



ONN-*Line*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER of the
ONTARIO NETWORK OF NEEDLEWORKERS

VOLUME 40 | ISSUE 3 | APRIL 2023

Report on the 2022/23 ONN Annual General Meeting and the Education Program Meeting

by Judy McMullan

The ONN Representatives met online on September 17, 2022. AGM ideas continued in a second meeting on Jan 14, 2023.

Most ONN member groups are now meeting in person though quite a few of them are using online formats for board/planning meetings.

People still love to see each other's work and it was thought that a fair or exhibit once every 3 years would work best. We could have displays of our work and possibly some vendors. The idea of a speaker was also floated. We are aiming for a show in Spring of 2024.

We have enough in the bank to cover immediate expenses and there is no fair/exhibit planned for 2023 so fees were again waived for 2023.

Member guilds were polled on the idea of hosting a fair and, while most were in favour of such an event, none said that they would host. This leaves the idea of a Spring 2024 fair in limbo.

Member groups are now circulating ideas to firm up exactly what could be expected at a fair, with the new format.

Next Annual Meeting will be Oct 14th, 2023 and it will be online.

We also had an Education meeting in November 2022 where groups each shared what kind of meetings they had during the pandemic. We talked about the difficulty of finding a good venue and the cost. We explored what kind of programs we had. That is, what we learned and who our teachers were. There were also good ideas about fun programming that was not strictly stitching focused. For instance: talking about finishing works, sharing our favorite textile stories, local or online (live) speakers, tools.

For details, have a look at the [Education Meeting minutes](#) from 5/Nov/22 which are posted on the ONN website under Resources.

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

Submitted by Cheryl Wallace, ONN Rep

Guild members have been keeping busy during these blustery winter days enjoying our monthly Zoom Gatherings with speakers such as Martina Celerin, a textile artist and scientist who grew up in London, ON and now lives in Bloomington, Indiana. She took our members on a virtual tour of her studio, showing her 3D woven tapestries and her supplies – containers of beads, discarded jewellery, bits of leather, hemp, wire, lace and other recycled or found items.

In February, Allie Davis and Roxane Shaughnessy of the Textile Museum of Canada gave members a tour through Double Vision – an exhibit of Nunavut artists Jessie Oonark (1906-1985) and her daughters, Janet Kigusiug (1926-2005) and Victoria Mamnguqsualuk, (1930-2016). The exhibit “shines a light on a highly distinctive art form called nivinngajuliaat that developed out of government-sponsored craft programs in the Arctic, beginning with the sewing program in Qamani'tuaq (Baker Lake) established in the 1960s.”

Our guest speaker for March will be Hazel Monte, a textile artist from Seattle, Washington. Check out her blog, [Handstories...adventures with fibre and life](#) for more information about her work, or check her [Instagram](#) . Many thanks to our wonderful Speaker Series planning team for their inspired work. They enrich the experience of all our members.

March also sees the opening of our Summer Workshop registration to non-members. This year we are hosting workshops by Harriett Riddell (June 5 to June 7) and Bettina Matzkuhn (June 8 to June 10). The workshops are held at the John Labatt Visual Art Centre at Western University and the cost to non-members is \$300.00 per workshop. Bettina's workshop is currently full. There are only a few places available in Harriet's workshop, so don't delay.

Harriet is a Textile Performance Artist who travels the world with her sewing machine in challenging locations from the slums of Nairobi to the tea fields of the Himalayas. Through free motion embroidery she captures her surrounding environment and the people she meets. Her workshop is entitled “Free Motion Story Telling and Portraiture”.

There will be time for playful activities with the sewing machine to loosen up, observational drawing exercises engaging the eye and mind. Participants will be focusing on portraiture, learning the rules of the face, and finding ways of incorporating words and details which make up a person and their personality. The workshop will then delve into storytelling and the many ways to tell a story with textile.

You can see the amazing work of Harriett Riddell at the following link: [Harriet at work](#)

Our members have been busy stitching up a storm (pun intended) in classes. Here are a few examples from the classes that just finished.



Beginning Stitches (machine stitching)
by Sarah Cartwright



Felted Rocks
by Rose Klein



Zippered Pouches
by Alison Lenny



Gel Plate Play
by Edi Dincl



Landscape Quilt
by Susan Van Arkel



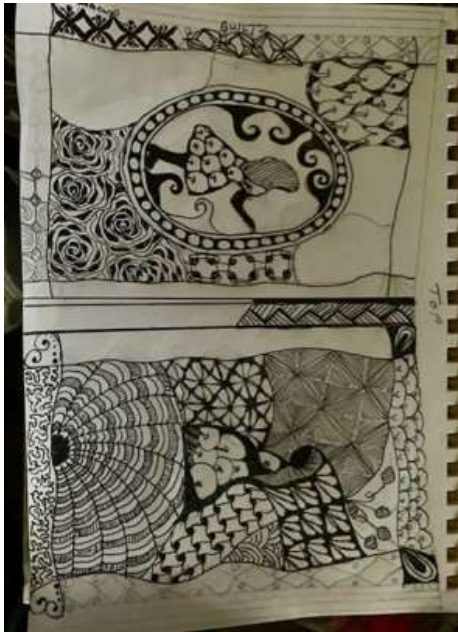
Mixed Media
by Eleanor Noon



Stitching on Paper
by Therese Morrissey



Fragments
by Dianne Fewster



Zentangles to Stitch
by Linde Marie Echinger



Kaleidoscope quilt
By Kathleen Bissett as Independent Stitcher
(kaleidoscope is the name for a group of butterflies)

Submitted by Lorna Anderson, ONN Rep

Greetings ONN Members

The new year is off to a good start. TGS member Barb Crowther invited members to join her in a Stitch-a-Long (SAL). "One Stitch At a Time" was generously shared from Seminar by the authors. Barb shares her notes, resources, instructions, updates and includes her own journey with SAL. Many members are enthusiastically participating. A couple of images of SAL in progress are included below.

TGS has a regular business, programme and show & share meeting on the first Thursday of the month. FIFI ("Find it, Finish it") is a relaxing stitching day the third Thursday of each month. The times for both days are 10am and 7pm and hybrid is available too. Check out our website: <https://www.tgsweb.ca> and our new Facebook page Toronto Guild of Stitchery – TGS

The following message is from Tracey Lawko. If you have an opportunity, visit her spectacular show, "Reflections of Ourselves".

"Reflections of Ourselves", a collaborative art project which celebrates the rich cultural heritage of Canadians, is now exhibited at Homer Watson House & Gallery, 1754 Old Mill Rd., Kitchener, Ontario until June 25, 2023. <https://www.homerwatson.on.ca/exhibitions/reflections-of-ourselves/> New cultural leaves have been added and this genealogical maple tree continues to grow! It looks wonderful under the clerestory windows of the Watson Gallery. Reception: Sunday, Apr 30th, 2-4 pm.

A FREE online Textile Talk webinar on April 5th at 2pm will feature a talk by lead artist, Tracey Lawko, about growing this grass-roots collaborative art project, and will air the documentary video of "Reflections of Ourselves" funded by the Ontario Arts Council. All welcome. Registration required https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_ePcWwX1CR7asnbgPwS60ng.

Take care and happy spring.



Whitework Biscornu
by Julia Paris



Blackwork Alphabet
by Barbara Kershaw



Cross stitch
by Sherry Naiman



Jacobean Leaf (d. Mike Parr)
by Pat Armor

Fox Quilt
(Celtic applique, x stitch center)
designed by Pat Armor



Goldwork (d. Tanya Berlin)
by Pat Armour



SAL (WIP)
by Julia Paris



SAL (WIP)
by Pia Khallas-Harvey

**Various Stitch-
along projects**



SAL
by Pia Khallas-Harvey



SAL - Temperature
by Julia Paris

Submitted by Marion Brumwell, ONN Rep

Although a major construction project is coming soon to the Simcoe County Museum, we will continue meeting there until at least April.

We are working on designs in 2 techniques, a Danish Hedebo pulled thread project by Jette Roy Finlay and a Ukranian whitework embroidery by Terri Bay.

Our photos show recently completed surface embroidery, the Thistle by Jenny Adin-Christie, a design in silk from Piecework Magazine and a personalized needlebook with Frisian motifs found in Yvette Stanton's book.



The Thistle
by Jenny Adin-Christie



A Design In Silk
from Piecework Magazine



A personalized needlebook
Frisian motifs from Yvette
Stanton's book

Submitted by Alexandra Semeniuk, ONN Rep

Greetings from Scarborough Needlearts.

After a break for the holidays, SNG resumed its weekly meetings on Monday, January 9th. As always it was good to catch up with each other and see what members had been working on.

Several more completed Christmas ornaments were among the first items of the new year to appear on the show and share table. January also saw the launch of a cooperative venture with the Toronto Guild of Stitchery involving a reciprocal stash sale which allowed members of both guilds to add to their own personal stash. As well, additional embroidery supplies were donated by members for delivery to Parachute, the free store for Ukrainian refugees.

In February, SNG marked the Japanese Festival of Broken Needles with a reading about this interesting, historic tradition by past president Sheila Williams. The guild's 47th anniversary was celebrated on February 13th. In attendance on this special occasion was founding member Myrna Pagan, shown in a photo with SNG president Karen Boniface cutting the festive cake.

Myrna had brought along a 'round robin' project she had initiated and invited other guild members to join in.. All had stitched their names on the back as seen in the photos.



Founding member Myna Pagan and President Karen Boniface on SNG's 47th anniversary celebration - February 2023



Myrna Pagan's Round Robin project in 2014

Inset: Names of participating members at
back of project

SCARBOROUGH NEEDLEARTS GUILD (continued)

During this month a group stitch a-long project was launched led by Barb Crowther. The project is a needle case called Cotton Quartet designed by Mary Corbet.



SAL - Cotton Quartet
designed by Mary Corbet

Top: SNG members with
their SAL

Right: Detailed view



Two members – Barbara Leach and Sylvia Wilkins have already completed their projects. Barbara's is indeed a needle case while Sylvia's decorates the lid of a small box. Both can be seen in the accompanying photo below along with other guild members holding their 'work in progress.' A close up of one shows the variety of stitches involved in the project.

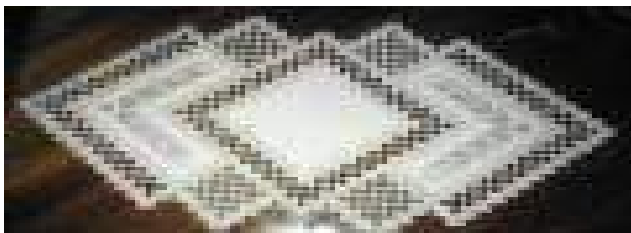
Another initiative now underway is a review and gradual culling of the guild's library collection by guild librarian, Bernice Bain, to make room for new books and resource materials. This is a big project and will take a number of weeks to complete. Surplus materials are being offered to guild members for a small donation.

Plans are in full swing now for the guild's spring retreat at Elim Lodge in late April. Members of the Trillium Embroidery Guild will also be at

Elim so we anticipate hearing much about this fun weekend of stitching at our May meetings.

Our final entry in this report is to advise that, at the close of 2022, our guild received the very sad news that long time member Elizabeth Mattson passed away on December 18th. She had been a member for more than 25 years and had brought joy and laughter to every meeting and get together. Her quick wit and sense of humour delivered in her Scottish burr were unmistakable. She was dearly loved by all who knew her as was clearly evident at her memorial service. An accomplished stitcher, 4 photos of some of Elizabeth's work are included here. We miss her happy and caring presence and the warm friendship she extended to each of us. She remains close to our hearts as we fondly recall favourite stories of times spent together. May she rest in peace.

We wish ONN members a happy, productive and safe spring.



Hardanger
by Elizabeth Mattson



Oval Embroidery
by Elizabeth Mattson



Thistle Detail
by Elizabeth Mattson

Submitted by Judy McMullan, ONN Rep

Our Winter term went well and no snow cancellations! :-)

As well as our classes (Sue Ronchka's "I Wish I Had a BIG Hat", Alison Jackson's "Hardanger: Basics and Beyond", Bridget O'Brien's wool applique course "The Circle Game", Judy Eckhardt's "Motifs and Slips" and "Glazig Embroidery" with Janet Sunderani) we had some time in the afternoon programs to explore.

As a service to our members, we always keeps a store of blank cards with apertures for a small embroidery - "holey cards"!

Ruth Douglas gave us a refresher on how to install your little piece into the card for maximum effect. For example, a small piece of felt or thin batting behind your piece gives it extra oomph.



On another afternoon, we brought it our textile treasures - historical or exotic - and told their stories.

Of course, Valentine's Day is always a good excuse to get out the pink and red fabrics and Kate Pautler led us in creating Slow Stitch Valentine postcards.

Barbara Lee Johnson, Jane Londerville and Barbara Grantmyre gave us a presentation on Blackwork of all sorts. No, it doesn't have to be black!



Blackwork

by Barbara Lee Johnson



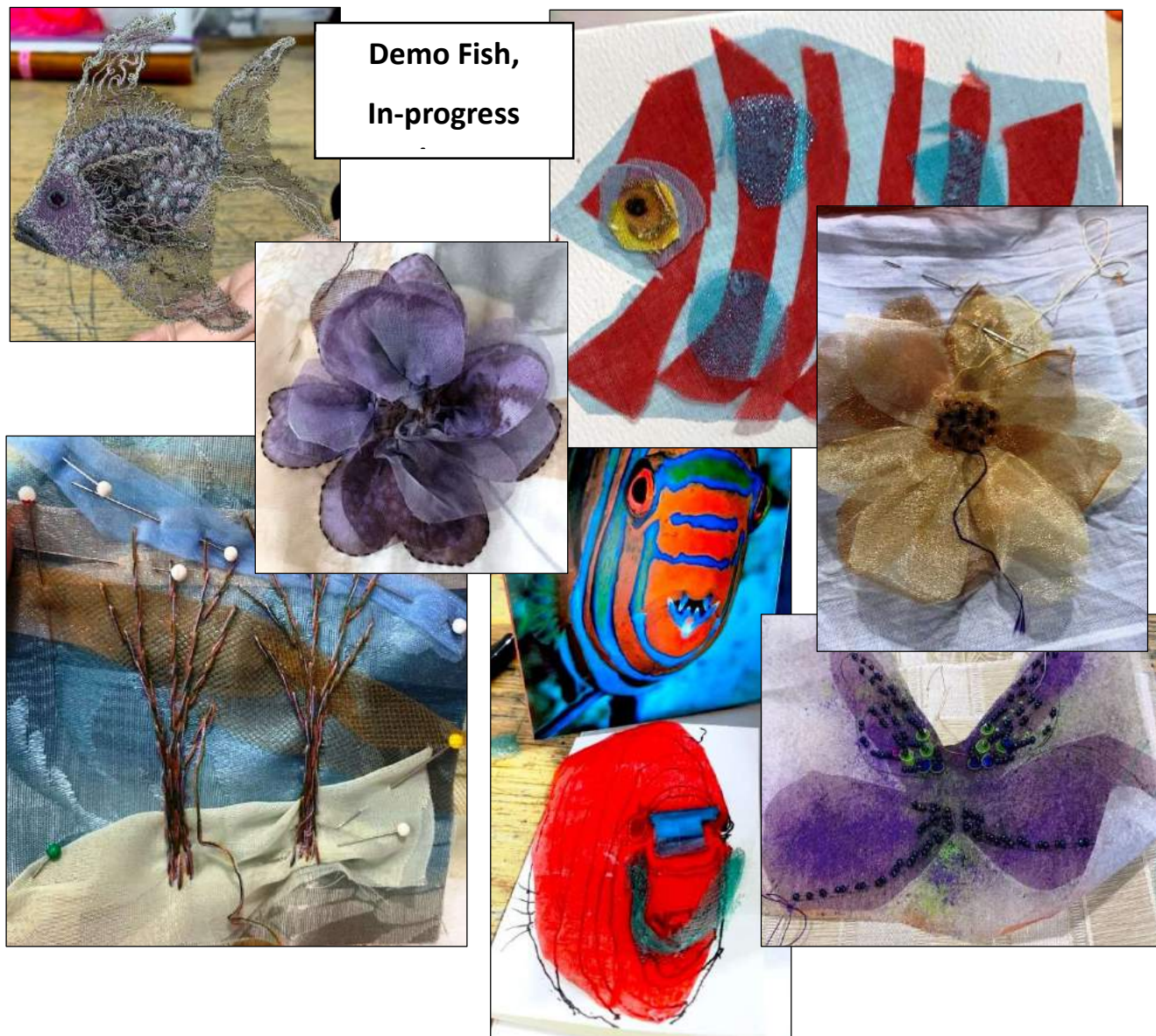
Blackwork

by Jane Londerville

We'll be seen this summer at the [WEFTFest](#) event in March in St. Jacobs, at the [Fibre Festival](#) in Fergus in July and at the [Aberfoyle Fall Fair](#). Stop by and say 'hi' if you you're there!

Submitted by Gemma Burke, ONN Rep

January OSG meeting mini workshop with transparent fabric led by Joan Linda. Her embroidered fish was her demo.



Submitted by Sheila McCoy, ONN Rep

Greetings to everyone

We hope everyone is surviving what has turned out to be a different winter for all of us. The big pre-Christmas “blizzard” followed by some big snows – all of which seemed to come up from the mid-west of the USA, rather than down from the north.



Our efforts to have a display in our local Cobourg Public Library seem to have paid off ..





We welcome new members Karin B. and Iran Y.

January was a getting back from the break, lots of catching up, and finishing some projects started before Christmas.

We didn't manage to have our February *Festival of Broken Needles* (maybe next year), but Susan C. filled the dates with "Hearts".

The little token of friendship that has become very popular with children, seniors, people who are not well, and instead of a hug, to give to those you care about.



NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS STITCHERY GUILD (continued)

We did get organized with items to be on display at a local Finance company's main street downtown windows (Edward Jones Investments). Everyone dug out their choice pieces and Susan & Floyd C, and Immy & Wilfried L. took them to be displayed.

Already this is looking very promising publicity, and maybe we will get some more ladies to join our group.



The weather put a bit of a damper on a couple of meetings, but to make up for those days, Heather J. has organized a “stitch-in” at the Cobourg Public Library.

These “stitch-in” days are on the alternate Tuesdays to our official meetings, and are quite “casual”, but everyone seems to be doing their projects as well as socializing.

The first time this happened, our members discovered that in the next room was the regular Tuesday meeting of the Cobourg Art Club members, so everyone sort of visited each other. It seemed quite enjoyable as the artists were interested in the stitchery, and the stitchers went around and looked at the art works.

(I am a member of both groups, so now have a dilemma after alternating between the two groups for the last several years – but now they are next door to each other !!).

Toward the end of March, Anne S. is going to give us some guidance on how Smocking is done. Anne is our Smocking expert and has made up a series of pieces that can be made into a smocked necklace. Several members are going to try this out, as it seems quite different from some of the stitchery they are currently producing.

Our April event with member, Anne C, the making of a fabric basket is now going to take place in the new 2023-2024 season. We have made fabric boxes in the past, but this will be something to look forward to, and different.

For May, our new member, Beth W. is taking us through her artistic journey into Stitchery, with the various projects she has completed, along with samples, and inspiration.

Our other open dates are dependent upon arrangements, we may be visiting Brighton for a shopping spree, or we may be having a shopping spree in the parking lot – courtesy of Kimat Designs.

Immy L. has already booked our June AGM meeting place – the Dalewood Golf Club dining room – where we will also hold our AGM before the goodies are serviced.

Submitted by Marion Brumwell, ONN Rep

Our monthly evening meetings continue in 2023. The last ONN report was due before our Christmas celebration. Hence photos of the Christmas ornament exchange and of the 25th anniversary cupcakes are included as part of this report.

As for the testing of tapestry needles, it was surprising to find that there was no needle manufacturer that significantly outranked all the others.

Designing and stitching a French purse was still our focus for our March meeting. We continue to figure out how to best finish the purse.

At the March and April meetings we will have a chance to complete a survey regarding our program plans for the rest of 2023 and also to discuss whether we want stitch-ins during the summer. The annual spring retreat at Elim Lodge is coming up soon.

As usual, we have an array of photos from our Show and Tell. These include an Alison Cole goldwork butterfly and a Scarlett House Sampler stitched by two members. Suzanne's granddaughter drew a design for her to stitch and Suzanne is making a really neat pillow

Christmas Ornaments Exchange



Embroidery by Suzanne
Designed by Suzanne's granddaughter



Scarlett House Sampler
TEG member

Goldwork (Alison Cole design)
TEG member



Submitted by Heather Hollands, ONN Rep

Our Guild continues to meet on a regular basis. During our weekly stitch ins many individual projects are being completed, which are illustrated below.

These include the cross-stitch sampler, stitched by Kim Smit; Romanian point lace designed by Sylvia Moreno and stitched by Jane Hunter; a Hapsburg lace sampler designed by Tanja Berlin and stitched by Heather Hollands and the beautiful pulled thread floral heart designed by Kim Beamish and completed by Cori Angus.



Romanian Lace
by Jane Hunter
(d. Sylvia Moreno)



Pulled thread floral heart
by Cori Angus
(d. Kim Beamish)

Seven of our members are registered to participate in the upcoming Embroiderers Association of Canada seminar and are therefore endeavoring to complete some of the unfinished projects on hand. We are very much looking forward to celebrate the 50 th anniversary of EAC from June 6-11 in Winnipeg Manitoba.

At our first evening meeting in March, eight of our members began participating in a round robin sampler. Members were to pick out their fabric, threads and any add ins such as beads and to complete the first band of stitching. The bags were then passed on with the only rules being that you must use ONLY the materials supplied and also record what stitch or stitches were used on each band. The bags will be passed on every 2 weeks to the next stitcher.

For our next upcoming programme at the end of April we have arranged for a therapeutic yoga instructor to work with us. She will be showing us some exercises for our hands to help keep them flexible and reduce stiffness. We will also be doing similar exercises for the foot fascia. We are looking forward to this assistance and perhaps will consider similar workshops in the future.



Hapsburg lace sampler
by Heather Hollands
(d. Tanya Berlin)



Cross-stitch sampler
by Kim Smit

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

Webmaster's remarks

We're so pleased to have Savita Patkar from Toronto Guild of Stitchery on board as the newsletter editor. Welcome!

I'll continue to post reports on the website under "Member Pages" and Savita will gather them all together and get them to you in a newsletter which you can distribute to your members.

I do appreciate it if you can also send the photos to me as separate images. Otherwise I have to pull each one out of your MSWord or PDF document individually and then put them into the Wordpress Library for the website.

The report will show me where to insert each photo into the website page. (If I should be doing this another way and you know what it is, I welcome your suggestion!)

--Judy McMullan

ONN Contact Information

Webmaster	Judy McMullan	CEG Guelph	cegguelph@gmail.com
Newsletter	Savita Patkar	Toronto Stitchery Guild	savita_patkar@yahoo.com

DEADLINE DATES

Issue #1 by 25 July - for August – Next newsletter submission

Issue #2 by 25 September - for October

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.