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In this Issue

About Our Cover Art ..... 5  
Calendar of events. .... 4  
Free Patterns ..... 27  
Map ..... 24  
Recipes. .... 10  
Row by Row ..... 28



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The Country Register of Ontario  
June / July 2018 Issue

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# Calendar of Events

## ..... ONGOING .....

- MAY 28 - JUNE 4 Rocky Mountain Shop Hop to Quilt Canada-Vancouver Tour - Celtic Quilt Tours pg. 23
- MAY 29 - JUNE 23 Lake of the Woods Quilt Guild Quilt Show - Kenora, ON
- MAY 30 - SEPT 23 Color Improvisations 2: An International Exhibition of Contemporary Quilts - Toronto, ON

## ..... JUNE .....

- JUNE 1 - JUNE 2 Quilts by the Bay 2018 - Bluewater Quilters' Guild - Owen Sound, ON
- JUNE 1 - JUNE 2 A Feast for the Eye Quilt Show 2018 - Sarnia Quilters Guild - Point Edward, ON
- JUNE 1 - JUNE 2 Quilts in Bloom - Hamilton Quilters Guild - Hamilton, ON
- JUNE 2 - JUNE 3 Quilt Gems - Quilters Guild of Renfrew - Renfrew, ON
- JUNE 2 - JUNE 3 Art in the Park - Windsor, ON
- JUNE 2 - JUNE 3 Field Trip Music & Arts Festival - Toronto, ON
- JUNE 4 - JUNE 15 Quilt Shop & Textile Tour of Ireland - Celtic Quilt Tours ... pg. 23
- JULY 7 - JULY 8 Prince Edward County Quilters' Guild Show @ Wellington Community Center, Wellington, ON pg. 9
- JUNE 8 - JUNE 9 Quilts on the Grand - Grand Quilt Guild - Fergus, ON
- JUNE 8 - JUNE 10 Quilts Kingston - Limestone Quilters' Guild @ 120 Days Rd., Kingston, ON pg. 6
- JUNE 9 - JUNE 10 Behind The Seams 2018 Quilt Show - Trent Valley Quilters - Brighton, ON  
www.trentvalleyquiltersguild.com
- JUNE 9 - JUNE 10 Beaches Art and Crafts Show - Toronto, ON
- JUNE 10 Heritage Monthly Antique Market - Toronto, ON
- JUNE 15 - JUNE 16 Bring it Home - Kincardine Sunset Quilt Guild - Kincardine, ON
- JUNE 15 - JUNE 16 Markham Village Music Festival - Markham, ON
- JUNE 21 - JULY 1 TD Ottawa Jazz Festival - Ottawa, ON
- JUNE 22 - JUNE 24 Stratford Blues and Ribfest - Stratford, ON
- JUNE 22 - JUNE 24 Pride Toronto Street Fair, Toronto, ON
- JUNE 23 - JUNE 24 Escapade Music Festival - Ottawa, ON
- JUNE 30 - JULY 8 La Cloche Juried Art Show - Whitefish Falls, ON

## ..... JULY .....

- JULY 1 HAPPY CANADA DAY!
- JULY 5 - JULY 8 Kingston Buskers Rendezvous - Kingston, ON
- JULY 5 - JULY 8 TD Sunfest - London, ON
- JULY 5 - JULY 15 RBC Bluesfest - Ottawa, ON
- JULY 6 - JULY 8 Fifty-Seventh Toronto Outdoor Art Exhibition - Toronto, ON
- JULY 6 - JULY 29 Beaches International Jazz Festival - Toronto, ON
- JULY 12 - JULY 15 Bluesfest International Windsor - Windsor, ON
- JULY 13 - JULY 15 Quilts on the Tay 2018 - Lanark County Quilters' Guild @ 71 Cornelia St. W, Smith Falls, ON ... pg. 13
- JULY 20 - JULY 22 Home County Music & Art Festival - London, ON
- JULY 20 - AUG 11 Festival of the Sound - Perry Sound, ON
- JULY 28 - JULY 29 Quilts at the Creek - Q@C Collective - Toronto, ON

## ..... SAVE THE DATE .....

- AUG 2 - AUG 13 Wales & Birmingham Festival of Quilts Tour - Celtic Quilt Tours ... pg. 23
- AUG 11 - AUG 12 Quilting in the Country - Almaguin Quilters Guild - Sohm Homestead - 167 Bunker Hill Rd, South River, ON - For more info. email Karenasutcliffe@gmail.com
- AUG 13 - AUG 18 London Post - Tour Excursion - Celtic Quilt Tours ... pg. 23
- OCT 11 - OCT 13 Creativ Festival @ International Center (Entrance 5) - Toronto, ON

## Dearest Readers,

Summer is here!

A blue summer sky with cotton candy clouds...sweet fruits of summer... barefoot in blue jeans at the beach...the lazy daze of summer...birds twitter (the old fashioned way;-) )and dragonflies dance...staying cool in the pool...driving with the windows down...sun-kissed days and cool nights...eating ice cream cones before they melt...take an afternoon nap in a hammock...enjoy a chilled glass of Chardonnay....feeling alive and happy...yum yum summer fun...having lunch on an outside patio... burgers on a sizzling grill...picnic in the park...children running through a sprinkler...a season of fresh fruits and vegetables...green leaves flowing in the wind...sweet summer months...watching fireworks on Canada Day... go fly a kite...watch your garden grow...a pitcher of freshly brewed ice tea...chill out in the heat this summer...spread out a blanket on the grass... the colors of summer...hello sunshine...the tans will fade but the memories will last forever...quilting, of course!

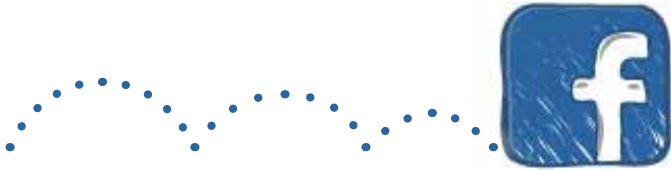
This issue marks our 3rd year of bringing you the Country Register! I wish to thank you, my dearest readers, personally, and on behalf of our entire team, for the unwavering support you have given us and our excellent advertisers. I have said it so many times, but it is still the honest truth... without you, we would not be here!

The past three years have just flown by, but I can truly say that our entire team is just as excited today as we were three years ago to bring you The Country Register of Ontario!

Happy Canada Day!

Have a sun-sational summer!

Harriet



## Follow Along on Facebook!

by Barbara Floyd, Founder

If you are a reader of The Country Register chances are you use Facebook as well in this day of electronics. We have a very large readership that spans the USA and Canada. This next year marks our 30th year Anniversary which means a big thank you to our advertisers, publishers and readers!

Now perhaps you will give us a like on Facebook at The Country Register and see and learn things from other parts of the country, shared craft ideas, good recipes, all in addition to your local Country Register. This service is also free, just like The Country Register has been free to the readers all these years. Many of the individual publications also have a Facebook page for just your state or province that will also pop up when you search for The Country Register. "Like" both and consider it a bonus to your paper. Add to your Country Register experience and join us on Facebook.

Have a wonderful 2018 and thanks in advance for your online and offline support.



Hello Summer!



*Our Search for Cover Artwork –*

Across Canada and the U.S, you can always tell *The Country Register* by it's cover. Our publishers seek to find cover art or photos from the province/state the paper represents. To that end, we are seeking the work of artists from Ontario to feature on our covers. The art must be in good taste and consistent with the theme of the papers. If you would like your work to be considered, please send an email indicating your interest to [OntarioCountryRegister@gmail.com](mailto:OntarioCountryRegister@gmail.com)

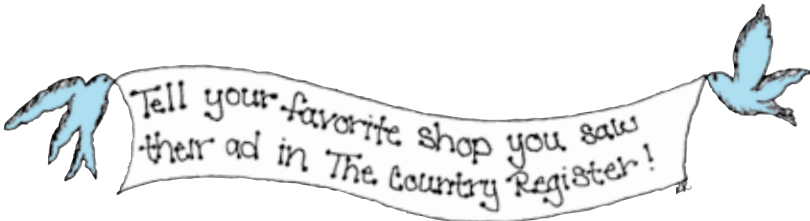
*Meet our cover artist:*  
**Mandy Budan from Pickering, Ontario**

Hailing from Pickering, Ontario, (Toronto born) Mary Budan is this issue's cover artist.

Mandy is an extremely accomplished visual artist and primarily paints abstracts of nature and landscapes. Using acrylic paints on wood panels, her distinctive style emphasizes rearranging elements to show the beauty of the scene in unexpected, and frankly, beautiful ways. Inspired by nature, she uses strong colour, discrete shapes, and rhythmic patterns to create paintings which can be enjoyed for both their abstract and realistic qualities.

Our front cover, "Forest Winter", is one of Mandy's favorite pieces (and one of ours too!). Mandy's description of her work says it all..." Snow heavy on the forest. Pines bow beneath the weight. A green cool winter light suffuses everything.." Simple, yet intricate at the same time, beautiful and breathtaking, we love it. Thanks Mandy!

Mandy markets her fine art originals through her website, [www.BudanArt.com](http://www.BudanArt.com). She also has a blog on her website where she posts her work in progress as well as interacts with her fans and potential clients.



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**QuiltBees** is a bright, inspiring hive of activity offering a full line of quilt shop services and more. Located in the busy little town of Vankleek Hill, one hour east of Ottawa. This is a town that hosts many events through out the year bringing in all kinds of tourism. It seems that all the events are a hit, bringing people from miles around, for events like the Christmas Home Tours to Beau's Oktoberfest.

At one point, several years ago we had two quilt shops in town. It was disappointing to see one close and the other move out of town. I felt strongly that this community needed a quilt shop again. QuiltBees opened on the 20th of January 2017 and has been growing and evolving ever since. QuiltBees was inspired by the community and I want to say thank you so very much for helping me make this a success. The name QuiltBees stands for a community of like minded people that come together, supporting one another while sharing and encouraging each other. QuiltBees is all about the friends that visit us.

There is so much activity that goes on in the hive. It is truly a blessing to be a part of people's creations coming together and watching confidence grow, and in some cases even soar! I find the children's classes very encouraging as the grass roots level is so important. At QuiltBees, customer service is paramount, we pride ourselves on providing a warm, friendly and helpful atmosphere.

We offer a full range of 100% cottons and flannels, both also in wide back fabrics. A large selection of notions for hand sewing, quilting and knitting. Yarn, batting, lots of patterns and books in all areas of sewing, hand applique and knitting. Kits for take along projects or quilting. Long arm services and the ever-popular machine cleaning. This year we are excited to launch the Sue Spargo 100% merino wool with her line of solid and variegated cotton threads. We carry wool/acrylic thread for those hand applique projects and our wool fabric is available by the metre.

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To stay in touch with all our activities, please send me an email to be on our mailing list.

*Come in and Bee truly inspired! Cheers, Laura*

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[Laura@quiltbees.ca](mailto:Laura@quiltbees.ca). Please like us on Facebook [www.facebook.com/QuiltBees](http://www.facebook.com/QuiltBees) or follow on Instagram @quiltbees




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## Row by Row Remembered

by Madeline Lister

Have you ever visited a quilt shop in July? How about August? Summertime must be the slowest, loneliest, saddest season of the year. As a former quilt shop owner, I've experienced the frequent days when no one comes through the door. My fellow quilters are either gardening or off on vacation. All the Spring classes have wrapped up, and the calendar is empty until Fall.

At this mid-summer point, I'm craving a bit of chitchat. Anything. The lousy weather forecast, why you weren't out weeding your rose garden, the anticipated visit with your grands. I wouldn't care whether you made a purchase, or not. I'd be so grateful you cared enough to pass some time with me.

What happens to the creative passion of quilting, come the end of June, or in some cases, even April? Where does that simple, satisfying, and seductive relationship with one's stash go? Perhaps this quandary was on Janet Lutz' mind when, in 2011, she launched the first Row by Row Experience. What began in twenty shops across New York State is today hosted by thousands of shops in the United States, Canada, and Europe. Now in its eighth season, this eleven-week summer event is pure fun. For shop owners, it's also a lot of hard work.

Behind the scenes, to the quilting industry with great fanfare, the theme for the next summer's Row by Row Experience is announced. In the past, amongst others, there's been



Row "Falls by Light" for the 2015 Row by Row Experience as created by Sara Lister

H20 (2015), Home Sweet Home (2016), and On the Go (2017). For 2018, Sew Musical is the theme. Can't wait to see the lineup of inspiring rows that will begin to populate the Row by Row Experience website!

Having registered our shop to take part, my daughter Sara and I put on our caps, and thought, and sketched, and rethought, and muddled until our Row, unique to our shop, reached its final version. Then on to making it come alive through beautiful fabric, embellishments, and quilting. I particularly loved our 2015 row, a minimalist Niagara Falls captured in Northcott's Shimmer collection, complete with twinkling lights, reminiscent of the Falls at night.

Developing the pattern into a printable document is not for the faint of heart. But this is part of those hidden jobs for the shop. All who ask will receive a pattern for the Row, no purchase necessary. Then, there's the cutting and assembling of kits, ordering the complimentary bolts of fabric and bagging the add-on doodads. Putting up the map. Planning opening day's treats. Each shop owner will give the event their distinctive touch. And before we've barely caught our breath, launch day would be upon us, and the magic would begin.

Gone were the slow and lonely days. From all over, they'd come. By two's and by carloads. With girlfriends, and with family. Day-tripping. Road-tripping. On-vacation-tripping. And each one excited to share some part of their RxR experience. The distance they'd driven. How many shops they'd

(story continues on next page)



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(story continued from previous page)

visited. Patterns or kits they'd accumulated. And before leaving, by adding a pin on our map, proudly declaring their home town. Still keyed up like silly school girls, with a laugh and a wave, they'd be off to their next Experience.

Trust me. I've seen them. I know the joy all quilters share, both as a creative hobbyist and from vocation. My shop-owning days are behind me now. So, it's my turn to link up with a buddy, or two, or maybe a whole carload, and head out for a Row by Row Experience of my own. I'll let you know how it goes! Oh, but wait! I have had my own RxR experience. And with a whole carload! But that's a story for another time.

Until then, happy road-tripping to you . . .

Madeline Lister is a quilter and writer by heart and by trade. Having retired in 2015 from the quilt shop she founded with her daughter, Madeline fills her days creating with fabric and the pen, and traveling alongside her husband who suffers from an incurable case of wanderlust. Madeline writes from their farm in the peaceful wine region of Wilcox Corners, Ontario, Canada. She would love to exchange comments and ideas with you. Contact her by email: madelinesmusings@gmail.com

For more information on the 2018 "Sew Musical" Row by Row Experience, visit [www.rowbyrowexperience.com](http://www.rowbyrowexperience.com).

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## Town and Country Cooking

## "Easy" Eating

By Janette Hess

"Summertime, and the livin' is easy," composer George Gershwin observed some 80 years ago. Fast-forward to summertime 2018, pull some shrimp out of the freezer and use shrimp-themed recipes to confirm that summertime

eatin' can be easy, too. Shrimp in their fresh or frozen forms are readily available year-round, but they seem like warm-weather food when they're not breaded and deep-fried.

Utilizing pre-cooked cocktail shrimp, Marinated Shrimp is an easy dish to assemble. Offer it as an appetizer at your next backyard gathering, or discard the lemon slices and serve the shrimp, onions, peppers, capers and dressing over a bed of garden-fresh greens. Add some sliced avocado and a sprinkling of feta cheese, and salad never tasted so good!

Shrimp Creole is not quite as easy to make, but it is exceptionally "easy" to eat. Packed with shrimp and seasonal vegetables, this classic dish is delicious as well as elegant. If needed, the base may be cooked a day or two in advance and then stored in the refrigerator. It also freezes well. For serving, simply heat the base to boiling and add raw shrimp as detailed in the recipe. What could be easier on your summer schedule than a fabulous make-ahead dish?

## Marinated Shrimp

- 2 pounds frozen jumbo shrimp  
(pre-cooked, peeled and de-veined with tails intact)
- 1 white onion, peeled and thinly sliced
- 2 medium lemons, thinly sliced
- ½ cup sliced, drained "pepperoncini" deli-style peppers
- ¼ cup drained capers
- 1 cup Italian dressing
- 1 tablespoon prepared horseradish
- ½ teaspoon celery seed

Thaw shrimp in refrigerator according to package instructions. (This may take overnight.) Pat shrimp dry. Place single layer of shrimp in bottom of 9- by 13-inch dish. Cover with half of onions, lemon slices, peppers and capers. Repeat layer. In separate bowl, whisk together dressing, horseradish and celery seed. Pour dressing over shrimp. Refrigerate 8 to 10 hours, stirring once after 4 to 5 hours. Transfer to a bowl for serving, if desired. Makes 8 servings.

## Shrimp Creole

- 2 pounds shell-on frozen raw shrimp, medium or large size
- ½ cup vegetable oil
- ½ cup flour
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 1 large bell pepper (red or green), seeded and chopped
- 1½ cups chopped celery
- 2 to 3 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 cups fresh, peeled, chopped tomato
- 1 6-ounce can tomato paste
- 3½ cups chicken broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 1 teaspoon Creole seasoning\*
- ½ teaspoon dried thyme
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- 3 tablespoons fresh chopped parsley OR 1 tablespoon dried parsley
- Several dashes of hot pepper sauce, plus more for serving
- 8 to 10 servings steamed rice

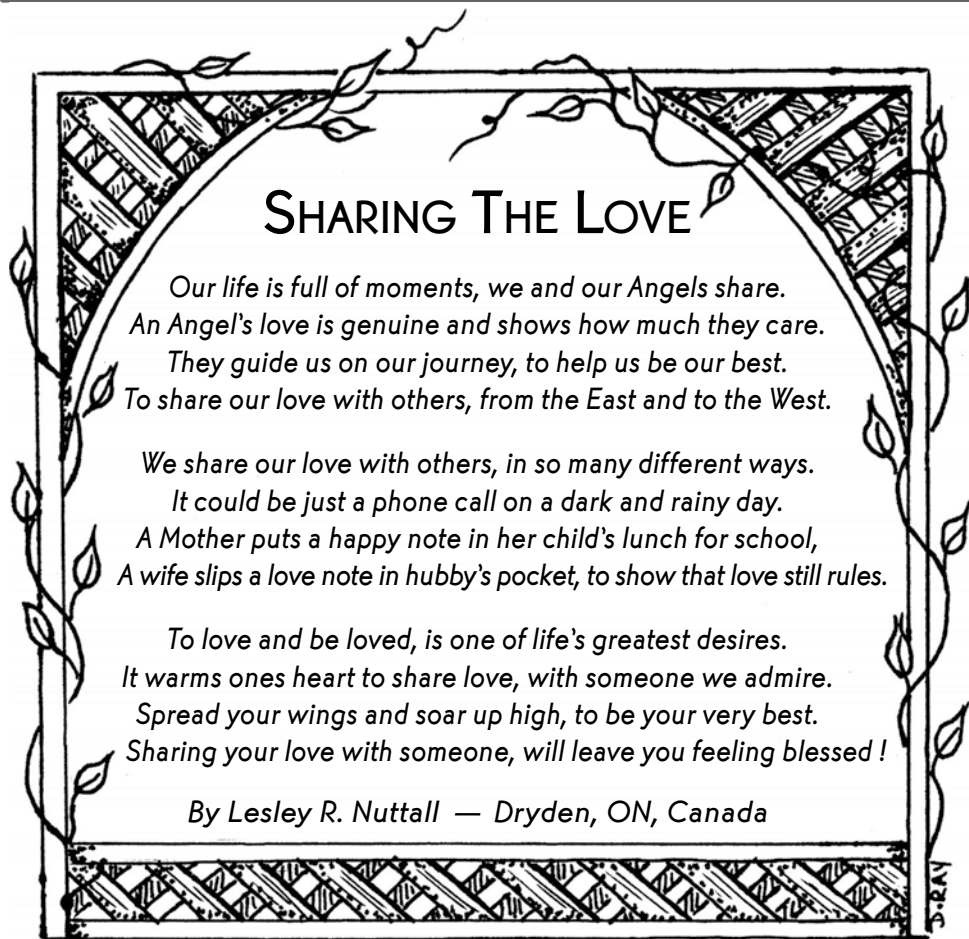
Thaw shrimp according to package instructions. Peel, de-vein and remove tails. Refrigerate while preparing base. To make base, heat oil in heavy soup pot or Dutch oven. Add flour. Reduce heat to medium low. Cook and stir for approximately 15 minutes, or until mixture is a rich caramel color. Adjust heat as needed to keep mixture from browning too slowly or too quickly. Add onion, bell pepper and celery. Simmer 10 minutes, stirring occasionally. Add garlic and continue cooking and stirring an additional 5 minutes. Add chopped tomatoes, tomato paste, chicken broth and all seasonings except parsley and hot pepper sauce. Simmer on very low heat for 35 to 40 minutes. Just before serving, remove bay leaves and add parsley. Bring mixture to boil and add raw shrimp. Cook just until shrimp are opaque. Remove from heat and add several dashes of hot pepper sauce. Serve over steamed rice. Makes 8 to 10 generous servings.

\*If Creole seasoning is not available, substitute several dashes of Worcestershire sauce.

*A trained journalist, Janette Hess focuses her writing on interesting people and interesting foods. She is a Master Food Volunteer with her local Extension service and enjoys collecting, testing and sharing recipes.*



Burlington • New Market



Building Harmony  
Episode 61: Saving the planet

By Jeff Cappis

Our neighbor Renee, who lives in the acreage across the road from us, is a very inventive guy and an avid environmentalist to boot. He’s always looking for ways to reduce his environmental footprint.

A few years ago he covered his house and 5 car garage with solar panels. He actually sells power back to the grid and still has enough power to run his whole house on sunny days. Coincidentally, electrical appliances around the neighborhood tend to blow up on sunny days. It’s all in the name of saving the planet so we don’t complain too much.

His latest idea was a simple one: use wind power to run his well. All he needed was an electric generator with a big fan, a tower, an electric pump and 50 feet of pipe. He drew up the plans and away he went.

One day I could see a tower going up on his property. The next day the fan went on top. On the third day a big wind blew in. On the fourth day Renee got the fan unstuck from the side of his house and put it back on the tower again. With that bug worked out, it was time to put in the well.

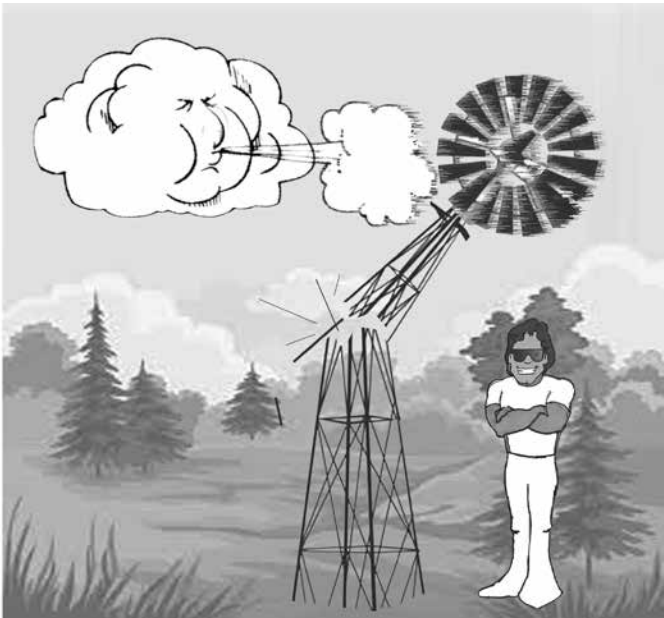
Using his back hoe, he pounded the 50 feet of pipe into the ground. It made one hell of a racket and took him about two hours. With the pipe in place, he dropped the pump in. Just then I happened to pull up to his house. I’d come to see what the racket was about.

“What are you building this time? A radio tower?”

“No,” he replied, “I’m building a wind mill to power my well”

“Good idea!”

“You’re just in time. I am about to turn it on! We have a healthy wind too!” He hooked up the wires and turned on the system. It was quiet at first. Then the ground began to rumble. We were shaken off



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out feet as the well grew louder like it was building up to detonation. I could faintly here Renee yell “hold on!” when suddenly everything went quiet an a puff of dust came out of the well. Renee got up and looked it over. “Dry well.”

So it went on for the next few weeks. The sound of Renee pounding pipe echoed through the valley. The next well blew out some sticky black stuff. “I struck oil!” he thought. No, actually he struck mud.

Believe it or not, the well after that blew rocks at him. The next blew peat moss and caught fire. The one after that produced water, but drained the environmental reserve next door. All the wild life in the area began drinking from our pond instead. That also made our property their bathroom.

I won’t even begin to describe the stuff that blew out of the pipe he sank in his septic field.

But, Renee wasn’t one to quit. He kept pounding down pipe and kept coming up empty. Pipe after pipe until finally he got one that produced good clean water. 50 gallons per minute. He was ecstatic! He bragged it up to everyone about how proud he was the idea worked and now he had unlimited water with no environmental footprint. Victory! Coincidentally, the rest of our wells began producing less.

Now, I’m not one to get in the way of progress, especially environmental progress, but you have to wonder if it all was really worth it. The animals were displaced, the noise, the rest of our wells are producing less, and Renee’s property is covered with mud, dust, rocks and holes. Not to mention the 300 gallons of fuel he burned pounding all those pipes into the ground. In a few years, we all hope the area goes back to normal.

It’s all in the name of saving the planet so we don’t complain too much.

© 2018 Jeff Cappis. Jeff is a writer and cartoonist who lives in Bragg Creek, Alberta.



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**FAITH** goes up the stairs that **LOVE** has built and looks out the window that **HOPE** has opened.  
*Charles Spurgeon*

Progress takes action and this time of year, as we look around, there is plenty of action - bees are buzzing, hummingbirds are zipping around from flower to flower.

Nature teaches us so many wonderful lessons if we only take the time to observe them. From the smallest seeds to the tallest trees we are amazed and in awe each and every season.

**GIRLFRIEND WISDOM:**

Action doesn't mean, "hurry". Nature has a message for you.

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*Lao Tzu*

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## Get into the Water and Make a Splash this Summer

by Susan Baldani



What is it about water that soothes the soul? Whether it's the ocean, lake, pond, river or stream, it makes being outdoors a little more special.

Of course, most people love the beach. The roar of the waves, the feel of the sand beneath your toes and the squawks of the sea gulls overhead is for some a little piece of heaven. There's something about being on a beach that makes you feel like you're on vacation, even if your house is only a few towns away. It's also a fact that waves toss negative ions into the air, and according to WebMD, help "alleviate depression, relieve stress, and boost our daytime energy."

Other people would much rather be at a lake. The water is calm and still, and there are no waves to knock you over or flip your raft. Once out of the water, you can go into the woods to find some shade and get a break from the heat. Some lake areas have grills where you can barbeque and enjoy a meal with your family and friends around picnic tables placed under the trees.

I'm fortunate to live not far from either a beach or a lake, but one of my favorite things is having a pond right behind my house. I can watch egrets

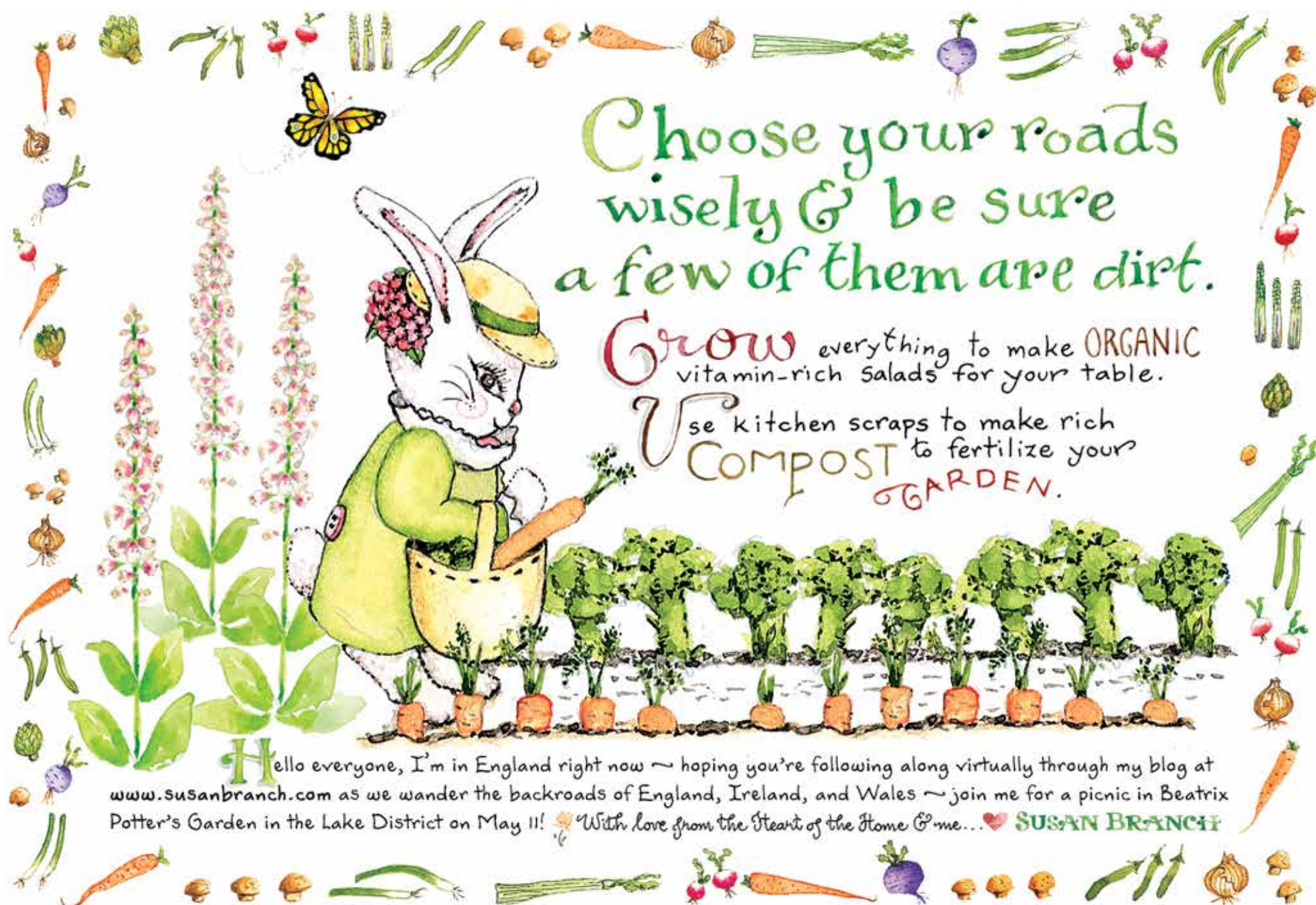
having a fish dinner, or turtles, including the snapping variety, lumbering across the grass looking like the prehistoric creatures that they are. There are frogs and colorful sunfish as well, who are trying not to become dinner. But even when there is no wildlife to be seen,

the sun reflecting off the surface of the pond or the mist rising above creates a special effect that is unique to a body of water. I also have a little stream out back, and after a good rain, the babbling of the water running over the rocks is one of my favorite sounds.

Immersing ourselves in water also bring about a state of relaxation. The buoyancy as we float makes us feel light and carefree, and the silkiness surrounding us makes us feel cocooned. It's a good thing I don't have a pool; I don't know how I would ever get anything done. Once I get in the water, it's hard to get back out.

So take advantage of this warm weather. Pick up a colorful beach bag and some towels, lather on the sunscreen and have a great summer!

*Susan Baldani has an MA in Education and a BA in Psychology. She enjoys writing and in addition to writing articles about small town life, is currently working on her second book. You can contact her at [suebaldani@](mailto:suebaldani@)*





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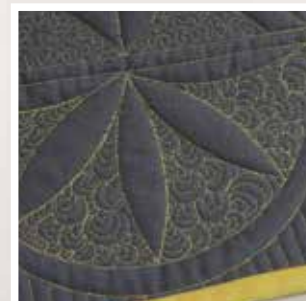
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## The Thrill of the Hunt

by Deb Heatherly

Warmer days have finally arrived and many will take to the road on vacations to various locations. Whether it's trips to the mountains, the beach or to visit friends and relatives, if you're like me, they are an excuse to explore interesting places along the way.

I'm always on the look out for quilt shops, antique stores and businesses that repurpose older items into new uses. My daughter once described it as an adult treasure hunt and I think she is right. I love the thrill of finding things to bring home, as well as the unexpected memories triggered by spying something from my past.

Many times, it's a game or a toy that brings back special memories. I vividly remember sitting and playing Chinese Checkers with my cousins on summer nights after a long day at the beach. I had a round metal set that opened so that you could store the marbles inside. When I recently ran across a similar set, I felt myself smiling. I swear I could almost hear my cousins laughing and smell the Coppertone my mom would slather on my sunburnt shoulders.

Sometimes it's the excitement of finding new additions for a collection or seeing a friend do the same. My friend Cacia is constantly on the lookout for lavender transfer ware and it was exciting for us both when she found a piece on a recent trip. She had explained to me earlier that the pieces she looks for are getting harder and harder to find. She loves to use the pretty plates on special occasions and now, even though it's not something I collect, I find myself searching for pieces for her.

Plates, games, dolls—almost anything vintage appeals to me—but my favorite things to look for are vintage sewing machines and sewing collectibles. I love to imagine the people who used them and what they created. Was it a grandmother who was teaching her granddaughter to sew her first seams? Was it an expectant mom making tiny layettes for the baby that was soon to enter the world? Or was it a quilter like myself piecing scraps together to create quilts to keep her family warm? Pin cushions, darning eggs, needle cases—no matter what it is—each piece holds a childlike wonder to me and I will have to admit that many of those finds end up following me home.

One of my all-time favorites is a red metal thread holder. Its paint is peeling in places and its center pincushion was lost long before this treasure came to live with me but I love it all the same. I'd like to know its history and how it ended up in a second-hand store. I'm sure it was once a prized piece for some lucky seamstress and I think this little beauty deserves a much better retirement than the shelf of miscellaneous goods that I found it abandoned on. It looked very out of place sitting between plastic flowers and a chipped cup and saucer. If inanimate objects had feelings, I'd almost say it was sad. That's why I just had to bring it home. It now sits in a place of honor in my sewing room.

While any sewing themed item makes me happy, I will have to admit that by far my biggest weakness is old metal toy sewing machines. I collect the tiny machines, the boxes they came in and even advertisements about toy sewing machines. I've almost run out of places for my hubby to put up shelves to hold them but that does not stop the search.

I blame this obsession on my upbringing and it happened like this. You see, I learned to sew at a very young age on my mother's Kenmore. She was a very accomplished seamstress and after seeing my serious interest, she bought me a 'real' machine of my very own. I fondly remember making my clothes and, by the age of ten, proudly wearing my self-made fashions to school. I loved that machine and it was one of my most prized possessions but I've often wondered if my never having a toy machine is what fuels my fascination with these little cuties. I like to tell my mother that my addiction to them is all her fault. She then reminds me that I would never have been able to make the things I made on a toy.

I'll close by quoting the old saying, "Don't judge a book by its cover." Sometimes the most out of the way places yield the most fun rewards. My advice to you is to be on the lookout for adventure. You never know what you will find. And, hey, if you spot a lonely toy machine, give me a shout. I know where it can find a good home.

Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids® rulers and tools. When not in her studio, she is on the road doing Creative Grids® lectures and workshops for guilds and shops across the country. She is the designer of the Creative Grids Cat's Cradle tool, Strippy Stars tool, Turbo 4 Patch, and the Ultimate Flying Geese tool, and the author of the books 'Cat'titude, Strippy Stars, 4-Patch Panache, and her newest, The Ultimate flying Geese Book. Visit her web site at [www.Debcatsnquilts.com](http://www.Debcatsnquilts.com) and on Facebook at [www.Facebook.com/DebscatsnquiltsFranklin](http://www.Facebook.com/DebscatsnquiltsFranklin). Creative Grids® fans are invited to join Deb's Facebook group, "Grids Girls," for tips and inspiration.





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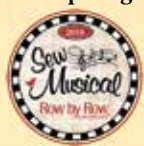




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The Collectors Corner

## Vintage Wedding Cake Toppers Start a Wonderful New Collection

by Valerie Burner

Just the other day a friend was sharing a story about her circle of stuff. She falls in love with something and then, before she knows it, she has a collection. After a bit of time, she finds herself in love with something else and sells off her old stuff in order to get new stuff—thus, the circle of stuff. Sound familiar? It does to me!

Welcome to The Collectors Corner. Over the years I have collected many different things and, while I am not an expert at identifying or valuing, I do consider myself very experienced in the art of collecting. I love the thrill of the hunt, learning about my new finds and talking to people who are passionate about what they collect. I'm always looking for new uses for old things and imaginative ways to incorporate my newest treasure into my everyday living.

Not that long ago I stumbled upon some vintage wedding cake toppers. At the time, I was planning a wedding shower for a dear friend who loves all things vintage. I didn't have a clue what I was going to do with the beauties but those cake toppers that had been lovingly cared for—one still in its original box—needed to come home with me and find a new purpose. If I didn't know better, I'd swear the couples in the toppers grinned as they were being purchased and carried out of the store.

Wedding cake toppers gained favor during the Victorian era. They originally consisted of flowers, bells or some object related to the bride and groom and were often made by a family member or a professional baker who used frosting, icing or non-edible materials.

In the 1920s, American high society started the trend of using bride and groom figures on the wedding cake. Two things happened in a relatively short span of time that fueled the popularity of bride and groom cake toppers. In 1922, Emily Post, an American etiquette expert wrote about wedding cakes and the placement of bride and groom figurines atop the cakes. Retailers such as Sears Roebuck & Company began selling mass produced bride and groom wedding cake toppers. They were manufactured primarily in the United States, Germany and Japan. In 1927, the Sears catalog had a full page devoted to cake toppers: grooms with and without top hats, brides with and without veils, some holding hands, some under gazebos, some surrounded by flowers, but all in the classic wedding theme.



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Vintage wedding cake toppers featuring bride and groom figures continued to be dominant through the 1950s. They were (and still are) a non-perishable part of the wedding cake that is kept as a reminder of that very special day and oftentimes passed down from one generation to the next. What once was a staple of every wedding cake today is seen as a lovely connection to the generations before us. With cake toppers today being more reflective of the couple's style, the vintage bride and groom cake toppers can seem old fashioned.

Enter the vintage lover, the collector, the one who wants to find uses for these beautiful old things. With such a vast variety of styles, you can find toppers that reflect different eras. Included are the flapper days of the 1920s, 1940s war time brides with grooms often in military attire, 1950s Grace Kelly style, 1960s with bouffant hair styles reminiscent of Jackie Kennedy, even ruffled shirts and longer hair on the grooms that were both popular in the 1970s, different hair colors and skin tones, and ones celebrating 25th and 50th wedding anniversaries. Materials range from chalk ware, composition, celluloid, plastic, crepe paper and netting, bisque, some with lace and others with millinery flowers.

If you have a collector's heart, it is nearly impossible to have just one. You can find them in vintage and antique stores and, if you are lucky, thrift stores or online. Prices range from \$10 to over \$150, with the rarest ones and those made of chalk ware commanding the highest prices. Once you have a little group together, the charm, warmth and romance is undeniable. A trio displayed under glass cloche on a side table, several grouped together with vintage photos in a white cabinet, a vignette that includes a vintage cake plate and pearls on a nightstand—the ideas are endless. Let a little whimsy enter your home and surround yourself with things you love.

At the wedding shower for my friend, we used my three lovely toppers to decorate the food, dessert and gift tables along with vintage doilies, shades of aqua, ivory and brown. It was really lovely. The bride now displays one of those toppers in her home, perhaps the beginning of another collection.

Valerie Burner married into a family of collectors over 25 years ago. The first piece she and her husband purchased together was a drop leaf table that has had many uses over the years. Their current collections include pink depression glass, vintage Santa Clauses and Christmas, Snoopy, and, of course, teddy bears. They have owned Bears & More in the historic Catlin Court district of Downtown Glendale, AZ, for over 25 years. You can contact Valerie at bearsmore@aol.com



## Over The Teacup

## Beach Party Tea Party

By Janet Young



All winter long you yearn for the time when you can flee to the beach, where the ocean awaits, calling to you to come and enjoy. At last that time has arrived. This year, you might want to change up the way you celebrate your time away at the beach. So, you may ask, "What can I do? Why not put a different twist on your vacation and have a Beach Party Tea Party. This doesn't have to be limited to children. You just might want to have the party as your vacation is winding down, or perhaps to start off your holiday in a different upbeat way. Whatever you decide, this unique play on the time spent at the shore could become a regular

tradition, or maybe just a onetime occurrence that years from now people will say, "Remember the time we had a tea party on the beach?"

If you have a beachfront cottage perhaps you will find a shady spot to host the party. Otherwise, try improvising a makeshift cabana or canopy to provide a little protection from the sun. Next, set up the table and cover it with a sheet and perhaps a beach towel overlay. A glass enclosed lantern provides light and helps to serve as a nice centerpiece. Seashells picked up off the beach can be strewn around on the table for added atmosphere. If you have little girls attending, they could wear a dollar store tiara to add a little fun to the party.

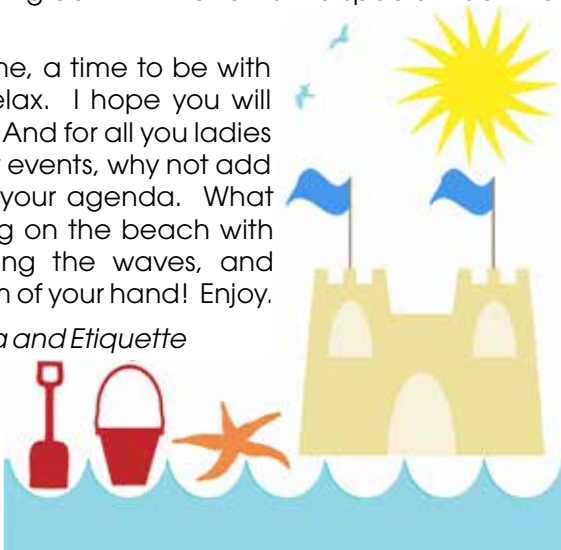
Go to the local grocery store or to a nearby sub shop, and buy subs that you can cut into smaller pieces and use like tea sandwiches. Some fast food places sell sliders, get a variety of them, and before you know it, you have an impromptu tea menu. The dessert could be a sand dollar cookie, which is basically any round cut out cookie that you slit a few holes to make it look like a sand dollar. Serve on a platter covered in brown sugar to give the appearance of sand. Iced tea completes the entire meal. Later when things are winding down, you may want to blow bubbles in the wind.

Obviously, the menu can be whatever you want it to be. My suggestions were based on the fact that you may not have access to a kitchen or the convenience of preparing much food. Also, I kept in mind that it is your vacation, ladies, and you may not want to spend a lot of time doing food prep. The cookies can be baked at home so they will be ready to go when needed. The suggested decorations were items you most likely take on your vacation anyway, and so do not need to bring too much, if anything extra, to pull off the decorative touches.

If you plan your tea as the sun is setting that would be another way to bring more pizzazz with no extra effort to your party. Of course it goes without saying that the tide comes in at night, so be careful where you set up your table. Imagine sipping tea and enjoying your sandwiches while you gaze at the setting sun going down. What an extra special treat that would bring to the party.

Beach time is vacation time, a time to be with family and to sit back and relax. I hope you will consider giving this idea a try. And for all you ladies who plan girl's weekend away events, why not add the Beach Tea Party idea to your agenda. What could be lovelier than relaxing on the beach with the breezes blowing, watching the waves, and holding an iced tea in the palm of your hand! Enjoy.

—Janet Young, Certified Tea and Etiquette Consultant, is a founding member of Mid-Atlantic Tea Business Association and freelance writer/national tea presenter. Visit her website at [www.overtheteacup.com](http://www.overtheteacup.com).



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## Love & Marriage

by Lesley R. Nuttall

### One Couples Journey

Love and marriage is definitely a journey! No two marriages are the same. Marriage is falling in love...over and over again...and always with the same person. As our journey continued, we had only been married for three weeks when my father died suddenly of a heart attack at age 41. This certainly changed the course of our life. Our happiness and sadness became intertwined on a daily basis.

My husband, Craig, who had lost his own father when he was an infant, had now lost his new father figure again. I wondered how we would keep our happiness and love alive with so much sadness. But love always finds a way. Comforting each other gave us a deeper bond, and made our marriage stronger.

We decided, that because my mother was so distraught, we would have a baby right away "to cheer her up!" (Certainly not a normal reason to start a family—but in the end, it worked.) Thirteen months after we were married, we were blessed with our son Tommy on September 7, 1962. My mother, now known as Nana, was elated, as we were too. She immediately became like a second mother to Tommy which lasted throughout their lives.

My father had been gone for a year now, and my mother was still struggling financially. She worked part time babysitting and working in a florist shop. She still had her small farm and greenhouse which only brought in limited income. I had quit my job to stay home and raise our son. Sister Julie married her long time love, Bill, and they continued to help mom with the chores. Craig and I helped out when we could.

But miracles have a way of happening when you least expect it. On January 1, 1963, Craig, Tommy and I went to Thunder Bay to visit Craig's mother. Before we left town, Craig had bought a Lion's Club ticket on a car. He told the seller he would be out of town, but gave the seller his mother's phone number as he was so sure he would win. And sure enough, Craig received the call that he had won the 1963 Chrysler. (What confidence!)

We were very excited, but as Craig was a car salesman selling Pontiac's, we decided we would sell the car. The sale of the car gave us thirty-five hundred dollars. What a blessing! We took the money and invested it in a Florist shop for my mother—calling it by her name, Mabel's Florist.

Mom was thrilled, and she was already an established florist and designer. It was thrilling for us too, to be able to do something to give mom a new start in life. I also started to help out in the shop learning to make floral arrangements and bridal wedding flowers, and I loved it.

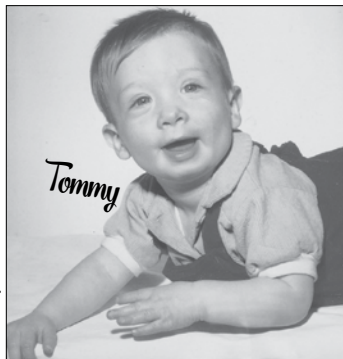
Craig and I continued on our journey with our son, Tommy. Life was good to us, and we enjoyed many weekends out camping and swimming or fishing. We also spent many Sundays at mom's place with the rest of the family. At home, Craig was a great help, and spent many nights helping me in the kitchen. Actually, I think Craig was a better cook than me!

At the present time, Craig and I have been married for fifty-six years. People ask, "What is the secret to a perfect marriage?" Although I always answer, "Marry the right person," there are many other important factors to consider.

You must constantly listen and support each other. Giving the gift of attention shows your partner that they are important to you. Certainly everyone has disagreements, but always remember to be able to apologize, forgive and forget. Love is never being afraid to say, "I'm sorry." Never go to bed mad. In our house, we never go to bed without a goodnight kiss and a back rub. I always say it helps me sleep better!

Expressing gratitude and using the words we were taught as children—'please' and 'thank you' doesn't diminish just because you are married. I am always thrilled when Craig walks through the door with a bouquet of flowers for me. He knows I love flowers, and I make up one or two arrangements with them. He always laughs when someone asks him, "So what did you do wrong?" He always replies, "These are just in case."

You will see the following sentence many times in my writings—*LOVE IS FREE, SO PASS ON YOUR LOVE TO YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS!* May you all find lots of love and happiness in your life!



Tommy



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*The new year is the perfect time to try something new. So I invited my niece Ann Marie Stewart, who writes the column “Ann’s Lovin’ Ewe,” to guest author this column and share a special tea experience.*

### Celebrate Seniori-TEA

*By Ann Marie Stewart*

Last spring our church hosted a unique tea. Because high school seniors need a little extra wisdom and retired seniors have lots to offer, we put on a multi-generational Seniori-TEA for graduating high school seniors and their moms as well as women many years their senior.

This tea was extra special for me because my 80-year-old mom traveled from Washington State to Washington, DC, to join my graduating senior daughter, my college-aged daughter, and me. This event brought people together from across the miles, years, and decades. Three generations for tea!

### Teacup Welcome

We held our tea on a Sunday afternoon in the church social hall. Beforehand, moms of graduating seniors prepared the food and set tables for about 40 guests. Place cards ensured a mix of young and old seniors at each table.

As the ladies arrived, a table filled with a variety of teacups delighted them. We purchased some from thrift stores and others were donated, so we had enough for each guest to keep one. Some teacups were expensive and ornate, while others were simple. Some were new and still in their boxes, while others were very old. The variety of colors and sizes fascinated both young and old alike. It was so cute to watch the ladies consider which teacup suited them and why. Teacups in hand, they found their places.

### Twenty Questions to Get Acquainted

A program rested on each plate, featuring the order of events and a discussion tool of Twenty Questions. (You’ll find the Twenty Questions in the idea file that follows.) After we shared answers at our tables, the hostess asked each table group to share their most interesting answers so we could all learn and laugh together.

My fondest memory was when guests at our tea table answered the question, “What is your favorite decade?” A feisty redhead, (a senior citizen in name only!) with her colors coordinated from earrings to shoes, burst out, “I like my life right now!” Other older women nodded in agreement. My college-aged daughter, Christine, smiled in relief. “So often we’re told that the college years are the best years of our lives, and I’m halfway through now. It’s encouraging to know we have much more to look forward to.”

### Cracked Teacup Beauty

The ladies also shared their high school graduation photos. We all gasped at the classic vintage beauty of the older women’s photos. Later, as part of the program, I read “The Cracked Cup’s Beauty”—a poem about a teacup that survived the bumps of life and remained beautiful even with chips and cracks.

By the end of the tea, the 18-year-olds had marveled at graduation

photos from the 1950s, experienced their first tea party, and gleaned wisdom from the JOY seniors (just older youth). The older women enjoyed sharing their memories and getting to know the young ladies over a delicious tea. The senior citizens also addressed envelopes they gave to high school seniors so the collegians could write to them and stay connected. As seniors of all ages left with smiles, new friends, and a treasured teacup, I knew we all made memories that would linger.

### Your Seniori-TEA

Would you like to plan ahead and organize a Seniori-TEA? Whether it’s for neighborhood seniors or a large group in your community, there’s much to look forward to as seniors of all ages gather for a communi-TEA special-TEA with personali-TEA. The event can be small: graduating seniors and older seniors in the neighborhood who gather in your home. Or maybe host it at a school, church, or community center. Select a date in May before graduation. Determine your younger and older guests, and then send out pretty invitations asking guests to bring a graduation picture.

You could play this simple tea game: Think of as many words as possible that end with “tea.” Or use these words as the names for the events in the program: serendipi-tea, spontanei-tea, generosi-tea, personali-tea, capabili-tea, festivi-tea, identi-tea, hones-tea, and many more.

Planning a teatime this winter will give you a special teatime to look forward to this spring. I hope you have as much fun as we did.

Ann Marie Stewart, an award-winning author, received the 2017 Christy Award for her debut novel, *Stars in the Grass*.

Lydia E. Harris, known as “Grandma Tea” and “Aunt-tea Lydia,” wrote the book *Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting*.



### From Lydia’s Idea File: Twenty Questions for your Seniori-TEA

*(Developed by Ann Marie Stewart)*

### Select questions from this list to discuss.

1. Why did you choose your teacup?
2. Why do you like tea?
3. What is the most memorable tea experience you’ve had?
4. When you were 18, what was the price of a movie ticket? A loaf of bread? A candy bar?
5. How did you meet your spouse?
6. How did you make tough choices?
7. Do you have a favorite Bible verse or quote?
8. What is one favorite memory from childhood?
9. What is your favorite decade?
10. What is the best thing about getting older?
11. What would you do differently if you could?
12. What is the best thing about being 18?
13. What is the scariest thing about being 18?
14. What advice do you have for those younger than you?
15. What advice do you have for those older?
16. Does growing older scare you?
17. How do you celebrate life?
18. What is your favorite song and why?
19. What was the best decade for styles and clothing?
20. What do you look forward to in the future?



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**GEM SEWING** hosted a Gem Retreat at a northern Ontario camp with Carla Alexiuk from Quilting by the river. It was a fantastic event with the studio 180 wing clipper 1 and a choice of three patterns, love links, yankee pride & star shadow. Along with the retreat came all the meals planned, a relaxed setting, hand, feet and face massage, lots of laughs and a comradery all having a common interest of quilting, learning and applying the techniques.



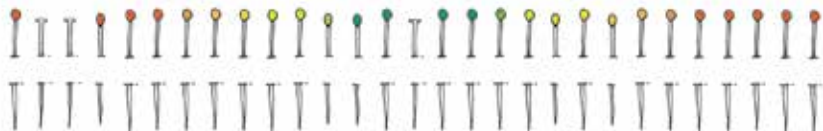
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Kim Caskey  
780-288-9008  
[kim@kimcaskey.ca](mailto:kim@kimcaskey.ca)

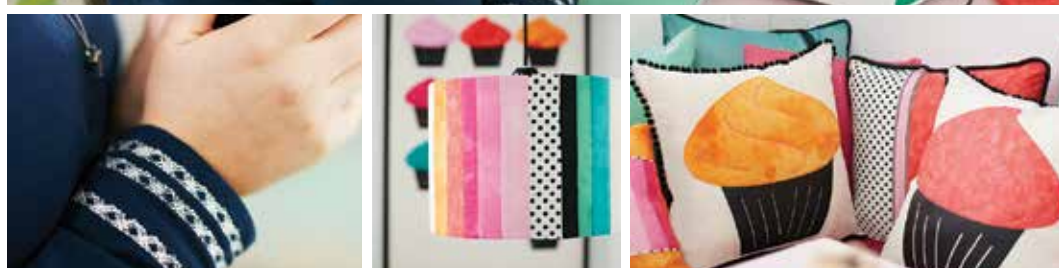


Ancaster .....	The Quilt Rack.....	pg. 12
Arnprior .....	Sew Inspired .....	pg. 7
Barrie .....	Lens Mill Store.....	pg. 20
Barrie .....	Hummingbird.....	pg. 12
Belleville .....	Kraft Village.....	pg. 8
Blenheim .....	Pastime Pieces.....	pg. 13
Bobcaygeon .....	Blue Heron Quilts .....	pg. 9
Bracebridge .....	Quilting in Muskoka.....	pg. 12
Brantford .....	Lens Mill Store.....	pg. 20
Brampton .....	Brampton Sew & Serge.....	pg. 25
Brockville.....	Taylor's Sewing .....	pg. 7
Burlington.....	The Quilt Store.....	pg. 11
Burlington.....	Sew Etc.....	pg. 13
Cambridge.....	Lens Mill Store.....	pg. 20
Cameron .....	The Quilter's Inn.....	pg. 7
Carleton Place.....	Pickledish Quilt Shop .....	pg. 6
Chesterville.....	Flair With Fabrics.....	pg. 8
Cochrane .....	Needleworks Studio .....	pg. 22
Corbeil.....	Cottage Quilter .....	pg. 22
Cornwall.....	Ron's Quilting .....	pg. 7
Dresden.....	Shelleys Painted Treasures...	pg. 13
Dryden.....	The Quilting Trunk .....	pg. 26
Earlton .....	The Quilting Barn .....	pg. 22
Espanola .....	Cindy Bee's Quilt Shoppe ...	pg. 23
Essex.....	The Sewing Shoppe .....	pg. 12
Exeter .....	Kalidoscope of Quilts.....	pg. 19
Fergus .....	Undercover Quilts.....	pg. 18
Floradale.....	Hillcrest Home Baking.....	pg. 18
Guelph.....	Lens Mill Store.....	pg. 20
Hamilton.....	Lens Mill Store.....	pg. 20
Harrowsmith.....	Wilton Creek Fabrics .....	pg. 22
Hawkesbury.....	Fabric Box.....	pg. 9
Hawkesville .....	Lens Mill Store.....	pg. 20
Kingston .....	Quilt Thyme .....	pg. 9



Kingston .....	Stitch By Stitch.....	pg. 8
London .....	Lens Mill Store .....	pg. 20
Maxwell.....	Threads That Bind .....	pg. 16
Mount Forest.....	Creekbank Sewing.....	pg. 19
New Liskeard .....	Gem Sewing .....	pg. 23
New Market .....	The Quilt Store.....	pg. 11
Newton.....	E & E Cloth & Creations .....	pg. 16
North Bay .....	The Sewing Machine .....	pg. 25
Orillia (Severn).....	Thimbles & Things .....	pg. 12
Orillia.....	Century House Quilting .....	pg. 17
Orleans.....	Quilty Pleasures .....	pg. 9
Ottawa.....	Sewing Machine Hospital ...	pg. 17
Paris.....	Mary Maxim .....	pg. 12
Perth .....	Perth Fabrics .....	pg. 7
Petrolia .....	Stitcharie.....	pg. 19
Pinckney.....	Phyllis Home Décor .....	pg. 6
Port Dover .....	Lens Mill Store .....	pg. 20
Powassan.....	FibreChick .....	pg. 23
Russell .....	Quilter's Barn & Gifts .....	pg. 9
Sault Ste Marie .....	Life's A Stitch.....	pg. 22
Shakespeare .....	The Quilt Place .....	pg. 16
Stratford .....	Sew & Save.....	pg. 18
Stittsville.....	Mad About Patchwork.....	pg. 9
Sturgeon Falls .....	Diane's Creative Elements ..	pg. 22
Tecumseh.....	Ella Quilts .....	pg. 13
Thessalon .....	Creative Basket .....	pg. 22
Thunder Bay .....	Circle of Friends .....	pg. 26
Toronto .....	Lens Mill Store .....	pg. 29
Trenton.....	Andjareenda's Place .....	pg. 7
Trenton.....	Pine Ridge Knit & Sew.....	pg. 7
Trenton.....	Lens Mill Store .....	pg. 20
Uxbridge .....	The Quilters' Cupboard.....	pg. 10
Vankleek Hill .....	QuiltBees .....	pg. 6
Waterloo .....	Lens Mill Store .....	pg. 20
Whitby .....	Whitby Fabrics .....	pg. 8
Windsor .....	Quilting Confections.....	pg. 13
Woodstock .....	Lens Mill Store .....	pg. 20





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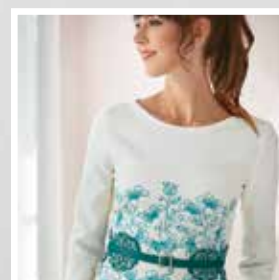


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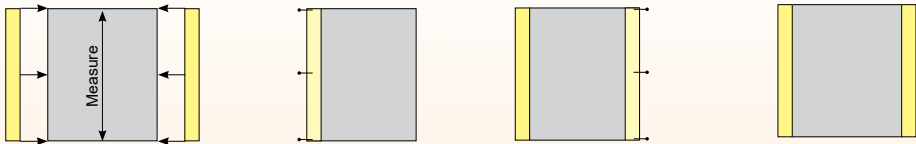


# How to Add a Border to Any Quilt

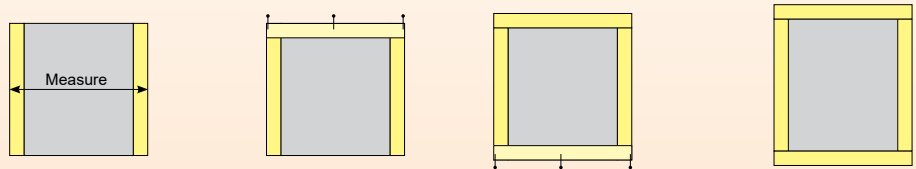
Quilt size may vary slightly because many seams have been pieced together. Any side of the quilt could be slightly longer or shorter than the opposite side.

Do not cut border lengths until after the quilt top is completely pieced even if the instructions give border cutting instructions. Rely on your own measurements.

- Press quilt top carefully.
  - Lay the quilt top on flat surface and measure the length of the quilt at the center from top to bottom.
  - Cut two borders to the measured length.
  - Fold the quilt in half matching the top of quilt to bottom of quilt to find the center of each side.
  - Put a pin in the fold of each side to mark the centers. Open the quilt out on flat surface.
  - Fold the borders in half, wrong sides together.
  - Working with one border, match the fold of the border to the pin at the center of a quilt side. Open the border and pin at the center.
  - Match each corner of the border to the corner of the quilt and pin.
  - Line up raw edges between pins, evenly distributing any excess length. Add pins, as needed. Do not over-pin.
  - Stitch the border to the quilt with 1/4" seam allowance.
- For best results, place the layer with the most excess fabric down against the feed dogs.
- If the border is the top layer, be sure to carefully align the points of any half square triangle 1/4" from the border edge so you do not stitch over them.
- Stitch slowly, stopping frequently to carefully align the raw edges as you go.
- Press seam allowance toward the borders.



- Follow the same steps to add the top and bottom border.
- Measure across the center including the side borders to determine length to cut the borders.

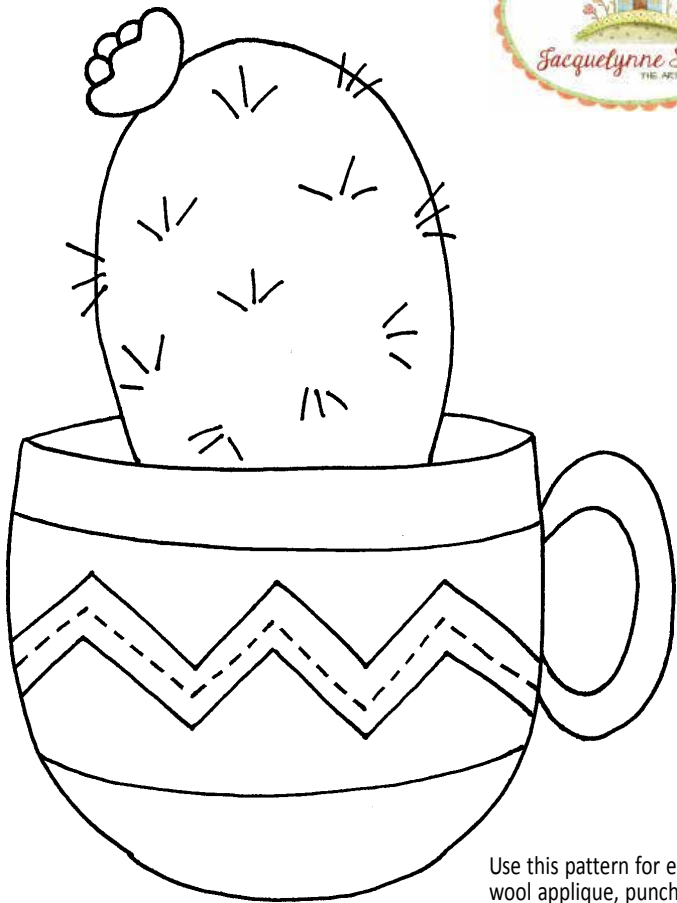


- Add any additional borders in the same way.

- How to calculate border fabric requirement:**
1. Determine perimeter of the quilt top (Length + width x 2).
  2. Divide the perimeter by 40.
  3. Add 1 to that answer and then multiply that total by the width of the border strips.
  4. Divide that product by 36 and round up at least one eighth yard to determine amount of yardage to purchase.

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## Free Pattern



Use this pattern for embroidery, wool applique, punch needle or rug hooking, painted projects or whatever your imagination can dream up! Reduce or enlarge pattern as desired.

Free Embroidery Pattern!  
May not be sold or used for commercial purposes. For more fun and creative inspiration, please visit:  
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Please do not hesitate to contact us at [quiltexinc@gmail.com](mailto:quiltexinc@gmail.com).

Thank you!





Row by Row Experience®

## The SHAPE of Things to Come



Have you heard about the Shape of Things to Come?

That's right! The rows are changing!

This summer when you collect the new row patterns for Sew Musical they will be in a variety of shapes. Shops are having fun creating their rows this year!

The rows and shapes will fit together in unlimited patterns. No two quilts will be the same!

This picture shows a few samples the shops saw at QuiltMarket last fall.

If you are a quilt shop (or you know a quilt shop) that wants to register for Sew Musical 2018, please contact [info@rowbyrowexperience.com](mailto:info@rowbyrowexperience.com). We will help make that happen!

*Happy Quilting from The team behind the scenes at Row by Row Experience*



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Ancaster	The Quilt Rack	pg. 12
Barrie	Lens Mill Store	pg. 20
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Belleville	Kraft Village	pg. 8
Blenheim	Pastime Pieces	pg. 13
Bobcaygeon	Blue Heron Quilts	pg. 9
Bracebridge	Quilting in Muskoka	pg. 12
Brantford	Lens Mill Store	pg. 20
Brockville	Taylor's Sewing	pg. 7
Burlington	The Quilt Store	pg. 11
Burlington	Sew Etc.	pg. 13
Cambridge	Lens Mill Store	pg. 20
Carleton Place	Pickledish Quilt Shop	pg. 6
Chesterville	Flair With Fabrics	pg. 8
Cochrane	Needleworks Studio	pg. 22
Corbeil	Cottage Quilter	pg. 22
Dresden	Shelley's Painted Treasures & Quilt Shop	pg. 13
Dryden	The Quilting Trunk	pg. 26
Earlton	The Quilting Barn	pg. 22
Essex	The Sewing Shoppe	pg. 12
Exeter	Kalidoscope of Quilts	pg. 19
Fergus	Undercover Quilts	pg. 18
Floradale	Hillcrest Home Baking	pg. 18
Guelph	Lens Mill Store	pg. 20
Hamilton	Lens Mill Store	pg. 20
Harrowsmith	Wilton Creek Fabrics	pg. 22
Hawkesbury	Fabric Box	pg. 9
Hawkesville	Lens Mill Store	pg. 20
London	Lens Mill Store	pg. 20
Newton	E & E Cloth & Creations	pg. 16
New Liskeard	Gem Sewing	pg. 23
New Market	The Quilt Store	pg. 11
Orillia (Severn)	Thimbles & Things	pg. 12
Paris	Mary Maxim	pg. 12
Perth	Perth Fabrics	pg. 7
Petrolia	Stitcharie	pg. 19
Port Dover	Lens Mill Store	pg. 20
Powassan	FibreChick	pg. 23
Russel	Quilters Barn & Gifts	pg. 9
Sault Ste Marie	Life's A Stitch	pg. 22
Shakespeare	The Quilt Place	pg. 16
Stittville	Mad About Patchwork	pg. 9
Sturgeon Falls	Diane's Creative Elements	pg. 22
Thessalon	Creative Basket	pg. 22
Thunderbay	Circle of Friends	pg. 26
Toronto	Lens Mill Store	pg. 20
Trenton	Andjareena's Place	pg. 7
Trenton	Pine Ridge Knit & Sew	pg. 7
Uxbridge	The Quilters's Cupboard	pg. 10
Vankleek Hill	QuiltBees	pg. 6
Waterloo	Lens Mill Store	pg. 20
Whitby	Whitby Fabric	pg. 8
Windsor	Quilting Confections	pg. 13
Woodstock	Lens Mill Store	pg. 20

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