



# Peterborough Handweavers' And Spinners' Guild

Volume 29, Issue4

2006

September

---

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome back to all members. From the sounds of the plans heard at the executive meeting we are in for a great year of stimulating programs and lots of fun and fellowship.

Speaking of executive meetings, there are many details that get taken care of here once a month to keep things rolling along. Carole and I are very grateful for the dedication and initiative shown by all who have taken on these responsibilities. Many involve spending our funds wisely on your behalf. I shall use this space to report on some of these. One is that we no longer have a post office box. The fee was increasing for a service that was decreasing, so all correspondence is being directed to Donna Southern's home. Another is Pauline's vigilance over our investments to get the best interest rate and low fees. As well we have passed a motion to remind everyone that we require executive permission to spend funds over \$25 and to make changes to guild equipment.

We are going to have monthly bulletins (instead of every 2 months) on a trial basis until and including February. This is so as much business as possible will go in the bulletin instead of taking up time at general meetings. Then we will have more time for programs. Most of the bulletins are sent out by e-mail so postage is not as much of a concern as before. Thank you very much Jo for taking on the extra workload.

Congratulations on two fronts this summer – to Donna for the birth of a granddaughter and to Mary and Doug Lavery for the birth of a book. "Up the Burleigh Road" is the history of Anstruther and Burleigh townships and is available at bookstores near you. A clink of the glass to all of you from all of us!

Lois Watson

## Membership

This year our annual fee is \$35.0 with fees due by the end of September. Dee Jones will be sending out applications early next week.

## Program Notes

### *September Meeting*

This year's Challenge is all about *Terrific Treasures*. We will focus on smooth/rough, opaque/sheer, glossy/matte, and hard/soft textures. Come and experience how texture can affect and enhance your work.

THE MARKET FAIR & YARN SALE will also take place. Bring your yarns and equipment. You set the price and donate 10 per cent of your earnings to the guild.

### *October Meeting*

Barb Burbidge will review challenge guidelines and help us find sources of inspiration. We hope to see creative interpretations and encourage two or more members to collaborate on a project that would incorporate weaving, spinning and other fibre manipulation.

## Group Activities

### *Guild Meetings*

3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month at Kawartha Artists' Gallery, 729 Park St. S. Library and Store open at 7:00 pm and meetings start at 7:30 pm. Next meetings: September 18<sup>th</sup>, October 16<sup>th</sup>

### *Spinning Group*

3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays – 9:30 am to 3 pm at home of Lois Carter. Bring your wheel and a brown bag lunch.

### *Weaving Study Group*

Next meeting is Friday, Sept. 29<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am, at home of Dee Jones. All weavers welcome.

### *Autumn Treasures Workshop*

To be announced at later date.

## LIBRARY

Please remember to return all library materials borrowed in June. The fine is \$1.00 per month for each book or magazine. If you wish to renew an item, phone me at 652-5077 before the meeting and then you won't have to pay the fine. Or, you can tell me at the meeting and then bring the item in at the next meeting.

We are missing "Colour in Spinning" by Deb Menz and there is no card. Please let me know if you have it. All will be forgiven.

Suggestions for new book for the Library are welcomed.

*OVERDUES:* Silvia Stoddart – 11 Spin-Offs, 5 Handwovens, 2 books  
Helga Neal – Spin-Off – Fall 1995  
Rosemary Robertson – Spin-Off – Spring 2004, Fibre Focus-Spring 2006  
Jo Mills – Spindle and Dye pots, Handspinner's Workbook: Fancy Yarns

## EQUIPMENT

Our carder has been motorized and is now available for rent. Fee is \$10.00 for 2 weeks. Thank you to John Vanderniet for his efforts in making this happen.

An equipment rental book is at the library and a form must be completed before any equipment is removed from the library. Jo or Lois Watson must be advised as well. Equipment rental is for members only.

A filing cabinet has been kindly donated by Mary Lavery and a 3-hole punch by Jo Mills. The punch has to stay in the Guild room.

## For sale

45" LeClerc Jack Loom – 4 harness. Gently used maple loom includes 3 reeds (10-12-15). Priced to sell. Alice Sullivan @ 705-877-1597.

60" LeClerc Jack Loom – 4 harness in good condition. Three reeds-6, 8 & 12 (new). Taken apart for storage. \$600. Jo Mills @ 705-749-3323.

36" LeClerc Jack Loom – 4 harness. Well used but in good working order. Includes shuttles, 12dpi reed, misc. books. \$300. Jo Mills @705-749-3323.

## Calendar of Events

- Aug 31/Sept 28      Belleville Guild celebrates 50<sup>th</sup> with a show "Going for Gold" at the John M. Parrott Gallery in the Belleville Public Library.
- September 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>      International Plowing Match, Keene, Ontario. Please call Lois Watson if you can help at the spinning or weaving tents.
- Sept 20th/Oct 1st      Peterborough Arts Week
- September 23<sup>rd</sup>-24th      Kawartha Studios Art Tour.
- September 30<sup>th</sup>      Doors Open, Peterborough.
- Sept 30/Oct 1      Fibrefest at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum & the Almonte Civitan Hall. Vendors, suppliers, demos. \$5.00 admission
- October 3<sup>rd</sup>      Spin-in, Warkworth Weavers & Spinners, Campbellford, Ontario
- October 7<sup>th</sup> – 8<sup>th</sup>      Kawartha Eclectics Show, Sale & Workshops
- October 21<sup>st</sup>      Central Region Seminar. *Stone Soup*. OHS and Central Region at the Ontario Science Centre, 9am-5pm. Contact Carolyn Franke at [carolynfranke@rogers.com](mailto:carolynfranke@rogers.com)
- November 2-4      Kingston Handloom Weavers & Spinners, Annual Show and Sale. Thurs 2:00-8:00; Fri 10:00 am-8:00; Sat 10:00 am-4:00 at the John K. Tett Centre, 370 King Street West, Kingston.

## FIBRE FOCUS INTERVIEWS

*The following is the first of four interviews done by Donna Southern for publication in the OHS Fibre Focus magazine.*

### **Our Foundations and Our Future: Lifetime Weavers Share Their Perspectives**

*Where have our guilds come from and where are we going? This seems to be a timely question in the year when OHS is celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary. Looking for an answer took me on a journey to visit four members of my guild who have been active participants locally or provincially, since 1956, when the constitution was adopted for the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners. Due to their ongoing demonstrated commitment to the operation of their guild, these four are now honorary lifetime members of the Peterborough Handweavers and Spinners. They are: Pauline Fanning, Ethel Smedmor, Pat Battye and Edna Phillips. During the summer of 2006, I had the pleasure of meeting with each of them to talk about their guild membership. Here are their reflections on past successes and their perspectives on the future of weaving guilds.*

## Peterborough Handweavers' and Spinners' Guild

### Pat Battye

Pat Battye is a woman who seizes opportunities when they arise. She has a long history that reflects her interests in fibre and textiles. To look at her collection of woven and embroidered goods is to understand her love of the many ways she can use her hands to create overshot covers and woven mats.

As a young child Pat contracted polio. The disease prohibited her from a great deal of physical activity, but she always had a love for "handwork". She also had an unanswered wish to be educated at an institution where she could further her skills in textiles. Although she was never able to formally pursue her education in fibre arts, Pat found ways to further her understanding and develop her technical skill in a variety of areas.

In the 1940's Pat built her first two harness loom using planks from the sand box her children no longer used! It had no legs and she sat on the floor to weave. "It was good enough that I could weave mats and things that I sold," says Pat. That loom was the inspiration she needed to go farther with her weaving and in the late 1940's she purchased a new four harness 36 inch Leclerc. After it was shipped from Quebec, she proudly set it up in her dining room. Pat says she was lucky that her children were "getting on a bit" and giving her some time to weave. Wanting to be at home, yet wanting to take on some work, Pat found that weaving allowed her to do both. In Toronto, Rita Bannister became her teacher and mentor. Rita had a small shop and sold looms along with woven goods. Pat was hired as her manager at a small store off Yonge Street. This job worked well for Pat, as she wove on Rita's loom while she was working in the shop. The shop only remained open for about two years and afterwards Pat began to sell her goods through the Toronto Guild at their store on Bloor Street. Pat says that customers were always interested in fine work and that buyers understood the care and effort that went into the creation of an original piece of quality hand weaving.

Pat describes herself as "not a very social person", yet she clearly has an understanding of the need for people to come together in guilds to support one another. In her days of the Peterborough Handweavers and Spinner's she says there were, regularly, over one hundred members in attendance at meetings. (Today the Peterborough guild has a membership of about thirty-five weavers and spinners.) During her presidency the guild put on annual fashion shows and teas. Pat spoke highly of the quality items woven by people such as Ricky Oldfield (OHS area rep in 1974) and others.

Today, in her home, there are many fine examples of hand weaving and embroidery. In her ninety-ninth year she tells me she has left hand weaving behind for the past 10 years...to pursue the fine art of Hardanger embroidery, until last year when she turned 98. The exacting nature of this work would challenge anyone who has an interest and skill in working with fine threads!

When asked about the future of the weaving guild, Pat says: "There will always be some people who are interested in those skills, so guilds won't die".

*It was, to say the least, a humbling and eye-opening experience to meet and talk with all four of these weavers. Each woman is unique in her own right, yet there were commonalities among the four. They take great pride in the leadership they have shown, whether organizing seminars and conferences, or giving leadership as guild presidents and sharing their time and talent with study group members. They have all maintained high standards and the work of each weaver demonstrates incomparable technical expertise. They see change happening and are comfortable in the knowledge that the skill and talent required of a weaver will thrive, so long as there are people who are willing to learn and perfect their work. They are, to a one, very worthy of being known as "honorary" members.*

Editor's note: The other three members will be featured in the next three issues.

## The Niddy Noddy Column

Don't be shy. Share your thoughts, ideas and experiences.

You can give me hardcopy at a meeting or send me your notes by e-mail to [jomillsjo@hotmail.com](mailto:jomillsjo@hotmail.com).



### The WOW Factor by Jo Mills

Have you ever looked into those bins containing small samples of roving? You know the ones! They are usually marked "special – up to 50% off".

The Optimist (that's me) says "**WOW**" and starts to pull them out, clutching as many as possible in one hand while still digging around with the other hand.

The Pessimist (I don't know many) says "**WHAT'S WRONG**" with them and carefully pulls one bag out at a time, reads the label, puts it back and repeats the process until after 3 bags or so finds one to buy or declares "*there isn't much here*".

My most recent WOW Factor was a bin The Black Lamb had at the Campbellford Spin-In. Lovely baby llama and camel, which I had never tried to spin, were my first grabs. And they did indeed spin up well on their own although next time I would blend the camel with a longer fiber.

Then I reached in and came up with a bag marked Yak. WOW. How exotic. How wonderful. "**WOW. I have to try this.**"

It is now July and my WOW YAK Factor has turned into a WOW YUCK Factor. I'm sure it will make something nice if blended or felted but I will now be placing those "special-50% off" Yak bags back into the bins.

It is not enough to turn me into a pessimist but if anyone wants to try Yak I have a special....!

## Keeping in Touch



Newsletter submissions can be sent to Jo Mills at 210 Carlisle Avenue, Peterborough, K9H 1J6, or you can e-mail me at [jomillsjo@hotmail.com](mailto:jomillsjo@hotmail.com). You can also telephone at 705-749-3323. Deadline for submissions is the 28<sup>th</sup> of each month.

Our newsletter can be viewed at [www.aymgael.com/PBO\\_handweaving\\_spinning/default.html](http://www.aymgael.com/PBO_handweaving_spinning/default.html)

E-mail can be sent to [weaver@aym-gael.com](mailto:weaver@aym-gael.com).

Correspondence should be sent to Donna Southern, 1320 Hetherington Drive, Peterborough, Ontario, K9L 1X4.

