



ONN-*Line*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER of the
ONTARIO NETWORK OF NEEDLEWORKERS

VOLUME 43 | ISSUE 1 | AUGUST 2025

Upcoming Events

Antique samplers' presentation at Waterford

NONAG will be hosting a presentation by Lianne van Leyen. She will be discussing antique samplers, as well as showing us some of her very valuable collection. This is set to take place at Waterford United Church in Waterford, Ontario on **Sept 20th from 9 am - 4 pm**. The cost will be \$20 per person, with lunch included. We hope that many of ONN Members will come and share the experience with us. More information is on the ONN home page. Please call the numbers listed to register. We are hopeful this will be a successful event to kick off our 40th year!

2025 Summer Show in Belleville 15-July - 15-August.

Canadian Embroiderers' Guild, London
Toronto Guild of Stitchery
Canadian Embroiderers' Guild, Kitchener-Waterloo
Association of Whitework Embroiderers
Scarborough Needle Arts Guild
Canadian Embroiderers' Guild, Guelph
Oakville Stitchery Guild
Northumberland Hills Stitchery Guild
Trillium Embroidery Guild
Embroiderers' Guild of Peterborough
Norfolk's Own Needle Arts Guild
Sudbury District Quilting and Stitchery Guild
Brant Needle Arts Guild
Quinte Needlearts Guild



CANADIAN EMBROIDERERS' GUILD, LONDON

Submitted by Jennifer Meister, ONN Rep

In April, the Canadian Embroiderers' Guild, London completed its 54th year. It was a year of classes, workshops, international speakers and special projects like Pop Ups, Stitch of the Month, and the Whisper Project. We also knit over 50 hats for those in need, led an experiential learning course at Western University and made 249 bags to hold the tubes mastectomy patients come home from the hospital with.

Three hundred and thirteen visitors attended the Guild's Textile Showcase held April 25 and 26. Textile Showcase is the Guild's annual show of the work produced throughout the Guild year. Some of this work is below.



From June 2 to 7, the Guild hosted its annual Summer Workshop with instructors Julie Garcia and Carolyn Parks.

Garcia, from Winnipeg Manitoba, led Fabric Landscapes: Concept to Completion. Beginning with fabric painting to create sky fabric, students learned the step-by-step process of designing and building a layered landscape and adding stitched elements and details to create a unique and dimensional work of art. Parks, of St Jacobs Ontario, led The Art of Felting. Over three days, participants learned to 'draw' with wool (needle felting) to create an 8" X10" piece; and 'paint' with wool (wet felting) resulting in a 14" x 16" work of art. Participants then embellished and accented both pieces with stitching (machine and hand), beading, etc.



September 2025 will mark the start of another Guild year. Find out more about the Guild's classes, events, and Zoom presentations by international speakers, at the following link:

<https://ceglondon.com/programs/classes.php>

Submitted by Audrey Chaput, ONN Rep

A group of members travelled in May to the annual EAC Seminar in Calgary where 2 of our members Pat Armour and Diane Scott were facilitating classes! The weather was beautiful and the camaraderie with new and old friends made the trip to western Canada fulfilling. The inspiration of the talented embroiderers across Canada is contagious!

We carried on with our regular TGS meetings in April, May and June with interesting guest speakers and some creative “program” learnings.

Programme:

April: we made collapsible Ort boxes to store some of little bits and bobs when we creating. We also made scissor fobs! What a great way to ensure we take home our own scissors :)



May: The Bayeux Stitch used in the Bayeux Tapestry (11th Century England) was taught



Alessandra Abballe, textile artist who completed her MFA in Visual Arts from York University (2025) presented her designs and artistic process.

June: Kits were distributed to members to create their one “Crazy Quilted Mug Carrier” - giving us another project to complete over the summer break.



TGS 50th Anniversary:

We are marking our calendars and saving dates for the busy year ahead. Committee members have planned something for each month to celebrate the occasion.

We are looking forward to the first 50th Anniversary workshop for guild members in September presented by our own Ietje Jackovich. Lace Circle Project, a Susan Johnson Design:



During the summer break, members have the opportunity to gather at one member's cottage or at another's apartment building meeting room. We bring our projects, stitch and have fellowship. It's a lovely way to stay connected during the sometimes busy or sometimes quiet summer months.

Submitted by Alexandra Semeniuk, ONN Rep

Scarborough Needlearts Guild wrapped up its 2024-25 schedule after the Annual General Meeting on June 2nd, a delicious potluck lunch on June 9th and a stash sale on June 16th.

Warm appreciation was extended to all for their willing assistance and contributions which made the past year such a success.

The past 3 months have been especially busy. In late April, members participated in the annual retreat at Elim Lodge along with the Trillium Embroidery Guild. As always, lots of stitching and friendly visiting along with good food and great conversations made for a very enjoyable and relaxing weekend away. Soon after, SNG participated in a joint, day-long show with a local quilting group. This was an opportunity to promote our guild and lend support to another community organization. The event drew many visitors, and feedback was very positive. As a result, another joint show will be planned for some time next year.

In early May, members were fascinated by Kim Mather's presentation on needles which included 2 videos. We learned that Leonardo de Vinci had designed a needle making machine since making needles was very labour intensive. Needles were difficult to produce and expensive and so they were cherished objects during the Renaissance period. Kim stated that John James provides an excellent overview of needles in their chart/guide, Needles Guide and Bohin has produced an informative video on the production of needles. Bohin France - L'art de l'aiguilleohin France.

Also in May, over multiple weeks, many members participated in Barbara Kershaw's workshop on Sicilian embroidery featuring the Chiaramonte technique, a type of drawn thread work. The results are stunning as can be seen in the attached photos.

During the past year, a small group of members worked away on a Round Robin project. All of the exchanges have now taken place and stitching completed. In September there will be the 'great reveal' and we look forward to seeing their masterpieces.

For the summer months our calendar includes informal Monday morning get togethers in a local park to stitch and chat; participation in the annual, very popular Guild Alive with Culture arts festival on July 26 -27 to promote our guild; and a patio party in August at the home of our past president as we gear up for the fall.

In 2026 Scarborough Needlearts will celebrate its 50th anniversary. Planning is underway to make it an exciting and memorable year. For example, in September members will be able to begin work on an original design created by one of our members, Meagan Mather, which will feature a variety of techniques and stitches. One meeting each month will be devoted to working on this project. We will report on this and other initiatives in the months ahead.

Our last report for 2024-25 closes with the very sad news that two of our members recently passed away, Agnes Williams in May and Sarah Walker in mid July.

A member of our guild for decades, Agnes was known to us mainly through her stitching, knitting and delightful sense of humour, always evident as she did our weekly roll call. She was a woman of many talents. Besides creating her beautiful embroideries on which she often stitched a thistle – honouring her Scottish roots, and her intricate knitted pieces which were works of art, she was also an accomplished singer, having performed in various shows and choruses including the well-known Mendelssohn Choir. Over the years she served on the guild's executive in many capacities including as president. She designed the guild's name tag for its 25th anniversary. The warm friendship Agnes extended to everyone was a special gift to each of us. She brought joy and lightheartedness to our weekly gatherings and generated feelings of well being within our guild. A remarkable, gifted person in so many ways, Agnes is deeply missed.

Sarah was the ultimate 'do it yourselfer.' Growing up in rural BC, she was a resourceful problem solver who tackled challenges in a systematic way, no matter the issue. We saw this vividly when soon after joining the guild, she researched, studied, then mastered Hardanger, and before long, created numerous beautiful embroideries. She approached learning other stitching techniques in the same way. She was skilled in tatting and other hand work including carpentry.

She often wore her own creations which she embellished with embroidery. Sarah's wide ranging interests and activities encompassed all the natural sciences as well as the arts, history and teaching. She sewed replicas of period costumes and lectured on the impact of historic events on the dress of the day. An award-winning gardener, her ongoing passion was her pollinator-friendly garden where she raised countless monarch butterflies. She was a fount of knowledge in many areas. We will fondly miss Sarah as we recall her low key, twinkle-eyed sense of humour, her engaging and caring openness, and her readiness to help our guild in any way she could, serving as Membership Convenor being one of them.

Rest in peace dear friends.

Following are some photos of recent works completed by our members. We send them along with our best wishes for a safe and relaxing summer.



**Sicilian Embroidery
Workshop -
Chiaramonte Technique**



Biscornu Pin Cushion - Embroidery Canada Spring 2025



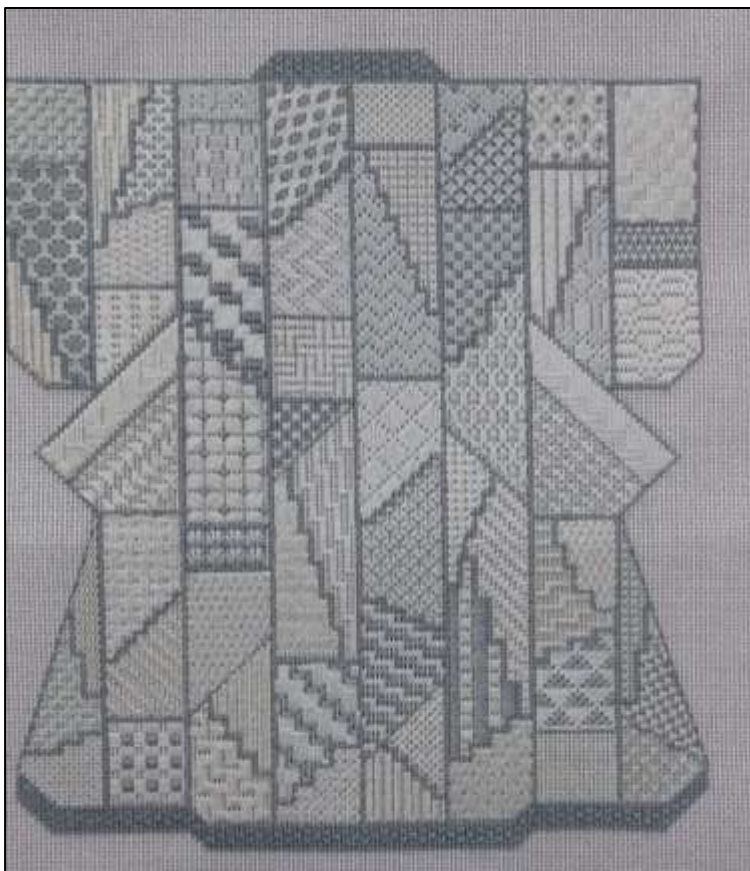
Sampler stitched by Karen Doak



Sampler
Stitched by Janice Lunan



EAC's Joy
Stitched by Marion Brumwell



**Kimono Sampler - Design by Ietje Jackovich.
Stitched by Ruth Bennett and Sylvia Wilkins**

Submitted by Gemma Burke, ONN Rep

Hello ONN and readers. I know we have been absent these last few Onn reports but truth be told that we been busy with family affairs, school and gallery openings.

We Meet at the Joshua Farm Gallery. We no longer go by the name Joshua Creek heritage centre. Sybil has been very busy this year. she's been hitting the pavement literally. She is on the progress to make her own street the sybil rampen way. This year there was a gallery opening honoring her and artworks made by people in Fibre Conections.



Mary Clark has traveled to Costa Rica but still manages to make fabulous fibre art.



Gemma has been busy going to art fundamentals to improve her hand eye coordination.



Over the past couple of months, we have made angels to flower head bangs to post stamp collage and hearts.





Submitted by Roma Smith, ONN Rep

Did you attend the CQA National Quilt Show in Toronto this year? If you did, you might have seen a miniature stitched art quilt made by our guild. Fifteen of our stitchers took on this year's CQA Challenge and constructed a totally stitched quilt. It was created from a photograph of Ramsey Lake and Science North in the heart of our city.

The photo was taken by an amateur photographer, Terry Hayes. The photograph was converted to a cross-stitch piece using the program PC Stitch Pro. It was then gridded into 16 equal parts and each participating member chose the one they wished to stitch.

The floss selection consisted of 80 different colours. Each gridded section was approximately 4000 stitches, and the entire piece totaled 63,168 stitches. It was stitched on 28 count linen.

The piece was assembled by one of our awesome quilters, Cath Harnish. Pretty impressive team work! Bravo Girls!



Submitted by Carol Ward, ONN Rep

We may be into those “Lazy, hazy, crazy days of summer,” but the NHSG has been anything but lazy!

In April, Susan C. and Patricia N. returned to our local yarn shop, Yarn It! to teach a second class in basic embroidery. Like the first one they taught, it was a big hit.

We also had two workshops, led by Susan C., in silk ribbon embroidery. Everyone who participated enjoyed themselves, and I think it's something we'd all like to try again.



On June 17th, we had our AGM at the Dalewood Golf Club. Although we didn't have a stash sale this year, one of our members generously donated several stitchery kits for us to raffle off





Two days later, on June 19, a large group of us descended once again on Heather J.'s cottage for a pot luck day of stitching. Though the forecast called for rain, it held off until we were done. There was an impressive variety of food, lots of good company, and a few of us even got some stitching done.

One of our newer members, Sharon E., worked diligently on a beautiful cross stitch piece to inspire cancer patients and survivors to have Courage. The piece was on display at the Cobourg Public Library, where it was surrounded by ribbons representing the various forms of cancer. On July 8, several guild members gathered at the Northumberland Hills Hospital to present it as a gift to the hospital, where it will adorn one of the walls in the cancer wing.



On July 9th, we celebrated our 40th anniversary with an English tea. The tables were set with cloths and fine china, and we enjoyed scones and finger sandwiches and assorted treats, and, of course, a variety of teas. It was a wonderful afternoon of celebration and camaraderie.



And the fun doesn't stop there! We're still meeting, informally, every other Tuesday morning at the Cobourg Public Library, and at the end of July we'll be celebrating World Embroidery Day in their courtyard. And let's not forget Immy's pot luck Garden Party and our annual visit to Lang Pioneer Village in August!

If the saying, "Idle hands are the devil's playthings" is true, then the Northumberland Hills Stitchery Guild has nothing to fear!

Submitted by Marilyn Girndt, President and ONN rep

At our May meeting we displayed the completed Round Robin band samplers which were started in the previous year by an enthusiastic group of stitchers. The samplers were in either a Christmas Tree shape or a 4-inch-wide band. The samplers were passed blind from person to person from March 2024 through to April 2025 and presented to participants in our May meeting. There were a variety of themes for the samplers. Some examples are shown in the pictures. All participants commented that the experience of completing the Round Robin was challenging, but very enjoyable. A big Thank You goes to Meagan who organized the project.

At our final meeting in June, we held our annual TATA (Trillium Annual Theme Awards). We have two prizes for the awards – a prize for Charted Design and a prize for Original Design. This year we did not have any original design entries so we provided 1st and 2nd prizes for charted design entries. There was a tie for first place! Marion won for her “Joy” Punto Antico piece designed by Kathryn Drummond and Jeanette won for her “Mayfly” stump work designed by Jane Nicholas. Congratulations to all who entered the TATA competition.

We plan on celebrating “World Embroidery Day” on July 30 this year. Pictures to follow in the next newsletter!



TATA Mayfly winner stitched by Jeanette



TATA Joy winner stitched by Marion



Sampler
stitched by Jennifer



Sampler
stitched by Meagan



Sampler
stitched by Mary K

Submitted by Heather Hollands, ONN Rep

During the summer months, our guild members have continued to meet during the day on Mondays working away and finishing individual projects, some of which are completed and shown below.

This year, our guild will celebrate its 40th anniversary and when our business meetings begin again in September, we will be discussing how to honour this milestone. A display of work over the years, along with a tea are some of the ideas that come to mind.

Also, to begin our 40th fall season, we will be hosting a presentation by Lianne van Leyen. She will be discussing antique samplers, as well as showing us some of her very valuable collection. This is set to take place at Waterford United Church in Waterford, Ontario on SEPTEMBER 20th from 9 am - 4 pm. The cost will be \$20. Per person, with lunch included. We hope that many of O. N.N. Members will come and share the experience with us. More information is on the O.N.N home page. Please call the numbers listed to register. We are hopeful this will be a successful event to kick off our 40th year!



Cross stitch birth announcement stitched by
Lotte Von Wuerzen



Floral Surface Stitchery designed by
Kate Barlow for seminar 2025, Calgary
and stitched by Debbie Tattersall



Yubinuki pincushion and tray stitched by Debbie Tattersall. Designed by Kathryn Drummond for E.A.C. Seminar Calgary.

Swedish Weaving blanket
stitched by Elizabeth Kellner



Submitted by Fiona White, ONN Rep

We had a busy finish to our 2024-2025 year with our annual exhibit and sale at the Peterborough Fibre Arts Festival and Sale in April; the culmination of Colour Play, our collective project for the year; a transition to our new executive following our AGM in May, and a wonderful luncheon celebrating the end of our year in June.

Peterborough Fibre Arts Festival and Sale

Our “Fibrefest” display and sale has continued to be a wonderful way to show the broader Peterborough community what we do, to connect with other Fibre groups and vendors, and to encourage prospective members. It is also our major fundraiser, though deciding what to sell and how to price it is always a challenge. This was the second year we focused on selling greeting cards, and our sales were down from last year, but so was overall attendance. We featured our 2024 collective project, the Whisper Project on the display side of our booth, along with a number of other individual and workshop pieces created by our group. As always, our booth was a popular stop for visitors.





Colour Play Project

Last fall members were given the opportunity to sign up for this project, and the response was the highest we have had for a collective project. Using a CMYK colour wheel, participating members were randomly given a section of the colour wheel from a bag, and were asked to create a 6 inch square piece, restricting themselves to colours from that range while using any materials and techniques of their choice. Finished pieces were mounted on a canvas. The colour ranges did overlap but consisted of cyan, red, blue, green, yellow and magenta sections. Participants were allowed to go lighter or darker, and to select from within the range. Once again the results displayed the full range of skills and interests represented in our group. Thanks to Olga Johnson, the project took a trip to Calgary and was displayed at the EAC seminar, placing third in the group project competition. The 22 completed pieces were set out on a table.



For close-ups of individual pieces please check out <https://egpstitch.ca/home/what-we-do/embroiderers-association-of-canada-seminar-group-project-award-2025/>

Transition to New Executive

Our executive members serve two-year terms, and this was a year for a changeover. Fiona White, having served two years as president, and four years before that as Program Chair, is moving in to the role of past-president, though she is staying on as ONN rep. With no-one willing to take on the role of president or vice-president, our past president, Maggie James, who also spearheaded needed constitutional changes, suggested a way forward. With two new executive members sharing the role of Program Chair, and five members continuing in their roles as secretary, treasurer, membership, library and webmaster, the executive will share the responsibilities of the president. We are looking forward to another great year of activities, sharing our learning side by side. We benefit from a strong membership, who are always willing to take tasks on as needed.

June Celebration

The pictures say it all - check them out at <https://egpstitch.ca/show-and-tell-monthly-photographs/show-and-tell-june-2025/>. And while you are on the website check out some of the lovely cutwork and crazy quilt pieces, created during our dual track workshops in March and April, which were shown in April and May.

Submitted by Jane Bermingham, ONN Rep

In 2024 we were lucky enough to get a City of Belleville Arts and Culture Grant, which we could use towards hosting an exhibit of our work in Bellville. The grant application took some time and thought. We had help along the way. Most of the spring was spent organizing this event for the first Saturday in May. It was the guilds 35th anniversary this year so we made it a birthday celebration as well.

The exhibit went well; the Belleville Mayor attended and cut the cake. The exhibit was much appreciated by the many visitors, (approximately 70).

One of the goals of the guild was to attract some new members, and we did get some new members. We also wanted people to be aware of the guild and what we crafted.

In June we had a free table outside Crystal Palace in Picton at 'The Gathering in the County'. Two of our members sold some items, but we did it mainly to promote our guild.

During the last year we have made felt birds. Our members really enjoyed doing these as they could use their imagination to decorate the birds.

We did a paper bag challenge. Everyone who wished to participate made up a small brown bag of various items. Such as fabric, threads, beads, etc. The bags were distributed and the receiver had to make something from the supplies.

One of our members taught us how to lace a finished piece of needlework onto foam core. Another member demonstrated silk ribbon embroidery.



ONN Website

The ONN website can be found at onnguilds.ca. The main page is set up in a blog form so that notices and articles of interest can be found easily by members.

Submissions of articles, photos and events are welcomed and encouraged! Suggestions include:

- ✓ book and exhibition reviews
- ✓ tips and hints learned at a workshop information about a shop
- ✓ research about techniques, designs or materials

Your reports are posted on the website under "Member Pages". The newsletter editor will gather them all together and get them to you in a newsletter format, which you can distribute to your members. If you have something to report between newsletters, your report can be posted on the website at any time. If you have news of an open workshop, trip or the like, the news can be posted to our blog at any time.

We do appreciate it if you can also send the photos as separate images. Otherwise, we have to pull each one out of your MSWord or PDF document individually. The report will show us where to insert each photo into the website page.

Webmaster's report

I've been administering the ONN Website for a few years now. At the time I began, we had lost the password for our ONN email. So, I used the CEG Guelph email to communicate with the various guilds. I'll be leaving the post of CEG Guelph webmaster so will no longer have access to the cegguelph@gmail.com email address. So, I've decided to give up on the old ONN gmail address and I've created a new one for the ONN webmaster. It's quite long but should be easy to remember! **ontarionetworkofneedleworkers@gmail.com**

I'm hoping that you only have to type it once when you put it into your email address book! So, from now on, please use **ontarionetworkofneedleworkers@gmail.com** when sending in your ONN reports.

--Judy McMullan, ONN Webmaster

ONN Contact Information

Webmaster	Judy McMullan	CEG Guelph	ontarionetworkofneedleworkers@gmail.com
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DEADLINE DATES

Issue #1 by 25 July - for August

Issue #2 by 25 September - for October – Next newsletter submission

Issue #3 by 15 December - for January

Issue #4 by 25 March - for April

MEMBERSHIP YEAR

The ONN membership year runs from June 1 to May 31.