.com)

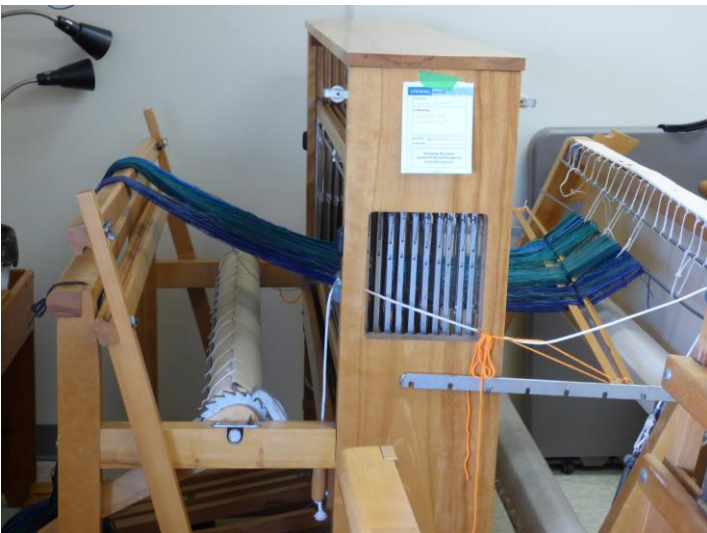
### Other Positions

- Constitution and Bylaws – guild is looking for a mentee for Ann Sunahara
- Equipment Manager
- Spinning Equipment Rental Coordinator
- Website Assistant
- Newsletter Editor

If you are interested in any of these roles, please contact [secretary@ovwsg.com](mailto:secretary@ovwsg.com)

Thank you,  
Brenda Bekkers  
OVWSG Corporate Secretary

## In the Studio





# In the Studio





# Peterborough Fibre Arts Festival





# Peterborough Fibre Arts Festival



## OVWSG 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary E-book; meet our members & their work

*An overview of the guild in its 75<sup>th</sup> year with a history of the guild, who we are and what we have done. It will also allow members to get to know other members, putting names and faces together.*

Accessible to all guild members, in any medium, at any point in their fiber arts journey, can participate. This is for our members not the general public.

### **Part 1 History**

(we will need a team who would like to work on this, Carl is working on this topic for another project, Cindy has the guild archives, and I have the slide show history from the 65<sup>th</sup> anniversary that I am presently updating so there is help available. But it would be nice to have someone else coordinating this section's information.) this section looks at where we came from and how we got here.

**Part 2 Scope of the guild** (*Weave (Basketry, tapestry, rugs), spin (post spinning), felt, dye, Fiber prep, animal husbandry*) -This section focuses on the diversity of different fiber arts practiced by guild members.

- Definitions/ explanations of each skill (not all of us do everything so let's introduce the skills we do, maybe it will inspire us to try new things.)

-A project for each topic?



## **Part 3 Who we are**

-Our People (the strength of a guild is in its participants, meet the members)

The questions for members

- ***Name of member***

-***when did you join the guild?***

-***guild participation (have you held guild jobs, official or unofficial in the guild)***

-***Fiber Bio – tell us about your fiber journey, favorite weave structure or fiber?***

-***Favorite Memories of the guild***

**3.1 Members work** – photographs of some of their favorite things they have made while they were in the guild. (Beginning works to more advanced.) this can be 1 or more pages per person.

-Brief description of work,

-technique (how did you make it) (this will suggest part 2 subsections)

-Did you get help from other guild members, was it part of a workshop, was it a guild challenge, Inspiration?

**3.2 in Memorium (Members we have lost)** this may be subcommittee

(Ann S expressed interest in this)

**Ann Middleton**

**Mary Morison,**

**Francesca Overend,**

**Mary Bowrin,**

**Natalie Shumovsky,**

**Kathleen Schwass,**

**Bo**

(There are many old members that were important to the guild, but if we are focusing on a snapshot of what the guild is like now we may want to focus on the more recent losses)

**Part 4 The Future** (where are we going)

- Aspirations what we hope to accomplish in the future (fiber arts takes over the world....)

- A short statement of what we want to accomplish next

-E.g., Online presence, international workshops, larger studio space, host spin in/fiber arts festival/international conference.... Ask the members and the exec: What do we want to do? Maybe another survey?

We will need a team to help with different sections, and I know no one wants to have me in charge of spell checking, so we will need a final check team too.

I have put together some VERY draft layouts to give you an idea of Part 3.1, which I hope this can act as a starting point. One example is included on the next page and the remainder can be viewed at the following link: <https://www.ovwsg.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/04/OVWSG-75th-Anniversary-EBook-Member-page-examples.docx>

While I have a few photos, everyone should select what they would like to share. This project is welcoming to all members whether you are just starting your fiber journey or have been at this so long there is no longer room in your house because the fiber has taken over.



Folding Ledrum and diminutive Great Wheel at the carp fair 2008.

## Spinning

Around 1985 Jan attended a class to learn how to spin on a drop spindle, being still allergic to wool she was handed a handful of cotton and told to she could spin that, so she did. Unfortunately this caused an enthusiasm for twist that has been hard to unlearn once I could spin wool.

She acquired her first spinning wheel around 1998, an old Ashford traditional, shortly after finding kittens. (The kittens were not amused.) she discovered she enjoyed spinning on a wheel and by then had lost most of the irritation from working with wool. One wheel became two and over the years the heard grew to about 16. all but one are functional and two are electric. Don't tell the wheels, but her favorites are the Lendrum Rook, the Merlin tree Road bug and the Ashford Traditional.



Spinning basket with cover. This Overshot pattern is woven in cotton with the pattern thread a grey slub-cotton, set at 12epi. Also shown are some of my spinning samples and spindles used at demos.



Robidue Saxony wheel in Birds eye maple.



Merlin tree Road bug travel wheel and a Kick Spindle by Alvin Ramer. 2013



Kick Spindle at the farm show demo 2013



Holiday Wheel, small travel wheel that fits in a trundle box at a 2018 Guild Social



Lendrum Rook, small wheel 2019 at social



Spin In at Arora's Summer 2010.



spinning in the hospital in 2013, (Road bug wheel). Glenn said the whirr of the wheel was comforting when he awoke, He know I was there and went back to sleep.





## OVWSG 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary E-book cont'd.

**Remember each of you will be sending a selection of photos (16mp or better if possible / we can arrange a photo shoot opportunity if needed) and you are writing your answers to the questions, so you don't have to worry about me picking a really odd facial expression (ANN!!) or writing a really "interesting bio" for you.**

I know this is a big project, but it should also be lots of fun. We want to work on this through 2024 and hopefully have it ready for the Guild Sale and Ex or at least by the end of the year.

All for now Jan

## Local Events

### Upper Canada Village

Upper Canada Village will be holding its annual shearing weekend on June 1st and 2nd. In addition to hand shearing in the Louck's Farm barn, there will be walking wheel demonstrations throughout the day and waulking or fulling of cloth demonstrations at fixed times (tbd) each day. Shirley Browsky is the resident weaver at the village this year.



Is hosting a presentation that will examine the Chéticamp rug hooking cottage industry with an eye to placing it in context with other rug hooking cottage industries of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century, specifically Grenfell and Charlevoix. Aesthetics in rug hooking were created, shaped, and molded by commercial patterns, other textile traditions, and individual artistic vision. By examining these one can conclude the following: that the transmission and sharing of design ideas was free-flowing and mutual; that local vernacular traditions were dramatically altered to suit the tastes of the consumer; that the main consumer of rugs went from familiar and local to foreign; that the function of hooked rugs changed from utilitarian and necessary to a status symbol for the wealthy; and finally, that outsiders with formal schooling in the arts were brought in with their social and cultural capital to influence local traditions. This talk will explore the history of these cottage industries, as well as discuss their relationship to labour, gender, and charity.

A brief bio: Dr. Laura Sanchini is a folklorist, oral historian, and curator. She joined the Canadian Museum of History in 2015 as Curator of Craft, Design and Popular Culture, and since 2022 she is the Manager of Research for the History and Cultural Expression curatorial group.

Presentation is hosted by long-time member Mary Bowring. Best to arrive early to get a good seat!

# For the Love of Fibre



Colour and Texture to Feed Your Soul

Saturday May 4, 2024, 10 AM—4 PM

Drummond Building, 22 Ryan St., Spencerville, ON

## Marketplace



Infinity Farm Lusville introduces five years of 100% homegrown wool just back from the mill!

We offer roving, 2 ply and 3 ply in the following:

- 80% brown alpaca 20% Dorset Wool
- 60% white alpaca 40% Dorset wool
- 70% Mohair (Angora goat) 30% Dorset wool
- 100% Dorset wool ( non dyed) ( large quantities available)

Call Victoria for pricing and quantities available. Infinity Farm will be at OVWSG Nov 2 sale!!

[www.infinityfarm.ca](http://www.infinityfarm.ca)





# Marketplace

The Marketplace portion of the newsletter is used to promote and assist its members. Some restrictions may apply as to space availability and file restrictions. Contact Brenda at [marketplace@ovwsg.com](mailto:marketplace@ovwsg.com)

## Kinnaird Farm – [www.KinnairdFarm.ca](http://www.KinnairdFarm.ca)

- Ready-to-spin roving in various natural colours, wool, and wool-alpaca blends
- Fleece – raw wool fleece, *shipped nationwide!*
- Sheepskin Rugs – white, brown, black, grey
- Two-ply mill spun, natural white yarn, fine, 100 gram skeins / cakes
- Accepting orders for 2024 lamb

Contact Kelly MacGregor at [KinnairdFarm@gmail.com](mailto:KinnairdFarm@gmail.com)



**Kinnaird Farm**  
**Kelly M MacGregor**

83 La Rue Mills Rd  
Mallorytown ON  
K0E 1R0

613.659.4267

## Créations Christine

Représentante d'Ashford Dealer

Pour plus d'information – For inquiries: 819-405-2007

[cgagne40@gmail.com](mailto:cgagne40@gmail.com)

Christine Gagné

ISABELLE PERDIGAL & JACQUES MORIN

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613-219-0166  
[artisanoriginalsbysusan@gmail.com](mailto:artisanoriginalsbysusan@gmail.com)

*Louet Dealer*  
*Ashford Dealer*

**Wööl**

Fournitures de tricot et arts textiles  
Laines commerciales et teintées à la main  
Knitting and textile arts supplies | Commercial and hand dyed yarns

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AMÉLIE H. EMPORIUMDELAIN.COM [wool\\_emporium@laine.com](mailto:wool_emporium@laine.com) [www.emporiumdelaine.com](http://www.emporiumdelaine.com)

## FOR SALE:

Alvin Ramer picker combs,

Cherry in stand \$200

Contact: Marsha Zimmerman  
613-915-2554

# Marketplace - Looms & Weaving Equipment for Sale

1. **Clement 45"** four-harness jack. Great for rugs. Sectional warping beam. \$800
  2. **Leclerc 'Multiple Harness Nilus'** 45" eight-harness jack (c.1955-1965). Space for 4 more harnesses, removable castle. Extended sectional warping beam. \$800
  3. **Leclerc Fanny 45"** four-harness counterbalance. Extended sectional warping beam 38" wide. \$400
  4. **Leclerc Arisat 36"** four-harness jack. Sectional warping beam 22" wide. \$400
  5. **Leclerc Nilus 60"** eight-harness jack. No sectional warping beam, no apron. \$200  
(NB: All looms come with wire heddles.)
  6. **Glimåkra Gobelin** upright tapestry floor loom. 48" wide, 6' tall. Complete set of warp knobs, various lease sticks & pattern holders. Rare, no longer made. \$800
- Also: 2 Leclerc weaving benches:** open ended, 26" H x 44" L, and 26" H x 38" L. \$350 each  
**Horizontal warping mill** \$150 (photo #7)  
Various reeds and lease sticks, raddles, set of 4 lams for a Leclerc..



Looms located near Elphin, Ontario, purchaser responsible for taking apart and transporting. Please contact Kirsten Scott, [scottkirstenv@gmail.com](mailto:scottkirstenv@gmail.com).





# February Meeting Minutes

## April 2024 Meeting

Monday April 8, 2024, at 19:15 in person and via Zoom

- Welcome from Chair, Moira White
- Land Acknowledgement
- Introduction of the Executive
- Welcome to new members, Dominique, Sara, Susan, Morgan, Kate, Cynthia
- 43 participants (online and in person)

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

- We are between membership coordinators, so if you know if your membership is up for renewal, please don't wait for the notification before renewing.
- Library – please return your books, some have grown legs.
- Workshops – there may be some in May and June, but the majority will be in September. That list will come out in August with members getting first notice.
- Our equipment team has been busy tidying up the studio and classroom, which has resulted in a number of items that are available for sale at the back of the room. Thanks to the team.
- Deadline for newsletter is April 26
- AGM is June and there are a number of positions that need to be filled in order for the guild to run smoothly. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact [secretary@ovwsg.com](mailto:secretary@ovwsg.com)
- 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary – June 22<sup>nd</sup> 10 – 4, there will be a party at the Guild, lots of things will be happening including the Tapestry. 24 tiles of the parliament building created by guild members in weaving, felting, etc. Spin in, make and take table, etc. Will need members to contribute finger foods. If you would like to volunteer in any capacity, please contact Jean at [president@ovwsg.com](mailto:president@ovwsg.com)
- Ex and Sale – this year's theme is Diamond for our Diamond (75<sup>th</sup>) anniversary. Open now for returning vendors, opens on the 27<sup>th</sup> of the month for new vendors.
- Report on outreach activities: Inuit sewing centre in Rideau High School asked OVWSG to provide an estimate for tax purposes. We've completed the evaluation and are working to develop programs in collaboration with the group.
- Member de-stash – Cost is \$5 to rent a table at the monthly meetings to sell your excess stash. Contact for Bernadette.
- Next Executive April 22, 2024, at 7:00 am. Everyone is invited. If you wish to be included in the meeting, please contact Moira at [chair@ovwsg.com](mailto:chair@ovwsg.com)
- Next month's program, May 6th – Allison James – spinning wheels, history, types and things to look for when purchasing.

### SHOW AND TELL

- **Glenn** – sheep games – sheep rustling and sheepy-time
- **Jan** – chickadee
- **Karen** – threading study, scarves on 32 shafts and 16 shafts
- **Wendy** - Yarn spun from drum carding social.
- **Liane** – snow dyed yarn
- **Molly** – felted bag
- **Moira** – dukagang – gradient, bird, tapestry tile for 75<sup>th</sup> parliament scene
- **Dominique** – hand spun yarn
- **Ann** – basket from Akwesasne ash and sweet grass that used to belong to Mary Morrison

# Heartwood House Parking

## Parking

### 1. Back parking lot:

- The parking area at the Moorvale entrance by the back door entrance and the parking area from the storage pods to the west fence are reserved for permit holders only from Monday to Friday from 8:00a.m. to 4:00p.m.
- Vehicles with no permits on the dashboard will be ticketed.
- There are no parking restrictions in the back lot after 4:00p.m. from Monday to Friday and on Saturday.

### 2. Front lot:

- Visitors parked in the front lot must be registered on the front desk journal.
- A fee of \$1 is charged for parking in the front lot. Please pay at the Heartwood House front desk.
- Vehicles not registered in the visitor parking journal will be ticketed.
- Visitors who are popping in to drop off an item to a member are not required to pay a fee or register the vehicle.

### 3. UUFO entrance:

- The two spots in front of the Unitarian entrance are reserved for the Unitarian members.

### 4. Sunday Parking:

- Please park in front of the building or to the East of the Laundry in the rear parking lot (areas are marked in yellow below) to allow Unitarians access to their space on Sundays.

