

Kanata Quilt Guild Annual Report for 2016-17

PRESIDENT - Debby Holden

This was my first year as President. It was extremely challenging as it is a large, very active guild with 174 members. We hosted two retreats - one in October held in Morrisburg, attended by 25 ladies and the second was a two day, in-town retreat attended by 37 ladies. We are planning our first guild quilt show in September, 2017. These activities, along with the monthly meetings, sew days, quilties, charity work, and workshops have brought us together creating opportunities to learn, laugh, make new friends and to give back to our community. It has been my pleasure working alongside all the volunteers who have worked tirelessly to make this year a wonderful quilting success. A sincere thank you to all of you!

VICE PRESIDENT - Marianne Gibson

As vice president, I am in charge of the sound system and setting up and taking down of the tables needed at the meetings. I help to make sure that the meetings run smoothly, coordinate the Show and Tell and the raffle draws. I fill in for the president if she is absent. As part of the executive, I confer with the President on guild business. It is a very enjoyable job.

FINANCE - Lynn Price

As suggested by the CRA guidelines, the Kanata Quilt Guild has enough funds in reserve to operate the guild activities for at least a year. This amount is considered reasonable in relation to the needs of the association to carry on its various guild events, and non-profit activities. The books will be closed at our year end in June and prepared for audit in July. A more complete report of our final accounting and the budget for 2017/2018 will be available in September.

PROGRAM - Ann-Louise Masek

We had a very successful year with lots of wonderful presenters and a 4 day retreat in Morrisburg in October 2016. We were in awe with Sherida Giddings - a Judy Niemeyer Certified Instructor giving us inspiration to create fabulous quilts with her many pieced patterns. Linda Hobbs of The Folk Village showing us her variety of patterns and wool applique. Christine Baker and Nellie Holmes, co-owners of The Upper Canada Quiltworks Publishing Co., displaying their many wall hangings and quilts their patterns produced. Irene Lefleche dazzled us with the variety of creations on her journey in quilting "Raggs to Stitches." Wendy Foster-Birch presented her creative quilting adventure using the vast variety of Superior threads which she sells exclusively. We even had had a Demo day of four

presenters from within our Guild. English paper piecing, (happy hexagons), a special ironing technique for layering tops with batting, how to correctly sew on borders--measure, measure, measure, accuracy is the SECRET and an intriguing method to create the many bags we all love. Michele Gagné will be presenting how to recycle and reuse our scraps. I hope everyone enjoyed all the presenters as I feel we offered a variety of subjects to stimulate our members to be the best they can be. Our year included two social meetings, one in December during the Christmas season, and the June meeting will wrap up the year with a garage sale and a pot luck luncheon. Everyone really enjoys these meetings as it is a time to visit with our good quilting friends and to make new ones.

WORKSHOPS - Judy Thomson and Beth van Wyngaarden

October was the month of the first workshop for this year. It was the famous Big Bag by Michele Gagné. Many wonderful bags came out of that entertaining workshop. Linda Hobbs taught a workshop in November on a wool appliqué table runner. This workshop was very well done by Linda and the finished table runners were fabulous. Beth van Wyngaarden taught her Birch Tree workshop in February. This was a good use of backgrounds to later put Birch trees onto using her technique. Gwen Pennings showed us in March how to use a Border Print to make repeat blocks for a quilt by using only one fabric, an effective use of border prints. A second workshop for Michele's Big Bag in May, just as entertaining as the first one.

SEW DAYS - Pauline Farey and Doris Braslins

The Guild hosts a monthly Sew Day at the Kanata Legion to foster friendship and the sharing of quilting knowledge and experience. Members bring their own projects to work on. An average of 15 members attend sew days each month. Dates have been booked for the 2017-18 season.

QUILTIE REPORT - Krista Zaleski and Rita Healey

We have received and delivered to the hospital over 350 quilties this year. If we stay on track the next two months, that will reach 400 by the end of June. We don't have a count of kits handed out, but after two kit-making days we produced about 220 kits (65 the first time, during which we had people sewing as well as making kits) and 155 the second, with all hands on rotary cutters. About 75 kits remain at this point, ready to be distributed. Many donations were received, of cotton fabric and flannel. These are much appreciated and we are well stocked to hold another kit-making day in the fall.

RAFFLES - Carol Sheppard and Rose Hutchingame

We want to thank everyone who participated in the raffles this year as it helps with financing our guild's programs. Each month we had a few small raffles with quilt related gifts to win and every three months we had a raffle for a big package full of quilt related gifts to be won by one person. It was fun seeing all our quilting friends and meeting new quilting friends. All the best to you during the summer and looking forward to seeing you again in September!

WEBSITE - Liz Hubbard and Amanda Vajda

The Kanata Quilt Guild website was full of great content, but all websites need some refreshing from time to time. The site has been converted to a blog-style home page for various announcements and news posts. Some pages were rearranged and streamlined for easier access. A search box and map were added to the home page, and most recently, a calendar and listing of events.

Moving to a new web-hosting contract, for better service at a better price and in Canadian dollars, was a goal. Unfortunately, the existing contract had already been renewed early, locking us in for another three years, no refund. Guild-specific email addresses were created for the members of executive and many volunteer positions (e.g. president@kanataquiltguild.com). An online archive of newsletters and other guild documents has been set up in Google Drive.

A new responsibility was added to this position, sending the notification emails to members, which is done with the online service MailChimp. Amanda Vajda has joined me as "backup," and we will switch positions for 2017-18, operating without the paid technical support person contract after August 2016. The overall theme (appearance) has recently been changed, as the previous one fell under that contract.

COFFEE/SOCIAL COMMITTEE - Patsy Herman and Joanne Nimagon

This year it was agreed that there was not enough demand to continue with refreshments at every meetings. At Christmas we organized the refreshments, treats and craft for the December meeting. It was a huge success! We recommend that the new committee continue with this model.

CHARITY - Leslie Whitby

I would like to thank the members of the guild for their generosity this year. At Christmas, we delivered two van loads of food to the Kanata Food Bank, and another van load of hats, mitts and socks to the Shepherds of Good Hope. These donations were gladly accepted and appreciated.

We had fun making charity quilts that will go to Ronald McDonald House in Ottawa. In November, we had a Charity Sew Day attended by over 20 people, and made either Trip around the World or Disappearing Hourglass quilts. By the time we finished, 28 quilts were donated, fully quilted and bound, and with labels attached. The Executive director of the Ottawa house joined us for a few hours to encourage our efforts. We will take the quilts to the Ottawa house in June and have a visit with the residents and staff. Some members also donated pillowcases that the kids use to take their pillows to treatment and identify their own pillow. We also made small quilted panels for the kids. All in all, we had fun, got to know each other better and donated to a good cause.

I would like to thank: Doris, Liz, Claudette, Ann, Marianne, Joanne, Lynn, Joy, Pauline, Debby, Siobhan, Jess, Bev, Janet, Suzanne, Ruth, Lisa, Sue, Pat, Bonnie, Ersebet, Rita, Margaret, Kathy, Diane, Dorothy, Cathy, Joan, Nancy and Penny for their generous donations. Plus, we have a great new pattern for next year!

NEWSLETTER - Joanne Batchelor

My sincere thanks to Kanata Guild members for all your contributions to our monthly newsletter, especially the committee members who provided monthly articles. I am really grateful for the opportunity to prepare the newsletter. It made me take at least a day off each month to enjoy surfing the internet for quilt-related articles. Doing our new Block of the Month feature forced me to actually sew -- which I really enjoyed, even if only 15 minutes before deadline! And I truly appreciated all the feedback from many members. I learned so much and I hope you all found something to enjoy.