



Arnprior and District Quilters' Guild

NEWSLETTER

October 2018

Program Notes

October Meeting – Guest Speaker Bridget O’Flaherty

Our guest speaker at the October 24th meeting is local fibre artist Bridget O’Flaherty.

Bridget O’Flaherty is best known for her stunning large landscapes created with thread. Using her sewing machine, Bridget builds up layers of multi-coloured thread 'drawing' to convey her landscape art. With an environmental and sustainable focus, she explores the use of local, organic and natural hand-dyed fabrics and materials in her works. An award-winning artist with over 25 years' experience in the fibre art world, Bridget's work is showcased in national galleries, and she teaches and lectures internationally.

Bridget's fibre art is inspired by nature and biodiversity. She is passionate about our environment and creates intimate connections to the landscape. She conveys fragile aspects of eco-systems and advocates for awareness of species at risk, native and invasive species in nature and sustainable materials in textiles.

Bridget's presentation is titled "My Journey as a Fibre Artist".



What's it like to start a quilting career at a young age? What were some of the trials and highlights? What does it take to start again after a break? I will take you through the 26 years of my career as a fibre artist, from early beginnings to influences and highlighting special projects. This lecture includes a trunk show of quilts from my career, a digital image and video presentation.

-- Bridget O’Flaherty

Quilt Block Groups

At the September meeting we introduced a new model for setting up and orchestrating the various regular activities involved in a guild meeting. This is a great way for every member to contribute and feel more involved with the guild (and it will lighten the load on the guild executive.)

Each member will be assigned to a group – aptly named after quilt blocks – and each group is coordinated by a member of the guild executive. Group assignments will be posted at the October meeting.

At each meeting, one quilt block group will be responsible for supporting the social committee by providing snacks at break time and assisting with the activities of the meeting.

The coordinator will contact the group members to request food contributions and to assign tasks such as:

- set up chairs and tables
- assisting with show and tell
- holding up and folding quilts for guest speakers
- putting tables and extra chairs away at the end of the meeting. (Meeting attendees will still be asked to put their own chairs away at the end of the meeting)

Each member is asked to volunteer only once during the year. If it is your night to volunteer, please arrive by 6 PM. If unable to take part at a given time, a member can switch with another member or be reassigned to a different group.

As a result of adopting this new model, the snack Sign Up that the Social Committee asked members to sign up for, is no longer applicable.

The "Flying Geese" group, coordinated by Vickie MacNabb will be kicking off this new initiative at our October meeting.

Raffle Quilt

The beautiful quilt "Many Threads Bind Us Together-Community", which will be raffled off at our 2019 quilt show, was on display for the summer at Sew Inspired.

The ticket sales are going well but we need everyone to make an effort to sell some tickets. If you have money and ticket stubs from sold tickets please bring them in and give them to Joanna or Rennie. Rennie and Joanna will be handing out tickets at the October meeting.

Proceeds from this quilt go to our future charity projects.

Feel free to save a copy of this photo to your phone so you can show it to prospective ticket purchasers.



Challenges

Challenges are projects with a particular theme where you can showcase your creativity and imagination. Issued at the beginning of the quilt year, challenges are open to all members.

We encourage each of our members to try at least one of our challenges this year. We hope to inspire all of you. All challenges are to be brought in for the March meeting and shared with the group. This year's challenges are:

- President's Challenge - "Shining Star Preemie Quilt"
- Quilt Show Committee Challenge - Modern Quilt
- Silhouette Challenge
- UFO Challenge
- Quilt Canada Challenge - "Quilting Goes Viral"

See the [guild web site Challenges page](#) for details of these challenges.

Patti Moore

Workshops

At this point there is still room in all 5 workshops. There is room for 5 more in the Oct 30th workshop, 4 for the Big Bag Workshop and room for Dec 1st too. Each of these workshops will cost \$25. All held at Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church EXCEPT Dec 1st which will be at Island View Suites.

Sewing with Precision with Michelle Gagne. Tuesday Oct 30th 10 am to 4 pm at Glad Tidings Pentecostal Church in Arnprior.

The purpose of this class is to increase your accuracy. The blocks you make in the workshop can be used to make either a 24" square wall hanging, or can be used to make a table runner.

Personally I want to repeat the class I took last year in Renfrew to see if my work is more consistent and accurate.

The list of requirements will be available at the October Guild meeting when payment of \$25 for the class is received.

Big Bag Workshop with Johanne Vajda. Saturday Nov 10th. The list of requirements will also be available on Oct 24th.

Easy Peasy Thread Painting by Numbers with Brigid O'Flaherty (our October meeting guest) Saturday Dec 1st at Island View Suites.

Jelly Roll Place Mats or Table Runner with Joanna Vlaming. March 2019. Exact date TBA.

Greek Island Hillside Wall Hanging with Chris Gordon. May 2019 Exact date TBA.

-- Chris Gordon

Retreats

The retreats are Monday to Thursday November 5-8, 2018, and Thursday to Sunday, January 17-20, 2019, at Providence Point in Lanark. The cost is \$261.

You can still sign up for either retreat. Final payments for the November retreat are due at the October meeting, and a \$100 deposit will hold your place for the January retreat. We need 16 people to go and we have a maximum, so don't wait until it's too late.

Refer to the [Retreats page](#) on the web site for more information about our fun and productive retreats.

-- Joanna Vlaming

Block of the Month



Your Sunrise Clock blocks are due at the October meeting. Bring in your finished block(s) and your will name will go into a draw to take home all of the blocks. If there are a large number of blocks, two names may be drawn and the blocks will then be divided between the two winners.

Instructions for making this block are on the [Block of the Month page](#) on the guild web site.

Johanne and Amanda Vajda

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If you are new to our guild or looking for more information, please refer to the [Activity pages](#) on the guild web site for more details about our program activities.

From your Program team:

Mary DeVries, Coordinator; Chris Gordon – Workshops; Patti Moore – Challenges; Joanna Vlaming - Retreats

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See the [Highlights of our September meeting](#) on the guild web site.

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## Schedule

| Date                                           | Activity             | Details                                                                                                                |
|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>October 24</b><br>Wednesday 7 PM            | <b>Guild meeting</b> | Guest is Bridget O'Flaherty- Fiber Artist<br><a href="#">Bridget's web site</a>                                        |
| <b>October 30</b><br>Tuesday 10 AM – 4         | <b>Workshop</b>      | “Sewing with Precision” with Michelle Gagné<br><a href="#">More info</a>                                               |
| <b>November 5-8</b><br>Monday - Thursday       | <b>Retreat</b>       | Arrive on November 5 <sup>th</sup> or 6 <sup>th</sup> and quilt from morning until night<br><a href="#">More info</a>  |
| <b>November 10</b><br>Saturday 9:30-3:30       | <b>Workshop</b>      | “Big Bag Workshop” with guild member Johanne Vajda<br><a href="#">More info</a>                                        |
| <b>November 28</b><br>Wednesday 7 PM           | <b>Guild meeting</b> | Guest is Grace Noel - Fabric Designer                                                                                  |
| <b>December 1</b><br>Saturday 10 AM – 2        | <b>Workshop</b>      | “Easy Peasy Thread Painting by Numbers” with Bridget O’Flaherty<br><a href="#">More info</a>                           |
| <b>December 12</b><br>Wednesday 7 PM           | <b>Guild meeting</b> | Holiday potluck - Members last names M-Z bring food                                                                    |
| <b>January 17-20,2019</b><br>Thursday - Sunday | <b>Retreat</b>       | Arrive on January 17 <sup>th</sup> or 18 <sup>th</sup> and quilt from morning until night<br><a href="#">More info</a> |
| <b>January 23</b><br>Wednesday 7 PM            | <b>Guild meeting</b> | Learning Activities                                                                                                    |
| <b>February 27</b><br>Wednesday 7 PM           | <b>Guild meeting</b> | Learning Activities                                                                                                    |
| <b>March</b><br><i>Date TBD</i>                | <b>Workshop</b>      | “Jelly Roll Place Mats or Table Runner” with guild member Joanna Vlaming <a href="#">More info</a>                     |
| <b>March 27</b><br>Wednesday 7 PM              | <b>Guild meeting</b> | Guest is Gary Devries - Quilting with Wood<br><br>Challenges due                                                       |
| <b>April 24</b><br>Wednesday 7 PM              | <b>Guild meeting</b> | Guest is Roslyn Hanes - Artist/ Quilter                                                                                |
| <b>April 27-28</b>                             | <b>Quilt Show</b>    |                                                                                                                        |
| <b>May</b><br><i>Date TBD</i>                  | <b>Workshop</b>      | “Greek Island Hillside Wall Hanging” with guild member Chris Gordon <a href="#">More info</a>                          |
| <b>May 22</b><br>Wednesday 7 PM                | <b>Guild meeting</b> | Elections                                                                                                              |
| <b>June 19</b><br>Wednesday 7 PM               | <b>Guild meeting</b> | Potluck - Members last names A-L bring food                                                                            |

## ***A Quilter and a Tornado***

Many of you are likely aware that our fellow guild member and past president, **Brigid Whitnall** and her husband Ken were severely affected by the tornado when it passed through Dunrobin on September 21<sup>st</sup>. Here is Brigid's firsthand account of their experience.

Brigid, thanks for sharing your journey with us.

-- Janet Brownlee

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Let me start by saying that this story is written from my perspective, I know there are Guild members across the Ottawa Valley I pray that no one else was impacted to such an extent. Some of you lost power, I truly hope that is the extent of it. Here goes the journey so far.

We were in PEI, staying at the Cliffside Inn on the Northumberland Strait with seals playing in the water and beautiful sunrises that need to be made into art quilts. On Friday night, just after supper, I received a text that a bad storm had hit Dunrobin and was I ok. Well yes, we are on vacation! That text was the start of numerous texts, emails and photos being sent. The main media photo being used was of our front neighbour's red car overturned - which is horrible enough. When you know the neighborhood and look at the photo, the house in the background is my next door neighbour and wait, where's our houseoh, it's the pile of rubble next door. Not good, to put it mildly. My heart sank!

We started making plans on Friday night to come home right away. Unfortunately, PEI had a wind and rain storm that night and ferry service was cancelled. Robert, our Inn Keeper was wonderful, with the 70 Mile Coastal Yard sale happening, streets were clogged up and slow. He gave us the "secret" back road shortcut. He helped us cancel the rest of our bookings, ferries that had been reserved, he went above and beyond in so many ways. We owe him a debt of gratitude. This is the starting point to the kindness of strangers as well as friends and family.

The ride home was quiet as the driver concentrated on the road, the passenger was the communications manager answering texts, messengers, emails... etc. My mom in the back seat was on moose duty. Happy to report the only two moose we saw were fiberglass! There are a lot of moose signs in New Brunswick and eastern Quebec... just saying.

Dropped off my mom in Cornwall, then drove home, just kind of bracing ourselves. Got home on Sunday. We were very tired from no sleep and lots of driving. Sunday afternoon we were escorted to the site where our house was and we started looking for things. The first responders refer to us as "the people who were in PEI with a look of concern on their faces". They say: Oh, you are those people, want to sit down before we proceed? Going there on Sunday afternoon was good in the sense that not everyone was around. Monday, with more rain in forecast, priority was to get tarps down so that rain in next day or two won't do more damage. We had a bungalow and our main floor is now our roof. It was easier to tarp off than some of the other homes.

Here's what we found on day 1 when we got to the site.



Good news is, we found some of the bed quilts and recovered some valuables. At the end of the day, it's all just stuff and we have our lives.

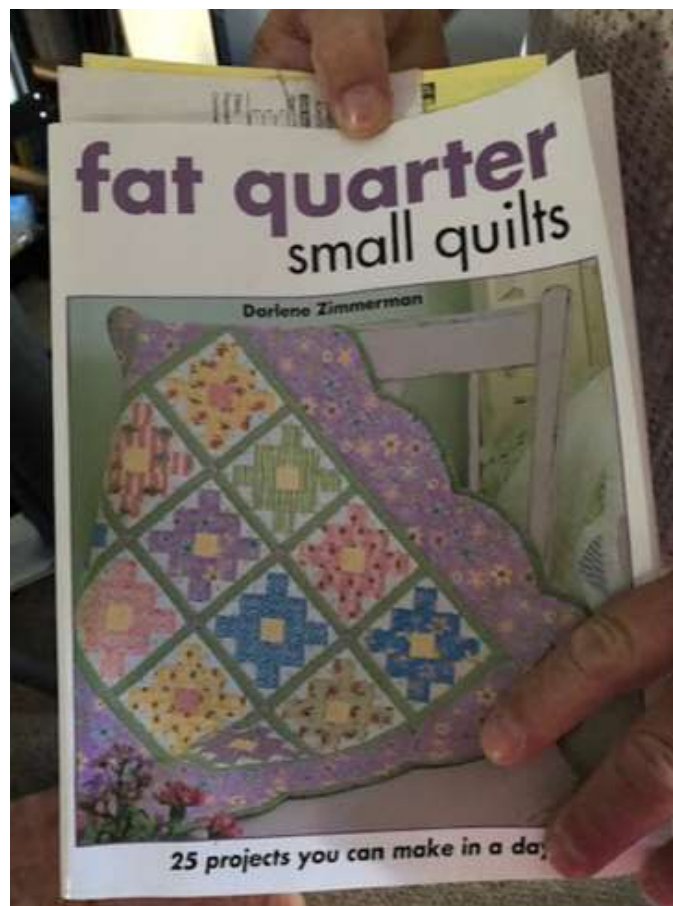
As this journey progresses we continue to feel how blessed we are. We are blessed that each of our hobbies were saved. My husband had just finished his observatory and it was still standing with all his telescopes and eye pieces intact.

My quilting stuff was in the basement and the basement is pretty much what we have left. Some of it is wet, from windows being blown out. Most is ok. The process has started of washing and ironing all the fabric to ensure it is all mold free and clean.

This is my favorite photo. This firefighter rescued my disappearing nine patch quilt, it was quilted by Mary Stanton and is one of my favorites.



This is a book that got soaked... I actually am looking for a replacement of this book ... any ideas where I can find one?



Our living room couch was in bits about 1 block from our house. The love seat was wrapped around the light pole across the street. To put it in perspective, the living room was at the back of the house. Our marriage certificate was found in someone's garage, three houses down the street. I won't go into the underwear and office supplies all over the lawn.

Our insurance advisors took pictures of my stash (what they could see) and feel confident everything can be replaced that needs to be replaced, I am not so sure they understand the math of that... rulers, fabric, notions... they asked how much fabric I havewhat? how do I know? 4-5 bookcases worth, plus bins of projects! I had a couple of embroidery hoops that were broken. I don't know what the humidity will have done to my thread.

This is all very surreal, we are so very thankful for everyone offering up help and as this will be a long ordeal, we will hopefully give everyone an opportunity to help at some point. My Pfaff machines were given a clean bill of health. One was thrown on the floor from the sewing table toppling over, the Sew Steady extension did not make it, and the other (my Pfaff Passport) was in a suitcase type carrier and stored on the main floor ... that was found about 30-40 feet away from where it was supposed to be. The bag looked pretty bad, I did not open it until I had to and was shocked that the inside looked intact. Wow - Pfaff should be advertising this suitcase!! I expect the verdict on my Sweet 16 in the next few days.

Some people have found things up to 4 km away from home. The neighborhood looks bad on the news, but you don't see the glass, nails, bits of insulation, holes in the lawns, all the stuff everywhere, houses half open. It's awful to look at.

I found the Canada 150 symbol too late to save it. It was partially buried in the flower bed.



I cannot thank everyone enough for the well wishes, the kind words and support. We truly feel very blessed as we go through this ordeal. There were very few injuries in our area and everyone coming together and supporting each other is beyond words. This could have been worse, it could have been people hurt instead of things.

It's only been four weeks, it feels like four lifetimes. We have spent the last week inserting some "normal" in our life. I am resuming quilt guild activities, classes, and look forward to sewing in the next week. I joked at last week's Interguild meeting about designing my new sewing room and sharing those ideas with other guilds. I may have speaking in my future! I have challenges that I want to get started on all the normal quilting stuff we do at our guilds. I had the privilege of donating a quilt to a fundraising event this week and as I write this someone called to let me know the quilt went for its full value... yeah Dunrobin Strong! I had finished the quilt some time ago and knew it would likely be donated.

Thanks again for all your thoughts, prayers and well wishes.

-- Brigid Whitnall

Membership

Membership fees of \$25 are due at the meeting on October 24th.

Penny Carruthers



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Library News

I hope you all have a cozy room to quilt in as it's certainly "that time of year" and it's the best time to be at your machine! (What time isn't?) There are lots of new fabric lines coming in to the shops and so many books to choose from, too. This month's new book for the Library is "Simply Modern Patchwork Quilts" by Janet Goddard. I had the "modern quilt" challenge in mind when I went shopping and this book is super! It has 10 patterns in it that range from easy to those needing a little more experience. It will be on the Library table when you arrive, so have a look and it and sign it out! [More info](#)



Our "Guess the Number of Pages" book has quilt patterns and recipes so be sure to take a guess and remember not to go over the number! And, our book sale will continue with many great buys still, so bring your loonies and quarters!

Happy Fall Quilting!
Nancy and Lucy

Our 2019 Quilt Show – April 27-28, 2019



Are you planning which projects you'll make or complete for display in our quilt show?

And have you decided which challenges you are participating in? They will be displayed as a group so do plan on putting those in the quilt show too.

A quilter of Distinction will be needed. Nominations PLEASE!

The quilt show will not be a success without our Guild members' participation. All of us are at different levels in our quilting journey. Regardless if you are a beginner, intermediate or an expert, please participate. The show is for all Guild members!

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Arnprior Museum Quilt Show

The annual quilt show at the Arnprior Museum will be held November 3-18. Volunteers are needed to help out and if you can help please contact Anita Brown by email abrown@arnprior.ca or phone 613-623-4902.



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Meeting Notes

Where? Our guild meetings are held at the Christian Education Centre at 257 John Street in Arnprior.

When? Meetings start at 7 PM and our doors open at 6:30.

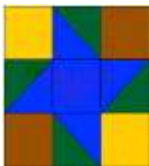
Parking - Please DO NOT park in the church parking lot that is adjacent to the hall. Our lease does not include the parking lot - it must be available for church-related activities. There is plenty of on street parking nearby.

Refreshments – Coffee and tea is prepared by our refreshment committee and snacks are provided by guild members. Do **“lug a mug”** - bring your own mug to minimize our environmental footprint. And PLEASE keep your refreshments away from the show and tell display table.

Visitors are welcome at our guild meetings. Fee is \$5 for all visitors and guests.

Allergy Alert!

Please note that our meetings are allergy free. Please no perfume or perfume products!



Our guild logo is the Friendship Star block, symbolizing the spirit of friendship that is always present at the Guild. Blue represents the Madawaska and Ottawa rivers in Arnprior; gold, the sunshine and fields of corn around Arnprior; brown, the acres of farmland in the area; and green, Gillies Grove and surrounding forests and tree