



ONN-*Line*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER of the
ONTARIO NETWORK OF NEEDLEWORKERS

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Happy Summer Stitching!

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, Past-President

CEG, London hosted its annual Textile Showcase on April 24 and 25. Hundreds of attendees viewed the work Guild members had completed over the year. New this year was a sales room where members sold one-of-a-kind creations. Western University student Amy Waterson, the recipient of the CEG, London prize for graduation Visual Arts students, exhibited her work – a magnificent map she stitched of the Lord of the Rings world



Another highlight was a felted coral reef complete with sea urchins, completed by CEG, London's felting focus group.



Every June, CEG London welcomes renowned textile artists as part of the Guild's Summer Workshop. This year, participants learned from Alice Vander Vennen and Susan Purney Mark. Vander Vennen of Cobourg, Ontario taught "Mixed Media Textile Assemblage" where participants created evocative framed, stitched, three-dimensional pieces. Susan Purney Mark of Pender Island,

BC, led “Cloth to Codex” – a fun three-day opportunity to play with simple screen printing, asemic text, book forms, and simple stitches. Both workshops were held at Western University’s Labatt Visual Arts Building.

Student work from the Alice Vander Vennen workshop:



**Student work from the
Susan Purney Mark workshop**



Summer Workshop is a highlight of the year for textile artists across Ontario – and beyond. Stay tuned to the next issue of the ONN newsletter for the announcement of our June 2027 workshops.

If you’re looking for a summer road trip – venture to Wortley Village, London for the Westland Gallery’s annual Textile Art show. “Escaping the Boundaries: A Textile Journey” includes works by CEG London members as well as other renowned artists, including Alice Vander Vennen and Susan Purney Mark. The show runs July 28 to August 22 with the opening reception taking place Saturday, August 1 from 1 to 3 pm. Please note that Westland Gallery has moved down the street. It is now located at 247 Wortley Road.

Submitted by Audrey Chaput, ONN Rep

It seems summer has firmly settled in for those of us around Toronto. We had our last meeting of the year on June 4th which wrapped up TGS' year of Celebrating 50 Years of Stitching Together. Guild committee members who volunteered to coordinate the celebrations outdid themselves by providing extra programs, educational opportunities, luncheons, and outings through the year.

Mini Workshops:

In April, our very own Barbara Kershaw, certified EGA Master Craftsman in counted thread, offered a **free 2-hour workshop on Chain Stitches**. Members spent time learning a few new stitches while creating a needle book.



Design size approx 3" x 3" (8cm x 8cm)

Members had an opportunity to learn Canvas Stitches with Dianna Thorne, at the June meeting. We discovered the beauty of the Scotch Stitch using 11 unique variations while creating a vibrant sampler pincushion.



Design size approx 3" x 3" (8cm x 8cm)

Final 50th Group Excursion – June 13th @ The Village at Black Creek



A private tour of pieces in a sample collection at the Village at Black Creek was spearheaded by Diane Scott and the team of 50th anniversary committee members. Participants enjoyed a 1-hour tour of embroidery in the early days of colonial pioneers during 1700- late 1800's. We discovered that it was important for women of that era to learn embroidery as it enhanced their status for marriage proposals! "In the 1860's girls were required to do needlework because it taught them to sit quietly, to pay attention to detail, and to work patiently. People believed that these were important qualities in a girl."

Some favourite memories included viewing the work of small children. It was amazing that they could embroider with such limited lighting. There were variety of samplers and of unusual interest were the Death Samplers on display. The tombstones were done in Assisi work to create negative space for the letters in their name. A very effective way to note the absence of a loved one.



There was a variety of needlework displays including a crocheted table doily, knit work, white work and drawn work. Because we were with the TGS, we were allowed to go into closed off rooms to view work close-up!



50th Anniversary Round Robin Grand Reveal!

Over 15 different finished projects were on display between the day and evening meetings on June 4th. Each Round Robin project began with a member's unique idea in the summer of 2025. It was such a privilege to see the creativity. Many participants found it emotional and meaningful – even a little undaunting initially. Some members mentioned that they joined in because they wanted the comradery from passing along the banners.



Margaret K



Anna Maria



Sherry



Michele



Pia

In May, TGS's own Tracey Lawko spoke to members about her exhibition in Kitchener's Homer Watson House and Gallery: Ode to Phoebe (April 4 – May 24, 2026). Pheobe Watson painted on china, oil and watercolour. She is the sister of Homer Watson, a pioneering self-taught Canadian landscape painter. Phoebe is an inspiration to Tracey. She had six small sculptures in response to Pheobe's painted china. Tracey uses modern longarm stitching with stump work, which is a historically rich embroidery technique that allows her to create three-dimensional, sculptural forms, as well as millinery and basketry techniques.

See: Tracey Lawko Exhibit

As it is the end of our 2-year term, many positions on the executive will be held by different members. We would like to thank Michele Young for providing excellent leadership as our outgoing President. Catherine Leeson is already up and running! Ready to pick up where Michele has left off. Please enjoy Michele's "Whale" – done in advance of Richmond BC's EAC Seminar 2026.



Submitted by Katie Brightwell, ONN Rep

The KW Embroiderers' Guild has been busy since our last update!

We rounded out the remainder of the formal schedule to mid-May with some additional weeks spent on Bargello, taught by Debbie and Hardanger, taught by Pat, as well as some personal projects. All participants enjoyed these immensely and completed inspiring works of art. A few members hosted Stitch-Ins at their homes over the summer "off-season", which was greatly enjoyed by all who were able to attend.





**Works by KW
Embroidery Guild
members**

Submitted by Carol Ward, ONN Rep

Hot one day, cold the next, with torrential rain, tornadoes, and a little smoke thrown in for good measure. It must be the beginning of a Canadian summer. What better excuse to stay inside and stitch?

April 14 and 28 had us welcoming the return of Barbara Kershaw with another workshop in whitework. This lady's talent has no end, and we greatly appreciate her taking the time to teach us the finer points of her craft.



As you may recall, at the beginning of March many of us began a fun stitching experience called Embroidery Bingo. Participants received three new stitches each week to embroider on our bingo "cards," which took us until May 2 to finish. Congratulations to winners Sharon E. for the first straight line, Iran Y. for the first diagonal line, and Julie M. for the first complete card. Well done ladies! Those who participated agreed that it was a great way to learn new stitches, many of which we'd never heard of before. Needless to say, we had a lot of fun with our bingo, and can't wait to do it again in the fall.

Susan C. ran a workshop on chainstitch variations on May 12 and 26. To our surprise, the lowly chain stitch was a little harder to master than we expected, and several of us around the table were found watching on-line videos on our phones to help us along. But the end result was worth it, wouldn't you agree?

We also had a very successful stash sale on May 26. There was something for everyone: fabric, patterns, and a large selection of threads. It seems that no matter how much fabric or thread we acquire, there's always room for more.



Once again, we were invited to display our work in the Cobourg Public Library's display case. This time it was for the entire month of June. It's always a pleasure to be able to showcase the work of our members. The level of expertise and the variety of work drew many positive comments.

On June 9 we held our annual AGM, during which voting on various issues was held and a new executive was elected. Our new Chair is Barb Crowther and our new Vice Chair is Sharon Elliot. Heather James, along with Julie Morrill are our new Co-Treasurers. Tina May has agreed to continue to be our Secretary, and Mia Burrus will be looking after Memberships. We are excited to welcome these wonderful ladies to their new positions.

NORTHUMBERLAND HILLS STITCHERY GUILD (continued)

Despite the fact the AGM marked the end of our formal meetings for the summer, we just can't seem to put those needles down. We continue to meet informally at the Cobourg Public Library on the first and third Tuesday each month, from 10 a.m. until 12 p.m. The folks at the library have gone out of their way to make us feel welcome, arranging tables for us in a bright corner and providing newer, more comfortable, chairs.

On June 22 we were invited to set up a display table in the Cobourg Community Centre for the annual Cobourg Seniors Seminar. Immy L. and Sharon E. volunteered to represent our guild, handing out brochures and answering questions.



And finally, on June 25, a pot luck and day of stitching was held at the cottages belonging to the esteemed Heather J.s family. It was colder than anticipated, but the food was excellent and the company couldn't be beat. I think it safe to say a fun time was had by all!



But the fun doesn't stop there for the Northumberland Hills Stitchery Guild. On July 30 we celebrate World Embroidery Day at Yarn It!, one of our local yarn shops. Immy L.s annual garden party is being held on August 6, an event we always look forward to. August 13 will find us at the Cobourg YMCA to celebrate International Cross Stitch Day. And we've been invited to a stitch-in at the Ameliasburg Museum on August 27.

Until next time, happy stitching! And keep cool!

Submitted by Mary-K. Hardy, ONN rep

April started with our semi-annual retreat at the Elim Lodge. Over the 4 days and 3 nights stay; there were about 25 people in attendance.

For our monthly meeting in April, President Marilyn Girndt did a presentation on the basics of needle felting versus wet felting. She also discussed where some of her inspiration for what she has made has come from. We are planning a class in the fall to learn to these techniques.

In May, the meeting attendees each shared their story and showed an early example of what they stitched that got them interested in stitching. For Bernie, it was a magazine that she borrowed from her daughter many years ago and has just recently assembled into a pillow. Barbara showcased her own design and explained the personal meaning for each motif. Meagan wowed us with her own design as well. Beverley displayed one of the early baby samplers that she stitched for her children and is now wondering how to convince them that they should keep them. Jeanette showed us a cloth booklet that she stitched when she was in early primary school in Iran as well as her high school boyfriend's jean shirt that she had embroidered all over. Lisa and Mona, two of our newer members, showed us what they have recently stitched. Gabby, also a new member, showed us what she is currently stitching to be a window treatment in her home. It was quite entertaining learning what prompted us all to start stitching whether it was something taught through a family member through to needing something to do while living in the Caribbean.

June heralds in the last meeting before our summer break as well as our TATA event – or Trillium Annual Themed Awards. This year's 'theme' was smalls. There were 4 entries into 'original' design category and 9 entries into the 'charted/adapted chart' category. Cathy won for her original designed sashiko bag and MaryK for her quilted sheep.



Meagan's design



Lisa's angel



Jeanette's booklet



Gabby's window treatment



Everyone is busy at the stitch retreat



Cathy & Mary K's TATA winners



Beverley's baby sampler



Bernie's pillow



Barbara's sampler



Mona's fish

Submitted by Roma Smith, ONN Rep

I am happy to report that we have a couple of things to shout out about. First, we were treated with a wool appliqué workshop offered by Marjorie McEwen, a member of our guild. It all began the evening Marjorie displayed all the elegant wool appliqué pieces she has made. When she announced that she would be giving a workshop to make the centrepiece in the photo, ladies rushed to the table to sign up for her class. Her teaching skills were as impressive as her needlework skills. This project was suitable in several ways. It was appropriate for both beginner and intermediate stitchers. Best of all it could be completed within a couple of days. I shall use my version as a candle mat.

As our guild year came to a close, we gathered to enjoy our 50th Anniversary dinner. Our meeting room where the dinner was held was decorated with stitched pieces and quilting. On the walls hung quilts that answered the challenge put out by our Scrappy Quilt Coordinator. These scrappy quilts needed to incorporate 500 different scraps of fabric. On a table was a display of our members' finest needlework pieces. Best of all was the company of ladies we had not seen for some time. Nostalgic was the best word to describe it, remembering former years, former members and former events.



Submitted by Barbara Cook, ONN Rep

We are on hiatus for the summer but look forward to our regular meetings on the 1st and 3rd Wednesday afternoons starting again in September at the Coach House at Glenhyrst. We do have some plans underway for the coming season, including ribbon embroidery and felting.

A selection of our work is currently on exhibit at Glenhyrst Art Gallery in Brantford. The show runs until 6 September 2026.



**The Work of Many Hands:
Celebrating 50 Years of the
Brant Needle Arts Guild
Glenhyrst Art Gallery
20 Ava Road, Brantford
Until 6 September 2026**

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 – 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.