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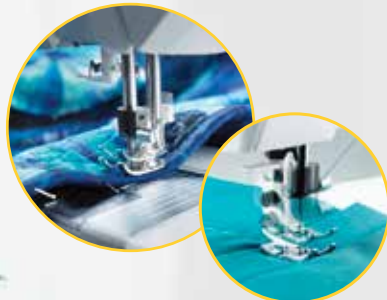
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Cathy Shoemaker
Design/Layout

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In this Issue

About Our Cover Art	4
Map	22
Recipes	8, 9, 10, 17, 21
Quilt Guild Guide	18



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The Country Register of Ontario
October/November 2021 Issue

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Jessica Mingo

Jessica Mingo is a California native who relishes in ocean views and thrives in forests of Pine. Nature has always been a constant source of creativity for her. She has been painting constantly since the age of 8 and began selling her work since a very young age.

After graduating from college with a graphic design degree, Jessica pursued that industry for a while, but really missed paint and brushes, pads of paper, watercolors and acrylics. She was fortunate enough to minor in fine art, and that essentially stoked the "fire." Soon enough, she was back to painting on real canvas, and that morphed into her main love. Painting in loose colors and pulling out fictional elements in non-fictional subjects, has been her passion and goal.

Jessica and her family of three redheads are happily living in Northern California.

To view Jessica's art prints, go to www.PennyLanePublishing.com or call Penny Lane Publishing at 800-273-5263 for more information.

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Joy In Your Day, *Jody*

GIRLFRIEND WISDOM is written and illustrated by Jody Houghton. Request a color file of this writing at jodyhoughton@msn.com. www.JodyHoughtonDesigns.etsy.com

Borderline Tricks and Treats

by Kirby Gust

During University semesters, in the fall of 1980 and shortly after they had been married, Mary and Carl could not afford for her to drive home more than once a month from Saskatoon. Between paying for her university classes, her dorm room rent, and the lingering wedding expenses they had incurred, they had just enough left over every month to call themselves poor. This made the daily operations of the store, that kept it running smoothly and somewhat profitably, very important. When Mary did come home, Carl always knew she had a "To Do" list for him.

It was mid-September. Carl had just finished his back-to-school list Mary had made him when she left for her fall semester. Carl had thought he was safe from another long list, hoping that Thanksgiving would be easy enough to prepare for at the store, this being before the days of pumpkin spice everything. Carl had, of course, completely forgotten about Halloween. Just before she left to head back to Saskatoon, Mary made Carl promise he would make sure they had enough candy in stock for Halloween.

Unbeknownst to Mary, Carl had no idea what this meant. You see, Carl had never been trick-or-treating as a child. Halloween back in 'Carl's day' consisted of wearing a thin plastic mask in the shape of a cowboy or superhero's face, held tightly onto your face by an elastic band, an elastic band that wrapped around your head and pulled on your hair every time you moved. These masks were hot to wear, which made the wearer sweat profusely, even in the coldest October weather. While struggling to breathe the whole time through two small nose holes. Carl's father could see no reason to spend money on one of these costumes for Carl. Carl's dad also saw no reason for Carl to walk the neighbourhood "begging for handouts" when he had all he needed at home.

Carl's parents never handed out candy on Halloween. Carl's mother, being a Doctor and Professor of Medicine at the University of Saskatchewan could not see the benefits of any child eating Halloween candy or candy at all for that matter. Looking back now Carl finds this quite amusing as his mother rarely cooked, this meant most of their warm meals were either ordered in or came out of a can or cardboard box just before they were reheated and served. Such a diet now makes Carl shudder just at the thought.

Carl's father would hunker down in the basement every Halloween night as to not be interrupted from his reading by knocks on the door or the sound of kids yelling "trick or treat" on their doorstep. Carl's mother always had what she thought sounded like a good reason for staying late at the University on Halloween. Carl himself would spend Halloween in his room reading his Popular Mechanics magazines, which to Carl was just about as good as any candy anyway, and much better than wearing one of those masks. In later years Carl was free to go out on his own to trick or treat, but Carl too by this time thought it a bit silly for his age and thus stayed home.

Carl would always get some Halloween Candy though. His friends at school would share with him. Mind you, it was mostly the pieces of candy they did not want themselves, mostly Molasses Kisses, which Carl quite enjoyed for some reason and still likes them to this day. Occasionally though, one of his friends would give him a rare treat, a mini-size Oh-Henry bar. This was a great treat for Carl and always left him wanting another one.

Carl had never had a full-sized Oh-Henry or any other full-sized chocolate bar for that matter. When Carl was a teenager and had his own money, he bought himself a full-sized Oh-Henry one afternoon on his way home from school, hoping neither his mother nor father would ever find out about it. Carl's thinking was if the small ones were good, the full-size one must be even better. Carl's disappointment set in quite fast once he started to eat the chocolate bar. For some reason that he could not, and still cannot explain, the bite-size bars were better somehow, much better, and they never upset his stomach or made him feel light-headed like the full-size bar did once the sugar rush set in.

When it came time for Carl to fulfill his promise, the one he made to Mary of having Halloween all taken care of at the store, Carl thought he knew what he was doing when he ordered a case lot of mini Oh Henry bars, a small variety of other mini-sized chocolate bars, and of course a case of Molasses Kisses. If the Molasses Kisses didn't sell that was okay with Carl.

Carl, not really knowing much about Halloween in the first place, soon found out that he knew even less about Halloween in a small town.

Carl's confusion started in early October. Customers were coming into the store, walking right past his Halloween display of mini chocolate bars, and asking him when the boxes of full-sized chocolate bars were coming in. Carl had 3 or 4 special orders for full boxes of bars written in his order book before he decided to figure out what was going on.

When Judy McHenry walked into his store, Carl knew fate was on his

(story continues on next page)

(story continued from previous page)

side and she would be the one to ask. Judy McHenry after all had been born here and had been married to her husband Cliff for 36 years. They had ranched and farmed in the area their whole lives. She explained it to Carl, "You see most small-town, and farms only get about 15 or 20 kids on Halloween, except for Old Pete of course, he gets lots of kids. Because of the small number of kids, most folks either hand out full-sized candy bars and/or homemade treats, such as popcorn balls or puffed wheat squares." (Remember this story takes place in the early 80s). This explanation also helped explain to Carl why he was sold out of popcorn, puffed wheat and corn syrup.

To thank Judy McHenry for her help Carl gave her a bag of mini Oh-Henry bars to take home for her and Cliff to enjoy. Judy insisted this was not necessary, but Carl insisted it was and Judy relented.

Carl's next grocery order arrived from the warehouse three weeks before Halloween. This order had the boxes of full-sized candy bars, the ones Carl should have ordered in the first place, just as Jon, his Father-in-Law, had done for years. But by this time customers had started to buy the mini-size bars. It all started with Judy McHenry's best friend Gail. Gail came into the store and bought a bag of Oh Henrys a day or so after Judy had been there. Judy herself was back in the store a few days after Carl had given her the bag of Oh Henrys as a thank-you gift to pick up another bag, or two, of the mini Oh-Henrys and a box of miniature Coffee Crisps.

One bag at a time, sometimes 2 and 3 bags at a time, the mini Oh-henrys started to disappear and were all sold by the week before Halloween, once the Oh-Henrys were sold out the other varieties of miniature bars were soon gone as well. Carl was more than relieved upon selling the last box the day before Halloween and more importantly, selling the last box the morning before Mary was due home again for her monthly visit. Halloween just happened to fall on a Friday that year and Mary would be home by early evening.

What Carl had hoped would be HIS Molasses Kisses were long gone by this time, even before Carl could save himself a bag. When Carl was unpacking the order Pete Hanson, or "Old Pete" as he was known, was in the store to pick up his weekly groceries. Old Pete bought the same thing every week, two loaves of white bread, two pounds of bologna, and two cans of dog food. Carl often suspected that Old Pete's dog, Bessy, got more of the bologna than Old Pete himself. Carl after all had seen Bessy a time or two. She surely weighed as much as Old Pete, maybe more. Carl was unpacking, what he thought at the time, to be his Halloween order for the year. As soon as Old Pete saw the Molasses kisses, he asked "how much?" Carl started to tell him the price per bag, but Pete interrupted and said "No! How much for the box?"

While paying for his weekly groceries and the box of candy, Old Pete did something he had never really done before. He talked to Carl. He started to tell Carl a story from when he was a kid. "The only candy' He said with a loud voice, louder than Carl expected from a man of his advanced years, "or anything sweet for that matter, we ever had or could afford on the farm was in a barrel in the barn, and it was meant for the cattle". He explained to Carl how it was his chore to milk the cows in the evening. "Pa did the morning milking while I was walking to school as all kids did in those days. Ten mile it was" Pete went on to tell Carl how He would retrieve a small wooden spoon he had carved out of a tree branch and kept hidden from his father. He would dip the spoon in the barrel of cattle molasses and then suck the spoon clean while he was milking the cows. "I would hide that there spoon again hoping Pa was none the wiser and hopefully saving myself from a good whoopin". He explained to Carl how he no longer enjoys the taste of pure molasses, but he sure enjoys molasses cookies and candies.

On his way out of the store, Old Pete told Carl yet another story, "One day I had dropped that there darn'd spoon when I was putting it back into its hiding place, 'twas a gap in the barn's wallboards just above the barrel of molasses there was. When I reached behind the barrel where it had fallen, I came back up with a different spoon entirely". Pete had stumbled upon his Pa's hidden molasses spoon, most likely hidden from his wife, Pete's Ma. Pete was sure his Pa was hiding his spoon for the same reason he was, to avoid a "good whoopin". Pete was also sure if he had found his Pa's spoon, that more than likely, "Pa must'a found mine, yet never mentioned it." Old Pete finished his story while standing on the store-front steps "I often wondered if Ma had her own spoon hidden somewhere in the barn. If she did, I never found it! I also don't recall Pa ever feedin' any of that molasses to the cows come to think of it!"

With Halloween over and Mary back in the city, Carl could relax for a few weeks before the busy Christmas season fell upon him. In the middle of November when most of the local kids had eaten their Halloween candy they slowly started to come back into the store after school and on weekends. Carl had taken the time to chat with them about how school was going, what sports they were involved in and most importantly, how their Halloween had been.

All the kids said that their Halloween had been great, but Carl drew a blank stare from all of them when he asked them if they enjoyed their mini chocolate bars as much as he did when he was a kid, and how he was

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glad that they liked Molasses Kisses as much as he did. None of the kids however could recall getting a mini chocolate bar, nor could they recall getting any molasses candies.

Carl flat out asked one of the kids about Old Pete and the Molasses Kisses, "Everybody loves trick 'r-treat'n at Old Pete's." the kid said "He gives each of us the same thing every year, a home-made caramel apple and brand new crisp \$2 bill. I have never known him to give out... was it Candy Kisses you call them?"

Carl would find out years later at Old Pete's funeral, that He would order the bills from the Credit Union every year to make sure they were indeed brand new. Pete would tell the kids to "eat the apple as soon as you get home before it spoils, and use that there money, only after all your other candy is gone". Old Pete, who never had a wife or kids of his own took great pleasure in knowing that he was likely giving the kids, not only their first Halloween treat of the year, but also their last one. As for the Molasses Kisses, Old Pete had kept every one of them for himself.

It took Carl a few days to notice all the two-dollar bills stacking up in the cash register, a sight that made him smile. It took much longer for him to clue into the mini chocolate bar mystery. Not one kid Carl had asked about the minibars could remember getting one from anybody or even seeing them except when in his store. Carl found this to be odd knowing how many he had sold, and it nagged on his mind until the busy Christmas season came around and Carl forgot about them completely.


Carl was reminded of the mini Oh Henrys when Mary was home for Christmas. She had been helping her mother, Elizabeth, put Christmas dinner together and needed something from her mother's panty in the basement. Mary came upstairs with a can of Alfa milk in one hand and a half-empty bag of miniature Oh Henry bars in the other. "Where did these come from?" she asked. Both Carl and Elizabeth's faces turned instantly red. Carl, not wanting to admit his ignorance, had neglected to tell Mary about the mini chocolate bars. Elizabeth on the other hand had done what every other man and woman in town and nearby farm had done. She had been given a mini Oh Henry when out for coffee at a friend's house and couldn't resist getting some for herself. Some of these men and women let their spouses in on their little secret, but most of them, the ones not wanting to share their mini-bars, had done just what Old Pete and his Pa had done with their molasses spoons, they had hidden them.


Borderline Good is a series of fictional stories written by Kirby Gust. The stories are set in a fictional town on the Saskatchewan Manitoba boarder. All the characters appearing in this work are fictitious. Any resemblance to real persons, living or dead, is purely coincidental. A special thanks to my former high school principal, John. O. Smith, who has graciously and painstakingly edited these stories.

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Antiques on a Budget

by Ed Kindle

Collecting antiques can be a fun and rewarding hobby on many levels. It doesn't have to be a hobby that breaks the bank. Not all antiques belong in the British Museum or have to cost as much as the Hope Diamond & there is much more to the hobby than buying low and selling high.

Collecting antiques is a lifelong hobby for many. People collect an innumerable number of different items and no two people I know collect the same thing. I watch people every day walk by my store without stopping in because they see the sign that says antiques and they assume incorrectly that everything in an antique store is expensive. This just isn't true. Especially within the last several years.

Sure, I have some items that are offered in the store that cost more than others. You might say some are expensive. The prices are determined by cost, rarity and condition as well as other factors. Some things just cost more. However, there are many items in my store that are very affordable and a great value.

Bargains can be had anywhere and many times when you least expect them. In the past I have shopped flea markets and thrift stores and found many valuable items. Garage sales, estate sales, and auctions can also be surprising venues. To take advantage of them in the past, you had to have amassed some amount of knowledge about antiques and

collectibles. Now, everyone can be an "expert" with their phone. All you have to do is look it up online.

Ah, ha, but there is a catch. The sellers are all doing the same thing now. Before the items go out to the yard for the sale, before the thrift store adds the items to their general inventory, everyone looks them up online. The trouble with this is that people usually use the highest price they see as a reference and tag their items the same.

This doesn't work for either party. The high price online could be just a fishing expedition. The seller may not have known what their item was worth so they just marked it high to see what happens. Some antique dealers will say if it sells too fast, the price was too low. When using an online source for pricing info, use the sold prices. This tells you what similar items actually sold for. Also, take location as well as the date of the sale into account.

Two similar items will sell for two different prices when offered in two different cities.. Use this info to your advantage when shopping at flea markets or thrift stores. You can talk about their price and show them a range of lower prices for the same item and then make them a fair offer and they might just take you up on it.

Also, you might get a better deal on an item if you select several items to purchase at one time. Some would call this "bundling". This also brings up the art of asking for a deal. Hagglng is a fine art that takes some time to get right. Some stores, or sellers love to haggle, others not too much. Try to pick up on cues from watching people deal in different ways and see what works. Just try not to offend and if you make an offer and the seller accepts, you need to complete the deal and buy the item. Don't leave them hanging saying, you just wanted to see how low they would go. You probably won't get another chance with this seller.

Also, if you frequent a store or booth often, you will get a feel for what items have been hanging around for a while. Some sellers will take a lower offer if the item seems stale, and they are looking to add new merchandise. They will sometimes accept making less on an item that's been there a while or even sell it at cost to move it along. This will take some luck as if you wait too long, some other buyer may be watching the same item and make their move first!

To know a deal when you see one, know your items within your chosen subject matter. For instance, if you have decided to collect vintage battery operated robots, you have to do your homework. You need to learn the manufacturers, the countries they originate from, the years they were produced, the variations of each one, and the pricing trends from researching online auctions and using price guides when available and current.

All this homework will put you on top of your game when you are out looking and you will recognize a good deal when you see it. Also consider that if you are buying for your collection, you may also consider buying an item in less than perfect condition, planning on trading up when a better one is available. You may also find you may be willing to spend a bit more, since it is going into a long term collection, rather than trying to flip it in a sale.

There are some real bargains out there for someone who is patient and persistent. I have bought many items over the years that I acquired for a bargain price. Sometimes you have to buy a small grouping or collection to get that one choice item, and then sell off everything else.

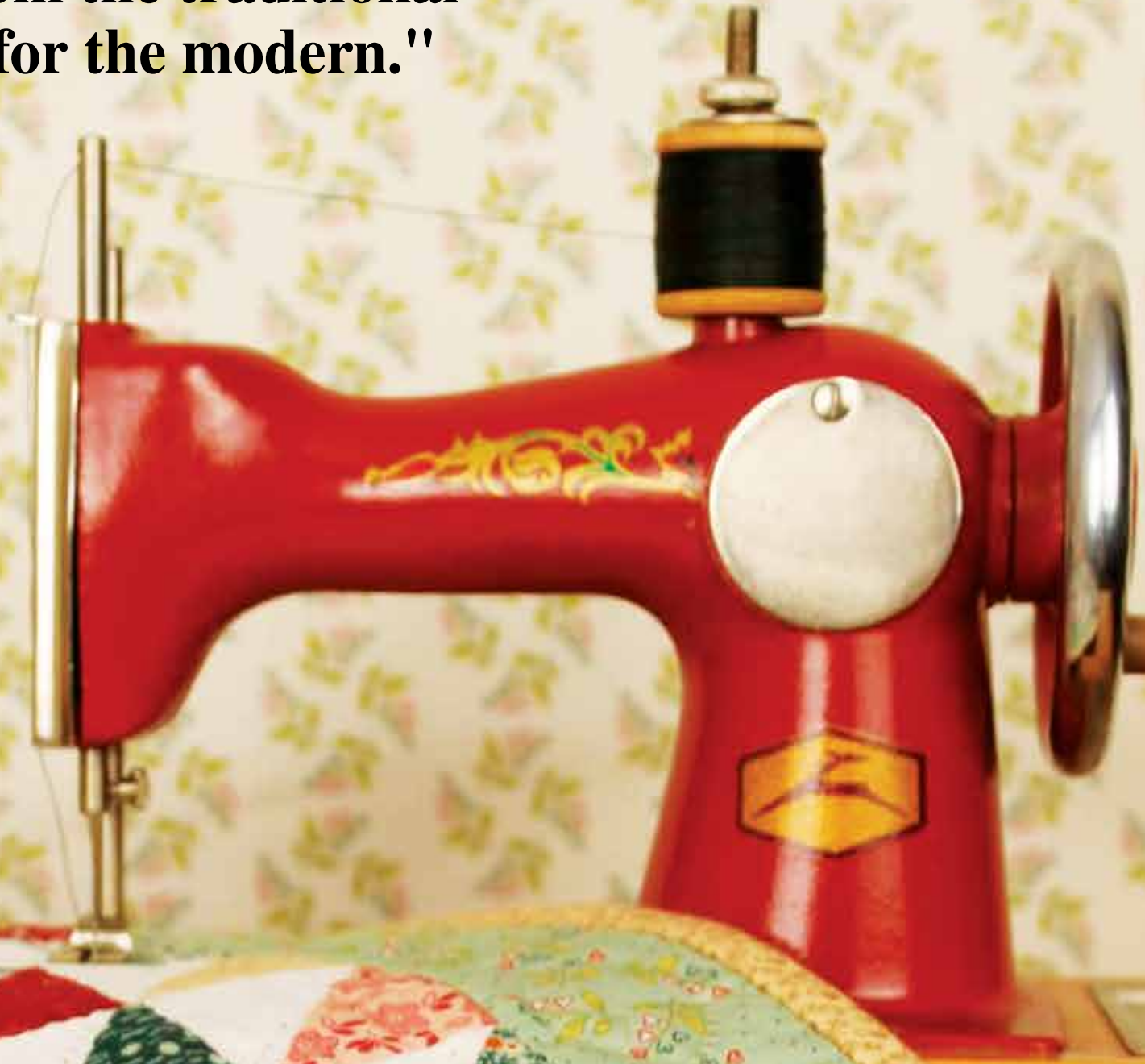
If you take the time to put in the work, there are rewards out there waiting to be found. One example is a serigraph I bought at a thrift store (while looking for used music cd's) for less than \$40 that turned out to be worth several hundred dollars. It also turned out that I like it so much, I don't want to sell it.

This is all part of the hobby. Enjoy the process and when you do find that special item at what seems to be an amazing price, you will enjoy the satisfaction of adding that item to your collection all the more sweet.

Good luck and happy hunting.

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I've Got All the In-cider Information

by Colleen Gust

The apple is so commonplace that we often overlook its importance in history and folklore. There is an apple in the Garden of Eden, Wilhelm Tell who shoots an arrow into an apple placed on his son's head, Snow White, Sir Issac Newton and the Laws of Gravity, and last, but not least the computer that The Country Register is written on. Did you know that the apple is a symbol of knowledge, which is why it is used on the computer logo? Some days though, I'm not too certain if the computer is being used to increase knowledge.

One thing that I always look forward to in the fall is the large containers of unwaxed apples that the grocery stores bring in. Even the scent of the apples makes me sigh in appreciation of this bounty.

Apples are one of the first fruits I remember as a child, with my favourite snack being apple slices with cinnamon. An apple is still something I look forward to in my lunch box. While there are over 7,000 varieties of apples, my favourite is still the McIntosh and its cousins.

When we first moved to our current home, we started from scratch for landscaping and one of the items that were on my "must-have" list was



apple trees. We planted three of them along the driveway with my theory being that fallen apples make a mess in the lawn and they'd be easier to clean up off the paving stones. I wanted apple trees instead of the crabapple variety just due to the baking versatility and ease of the larger species. That being said, one of my all-time favourite perfumes was Fruits & Passion Crabapple (which has unfortunately been discontinued). Also, did you know that crabapples are the only apples native to North America?

Amazingly, we can enjoy apples year-round. Until the 1900s apples were kept in frostproof cellars during the winter for later sale. Starting in the 1960s controlled atmosphere facilities were used to keep apples fresh year-round. Controlled atmosphere facilities use high humidity, low oxygen, and controlled carbon dioxide levels to maintain fruit freshness.

There is a low amount of vitamins and minerals in apples which means it's not a top contender in nutrition (even with the peel). This was disappointing news for me, as I thought the phrase, "an apple a day..." had merit. The only thing it does have in abundance is water at 86% which is why it is frequently used as juice and cider.

We go through a fair amount of cider, as a well-enjoyed fall and winter treat in our house is a teapot steeped with Tetley Warmth tea, a cinnamon stick and a cup or so of President's Choice apple cider. I will make traditional apple cider in the small slow cooker around Christmas time. No real recipe for this either as it's just apple cider, a bit of water, brown sugar and a cinnamon stick, cloves, and green cardamom seeds. I wrap up the spices in a piece of cheesecloth for easy retrieval. I'll also make a variation where I add cranberry juice as well.

The following recipe is an honorary apple recipe...I made this for the first time when my father and my Uncle Joe were visiting and they couldn't believe that it wasn't made from apples. I can still see my father sifting through the pie and going, "but, I can see the apple slices"! I ended up making another pie, under their supervision to prove that it could be done, although now I wonder if I was played, just so they could have more pie!

Ritz Mock Apple Pie

the recipe used to be on the Ritz cracker box

FILLING:

- 2 cups water
- 3/4 cup granulated sugar
- 2 tsp. cream of tartar
- 30 Ritz Crackers
- 1 single pie crust
- 1 Tbsp. lemon juice
- 1 tsp. ground cinnamon

TOPPING:

- 25 Ritz Crackers, crushed (about 1 cup)
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
- 1/3 cup non-hydrogenated margarine, melted

Heat oven to 400°F.

Mix water, granulated sugar and cream of tartar in large saucepan. Bring to boil on medium-high heat. Add crackers; simmer on medium-low heat 5 min., stirring occasionally.

Line a 9-inch pie plate with crust as directed on package; fill with cracker mixture. Sprinkle with lemon juice and cinnamon.

Topping:

Combine all of the topping ingredients; sprinkle over Filling.

Bake 15 min. Reduce oven temperature to 350°F; bake 20 min. or until golden brown. Cool.

In regards to the headline of this salute to apples, I'd like to appleogize for the pun."

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Apple Rhubarb Crisp

I usually make this with the apples from the trees in our front yard. The apples are a bit smaller than the ones from B.C. so I up the number of apples required to approximate the store-bought amount. I've found that with crisps, approximate amounts are good enough.

- 6 large apples, cored and diced
- 1 cup diced rhubarb
- 1 cup white sugar (optional)
- ¼ cup all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon (optional)
- 1 ¾ cups quick-cooking oats
- 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
- 1 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup chilled butter, cut into pieces

Preheat oven to 350°F. Butter a 9x13-inch baking dish.

Mix apples, rhubarb, 1 cup white sugar, 1/4 cup flour, and 1 teaspoon cinnamon in a bowl until thoroughly combined; spread fruit mixture into the bottom of prepared baking dish.

Mix quick oats, 1 1/2 cup flour, and brown sugar in a separate bowl; cut butter into the oats mixture until crumbly. Spread the oats mixture evenly over the fruit mixture.

Bake in the preheated oven until the fruit is bubbling and thick and the topping is golden brown, about 45 minutes.



Apple Dumplings

The name of this recipe always makes me smile as it reminds me of the classic movie The Apple Dumpling Gang with Don Knotts and Tim Conway. Apple dumplings are a favourite of some friends of ours, who always looked forward to it at potlucks at their Pop's place.

Serves 6

- 1 recipe pastry for double-crust pie
- 6 large apples, peeled and cored
- ½ cup butter
- ¾ cup brown sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- ½ teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 3 cups water
- 2 cups white sugar
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract

Preheat oven to 400°F. Butter a 9x13 inch pan.

On a lightly floured surface, roll pastry into a large rectangle, about 24 by 16 inches. Cut into 6 square pieces. Place an apple on each pastry square with the cored opening facing upward. Cut butter into 8 pieces. Place 1 piece of butter in the opening of each apple; reserve remaining butter for sauce. Divide brown sugar between apples, poking some inside each cored opening and the rest around the base of each apple. Sprinkle cinnamon and nutmeg over the apples.

With slightly wet fingertips, bring one corner of the pastry square up to the top of the apple, then bring the opposite corner to the top and press together. Bring up the two remaining corners, and seal. Slightly pinch the dough at the sides to completely seal in the apple. Repeat with the remaining apples. Place in prepared baking dish.

In a saucepan, combine water, white sugar, vanilla extract and reserved butter. Place over medium heat, and bring to a boil in a large saucepan. Boil for 5 minutes, or until sugar is dissolved. Carefully pour over dumplings.

Bake in preheated oven approx. 60 minutes. When serving spoon some sauce over the top.

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Apple Jelly

We usually make apple jelly every year, even if we have plenty leftover from previous years. It makes a nice little care package if we give it away. We make a pretty standard apple jelly recipe, but what we do differently is our variations....chili peppers, sage, rosemary, garlic. By adding herbs we greatly increase the recipe's versatility. It's so easy to cook a chicken or pork in the herbed jelly, and then serve it with rice. I'll even use the chilli apple jelly as an appetizer by pouring it over a brick of cream cheese and serving the spread with crackers.

Makes 3 half-pints.
4 ½ lbs apples
7 cups water
5 cups prepared juice
3 Tbsp bottled lemon juice
3 ¾ cups sugar

Remove the stems and blossom ends from apples. Coarsely chop the apples with the peel and core included. Turn into a large pot. Add water. Bring to a boil on medium-high heat. Cook for about 1 hour until very soft. Drain overnight in a jelly bag.

Combine the prepared juice and lemon juice in a large pot. Add sugar. Stir on medium-high heat until it comes to a full rolling boil. Boil hard for about 40 minutes, stirring a couple of times. Start testing for jelly stage near the end. Skim off the foam.

Pour into hot sterilized jars to within ¼" from the top. Seal.

Variations: Add any of the following (chopped chilli peppers, fresh sage, fresh rosemary, sliced garlic), either by themselves or combined to make a flavoured jelly during the boil hard stage. The amount you add will determine the intensity of the jelly. I didn't give amounts as we use our home-grown herbs, and it varies so much from year to year....this year we have such HOT chilli peppers in that a single pepper would season a whole recipe!

Join Our Upcoming Sew Along SnowmanSewAlong.com

by Jacquelynne Steves

Creativity is healing. There's something so satisfying about making something with your own two hands. And study after study has shown that creative hobbies like sewing are good for both your physical and mental health- and isn't that so important these days! It's also a wonderful way to relax and escape just for a little while.

It also helps to explain the recent resurgence of sewing in popularity. Last year, many people who had never sewn before (or maybe hadn't sewn for years and years) took up mask making. Now they find themselves bitten by the 'sewing bug' and completely hooked on stitching pretty fabrics into unique projects that they can enjoy themselves, or to give as gifts.

Creative hobbies are also an excellent way to make new friends- did your grandmother ever talk about sewing or quilting bees that she attended? Just hop online, and you can join a sewing group with enthusiasts from all over the globe!

I have found in my Facebook groups that people are really craving that personal connection with other creative folks. Before the pandemic, we were hosting virtual 'sew alongs,' but they really exploded in popularity once everyone was sequestered in their homes, looking for a social and creative outlet.

We are hosting even more virtual sew alongs than ever! This fall, we will be doing a sew along called 'Snowmen & Silent Night' and we'll be making a darling little mini quilt with the cutest little snowmen on it. And, we are starting in late now so that your projects can be completed for the holidays.

I'll even teach you how to do hand embroidery through easy-to-follow video tutorials. But, if you don't want to do hand embroidery, you don't have to! I always like to give people lots of options and ideas for making my projects the way that they want to!

Did I mention that the sew along, patterns and hand embroidery tutorials are FREE? What a fun fall activity! And it could be the perfect activity to do (virtually or in person) with friends that you need to "reconnect" with.

Want to know more? Please visit my website below to find out all about it. Just sign up, and you'll receive an email each week with the newest block pattern. The patterns include well written instructions and lots of diagrams, so your sewing will be relaxing and fun! Sign up on our website and join us!

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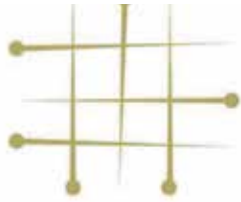
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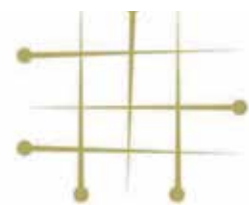
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Pieces From My Heart

by Jan Keller

The Way It Is

This summer a pair of Horned Larks, a bird that typically builds its nest on the ground in a stubble field, decided to set up housekeeping and raise a family at the base of an evergreen seedling in our yard.

I discovered the nest with three small eggs on the last day of June. On July 5th two of the eggs cracked open and a couple of baby Horned Larks emerged and I got my first look at the naked, strange-looking, big-eyed baby birds. They were adorable.

That morning, as I attended to my seedlings, I tried to be very careful as I watered near the nest. In spite of my best intentions, water flooded the little home and the helpless creatures nearly drowned.

Quickly my husband John found a little twig and flicked the little birds out of the nest and onto slightly higher ground. Several minutes later, as soon as the water soaked down into the soil, I flicked them back. Meanwhile, the agitated parents watched from a distance, anxiously awaiting an opportunity to return to care for their offspring.

Several times that day I checked the nest. The two little birds seemed fine, but I was worried about the remaining egg. What was wrong? Had the cold water shocked the unborn bird and killed it before it hatched?

Early the next morning, the very first thing I did was peek at the nest. Oh happy day! I now had three baby birds, each very hungry and waiting to be fed.

Those little birds grew so fast they quickly overflowed the nest. In fact, exactly one week after they hatched, two of my little feathered friends left the nest and never looked back. Then, the very next day the third bird hopped out and, likewise, was off and on its own.

That's the way it is with children, too.

They're born.

We make mistakes.

Somehow they survive.

Then they're grown and gone.

Oh how important it is to remember to "rejoice and be glad" (Psalm 118:24) and enjoy each and every day because, just like those baby birds, how quickly the time flies by.

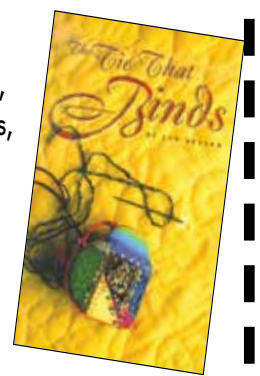


©2021 Jan Keller. No reprint without permission. Jan shares other pieces of her life in her books, *Pieces From My Crazy Quilt*, and *The Tie That Binds*. These books can be ordered by calling 719-866-8570, or writing to: Black Sheep Books, 11250 Glen Canyon Drive, Peyton, CO 80831

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Hamilton



Leaf Quilts

by Rachel Greco

Fall is the time of year when every imaginable leaf pattern appears in quilts. Popular for over 200 years, leaf quilts can be either pieced or appliquéd. Many appliquéd leaf patterns appear in quilts from the mid-1800s to the present, including oak leaf and reel patterns. An abundance of maple leaf quilt patterns can be found as well.

For piecing, Autumn Leaves is a popular quilt block. For appliquéd work, many quilters find their inspiration by collecting leaves when they fall from the trees. If you want to make a quilt using the leaves that fall in your area, choose leaves that appear to be as perfect as possible. Within one hour of collection, you will want to press them flat by placing them in single layers between two sheets of waxed paper. You can then either place them in a leaf press or inside or underneath a heavy book. Allow them to dry for at least seven to ten days.

Once your leaves are dry, use them to trace shapes onto templates. You are then ready to use the templates you need for fusible web or traditional appliquéd work. Depending on the type of leaves that fall from trees in your area, you'll want to use Fall fabrics, including yellow, gold, green, orange, scarlet, brown and red.

To create stems for your leaves, you can either cut fabric on the bias or embroider them in place. Try including embroidery and iridescent threads on your work to add texture to your leaf designs or use gradating tones of fabric for a 3-D effect.

Rachel Greco owns Grandma's Attic, a traditional quilt shop in Dallas, Oregon. A quilt historian and avid reader, she gives talks on needlework as well as the role of women in American history and their connection to fabric. She has authored several books and patterns, and runs Grandma's Quilt Club, a monthly quilt class where participants collect quilt blocks, learn about quilt history and make new friends. Look for her at <https://grandmasatticquilting.com>.

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Scrap Happy

by Deb Heatherly

Falling leaves in orange, red, and yellow, apple crisp, pumpkin spice, high school football, sweaters and flannel shirts, boots or a crackling fire—which image comes to mind when you think of Fall? Maybe it's a combination of them all. As for me, I look forward to warm, comfy clothes, watching the changing colors on the mountains around me and pulling out projects to quilt.

One of my all-time favorite fall quilts is this easy scrap quilt made from rectangles. It's starting to get old and a little worn but that makes me love it even more. It's not an intricate pattern like those I design now for Creative Grids®. It's just a simple, scrappy quilt made long ago that, for more than 20 years, has been my constant companion when I feel the first hint of a chill in the air.

'Scrap Happy' is the perfect snuggle quilt. Whether I'm reading a book or watching a movie, this quilt is like an old friend. Most of the time I end up sharing it with one or more kitties but that just adds to the overall feeling of love.

I was once told that in the late 1800s and early 1900s quilts in this type layout were called "postcard" quilts because postcards were used as templates. Can you image having to cut all of the pieces by hand? Today, we can easily cut the rectangles with a rotary cutter and be sewing in no time at all. Pull out your scraps and get ready for fall.

You can make this quilt as large as you want by simply lengthening and adding more rectangle rows. Mine is lap size (59" x 67"). To make one this size, use an equal amount of light neutrals and dark prints, cut into 3 1/2" x 5 1/2" rectangles. I used 73 lights and 73 darks for the quilt center, and 40 random colored rectangles for the pieced border.

You will make 4 types of vertical rows, each alternating the lights and darks. Row 1 starts with a dark rectangle and ends with a light rectangle using 5 light and 5 dark in the row (make 4 of row 1), row 2 starts and ends with a light rectangle cut in half and uses 5 dark and 4 light rectangles in addition to the 2 half rectangles (make 4 of row 2), row 3 starts with a light rectangle and ends with a dark rectangle using 5 light and 5 darks in each row (make 3 of row 3) and finally row 4 starts and ends with a dark rectangle cut in half and uses 5 light and 4 dark rectangles in addition to the 2 half rectangles (make 3 of row 4).



I added an inner border cut at 2" (5 strips WOF) and then used left over rectangles for a second border. I finished with an outer border cut at 4 1/2" (7 strips WOF). Using the same fabric for the inner border and outer border, you will need 1 1/4 yd. I used a different fabric for the binding cutting 7 strips at 2 1/2". Although this comes to 17 1/2", 2/3 yd. will give you a little padding in case you need to square up the edges of the fabric.

This quilt is quick, easy and finished in no time at all. Happy Fall!

Deb Heatherly is a designer for Creative Grids® rulers. When not in her studio, Deb is normally 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, Ultimate Flying Geese Tool, Cat's Cradle XL, and the new Kitty Cornered Tool. She is also the author of the books 'Cat'itude, Strippy Stars, 4-Patch Panache, The Ultimate Flying Geese Book, Catitude XL, Creatively Yours, and her newest, The Build A Quilt Workbook. Visit her website at www.Debcatsnquilts.com. Creative Grids® fans are invited to join her Facebook group, Grids Girls, for tips and inspiration. Grids Girls members have the opportunity to participate in exclusive Grids Girls mystery quilts two times each year. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/770429649800457/>.

Quilt Shop Owners, you are invited to join the group above and Deb has an additional Facebook group just for you—Grids Girls for Quilt Shop Owners Only. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/273593657256524/>.

You can contact her at Debscatsnquilts@aol.com or call the studio, Deb's Cats n Quilts Designs, 828-524-9578.



Town and Country Cooking

By Janette Hess

Stratford



Treats with a Twist

Fall parties call for fall treats or, to be more specific, treats featuring the flavors of apple and pumpkin. In the coming weeks, pay homage to these seasonal favorites while at the same time adding a slight twist in the form of traditional or Italian cream cheese.

Two of the following recipes feature mascarpone cheese, a mild Italian cream cheese usually sold in 8-ounce cartons. Slightly sweet and extremely spreadable, it blends nicely with a variety of ingredients. In Frozen Pumpkin Pie, the mascarpone cheese adds needed structure to the canned pumpkin puree and the whipped cream. Sweet Pumpkin Dip spotlights mascarpone cheese as an excellent alternative to regular cream cheese or even sour cream.

In Cream Cheese Apple Pie, traditional cream cheese adds depth and richness to conventional apple pie ingredients. Serve this pie warm or chilled with a dollop of topping, and see who can guess the new ingredient!

Frozen Pumpkin Pie

- 1 9-inch baked pie crust OR 1 9-inch graham cracker crust
- 28-ounce cartons (16 ounces total) mascarpone cheese
- 1 cup powdered sugar
- 1 15-ounce can pumpkin
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- ½ teaspoon cinnamon
- ¼ teaspoon ginger
- ¼ teaspoon nutmeg
- Dash of salt
- 8 ounces sweetened whipped cream (see note)
- OR 8 ounces whipped topping

In large bowl, combine mascarpone cheese, powdered sugar, pumpkin and vanilla extract. Add spices and salt. Fold whipped cream or whipped topping into pumpkin mixture. Spoon into crust of choice and freeze several hours or overnight. Makes 8 servings. For ease of slicing, remove from freezer approximately ½ hour before serving.

Note: Prepare sweetened whipped cream by whipping cream in chilled glass or metal bowl. After peaks have formed, add 1 tablespoon powdered sugar and 1 teaspoon vanilla extract. Blend well. Use as directed in recipe.

Sweet Pumpkin Dip

- 1 8-ounce package mascarpone cheese
- ½ cup canned pumpkin
- ¼ cup brown sugar

Blend well and store in refrigerator. Makes approximately 1½ cups dip. Serve with any or all of the following:

- Pretzels
- Sliced apples
- Cubes of pound cake
- Graham crackers
- Small vanilla cookies



Cream Cheese Apple Pie

- 1 9-inch pie crust, unbaked
- 1 egg, beaten
- 4 ounces cream cheese, softened
- ¾ cup sugar
- 4 tablespoons flour, divided
- ¾ teaspoon cinnamon
- Dash of salt (1/8 teaspoon)
- 5 cups peeled, cored, thinly sliced apples
- 3 tablespoons brown sugar
- 1 tablespoon butter

In large bowl, thoroughly combine beaten egg, softened cream cheese and sugar. Blend in 2 tablespoons flour, ¾ teaspoon cinnamon and dash of salt. Add apples; stir to coat. Spoon into unbaked crust. In small bowl combine brown sugar, butter and remaining 2 tablespoons flour. Using fork or pastry blender, mix until crumbly and sprinkle over pie. Bake at 375 degrees for at least 35 minutes, or until apples are tender. Serve warm or chilled, but store leftovers in refrigerator. Makes 8 servings.

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.



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Ajax	<i>Twisted Stitchers Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Ajax Legion at 7pm on the 2nd Tuesday on any month from September to June.
Alliston	<i>Quilting Corners Guild</i> We meet at St Johns United Church at 7pm on the first Tuesday or each month, except January.
Ancaster	<i>Ancaster Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Marshall Memorial United Church, 20 Gilbert Ave. at 7pm on the 3rd Wednesday of each month from September to June.
Arnprior	<i>Arnprior District Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Christian Education Centre, 257 John St. N. at 6:30 pm on the fourth Wed. of each month from Sept. to June.
Barrie	<i>Simcoe County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Simcoe County Museum, 1151 Hwy 26, Midhurst at 1:00 pm on the Fourth Thursday each month except the 2nd Thursday in Dec and 3rd Thursday in June, from September to June. <i>Kempfenfelt Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Lion's Gate Banquet Hall on Blake Street, the 3rd Thursday of the month from 7-9pm <i>Barrie Modern Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Grace United Church, 350 Grove St. East the last Thursday of the month, on alternate months from September to May - 7pm and on various Saturdays during the alternate months, for Activities and Workshops, from October to June.
Belleville	<i>Quinte Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Recreation Centre, 116 Pinnacle Street. At 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday of each month.
Binbrook	<i>Binbrook Country Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Binbrook United Church, 2623 Binbrook Rd. 7:30 pm the last Monday of the month from Sept - Nov and Jan - June.
Bracebridge	<i>The Pine Tree Quilters' Guild of Muskoka</i> We meet at the Bracebridge Memorial Arena, 169 James St at 1:00 pm on the 2nd. Thursday of the month from September through June.
Brampton	<i>Brampton Quilters Guild</i> We meet on the 4th Thursday of each month from September to June at 7:30 pm. Meetings are held at Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre, 292 Conestoga Dr, Brampton.
Brantford	<i>Brant Heritage Quilters</i> We meet at St George United Church at 7:30 pm. on the second Thursday of the month.
Brockville	<i>The Thousand Islands Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion,180 Park Street at 7 pm on the 4th Thursday evening of the month. No meetings December, January, July and August.
Buckhorn	<i>Buckhorn Area Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Hartley Hall, St. Mathews / St. Adian Anglican Church at 9:00 a.m. on the last Wednesday of the month (excluding July, August and December).
Burlington	<i>Halton Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Mainway Recreation Centre, 4015 Mainway Dr. at 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of the month from September through June).
Caledonia	<i>Caledonia Grand River Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at 7pm on the 2nd Wednesday of the month from September through June.
Cambridge	<i>Busy Hands Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Preston Scout House, 1580 Queenston Road at 9:30 am on the third Monday of each month.
Chatham	<i>Chatham-Kent Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at St. Paul's Congregational Church, 450 Park Ave W at 7pm on the third Wednesday each month, except December.
Cornwall	<i>Cornwall Quilters Guild</i> We meet at St. Mathews Lutheran Church, 1509 Second St West at 7pm every third Monday evening from September through May.
Courtice	<i>Clarington Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Faith United Church, 1778 Nash Road on at 6:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of every month.
Dryden	<i>Sunset Country Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at 84 St. Charles Street at 7 pm on the 4th Tuesday of each month.
Elliot Lake	<i>Elliot Lake Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Gentle Shepherd Church, 3 Ottawa Ave. at 7:00 pm on Tuesdays from September through June.
Elmira	<i>The Elmira Needle Sisters</i> We meet at the Elmira Mennonite Church at 7:00 pm on the fourth Monday of the month.
Etobicoke	<i>Etobicoke Quilters Guild</i> We meet at Neilson Park Creative Centre - 56 Neilson Dr. at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of the month.
Georgetown	<i>Halton Hills Quilters Guild</i> We Meet at 8958 Trafalgar Rd, Georgetown, ON L7G 4S5. 6:45pm till 9pm from September till June on the fourth Monday of the month.
Gloucester	<i>Common Thread Quilt Guild</i> We meet at Le Mouvement D'Implication Francophone D'Orléans (MIFO), 6600 rue Carriere in Orleans at 7:30 pm on the second Tuesday of the month from September through June.
Goderich	<i>Goderich Quilters' Guild</i> We meet once a month on the 2nd Tuesday.
Grimsby	<i>Grimsby Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Livingston Activity Centre at 7pm on the third Thursday of the month.
Guelph	<i>Royal City Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Three Willows United Church, 577 Willow Road at 7:00 pm on the second Tuesday each month from September until June.
Gwillinbury	<i>Gwillimbury Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Sharon-Hope United Church, 18648 Leslie St. at 1:00 pm on 4th Monday of the month from September through May.
Hagersville	<i>Haldimand Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Hagersville United Church at 7:00 pm on the first Monday of the month from September through June.
Haliburton	<i>Haliburton Highlands Quilter Guild</i> We meet at the Stanhope Community Centre, 1095 North Shore Rd, Algonquin Highlands at 1:00 pm on the second Wednesday of each month.
Hamilton	<i>Hamilton Quilters Guild</i> We meet The Church of Resurrection, 435 Mohawk Rd. W.at 7:00 pm on the 2nd Wednesday of each month from September through August.
Ingersoll	<i>Oxford Quilters Guild</i> We meet month at the Ingersoll Creative Art Centre, 125 Centennial Lane (in Victoria Park) at 7:00 pm on the first Wednesday and 9:00 am on the first Thursday of each month.
Kanata	<i>The Kanata Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Glen Cairn United Church, 140 Abbeyhill Dr. at 9:30 am on the second Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Kemptville	<i>Kemptville Quilters Guild</i> We meet pm at the Kemptville Pentecostal Church 1964 County Road # 43 at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month (except for holiday Mondays).
Kenora	<i>Lake of the Woods Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at St. Louis Catholic Church, 912 Superior St in Keewatin at 7 PM on the second Thursday of the month.
Kingston	<i>Kingston Heirloom Quilters</i> We meet at St. Johns Anglican Church Hall in Portsmouth Village at 9:30 am on the first Tuesday and 7:00 pm on the first Thursday of each month.
Kingsville	<i>Erie Shores Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Kingsville Arena, 2nd floor at 7p.m. on the third Tuesday of the month.
Kirkton	<i>Huron, Perth Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Kirktown/Wooddham Community Centre at 9:00 am on the second Tuesday of the month from September through May.
Kitchener - Waterloo	<i>The Waterloo County Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Parkside Community Room of the Parkside Arena in Waterloo at 1:30pm and 7:30 pm on the third Wednesday of the month.
Lambton	<i>North Lambton Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Port Franks Hall on the 4th Wednesday of the month.
Limestone	<i>Limestone Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at The Senior's centre in Kingston at 7:15 pm on the first Wednesday of the month.
Lindsay	<i>Lindsay Creative Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Celebrations, 35 Lindsay St. N at 1:00 pm every 2nd Monday of the month except for October, December and June.
Manitoulin Island	<i>Island Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Community Hall in Mindemoya at 7:00 pm on the third Thursday of the month from September though June.
Markdale	<i>Queen's Bush Quilters</i> We meet at Annesley United Church, 82 Toronto St. at 7:00 pm on the 1st Tuesday of the month from September to June.
Meaford	<i>Georgian Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Meaford Opera House, Sykes St. at 1:30 pm on the 3rd Thursday of the month.
Mississauga	<i>Cawthra Senior's Centre</i> We meet at the Cawthra Senior's Centre at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of the month (except July and August). <i>Mississauga Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Tomken Twin Arenas at 7:30 pm on the first Thursday of the month (except July and August).

Miramichi	<i>Miramichi Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Seamans Hospital at 7:00 pm every Tuesday and 10:00 am every Thursday.
Napanee	<i>Heritage Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Strathcona Paper Center at 7:00 pm on the third Tuesday of each month from September through to June.
Newmarket	<i>The Region of York Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Newmarket Community Centre, 200 Doug Duncan Drive on the fourth Wednesday of the month from September through May. <i>Moraine Quilt Guild</i> We meet in the hall at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church – 484 Water Street, Newmarket at 9:30 am – 12 Noon for Social Sew and 1:00-3:30 pm for the Meeting on the first Wednesday of each month year round.
Niagara Region	<i>The Niagara Heritage Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Merrion Community Centre, 7 Park Ave., St. Catharines on the third Wednesday of each month.
Nobleton	A chapter of the <i>Modern Quilting Guild</i> We travel to various locations in Southern Ontario on a rotating basis.
Norwich	<i>Quaker Quilt Guild</i> We meet at 89 Stover St N, Norwich at 9:30 am on the second Monday of the month.
Orangeville	<i>Dufferin Piecemakers' Quilting Guild</i> We meet at the Orangeville Event Centre at 7:30 pm on the third Monday of the month from September through June.
Orilla	<i>Orillia Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion, 215 Mississauga St. E. at 1:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month.
Orono	<i>Ganaraska Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Seniors Activity Centre. 200 Station St. W at 7:15 pm on the last Wednesday of the month.
Oshawa	<i>Durham Trillium Quilters'</i> We meet at the Zion Christian Reformed Church 409 Adelaide Ave. E. Oshawa at 7:00pm every second Monday Sept.- June
Ottawa	<i>Almonte Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Almonte Civitan Club, 500 Almonte Street Active at 7:00 pm from September through June (no meeting in December). <i>Ottawa Valley Quilters Guild</i> We meet at St. Anthony's Soccer Club at 7:30 pm on the first Monday of the month. <i>QuiltCo</i> We meet at the Trinity Anglican Church in Old Ottawa South on the second Monday evening of the month except July and August. <i>Owen Sound Bluewater Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, 1900 3rd Av E at 7:00 pm every third Monday from March to December (except May which is on the second).
Paris	<i>Paris Quilting Bees</i> We meet on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September to June at the Paris Fairgrounds at 7 PM. For information email: parisquiltingbees@gmail.com.
Perth	<i>Lanark County Quilters Guild</i> We meet at Lions Hall, Perth Fairgrounds at 7pm on the 4th Tuesday of the month.
Pickering	<i>Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Peace Lutheran Church, 928 Liverpool Road, Pickering at 7:00 pm on the 4th Monday of the month September through May, excluding December.
Port Loring	<i>Argyle Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Lions Den in Arnstein on the second Thursday of the month.
Port Perry	<i>Port Perry Patchers</i> We meet at the Hope Christian Reform Church, 14480 Old Simcoe Rd. in Prince Albert at 7:00 pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Prince Edward	<i>Prince Edward County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the BCR Church in Bloomfield at 7:00 pm County on the second Wednesday of each month.
Rayside	<i>Rayside Balfour Quilting and Stitchery Guild</i> We meet at the Chelmsford Arena (upstairs) 215 Edward Avenue, Chelmsford, Ontario at 7:00 p.m. every Monday from September to May.
Renfrew	<i>Quilt Guild Renfrew & Area</i> We meet at the Horton Community Centre, 1005 Castleford Road, Horton from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month from September to June.
Richmond	<i>Richmond Area Quilters Guild (RAQG)</i> We meet at the Richmond Legion, 6430 Ottawa Street at 7:30 on the third Wednesday of each month.
Ruthven	<i>Erie Shores Quilter's Guild</i> We meet at the Ruthven-Olinda United Church every third Tuesday.
Sarnia	<i>Sarnia Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Redeemer Christian Reformed Church 5814 Blackwell Sadr, Sarnia at 7pm the first Monday of each month.
Sault St. Marie	<i>Stitches From The Heart Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the Senior's Centre on Bay St at 7pm the last Monday of the month.
Scarborough	<i>Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Peace Lutheran Church, 928 Liverpool Road, Pickering at 7:00 pm on the 4th Monday of the month September through May, excluding December.
Simcoe	<i>Twilight Quilters' Guild of Norfolk County</i> We meet at the Old Wyndham Church, 30 Glendale Crescent at 7:00 pm on the second Monday of the month. <i>Norfolk County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Vittoria & District Community Centre on the first Tuesday of each month except October.
Stittsville	<i>The Quilters Club</i> We meet at the The Pretty Street Community Centre at 7:00 pm on the third Monday of the month.
St Marys	<i>The Stonetowne Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the End Zone Room of the Pyramid Centre at 9:30 am on the third Tuesday of the month from September to May.
Stony Creek	<i>Stoney Creek Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Royal Canadian Legion, 12 King Street East, at 6:30 pm on first Wednesday of the month from September to June.
Sudbury	<i>Sudbury & District Quilting & Stitchery Guild</i> We meet at 140 Durham Street at 7:00 pm on every Tuesday from September to April.
Sutton	<i>The Georgina Pins and Needles</i> We meet at the Knox United Church 34 Market Street at 7:00 pm on the first Tuesday of the month from September to June.
Thunder Bay	<i>Thunder Bay Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Calvin Luthern Church on Edward Street at 7:30pm on the 3rd Monday of each month from September to June.
Toronto	<i>Etobicoke Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at the Neilson Park Creative Centre at 7:15 pm on the third Monday of the month. <i>Pieceful Nights Quilters' Guild of North Toronto</i> meets the second Wednesday of each month. During COVID-19 meetings will be held via Zoom. Guests welcome. https://www.pnqg.ca. <i>Toronto Modern Quilt Guild</i> We meet at The Workroom Studio, 46 Nobel St Studio 102 at 3:00 pm on the last Sunday of each month. <i>York Heritage Quilters Guild</i> We meet at the Toronto Botanical Gardens on the 3rd Tuesday of every month from September through May. <i>Yorkshire Rose Quilters' Guild of Toronto</i> We meet at Danforth Mennonite Church, 2174 Danforth Avenue at 7:30 pm on the second Wednesday of the month from September through May.
Wasaga Beach	<i>Slope to Slope Quilters Guild</i> We meet in the Community Hall at the Wasaga Stars Arena at 7pm on the first Tuesday of the month September through June.
Waterloo	<i>The Waterloo County Quilters' Guild</i> We meet the Albert McCormick Community Centre at 1:30 pm and 7pm on the third Wednesday of each month from September through June
Whitby	<i>Kindred Hearts Guild</i> We meet at the Whitby Baptist Church on the third Tuesday of the month.
Windsor	<i>Windsor Quilters' Guild</i> We meet at Royal Canadian Legion Branch 594, 5030 Howard Ave., Windsor, ON N9A 6Z6 at 9:00 a.m. the first Wednesday of the month from September to June.
York Region	<i>The Moraine Quilt Guild</i> We meet at the St. Andrews Presbyterian Church at 1:00 on the first Wednesday of the month.

Sault Ste. Marie



Midnight Garden

by Marlene Oddie

Do you ever venture out into your garden at night? Imagine a lighted garden with beautiful blooms.

Have you visited Butchart Gardens in Victoria, B.C., Canada? As a young child visiting there, I had an early impression of beautiful lighted gardens. I went back in recent years as an adult and was still just as impressed. If you are there at night, you get to see them all lit up.

A new fabric collection being released by Island Batik is Midnight Dazzle. This collection inspired my latest pattern – Midnight Garden. I used AnglePlay® Set 1 templates to get these great half rectangle triangle designs. I also incorporated squares, half square triangles and corner triangles. Creating a pieced setting triangle gives a unique effect to edge the center piecing portion.

The design is much simpler than it looks. There are basically three block designs. One is the pinwheel-like block (think LIGHTS!); second is the hydrangea flower; and the third has 3 variations. This simpler flower block is then also used in the setting triangles with left and right versions to create the symmetrical border effect.

Many fabrics in this collection have a facet motif. This inspired my quilting design—Triangle Maze.

Order the pattern now or pre-order the kit at KISSedQuilts.com. Fabrics are due in November.

Marlene Oddie (marlene@kissedquilts.com) is an engineer by education, project manager by profession and now a quilter by passion in Grand Coulee, WA, at her quilt shop, KISSed Quilts. She quilts for hire on a Gammill Optimum Plus but especially enjoys designing quilts and assisting in the creation of a meaningful treasure for the recipient. Fabric, patterns, kits and templates are available at <http://www.kissedquilts.com>. Follow Marlene's adventures via <http://www.facebook.com/kissedquilts> and <https://www.instagram.com/marlene.kissedquilts/>



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The Country Register Word Search Fall 2021

Apples

G	S	S	P	A	R	T	A	N	W	O	R	M	A	X
D	O	G	G	T	B	T	F	B	A	K	E	D	J	M
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| apple | empire | pie |
| baked | fritter | pinklady |
| butter | fuji | red |
| cake | gala | reddelicious |
| candy | goldendelicious | sauce |
| caramel | grannysmith | seed |
| cinnamon | green | spartan |
| cobbler | jam | strudel |
| crab | jelly | tart |
| crisp | Johnny | tree |
| crumble | juice | turnover |
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Changing Seasons and Silver Linings

by Kerri Habben Bosman

At the end of the year, there is something about the dwindling light and drifting leaves. Gratitude is ever-present, but in autumn, I treasure time even more deeply. My husband, Wayne, and I wistfully remove the feeder after the hummingbirds leave on their southern journey. It surprises me that January slipped into April. April eased into August. Once school starts the months fly by.

2020 was an exception to my customary autumn sensations. With the pandemic starting, that year possessed its own surreal reality. However, for Wayne, and I, there was a precious silver lining to this unique time.

The three grandchildren who live closest to us came to our house one day a week when remote school began in August, 2020. Isaac was in 8th grade, Laurel in 6th, and Naomi in 4th. Throughout the rest of the school year and throughout the summer, this time together continued.

It helped all of us to have a change. I would pick them up in the morning between their classes so that they could get settled in before the next ones. Isaac claimed our bedroom as his spot, Laurel spread out in the TV room, and Naomi either sat on the sofa in the living room or with me at the kitchen table.

Every day that they came over, their favorite fruits awaited along with healthy snacks and some not so healthy ones. Omelets and grilled cheese sandwiches appeared upon request. They quickly discovered their grandfather's stash of candy, gradually eating most of it, but kindly leaving one or two pieces for Wayne to find when he came home from work. Of course, we didn't spoil them too much, just the right amount.

We set up the table in the TV room as an art table, and kept paint, markers, and canvases at the ready. Isaac, who loves America's national parks, depicted his favorite places. The girls were often more impressionist in their creations. We bought a second-hand doll house. The girls used everything from toothpicks to leftovers in my sewing basket to make things for it. Isaac and Naomi played our piano, much to our delight. Laurel wasn't quite as appreciative of their talents.

I learned that I could effectively have a conversation with each of the kids, work on an article, and cook all at the same time. I'd not had my own children, so this was a bit of revelation to me. Being a bonus grandparent to our seven is one of the first blessings I count every morning and every night.

In between classes, we'd also bake something together. Laurel loves to bake and is exceptionally good at it. At Christmas and Valentine's day we made sugar cookies and decorated them all together.

Most every Tuesday, their grandmother came over for an hour or two, and often we'd all have tea. It became one of our small rituals we shared together.

I carefully planned dinners and desserts we all enjoyed together when Wayne came home. We sat at the kitchen table, and the conversation was a delicious music of the children's voices. Usually all of them at the same time in a timeless symphony of sharing. Then we'd have about two hours before it was time to drive them home.

The kids are back in school, fully present with their teachers and their friends. We still spend time with them, but we miss when our hearts felt the pulse of their daily lives. We treasure that we were given this gift.

Our grandchildren are not unlike the hummingbirds; beautiful in their flights and intuitive on their journeys. Every season of their lives is a time for us to love them even more as they grow and change in amazing ways.

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Slow Cooker Pork Chops with Apple

This is a newer recipe in rotation for us. I'm back in the office for my day job, so I rely on my slow cooker a bit more. While this recipe is for 2, it can easily be doubled (or more).

Serves 2

- 2 pork chops
- 1-2 peeled apples, coarsely sliced
- 1 large sliced onion
- ½ cup apple cider vinegar
- ¼ cup brown sugar
- Salt & pepper

In the bottom of the slow cooker mix together the apples, onion, vinegar and brown sugar.

Season the pork chops with salt and pepper.

Place the pork chops on top of the apple mixture

Cook on low for at least 6 hours.

Slow Cooker Stuffing

For several years Kirby and I worked either evenings or graveyard shifts, and we had a 7 or 8-year stretch where either one or both of us had to work Christmas Day.

This was one of the recipes we used to still have a traditional Christmas Day supper but also get some sleep.

I would get the bread cubes and seasonings ready a day or so before, as well as have the sautéed veggies done up ahead so that all I had to do was combine everything together and plug in the slow cooker the day of.

- 1 cup butter or margarine
- 2 cups chopped onion
- 2 cups chopped celery
- ¼ cup chopped fresh parsley
- 12 ounces sliced mushrooms
- 12 cups dry bread cubes
- 1 tsp poultry seasoning
- 1 ½ tsp dried sage
- 1 tsp dried thyme
- 1 ½ tsp salt
- ½ tsp ground black pepper
- 4 ½ cups chicken broth, or as needed
- 2 large eggs, beaten

Melt butter or margarine in a skillet over medium heat. Cook onion, celery, mushroom, and parsley in butter, stirring frequently.

Spoon cooked vegetables over bread cubes in a very large mixing bowl. Season with poultry seasoning, sage, thyme and salt and pepper. Pour in enough broth to moisten, and mix in eggs. Transfer mixture to slow cooker, and cover.

Cook on High for 45 minutes, then reduce heat to low, and cook for 4 to 8 hours.



Apple Impossible Pie

I started making this dish as a way to use up apples in the fall. It's a nice variation on an impossible pie – who doesn't like coconut custard? I really do recommend placing the pie plate on a cookie sheet; I didn't the first time and had a bit of an overflow as it baked.

I realize that this recipe takes a while to make with about 2 hours in total time involved, but most of that is hands-off. It's rather nice to have the oven going on a chilly autumn day, as it warms up the house a bit.

- ¾ lb. of coarsely sliced, peeled apples
- ¼ cup firmly packed brown sugar
- ¼ tsp cinnamon
- ¼ cup water
- ½ cup flour
- 1 cup sugar
- 1 cup coconut
- 4 eggs, lightly whisked
- 2 tsp vanilla extract
- ½ cup melted butter
- 2 cups milk

Preheat oven to 350°F.

Butter a deep-dish pie plate, and place it on a cookie sheet in case of overflow.

Mix together the apples, brown sugar, cinnamon and water in the deep-dish pie plate.

Bake for about 30-40 minutes, until the apples have softened.

While the apples are baking: whisk the flour, sugar, coconut, eggs, vanilla and butter in a large bowl. Gradually add the milk, whisking constantly, until combined.

Once the baked apple slices are softened, pour the custard mixture over the apples and place back in the oven.

Bake the pie for approx. 1.5 hours or until set. Set aside to cool before serving.

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Brampton.....	Brampton Sew N Serge	pg. 2, 10
Brockville.....	Taylor's Sewing.....	pg. 9, 24
Carleton Place	Happy Wife Quilting	pg. 8
Cornwall	Auntie Em's	pg. 6
Cornwall	Ron's Fabrics	pg. 6
Espanola.....	Cindy Bee's Quilt Shoppe...	pg. 20
Floradale.....	Hillcrest Home Baking	pg. 11
Harriston.....	The Quilt Jeannie	pg. 10
Hamilton	Hamilton Sewing.....	pg. 2
Hamilton	U-Quilt-It.....	pg. 15
Ingersoll	K & A Quilt Studio	pg. 2, 15
Kanata	Maker Savvy	pg. 9
Kemptville	Kemptville Fabric Shoppe...	pg. 9
Kingston.....	Stitch by Stitch	pg. 2, 24
Maxwell.....	Threads That Bind.....	pg. 16
Mount Forest.....	Creebank Sewing	pg. 15
Mount Forest.....	Knotty Pine Fabrics.....	pg. 14



Mulmur.....	The Retreat at the Farm	pg. 14
New Liskeard	Gem Sewing	pg. 20
North Bay	The Sewing Machine	pg. 2, 24
Old Castle	The Sewing Shoppe	pg. 10
Orleans	Quilty Pleasures	pg. 5, 24
Ottawa	Sew -Jo's	pg. 2
Ottawa	Sewing Machine Hospital...	pg. 24
Perth.....	Perth Fabrics	pg.9
Petrolia.....	Stitcharie	pg. 2, 14
Pincourt	Mad Moody Quilting Fabrics ..	pg. 8
Prescott.....	Watergirl Quilt Co.	pg. 8
Russell	Quilter's Barn & Gifts	pg. 6
Sault Ste Marie	Life's A Stitch.....	pg. 19
Severn	Thimbles & Things.....	pg. 11
Severn/Orillia.....	Century House Quilting	pg. 24
Shakespeare	The Quilt Place.....	pg. 16
Stratford	Sew & Save Centre.....	pg. 17
St. Marys	Kalidoscope of Quilts.....	pg. 16
Sudbury	Gem Sewing (NEW LISKEARD)	pg. 20
Teeswater.....	Sanity Hill	pg. 10
Thunder Bay	Circle of Friends	pg. 21
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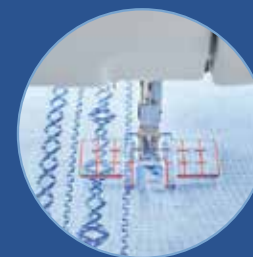
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