



# Peterborough Handweavers' And Spinners' Guild

Volume 29, Issue 7

2007

January

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## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to 2007 and a beautiful winter so far. We are looking forward to planning and creating new and colourful things this year.

Thanks to Pauline Fanning and her helpers for arranging a delicious Christmas dinner in comfortable surroundings. We learned to make a simple drop spindle with help from the Program Committee and look forward to making use of them at the January meeting.

Also, thanks to Donna Southern for her perseverance in getting the biographies of our honorary members published in the latest Fibre Focus.

As you probably know by now we had a most successful showing of our items at the Autumn Treasure's show. Plans are underway for 2007. We thank all those who participated and hope to see even more members start to plan ahead for next November.

Carole Erwin

## 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 meeting: January 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Executive Meetings* Monday, February 5<sup>th</sup> at home of Donna Southern.  
Monday, March 5<sup>th</sup> at home of Jo Mills.
- 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, Feb. 23<sup>rd</sup>, 9:30 am at Maxine's.

## Program Notes

### *January*

We are pleased to have Jannette Hofstede will be speaking to us about different types of spindles and then will demonstrate and teach us how to use a spindle. Bring your disc and dowel spindle from the December meeting. The Guild will provide fleece.

### *February*

Elwood Jones will speak to us about the woolen mills of Peterborough.

## Publicity/Special Events

This newly created position, held this year by Mary Lavery, involves publicizing everything we do outside of regular monthly meetings. If you wish Mary to speed into action on an event you are organizing please let her know in good time what you would like her to do.

Mary has investigated the opportunities for members to sell items at Periwinkles, the new 'tea room' at the corner of King and Rubidge. Elaine Kempt, proprietor, has advised that she will deal with individuals and that her commission is 30%. Elaine is available at 741-0455. Periwinkles is open from Mon-Sat, 8am-5pm and Sunday, 10am to 4pm.

## Social

The following have signed up for social at each meeting. If you cannot fulfill your duties please contact Phyllis Lupton as soon as possible. We will need 3 people to organize the June get-together. Please bring milk and treats. Tea, coffee, sugar & serviettes are in the kitchen bin. Duties are to set-up and put away all equipment. Do not leave anything in the kitchen.

January	Bev Hill and Gina Peers
February	Lois Watson and Dee Jones
March	Silvia Stoddard and Rosemary Robertson
April	Doris Huffman and Lois Carter
May	Donna Southern and Lee French
June	

## LIBRARY

The library is open for borrowing at 7:00 pm on meeting nights. Put returning books in the basket on the library table.

If you wish to renew a book and avoid paying the fine of \$1.00 per book or magazine per month, phone Lois at 652-5077 or e-mail [watsonl@pipcom.com](mailto:watsonl@pipcom.com). You will have one more month before it needs to be returned. You may also renew at a meeting.

If you wish to take out a book or magazine on a non-meeting day, PLEASE DO NOT FORGET TO TAKE THE CARD OUT OF THE ENVELOPE IN THE BOOK, SIGN YOUR NAME AND INSERT THE DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING ON IT AND ON THE DATE DUE SLIP. Then put it in the wooden card box on the library shelf. The dates of meetings are in the lid of the wooden box.

We have 4 new books that have been purchased and are available for borrowing at the January meeting. They are:

*Pursenality Plus* by Eva Wachmann (instructions for felted knitted bags);

*Time to Weave* by Jane Patrick (simple weaving ideas);

*The Magic of Doubleweave* by Madelyn vander Hoogt (another of the Best of Weavers series);

*A Treasury of Magical Knitting* by Cat Bordhi (knitting Moebius shaped items).

Thank you to Pauline and Doris for the following donated books:

*Knitting Workshop* by Elizabeth Zimmerman

*Knitter's Almanac* by Elizabeth Zimmerman

*African Textiles and Decorative Arts*

A total of 10 new books have been added to the library since September.

## Guild Challenge 2007: Are You Inspired?

The program committee reminds you that this year's challenge is about texture. By now, you might be giving some consideration to the items that may inspire you. A beautiful picture, a piece of art, an item of interest in your home environment, can all act as inspiration when you are thinking about the texture you will create. This year, when you bring your finished item to the June meeting, we would also like you to bring along the item (or a photo of the item) that has inspired you to spin or weave your final product.

Do you have a partner? Although it is not required to work with someone else, you are encouraged to talk about your ideas with another guild member. If you are using the same item for inspiration, you might choose to work together on the final product.

Whether you are working on your own or sharing your inspiration and work with another guild member, we look forward to seeing your "textured" item at the June meeting!

Program Committee

## EQUIPMENT

An equipment rental book is at the library and a rental form **must be completed before** any equipment is removed from the library. This form should be signed upon return with the return date and payment made to Pauline at the next meeting. Please have Pauline sign the rental form when you pay her. Jo or Lois Watson must be advised when equipment is rented. Equipment rental is for members only.

On your Membership List add to Library and Equipment, Jo Mills (749-3323 or [jomillsjo@hotmail.com](mailto:jomillsjo@hotmail.com)).

## FOR SALE/WANTED

**Wanted:** Shannock Tapestry Loom, minimum 4'. Contact Beth Hebert at [dean.Hebert@sympatico.ca](mailto:dean.Hebert@sympatico.ca).

## 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).



### *Brownsville, Tennessee's Cotton and Alice Sullivan* by Mary Lavery.

After repeated invitations from Alice and Charles Sullivan to visit them in Tennessee, Doug and myself accepted their kindness and headed south in late October this year. Alice, an associate member of the PHSG, and her husband Charles, have enjoyed summers at their island cottage on Stoney Lake for the past 10 years. We, in turn, have enjoyed their friendship and Alice's keen interest in weaving, painting and calligraphy. Alice wove floor rugs and a coverlet on her Leclerc loom at the cottage, and attended workshops at our Guild to increase her extensive weaving and colour design knowledge. It was a great disappointment to see them sell their cottage and return to Tennessee permanently. We hope that they will visit Stoney Lake, and us, next summer.

Alice and Charles recently purchased a large former plantation house in the village of Brownsville, Tennessee, half an hour east of Memphis. This gorgeous vintage home, filled with antiques, provided a warm home for our visit. They graciously introduced us to their village and took us to an amazing evening of Broadway music performed expertly by young and older singers from the village. We were welcomed by everyone but never more warmly than by the family who had shown us their cotton plantation.

As we traveled west on Hwy #40 Alice warned me that the fields of chocolate brown and white were NOT covered in snow, but cotton balls! Still, I was not prepared for this never-ending beautiful site as we traveled toward Brownsville. The cotton was ripe for picking, which must be done before it turns brown and its quality decreases. The "picker", an immense high vehicle, works a rotating wheel, jabbing the cotton off its open pods with "needles". A tube below sucks up the cotton and a powerful fan blows the cotton up into the truck. Another machine packs and compresses the cotton and another machine feeds 18 bales into larger bales or "modules" ready for delivery to one of the co-operatively owned local cotton gins. If the cotton and bales are wet they are left for two weeks in the field to dry.

The cotton gins separate the seed from the cotton in a carding process. Seeds are carded from the cotton as U.S.A. laws prohibit the use or reuse of the cotton seed. It must be discarded! MONSANTO has the government contract to germinate and sell new seed to the farmer – 50 lbs for \$400 plus a "technology fee". I asked if I could take some seed to germinate but it would be illegal for me to do so and illegal for me to transport the seed across the border into Canada.

We traveled around the fields in a large truck, bumping through the tracks and furrows to get a close look at the field, the process and the irrigation arms. Doug and I had seen

## Peterborough Handweavers' and Spinners' Guild

such irrigators from the air while flying across the Midwest USA. The irrigation arm sweeps around creating a round green circle in the square brown field providing what I think would be an amazing draft for a weaving or quilting pattern. And here we were on the ground gazing at this immense 'arm' that waters a sweep of 260 feet and turns on and off automatically as needed. This is a new system to this plantation and attention was drawn to the difference in height of the cotton plants that had been irrigated compared to those which had not, quite a remarkable difference. Crop rotation is practiced between wheat, soybeans and cotton with cotton grown in a certain field only every two years. Boll weevils are the dirge of the cotton grower but recently a system has been developed to eradicate the problem. Plastic bottles are hung on fence posts as a sexual attraction to the weevil. It works; the weevils drown in the solution inside.

The owner of the plantation, a member of the USA Cotton Industry Board, provided a wealth of knowledge on the history and current practices as well as the future of this industry. The price of cotton in the USA has dropped dramatically, even with the push toward use of natural fibres in clothing. Worldwide markets have grown immensely. China is now the largest producer of cotton in the world, followed by Brazil and the USA. Only ¼ of Tennessee's cotton is marketed to the large mills in North Carolina. Most of the cotton goes to China, the Mid-east and Mexico.

What a great education that afternoon was. Isn't that what travel is all about – new vistas and knowledge and lots to think about when you return home. I very proudly brought back a large 'bouquet' of cotton. Our grandchildren were fascinated! Come and see it!





## 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.