ONN-Line

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER of the
ONTARIO NETWORK OF NEEDLEWORKERS

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Happy Fall Stitching!

The Ontario Network of Needleworkers Annual General Meeting on Saturday October 3rd at 9:30 am on Zoom.

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

Please be prepared to give us a brief rundown of the highlights of your year. We have been able to read your ongoing reports throughout the year but we'd like to hear what was most important or memorable for your group. Especially valuable is what you've learned about: putting on a show, selling your work, collaborating with other groups, recruiting volunteers or any great tips for the other groups. OR What are you finding difficult? Ask us and see what tips we have!

The Zoom host will be Canadian Embroiderers' Guild London and the chair will be Mavis Brown from Canadian Embroiderers' Guild Guelph. Hope to see you there

--Judy McMullan, Webmaster

CANADIAN EMBROIDERERS' GUILD, LONDON

Submitted by Cheryl Wallace, ONN Rep

Welcome Back One and All

This fall we welcomed back returning members and 25 new members to CEG London. All proposed classes will be running as planned and a busy Fall schedule has been posted on our website.

Darcy Hunter, a talented textile artist from New Brunswick is our scheduled speaker in September. She will be sharing her impressive 20-year career transforming upcycled textiles into expressive wall hangings.

Regular classes begin on September 24th and run until December 10th. We offer both in person and Zoom classes. In person classes are offered in the morning, afternoon and evening. Zoom classes are offered as teachers are available. Classes are offered on the 2d and 4th Thursdays of the month.

The classes being offered this Fall are: Bead Artistry, Thread Painting Pastoral Life, Textured Weaving, Fabric Jewelry, New Life for Old Jeans, Critter Collage, Stitching on Plastic – Making a Graffiti Wall, Mathematical Stitching, Dorset Buttons, Altered Children's Books, Back to Basics.

Beading Artistry – Rose Klein

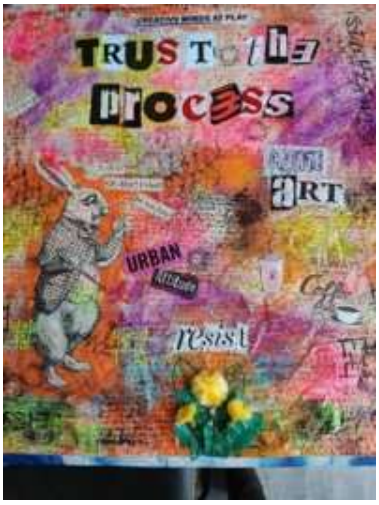
Thread Painting – Margot Kearney

Textured Weaving – Amie Latta

Fabric Jewelry – Stacey Arthur

New Life Old Jeans – Joy Cowell

Critter Collage – Kathie Morgan



Graffiti Wall – Sylvia Alwan

Dorset Buttons - Angela Groenewegan

Back to Basics – Wilma Kirmse, Karen Hodgins

Altered Children's Books - Mary Veenman

Mathematical Stitching - Cheryl Wallace

As part of our outreach program in the community, a number of our members will be teaching at Western University in the Visual Arts program during the fall semester. They teach embroidery, hand stitching and textile arts for one semester every other year. This program has become increasingly popular, and this year has a waiting list.

In October, we will be having a Sweet Social followed by our first Pop-up event -- Chance or Choice embroidery facilitated by member, Andrea Manias. Started last year, these afternoon workshops have become fast favourites with our membership.

EMBROIDERERS' GUILD OF PETERBOROUGH

Submitted by Fiona White, Past President and ONN Rep

Summer 2026

We started summer with our June pot luck luncheon. It was not only delicious but somehow the lovely weather prompted many to bring healthier selections, with just the right amount of desserts! We then had three stitch-ins over the summer. Switching back to holding them at member's houses was a wise move, as their attendance was much better than for the last few summers when we met in a park. By September we were all ready to get back together for our regular meetings.

Diversity

One of the highlights of our general meetings is our show and share session, where we get to see individual projects and be inspired by the diversity of what we see. However, it's also inspiring to see the diversity that is displayed when we have been working on common projects. This was evident in some recent work shared.

A year ago Seanagh Murdoch held a summer workshop on rice bags, and we were delighted to see some further examples show up this September. Seanagh showed a variation on her original pattern, using a stiffer fabric to create a catch-all basket. Marilyn Buxton, who loves to create functional pieces, showed her recent bag. Both show diverse approaches to the same project.

EMBROIDERERS' GUILD OF PETERBOROUGH (continued)

During 2025-26, our Programme Chair, Olga Johnson, led us through a series of sessions to create a knot garden. The projects are in various stages of completion, but the images shown here illustrate some of the wonderful variations being produced in response to the same set of instructions. We're planning to create a full display of the completed projects next spring.

The ups and downs of planning for 2026-27

We continue to have strong involvement from our members, who always step up when needed to help in so many ways. However, it is still challenging to get members to take on the ongoing roles on our executive. Our president position remains vacant, so the executive is continuing to share the president duties. Kathy Clark has agreed to serve as our vice-president, and Pat Dibb has also joined the executive. We are hopeful that when we elect a new executive for a two-year term next May, we will have a full slate!

For a number of years, we have made our full-day workshops available to non members, but we are now going to make it easier for non-members to also join us for our regular program activities when they can. Guests are welcome to attend for free for one meeting, but can return to other meetings for a small fee. We hope this will be helpful for those who aren't able to make a full-time commitment. We are also collaborating with the Artisan Centre of Peterborough to offer some introductory embroidery workshops on Saturdays, which is a more accessible time for those who are working or studying full-time.

While there are always challenges and changes, the one thing that remains constant is our strong programme. Olga has a busy year planned for us! We are looking forward to a felt Christmas Tree ornament workshop led by member Linda Baklarz for our October meeting, and a presentation by Kim Mather of Kimat Designs at our November meeting. Kim is also bringing a pop-up shop for us! December will be our traditional luncheon and ornament exchange. There are more member-led workshops planned for our winter meetings and a full day Saturday workshop in March featuring a pulled thread design with Kim Beamish.

CANADIAN EMBROIDERERS' GUILD, KITCHENER-WATERLOO

Submitted by Katie Brightwell, ONN Rep

The KW Embroidery Guild continued a busy schedule through the end of summer and into the start of the fall season.

Through the month of August, we hosted an embroidery display at Stanley Park Library, alongside a Stitch-In at the end of the month on August 29th. This event was well attended with many curious questions asked by both the young and young at heart.

KW Embroidery Guild display at Stanley Park Library

Our Guild also had the opportunity to booth at the KW Knitter's Fair at the Kitchener-Waterloo Auditorium on Saturday September 12th. We showcased items made by guild members and handed out brochures to people interested in joining the guild.

Debbie's botanical cross-stitch piece with mushrooms, foliage, and a bird (the longer piece seen on the right most wing of the display board in photos below) was featured in the Fair Fashion show! Congratulations Debbie!

Debbie's cross-stitch featured in the Fair Fashion Show!

Debbie and Drew greeting people at the KW Knitters Fair

We resumed our regular meetings on September 8th with a Bring-Your-Own Project night. Members shared pieces they have been working on and enjoyed catching up with one another.

Some of the items shared included a Christmas Tree skirt by Wendy, an Assisi-style work by Katherine, and the two huts and mountain piece is by Hilary, and is a continuation of her work on a larger Silk Road piece.

Christmas Tree skirt by Wendy

Assisi-style work by Katherine

Work shared at Bring-Your-Own Project night

A portion of works on a larger Silk Road piece by Hilary

Most recently, the wildflower design project kicked-off at our second meeting on Tuesday September 22, 2026. Debbie and Drew from our executive committee created wonderful project kits at a cost of $2 per participant which were very appreciated by all. Stitchers of all levels have started this project, and commented on how beautiful the design is. See below for an in-progress photo by a Guild member:

Floral Project started from kits provided by Executive Committee on September 22nd.

Over the course of the 2026-2027 season, our Guild will also be exploring projects in Sashiko (Nov 3, Nov 13), Stumpwork (Jan 12, Jan 26, Feb 9, Feb 23), and Crewel (Mar 23, Apr 6, Apr 20).

If this piques your curiosity, come join us! Our Guild meets every other Tuesday from 7-9pm at Belmont Village Church (546 Belmont Ave W, Kitchener). All are welcome to come and try a new hobby! Our next meeting (October 6th at time of newsletter submission) will be a continuation of the wildflower design project, or Bring-Your-Own project.

Follow along on social media The KW Embroidery Guild (Instagram) or reach out to kwembroideryguild@gmail.com for more information.

Our Guild would also like to mention that on July 20th we lost one of our long-time guild members, Linda Bowland. She was a valued member of our community and she will be greatly missed.

NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS STITCHERY GUILD

Submitted by Carol Ward, ONN Rep

The weather may be up and down, but the stitching never stops!

On July 30, several of us celebrated World Embroidery Day at Yarn It!, our local yarn shop. Previous years found us outdoors at the Cobourg Public Library's courtyard, but it was a nice change to not have to worry about the vagaries of the weather. We had a comfortable, home-like space to stitch in, surrounded by the temptation of all that lovely merchandise.

Despite the grey and wet summer, Immy L.'s annual Pot Luck Garden Party was held on August 6. The weather forecast was for rain, and the clouds were threatening, but the social event of the season went off without a hitch. A few of us even got some stitching done!

NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS STITCHERY GUILD (continued)

Something new for us this year, was participating in International Cross Stitch Day on August 13. We were offered space at the Cobourg YMCA, which sounds a little odd, but actually worked out really well. We had a large table with chairs just inside the front entrance, but off to the side where we weren't blocking anything. There was a lot of traffic and much interest in what we were doing. Those of us who participated agreed it was a great success and we hope to repeat the experience next year.

Our summer ended and our meetings resumed on September 8 at the I.O.O.F. Hall. There was a lot of talking as we caught up with everyone's summer activities and discussed what we were hoping to accomplish moving forward.

On September 22, Cathy, the owner/operator of our local yarn shop Yarn It! came to give a talk. She told us about her dream of owning a yarn shop and how she made it happen. She explained what goes into different yarns and why some feel softer than others. She also brought examples of her yarns, as well as a few of the stitching kits and patterns she carries.

Going forward, we have interesting times ahead. There's an exciting new blackwork stitch-along, a Christmas ornament workshop, a blanket stitch learn-along, another guest speaker, and let's not forget our annual one day retreat to Elmhirst. Who cares what the weather does, we have stitching to do!

NORFOLK'S OWN NEEDLE ARTS GUILD (NONAG)

Submitted by Heather Hollands, ONN rep

Although I have not been able to attend our guild due to illness, information is passed on to me, keeping me up to date. Norfolk's Own Needle Arts guild continued to meet every Monday during the summer to informally stitch together. For the month of July, members met at the home of Kim Smit and for August at Waterford United church from 10am -3pm.

A programme has not been officially set up, but ideas, like a round robin are being discussed. Towards the end of last year our guild decided to have all our meetings during the day as most of our members prefer to drive in daylight. Therefore, our business is the second Wednesday of the month from 1:30- 3:30. We will continue to meet every Monday for our stitch ins.

Sand beads design from Embroiderers Association of Canada workshop stitched by Cori Angus

Cross stitch design called 321 because that is the number of DMC colours used. Stitched by Debbie Tattersall

Dresden work design designed by Mike Parr and stitched by Cori Angus

Pieces of eight canvas design stitched by Elizabeth Kellner

Sampler stitched by Debbie Tattersall

Handmade quilt by Charlene Beeson

OAKVILLE STITCHERY GUILD

Submitted by Gemma Burke, ONN Rep

We hope everyone had a good summer and is ready for fall. We closed the OSG for July and August but started up again on Sept 27th 2026 to show everyone what we been working on this summer.

Judie has been learning needle felting over the summer using nature observations to inspire her projects. She also used fabric scarps to make a coffee coaster.

Joan showed us her summer UFO project using a collage of felt, fabric, Tyvek, sewn together with free hand machine embroidery. Added with a coat of paint then heated slowly with a heat gun.

Roberta has been using plastic food wraps to collage, and sew together.

Judith has been making gift baskets and wallets and purses entirely made of fabric scraps.

BRANT NEEDLE ARTS GUILD

Submitted by Barbara Cook, ONN Rep

After the summer hiatus, we are reconnecting with our regular meetings held on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons of each month at the Coach House at Glenhyrst.

This season, we will continue to explore various techniques and create new pieces and also attempt to complete some of those unfinished projects. Our first meeting covered Ribbon embroidery.

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ONTARIO NETWORK OF NEEDLEWORKERS

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.

ONN Contact Information

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DEADLINE DATES

Issue #1 by 25 July - for August

Issue #2 by 25 September - for October

Issue #3 by 15 December - for January – Next newsletter submission

Issue #4 by 25 March - for April

MEMBERSHIP YEAR

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