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Location June / July 2015 3

Dearest new readers.

Our team is extremely proud to bring you our first issue of The Ontario Country Register, which is your complimentary guide to specialty shopping and events in Ontario. We are also very proud to join the network of Country Registers that are currently being published (the very first Country Register was published in 1988 in Arizona) in B.C., Alberta, Manitoba/Saskatchewan, and the lower 48 states.

We have worked very hard on this issue to give you both an informative and entertaining read. Inside you'll find listings for seasonal events and festivals, shop hops, feature articles showcasing local businesses, interesting articles by local writers, puzzles, patterns, recipes and more! Please take special note of our advertisers as they are responsible for bringing you this publication. Without them this paper would not be a reality. Please, don't forget to tell our advertisers, "I saw you in The Country Register!"

We hope you enjoy each issue and pick up an extra to share with a friend, neighbor or relative. Subscriptions are a nice gift to someone who cannot get out and about to pick up the paper at one of the advertisers.

In addition to our printed copy which you can find at every one of our advertiser's shops, province wide welcome centers and many other locations, you can look for our latest issues online as well at: www. OntarioCountryRegister.com. We are also on Facebook, so please "like" us there too!

We are looking forward to serving you for many years to come! Thanks and best regards,

Harriet

Our Search for Cover Artwork —
Across the U.S. and Canada, you can always tell *The Country* Register by it's cover. Our publishers seek to find cover art or photos from the 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

Meet our cover artist: Mandy Budan from Pickering, Ontario



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, "Summer in the Garden", is one of Mandy's favorite pieces (and one of ours too!). Mandy's description of her work says it all... "Nestled in the greens and blues of the summer garden, the sunflowers glow with joyful exuberance." 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. 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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Designs, Stitchery & Projects 4, 13, 14
Advertisers
Recipes
Special Events

HAPPY CANADA BAY!

Calendar of Events

JUNE

MAY 10- SEPTEMBER 27: The Grand National Quilt Show: Connections, Kitchener, ON

JUNE 5-6: Grand River Quilt Show 2015, Fergus, ON

JUNE 6-7: Stitching Among Friends Quilt Show, Alliston, ON

JUNE 6-7: The Fabrics of Our Lives 2015 Quilt Show, Brighton, ON

JUNE 6-7: Quilting in the Valley, Arnprior, ON

JUNE 11-14: Mudcat Festival, Dunnville, ON

JUNE 12-14: Quilts Kingston 2015, Kingston, ON

JUNE 12-21: New Vintage Festival, St Catherines, ON

JUNE 18-19: Quilts at the Creek 2015, Toronto, ON

JUNE 18-21: Niagara Integrated Film Festival, Niagara, ON

JUNE 19-21: Salsa At Blue, Blue Mountains, ON JUNE 19-21: Redpath Waterfront Festival, Toronto, ON

JUNE 19-JULY 1: 35th Annual TD Ottawa Jazz Festival, Ottawa, ON

JUNE 20: Westmount Church Women (WCW) Quilt Sale, Orillia, ON

JULY

JULY 1-12: Toronto Fringe Theatre Festival, Toronto, ON

JULY 4-17: Music & Beyond, Ottawa, ON

JULY 9-12: 30th Annual Belleville Waterfront & Ethnic Festival, Belleville, ON

JULY 9-12: 14th Annual Holstein Rodeo & Country Music Fest, Holstein, ON

JULY 9-12: TD Sunfest 2015, London, ON

JULY 10-12: 1000 Islands Pirate Festival, Gananoque, ON

JULY 10-26: Beaches International Jazz Festival, Toronto, ON

JULY 11: 35th Annual ACBS – Toronto – Vintage Boat Show, Gravenhurst, ON

JULY 11-15: Experience Ganaraska, Port Hope, ON

JULY 11: Madawaska Valley Artisan Festival, Barry's Bay, ON

JULY 16-19: Festival Du Loup, Tiny, ON

JULY 17-19: 42nd Home Country Music & Art Festival, London, ON

JULY 17-19: Mount Forest Fireworks Festival, Mount Forest, ON

JULY 19: Oakville Children's Festival, Oakville, ON

JULY 20-AUGUST 30: Stratford Summer Music, Stratford, ON

JULY 22-25: Huntsville Festival of the Arts, Huntsville, ON

JULY 24-26: Wheels on the Bay, Trenton Quinte West, ON

JULY 25-27: Kapuskasing Lumberjack Festival, Kapuskasing, ON

JULY 26: Herbfest, Ottawa, ON

JULY 31: 31st Annual Picton Arts & Crafts Sale, Picton, ON

JULY 31-AUGUST 2: 27th Annual Quilt Show and Sale 2015, Richards Landing, ON

JULY 31-AUGUST 3: Kempenfest, Barrie, ON

JULY 30-AUGUSST 3: Pan American Food Festival, Ontario, ON

JULY 30-AUGUST 3: Port Colborne Canal Days Marine Heritage Festival, Port Colborne, ON









Anticipating the Wait

by Marlene Oddie

My journey in the quilting world has taught me patience; a patience that I never had as a child or in my early youth.

Even as my own boss, I have learned there are deadlines to meet. For example, when I want to promote or publish something using social media, I can set my own deadlines. However, traditional forms like newspapers, books or new paper patterns will probably have deadlines beyond my control.



With a newspaper, the wait time is minimal as the deadlines try to keep the 'news' timely. If you've been reading my column in The Country Register on

a regular basis, then you've followed a bit of my journey. For this bi-monthly paper, it is a bit longer lead-time than a daily or weekly newspaper—what I'm writing today you might see in a month or so.

With a book, the wait time can be longer. A manuscript finished in May might be released to the public a year later. I quilted "Double Nine Patch" and "Birds in the Air" almost a year before the Red, White and Quilted book (available now) was released. Those quilts are on display at the AQS shows this year. I hope you'll stop in and see them at a show near you. Watch for my co-authored book with Leila Gardunia entitled You Can Quilt! Building Skills for Beginners. This came into being after winning a ribbon in 2013 with my "Rosie's BOMb" quilt at AQS Des Moines. We think this book will provide a great set of tools for many different types of techniques to all those who want to learn how to piece a quilt.

When releasing a new pattern with a new line of fabric, it may also take up to a year before the general public can re-create the quilt with the same fabrics. That is a long wait time for the designer to see the reaction of the general public to the new design.

The exciting part is that I have a new design being released at Spring Market this year (May 15) with Island Batik fabrics. Here is an in-progress sneak peek of "Woven Braid." My local customers watched it come together this winter and I've already had several pre-orders for complete kits. This was an exciting result since there was not a lot of time to sit and ponder in the creative zone. When this becomes available, likely in August, I will have it on my website and available in the studio.

Did I say patience is a virtue? I'm still learning!

Marlene Oddie is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA. She enjoys long-arm quilting on her Gammill Optimum Plus, but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Follow Marlene's adventures via her blog at http://kissedquilts.blogspot.com, on Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts, or stop by this summer during the Row by Row Experience.

Strip pieced table toppers by ABC ©2010

2 fat quarters will give you 1 finished 18" square. Stack fat 1/4 s right sides together Always cut strips parallel to selvage. Cut 3" strips (7). Stitch each set along one long side. Press each set (seams to dark side). Measure and cut into square segments. Cut each segment diagonally corner to corner (1/2 each way) When pieced half the pinwheels will spin one way and half the other.







2 more fat ½s will make 2 - 18" squares (1 pinwheels spinning left and 1 spinning right This block can be used for cushion or tote bag or a quilt!

Beth Cunningham 613-837-6222

Thanks Cairine Hinch for the drawings

Eastern Region June / July 2015

What's on Trend?

by Bernadette Kent, Calgary, AB

From fabric collections to Books and Patterns, here is what was new and exciting from Spring Quilt Market 2015 in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

The modern movement is definitely on the move...Crisp clear saturated colours teamed with the stark whites and subtle greys lend themselves to the clean geometric designs. Along with the simplistic patterns, the density of quilting creates a unique dimension found on the modern day quilts.

The art of guilting at the 2015 market encompasses a vast array of threads from 100 weight (super fine) to the very bossy 12 weights. Thread combined with long arm quilting techniques is adding style and a new creative outlet to the world of quilts.

Ruler work, thread weights and graffiti designs along with the ever popular matchstick quilting have made quilts an artistic endeavour more than ever before.

Popular colours this season range from the saturated rainbow brights

by Ella Blue to the softer more pastel pallet of Moda. We even saw a few reproduction lines of fabrics in the traditional Jo Morton style. This year's pantone colour Marsala definitely draws from these vintage collections but the Marsala

and Grey combination screams modern and on trend.

Be sure to check out your local shops - I'm sure they will have some great new ideas for all your needs.

Until next time,

Bernadette





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Hours: Sat 10:00-2:00 · Weekdays by chance or by appointment 3217 Navan Rd., Ottawa, ON K4B 1H9 · 613-837-6222







HAPPY CANADA DAY!

by Marie Richards, Sudbury, ON



Oh Canada! On July 1st you're going to be 148 years old, although you really don't look a day over 100!

Where will you and yours go on Canada Day to celebrate?

Most of us will probably make a simple day of it, staying at home, grilling out and enjoying our town's festivities and fireworks.

A lot of us will be camping, grilling out and enjoying the campsite's festivities, and hopefully fireworks!

Some of us will even brave the crowds and celebrate in Ottawa and see the fireworks, wait... no grilling out?

All of us will be wearing at least something red and white.

Where you are really doesn't matter... Canada Day is a day on which everyone enjoys good cheer and we are reminded of how truly blessed we are as nation.

Happy Birthday Canada!



















ROW BY ROW EXPERIENCE™

Be a part of the story!

by Madeline Lister, from Trent Lakes, Ontario

Summer 2014. Quilt shop, somewhere in Ontario. Expectant quilters. Question, "Please, may we have your Row by Row Experience™ pattern?" Puzzled shop owner, "Um...my

Rewind. Summer 2011. New York state, 20 shops. 2012, 62 participating shops. 2013, add Pennsylvania; 138 shops. 2014, 34 states and Ontario with 60+ shops, total over 1250 quilt shops on board. Today, in quilt shops across all 50 states and 9 provinces, there are plans underway to make Summer 2015's Row by Row Experience the biggest and

best ever! And all in response to quilters looking for an experience!

No shop-hop passports! No fees! And all summer to play! It's kinda like a shop hop, but it's not. Simply visit one of the participating shops and receive a free pattern for a row in a guilt. Combine your rows in any way to create a unique quilt that represents the fun you had traveling throughout the summer. Travel with friends, discover new quilt shops and have fun collecting rows! In Ontario alone there are over 120 registered shops, stretching from Michigan to Quebec, from our border with New York up into our far northern communities. There's a challenge for you!

Unlike shop-hops, there are prizes for sewing and finishing your quilt... quilted, bound, and labeled. Be creative. Horizontal, vertical, upside down, on the back, whatever! Use at least 8 different 2015 rows from 8 different 2015 participating Row by Row shops, be the first to bring it into a participating shop, and you'll win a stack of 25 fat quarters. That's 6 1/4 yards of fabric...or 5.7 meters, eh!!! Plus bonus prizes!

Each year has a different theme. This year's theme is Row by Row H2O... it's all about water! There's fun fabric coordinates from Timeless Treasures, collectible 2015 Row by Row Experience pins, and other fun items like T-shirts, caps, and totes. Each shop will put their own creative spin on the summerlong event, such as U~Quilt~It in Smithville, ON who is hanging a Row by Row gallery. There'll be demos and new products and tools to check out. And of course, there'll be row kits.

Quilters have no borders. We travel, shop, collect patterns and add rows to our quilts from anywhere! Quilting is connecting the two countries. Canada has really embraced this, says Janet Lutz, founder and quilt shop owner in Syracuse, New York, . It's about travelling, even in remote rural areas. Everybody's talking about this; it's coming from the bottom, up. Quilters are spreading the word. Most of the marketing is done through Facebook. Each area has its own page. Like the page from the areas you visit to see pics of the rows, shop displays, winning quilts and fabric plate projects.

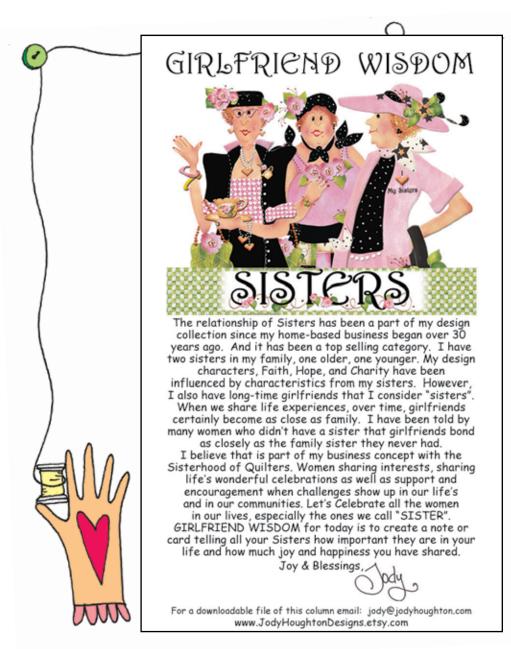
Excited? There's a ton of info on the Row by Row website and Facebook pages. Check out www.rowbyrowexperience.com and www.facebook. com/onrowbyrowexperience for all the latest pictures, shop locations and hours. Not a member of Facebook? There's a link on the Row by Row website to take you there. So, off you go...travel and collection dates: June 21 - Sept. 8, 2015. And remember, it's "in person only".

That's it for now...happy quilting to you,

Here's a testimonial from an Ontario lady, Joanne Visser, Fonthill:

"I had a ball. So much fun, it was unreal. Did 9-10 shops a day. Saw areas of Ontario we would have never gone to. People stayed open late for us, and then chatted 'way late. Marvelous. Looking forward to it this year. Going to take 10 days and go 'way up north. Taking a friend with us. Fascinating. Can't wait.

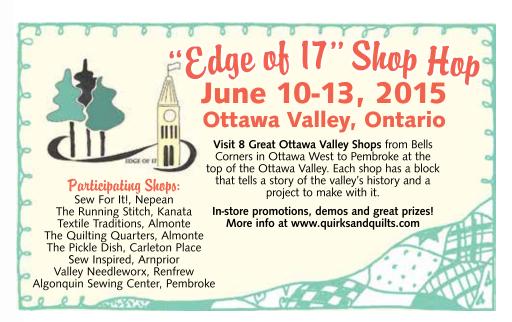
June / July 2015 Eastern Region



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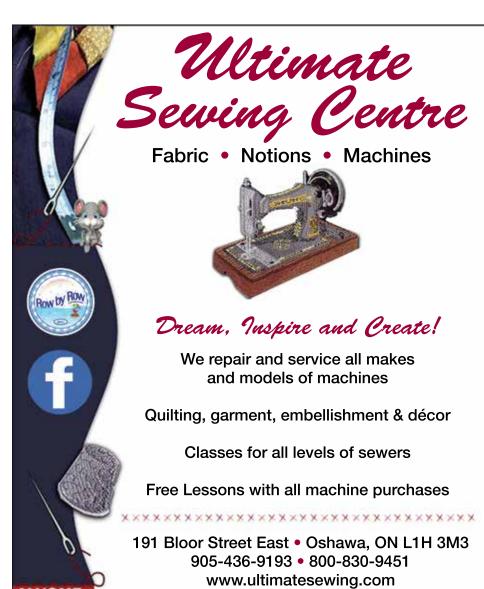














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The BEST Guacamole Recipe

Submitted by Harriet Ramos

The smooth and chunky texture, along with subtle supporting flavors, make this very simple guacamole recipe quite exceptional.

Get your chips ready for the best guacamole ever!

- 3 ripe Avocadoes
- 2 tablespoons minced sweet onion (I prefer Vidalia)
- 1 clove garlic, crushed and finely minced
- 2 tablespoons minced cilantro (or more if you love cilantro as much as I do!)
- ½ teaspoon sea salt
- Optional If you like it a little spicy, add ½ small jalapeno chili minced.
- +/-2 tablespoons lime juice (freshly squeezed)
- Optional Whole cilantro leaves for garnish

Mash the flesh of one of the avocadoes lightly with all of the remaining ingredients, except for the lime

Dice the remaining 2 avocadoes and gently mix in with the mashed mixture.

Mix in the lime juice bit by bit and taste as you go until perfect!

If desired, garnish with whole cilantro leaves...Serve and enjoy!

Tip: The key to great guacamole is that very delicate balance between salt and lime, if you taste too much lime, add a tiny amount of salt and taste again. Be patient and remember, with both salt and lime, a little goes a long way!

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June / July 2015 Tea Time 11





Surshine on a Rainy Day

Tea and sunshine make the perfect blend. But we don't need a sunny climate to brighten others' lives. Good thing, because in Seattle, "Raindrops Keep Falling on My Head." Even on gray days, we can bring sunshine to others with tea. Here are ways to brighten cloudy days.

Tea-Tray Sunshine

When my neighbor, Karen, became immobile because of foot surgery on her birthday, I brought her a light supper on a tea tray. I purchased tea, rye bread, and a garlic-ring sausage at a small European grocer and prepared Abendbrot, German for supper, literally "evening bread." Swiss cheese slices, triangle-shaped cucumber-and-cream-cheese sandwiches with dill, fruit, and a birthday cupcake added to the menu.

I brewed Czar Nikolas St. Valentine tea and poured it into a quart jar with a lid for transporting. A soft ice chest (without ice) was the perfect way to carry the tea, teapot, and teacup.

Karen enjoyed sipping the fragrant blend of black tea with rose petals and safflower. "This is just perfect," she kept saying as she ate her supper. Since she lives alone, I stayed to visit and then gave her a parting hug. She saved the cupcake and a cup of tea for later.

Another evening, I brought Karen a tea tray with asparagus strata, chicken broth with noodles, olives stuffed with cream cheese, homemade yogurt scones with lemon curd, a chocolate cookie—and, of course, tea. I tore petals from my rose bouquet and sprinkled them on her tray for an added touch.

"How lovely. This is so delicious," she repeated again and again. We chatted then prayed together before I left.

Tea-tray meals hit the spot for my convalescing neighbor and brought a ray of sunshine to her life.

Doorstep Sunshine

Another neighbor battled cancer and was put on a restricted diet. Occasionally I left fruit or flowers on her doorstep to add "sunshine." One time I prepared a small plate with a doily, flower petals, and a cupcake liner filled with pomegranate seeds, and tucked a probiotic herbal teabag on the side.

Other times I left fresh flowers or a small plant along with a floral pick holding an encouraging note. Sometimes I brightened the bouquet by adding colorful, foil-wrapped teabags fastened to floral picks or toothpicks.

Later she e-mailed, "You always know the way to a neighbor's heart."

You're the Sunshine

No doubt, you've heard or even sung, "You Are My Sunshine." I've certainly appreciated the sunshine others added to my life during gray times. Now it's my delight to seize opportuni-TEAS to bring cheer to family and friends.

Do you know individuals who are walking through a rainy season of life? If so, won't you join me and bless others with tea and sunshine?

Lydia E. Harris, M.A. in Home Economics, is blessed with five grandchildren and authored the book, Preparing My Heart for Grandparenting (AMG Publishers).

From Lydia's Recipe File:

Asparagus Strata

Easy to make and share. Delicious for any meal.



6 slices bread (white or wheat)
3/4 pound of fresh asparagus spears,
woody ends removed

- 2 cups grated cheese (cheddar, Swiss, or both)
- 1 cup chopped cooked ham
- 3 eggs, beaten
- 1 1/2 cups milk
- 1 teaspoon dry mustard
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper

Tomato slice for garnish

Directions:

- 1. Add one teaspoon oil to a 9 x 13-inch baking pan. Add washed asparagus spears and bake at 350 degrees for 10 minutes.
- 2. Reserve eight 4-inch asparagus spears to decorate top. Cut the rest into one-inch pieces.
- 3. Cut bread into cubes. Place half into a deep 9-inch pie pan sprayed with non-stick spray.
- 4. Layer half the ham, asparagus, and cheese on bread.
- 5. Repeat layers of bread, ham, asparagus, and end with cheese.
- 6. Beat together the eggs, milk, and seasonings. Pour over strata ingredients. Push the bread down into the liquid mixture.
- 7. Arrange reserved asparagus spears like spokes on top. Add tomato slice in the center.
- 8. Bake at 350 degrees for 35 to 45 minutes until strata is firm but still moist.

Serves 6.

Optional: Prepare the strata the day before through step 7. Cover and refrigerate overnight. Next day, uncover and bake in a probability of the strategies.











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Don't Take Our Word For It...Science Says, "Don't Worry... Be Crafty!"

by Damaris Pederson, Toronto, ON

According to the Craft and Hobby Association, over fifty percent of North American households engage in some type of crafting activity one or more times per year. Odds are if you are reading this, you craft much more often that! Hopefully you partake in the fun stuff several times per month or more. Maybe you are even one of the lucky few who can do your "thing" for a little while each day. Regardless of how often, when you're a devoted crafter - knitting, quilting, scrapbooking, etc. - no doubt you've been able to "lose yourself" inside of a project on countless occasions.

When you become immersed in your creative work you allow yourself to forget about your worries, obligations, and everyday stresses. This "immersion" is a main reason why creative activities such as crafting, may provide an extraordinary boost for your physical, mental and emotional health.

The process of creating is beneficial for a number of reasons, mainly because it allows you to enter into a "zone" where you become fully engaged in the moment, your sense of the passage of time becomes meaningless and your worries just seem to fade away. You may even feel that you are part of something larger than yourself. In other words you are experiencing what some may even call a state of bliss.

Going a little deeper, there is definite proof that participating in crafting provides virtually the same health benefits to your brain that have long been associated with brain teasers, puzzles and other mental exercises, which have been proven to boost memory and cognitive functions.

One 2011 study¹ showed that craft activities such as quilting and knitting were connected with a decreased probability of developing mild cognitive impairment, in other words the start of dementia. Another study², published in early 2014, found that participating in "cognitively demanding" activities, such as quilting, was shown to improve and enhance memory function in older adults, in other words the opposite of dementia! Once again the benefits seem to depend on the crafts being mentally absorbing, allowing you to enter the "zone" we spoke about before.

The message is getting out there...Quilting, needlework, knitting, crocheting, etc., are no longer seen as boring, passé pastimes for the elderly. Actually, they are now becoming trendy among virtually all age groups, from teens all the way to seniors!

It's taken a long time, but now more and more people are finding out what we fellow crafters have known forever... Crafting is good for you and it's cool!

- ¹ The Journal of Neuropsychiatry and Clinical Neurosciences 2011 Spring;23(2):149-54. doi: 10.1176/appi.neuropsych.23.2.149.
- ² Center for Vital Longevity, University of Texas at Dallas 2014 Jan;25(1):103-12. doi: 10.1177/0956797613499592. Epub 2013 Nov 8.











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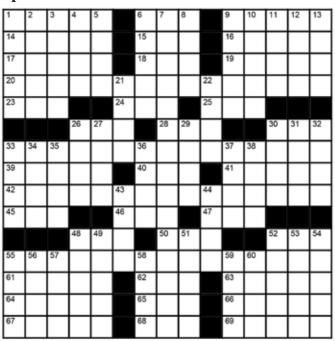






Quilt Blocks Go Wild!

By Stephen Sherr and Eleanor Levie • Eleanor Levie.com



- 1. A Skinny Quilt makes a great dresser
- 6. Lettering on a child's quilt
- 9. Ingredient for a motley, homey bed cover
- 14. Profile piece in jewelry that may put a good face on appliqué
- 15. Court
- 16. Seminole of Florida
- 17. Top layer of a quilt sandwich
- 18. Quilting is an ___ (with 5 Down)
- 19. Assigner of stars
- 20. A daring color combo of 6 triangle squares and 3 diagonal squares?
- 23. At least one
- 24. Western Native Americans who specialize in ceremonial beadwork
- 25. Numbered hwy.
- 26. Birds in the
- 28. Grande Valley Quilt Guild
- 30. Mama bear, in Madrid
- 33. Classic to build online?
- 39. Dyebath measure, in England
- 40. Handmade doll with red yarn hair
- 41. Results of stitching without a break
- 42. Quilt block with explosive rays, against a background of multicolor pastels? 45. Result of a choppy SEA

- 47. Rx providers
- 48. Repro fabrics patterns are often Civil
- 50. With corners, it's ___ to be square
- 52. Good way to obtain quilting info 55. What appliqué's little darling eats in
- Tokyo?
- 61. Caribbean cruise stop
- 62. And so on
- 63. Pieced, pointed section of an Empire Beauty block
- 64. Walked into shallow water
- 65. Frustrated cry after discovering you've hand-stitched through to your pants!
- 66. Understandable vice when you want to add to your already overflowing stash
- 67. Kids' mode of winter transportation
- 68. Fussy-cut patches for an I- quilt
- 69. Level at which newbies start quilting

- 1. Another hobby to dive into
- 2. After adhering that tiny piece, put the gluestick (2 words)
- 3. A way to really stuff that trapunto
- 4. Strand used in basketry
- 5. See 18 Across
- 6. Anticipate
- 7. Adding bands around the completed center
- 8. In latex, they help you grip the needle; in leather, they are thimbles
- 9. Walk proudly in a quilted wearable
- 10. Redwork, Stained Glass, or Celtic
- 11. Adding glitz is puttin' on the
- 12. Eve's gentler son
- 13. Noel character who leaves gifts in shoes
- 21. Illusive halo effect which can result from Radiant Star pattern
- 22. Possibly ends with ability
- 26. Culture starter
- 27. Frosts
- 29. Country quilting retreat locales
- 30. Evening Star point count in Mexico
- 31. Draft a wonky block
- 32. Nat'l. quilting org.
- 33. Indigo or denim
- 34. Slide thread through these, so it enters a needle's eye more easily
- 35. Another Spanish word
- 36. Ripping out is the _ of my existence
- 37. What quiltscapes depict
- 38. Obsessions over piecing perfection?
- 43. A terrible czar
- 44. Diamond refs.
- 48. Flowed partner
- 49. Rocky and To California
- 51. How wool quilts feel, to some
- 52. To date
- 53. Chiffon or organdy
- 54. Recipient of a security blanket
- 55. Quilt patterns Buzz and Jig
- 56. River to the Caspian
- 57. Fabric color for portrait quilts skin tones
- 58. Possessions of Homer's neighbor
- 59. Encourage
- 60. Reap what you sew?

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Janome 3160 QDC



MACHINE SPECS:

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Janome4120QDC - Quilt, Decorate&Create



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The Quilted Cardinal... Another Reason To Visit The Niagara Region

by Damaris Pederson, Toronto, ON

Wineries may have just taken second place in your reasons to visit the Niagara region in SW Ontario.

Nestled between the picturesque wineries of Beamsville Ontario, you will find a unique, bright and cheery quilt shop called The Quilted Cardinal.

The Quilted Cardinal's locale is quite unique as Owner Karen Kolodziejczak describes, "When we were planning for the store we knew we wanted to be located somewhere between St. Catherines and Burlington. We were so lucky to find an old school house (built in 1902!) in Beamsville that had been beautifully renovated to hold

several businesses and we love that we are right in the middle of the many wineries in and around the area." Karen goes on to add, "Our store offers a bright and friendly atmosphere, and our classroom even looks out to a great view of a local winery! It truly gives us the perfect ambiance to just relax, have fun and create in."

Yes the locale is great, but it is Karen's love of sewing and quilting that makes The Quilted Cardinal a truly special place. Karen's story, in her own words tells us why,

"I have been a sewing enthusiast all my life. My mother taught me to sew when I was young and I have loved it ever since. I enjoyed home economics in high school and I still remember the projects we did, like the tote bag Mrs.

The Quitted

"I have been a sewing enthusiast all my life. My mother taught me to sew when I was young and I have loved it ever since."

Edwards taught us. When I had children and they were old enough, I passed on the tradition. I do not think there has ever been a time when my sewing machine has been put away.

I started quilting several years ago and it quickly became my new passion. There are so many talented fabric and pattern designers (my bookshelves and fabric stash will attest to that) and there is no end to what you can create.

Over the years, I have folk art painted, scrap booked, and cross stitched for fun and relaxation. I have sewn for friends and family and they have always been excited

about my creations and it is that support that has encouraged me. Working in retail management for 25 years, I always dreamed of owning my own store. This quilt store is that dream fulfilled."

Karen runs the business with the help of her husband, "My husband Zak retired about a year and a half ago and he does the longarm service for the store among other duties." Karen has a little more family help when needed as well, "Our daughters, Kim Landon and Lindsey Saleh

also help us out during busy times, especially on weekends." She also has help from some very talented friends, "We have been very lucky to have Al Cote, a local Fibre Artist, guest teach for us, and you will often find Lorraine Vermeer teaching or working in the store with us at any given time."

Speaking of teachers, classes are an integral part of what the Quilted Cardinal has to offer its customers, (in addition to offering high quality brand name fabrics and notions of course), Karen tells us, "The Quilted Cardinal is a great place to learn, a place where our customers can find instruction on both traditional and modern methods of quilting. In addition to various quilting projects, we do Block of the Months regularly, and we are extremely excited to be participating in the Row by Row ExperienceTM for the very first time and are looking forward to meeting quilters from around the country!"

Karen's parting message for you, "If you are passing through the Niagara region, please make it a point to visit us. There is plenty of parking, even for buses (an advantage of being in an old school!), and groups are more than

welcome. In fact, if you have a quilting group of 10 or more, or if you belong to a Guild and want to plan a special event, we can make arrangements for your group to definitely make it a memorable experience, with a demo, refreshments and more."

So, when in Beamsville, stop and visit The Quilted Cardinal for great experience, and, oh yeah, if you have time after that, you can also stop by one of the many wineries in the area for wine tasting and some lunch!

For more information on The Quilted Cardinal you can visit their website at www.TheQuiltedCardinal.ca, and you can also find them on Facebook







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Join The Circle of Friends

Damaris Pederson, Toronto, ON

Meet Thunder Bay's Luci Andreacchi, a lifelong sewist and a quilter for the last fifteen years. Along with her husband Tony, Luci owns Circle of Friends Quilt Shoppe, located on Tupper Street in downtown (north) Thunder Bay, Ontario.

The fact that Luci lives and breathes quilting is made evident just by looking at her long list of achievements and leadership roles in the local quilting scene in Thunder Bay.

Luci first gained experience as a quilter as a member at large of the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild. As her knowledge and experience increased through the years, her passionate involvement with the Guild and quilting continued, as she was ultimately called upon to hold a variety of executive positions including Co-Program Chair, Vice-President and President. This past year, she was privileged to be inducted into the Thunder Bay Quilt Guild Hall of Fame.

The idea of opening a quilt shop was born from the combination of a series of events and circumstances that pointed out a clear path for Luci.

So many things happening...

- Her retirement as an employee from Lakehead University,
- Her continuing membership and involvement with the Quilt Guild,
- Her growing passion for quilting centered on community involvement,
- The vacuum created by a lack of local and area retail quilt stores,
- Her long standing dream of opening a small business,
- The opportunity to access Thunder Bay's PARO Centre for Women Enterprise programs,
- And most importantly, encouragement and support from friends and family.

Which all lead to one conclusion... Circle of Friends Quilt Shoppe

Once decided, she needed a great location to bring the dream to life. After a lengthy 6 month search, an affordable turn of the century 'heritage' building became the new home of Circle of Friends Quilt Shoppe. Set in the Thunder Bay (north) downtown business district and close to the city's picturesque waterfront, this character home, upon initial sight, instantly beckoned a conversion to a suitable retail space with "quilt shop ambiance". The Grand Opening of the business occurred in September of 2011!

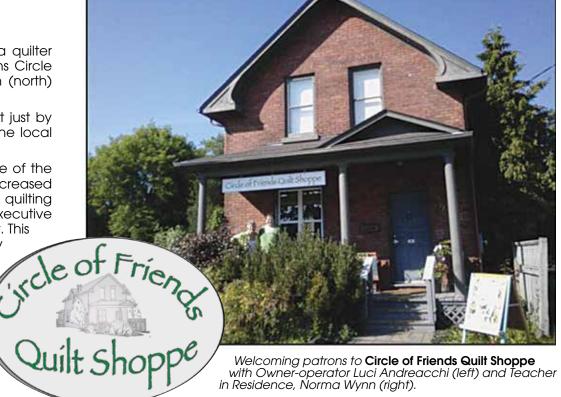
Luci and her crew have not looked back since.

"Now a full service quilt shop" Luci says, "we supply Thunder Bay and surrounding regions with the largest selection of quality quilting grade cottons (from well-known fabric designers) and threads as well as notions, patterns, rulers, and books. Classes at beginner, intermediate & advanced levels are offered in a comfortable classroom setting with excellent and very experienced instructors."

Luci goes on to describe more about her business, "In addition to providing long arm quilting services, we have recently become a Janome authorized dealer and boast a great selection of sewing machine inventory. Our dealership with Janome has added another facet to business and will allow us to further expand our customer base. And, we are very excited to partner with a premiere quality sewing machine company that not only targets quilters, but who will benefit all sewing enthusiasts in general."

Outstanding service is provided in a friendly and warm atmosphere where patrons "gather, learn, share, quilt" and become part of an evergrowing 'Circle of Friends' family.

Luci is the "face" of the business assisting patrons with her expertise and expansive knowledge of quilting. Luci also wears many other "hats" in the business and manages inventory orders, sales, interacting with distributors, maintenance of social media sites (Facebook & Pinterest) along with newsletter distribution which rounds out most of the duties in her portfolio of responsibilities.



Her husband Tony provides background support with general operations including marketing, accounting, furniture construction and assembly, electrical and plumbing services, repairs and maintenance, grounds-keeping and landscaping. Tony is currently also in the process of acquiring knowledge in the area of Janome servicing. As well, he has just completed his very first pattern design to be utilized by the Shoppe's participation in the 2015 Row by Row Experience.

Rounding out the family team are daughter Marissa, who with a degree in Fine Arts, makes her Luci's 'go to' person for organizing fabric inventory and product display. And, when called upon, muscle and brawn for heavy lifting are provided with the help of sons Adrian and Paolo.

Even as an owner-operator, and in addition to professional instructors, Luci still has the help of a "staff" of very friendly volunteers consisting of family and friends,. A weekly "Circle of Friends Breakfast Club" meets at the shop to discuss ideas, formulate plans that evolve and become classes, projects, Block of the Month offerings and special events.

The future for the shop seems to be very bright. "Now, into our 5th year of operations," Luci says, "we have been noting that while other quilt related establishments have closed or are ceasing business operations, our customer base has steadily increased."

When asked about trends and her thoughts about where the quilting industry is going Luci had a very deep and thoughtful answer for us, "It appears that societal activity, perhaps influenced by contemporary social media, suggests that there is a resurgence of 'creating with one's own hands' underway. We are seeing larger than usual enrollment of beginner class registrations; and I am personally seeing a younger than ever demographic that is becoming invested in the art of quilting. I believe this environment has intensified and will fuel a continuing expansion of the industry. Our challenge will be to strive to accommodate an increased and diversified inventory due to these fundamental changes and the business growth that will ultimately follow."

In closing, Luci wished to give credit, where credit is due, "Heartfelt thanks to our entire 'Circle of Friends' for continued support and assistance. Very special appreciation is extended to Norma Wynn, Sharon Melville, Ellen Lang, Aila Metsa, Mary Catharine Kennedy, Meaghann Pulkkinen and Maria Cade. With their friendship and ongoing contributions, this journey continues to be a wondrous adventure."

Best of luck and much success to Luci.

Make it a point when visiting Thunder Bay, to stop by and join the Circle of Friends!



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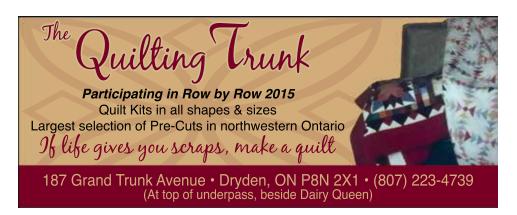








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