



Elm City Quilters' Guild



February 2007

Cheryl Petreman, editor

Minutes of the January 9th Meeting - Lois Estabrooks, secretary

73 members in attendance

Program: Terry Teskey spoke on her trip to China and showed pictures of their tour of a silk factory. We got to see silk worms in their cocoon, her silk quilt, and her kimona. We saw pictures of the silk worms that you could buy at a night market to snack on. Great presentation, Terry!

Financial report:

Ann Wood, treasurer

Profit from raffle tickets	\$486.00
Balance as of Jan.05, 2007	<u>\$5,058.96</u>

Approval was given to pay rent for the year based on days used @ \$50.00 a day. The Maugerville Community Center is to be paid \$100.00 for rent owed.

Correspondence:

A thank you letter was read from Transition House for all the goods received from the Xmas dinner. Cecile Grant thanked everyone on behalf of the SPCA for the goods they received.

Charity: Jennifer Speedy reported that 28 of the 48 blocks passed out had returned for the Flag quilt. She is also asking for wall hangings for York Manor. She will take any bibs or turbans that anyone wishes to make.

Retreat: Connie Fullerton spoke about the retreat at Villa Madonna in Saint John Feb. 16th-18th. She needs an exact number and your money soon. Checkout the November Newsletter for details or contact Connie at 472-0794 / fullak@nb.sympatico.ca

Fat Quarters: Donna Chase

Door Prize: Ruth Randall

Raffle Quilt: Wendy Ferguson (Jackie's daughter-in-law) - *drawn at December meeting*

Upcoming UFPD: January 20 - Fabric swap for "Dakota Lulu" with Sandra Day. Cutting requirements were passed out to interested attendees.

Hopefully, more dates can be arranged in Feb. at the Masonic Hall. Cecile Grant has agreed to teach "Stack and Whack" and Don & Ann Cole will teach "Autumn Leaves" (displayed at the entrance to our quilt show – photo available at <http://tinyurl.com/yhhs5g>)

Executive meeting: Thursday January 18, 7 p.m. at the Nashwaaksis Superstore.

Hint! Hint!

This newsletter is available online at <http://cheryl.thisbe.org/ECQG>. From there, there are links to free patterns, lessons & quilt photos as well as to Canadian guilds, stores & fibre artists.

Elm City's Quilt Retreat Villa Madonna - Feb.16-18, 2007

Connie Fullarton, Organizer

By the response for our Retreat I think everyone is as anxious to get to the Villa Madonna again. I think we will have pretty much a full house. I am so pleased that so many of our new members are coming as well as some of the Woodstock girls. You won't regret it! .

Directions to Villa Madonna--When travelling from Fredericton go through Saint John towards Quispamsis. Take the Rothesay exit #133 (about 10 min from the Harbour Bridge. This exit brings you on Fox Farm Road, follow it to the end. Take a left and travel .5Km. Take a right under the rail bridge and continue straight. Turn left at the second driveway.

Arrival time is 9:30 Friday morning or whenever you get there. All breaks and meals are included, you will be well fed and there is no need to bring extra food. Departure time is sometime after lunch on Sunday. You will find a list of names and room numbers in the entry way when you arrive so you will know where to find your room.

Please wear your nametag this weekend so we will remember everyones name. Remember to bring lots of goodies for show and tell on Friday night including the doll quilt and pot holder if you made one. Pack your camera too if you want to take pictures of Show and Tell.

Bring lots of UFO's and all your sewing needs, fabric, thread, cutters, cutting board (or share one) To prevent any electrical problems we have to limit the number of irons we use, so again this year we will have ironing stations set up in each room.

For one of the very short demo's on Saturday you will need four 8" half square triangles, tone on tone on one side and dark on the other. Can be all the same or 4 different half square triangles but must be squared off to 8".

For those of you who have old books, magazines, fabric, patterns etc. that you just want to get rid of--bring them along and there will be someone who will gladly take them off your hands. Town and Country Quilts (a very nice quilt store)is located in Quispamsis behind Sobeys. The owner Tina is offering us a NO TAX discount so if you happen to go there be sure to tell her you are at the retreat.

For those of you who haven't been to the retreat before --you are in for a great weekend. The Villa Madonna is a wonderful place and you will find everyone is so willing to help you with anything you might have problems with. You can stay up all night and sew in your PJ's if you wish. We have the place to ourselves. You will go home inspired with all kinds of ideas and you will know more people from the guild than you did before you went and who to call when you need help.

Please feel free to call me at home 472-0794 if you have any questions or problems and if I'm not home leave a message and I will call you back. Looking forward to seeing you at the Retreat!

Enroute to the retreat, consider a detour to the **River Gallery** - 7310 Route 102, Glenwood, NB 1-877-468-9004, <http://www.rivergallery.ca>, contact@rivergallery.ca

- February sales: bundles of coordinated fat quarters are all \$13.75 -- some of these bundles contain up to 12 fat quarters and the Bali and batik bundles are up to 50% off
- Also, approximately 45 bolts of fabric have been reduced up to 75%! \$3.49 metre with a 1 metre minimum cut.
- In addition, just for the retreat weekend, Sande will discount ALL regularly priced quilting fabrics on the bolt by 20%

Sande has expanded her Japanese fabric product line as well as her Sashiko product line. She has new bolts of all kinds of quilting fabric coming in right before the retreat so if you haven't been into the shop or are looking for a great deal or some different fabrics; drop by & browse...

Winter hours are Fri,Sat,Sun,Mon 10-4 or by appointment.

How to be a Prolific Quilter – Cheryl Petreman

People seem to get the impression that I sit home all day doing nothing but sew. While it's true that I have neither a job nor children, I only average about an hour per day in the sewing room. The productivity gain comes from some of the techniques that I've learned along the way:

- It is absolutely essential that you find somewhere that you can leave your sewing machine, ironing station & cutting board set up & ready for use at all times. My first "sewing room" was literally the closet in the guest bedroom – just because I've now taken over the "master" bedroom doesn't mean that I couldn't get by with less! Hang a curtain or buy a screen, but don't waste time taking things out & putting them back everytime you want to sew!
- Sew at least 15 minutes everyday! Don't wait until you manage to clear an entire day and/or afternoon to sew... life has a nasty way of changing your plans. Suppose you want 9-Patch blocks – break it down into daily tasks & you'll have several completed at the end of the week:
 1. Cut strips
 2. Sew strips together
 3. Press strip-sets open
 4. Subcut strip-sets
 5. Sew 9-Patch blocks
 6. Press blocks open
- Have multiple projects of various skill levels on the go at any one time. You need at least one hand-project to work on while waiting in doctor's offices, etc. There are days when you absolutely cannot concentrate, and you should just sew strips or do something else rather mindless. Other times, you're bored and need the challenge of paper-piecing, etc.
- Stop being a perfectionist! From 2+ feet away, nobody will be able to tell if your seams don't match... There are **NO QUILT POLICE!**
- Ripping out stitching takes time... If you just can't bear to live with a mistake, it's much faster to cut new fabric & re-sew the block. However, after giving away 100 quilts+, I have **never** had anyone say: "oh, look at that mistake"... they are generally thrilled to receive something unique!
- Learn to sew without pins... You can press the seam allowances so that they lock together. Ask an experienced quilter to show you how.
- The more sewing that can be done before you cut, the faster the quilt goes together... Just think about making $\frac{1}{2}$ square triangle blocks. Previously, one would cut two triangles, stack them on top of each other & sew on the diagonal edge. It's faster to iron a square in $\frac{1}{2}$ diagonally, stack it on another square, sew on either side of the diagonal, & cut them apart. Checkout other methods in "How do you like your HSTs?" in May's newsletter. To be even more efficient use Anita Hallock's *Fast Patch* method to go straight from squares to rows of HSTs or flying geese.
- Following the same observation that time is wasted while stacking one piece on top of another, Debbie Caffery has come up with *Power Cutting*. Suppose you want to make 4-patches & have sewn a light strip to a dark strip twice. Normally, you'd probably go ahead and subcut each of the strips & then stack the 'pairs' individually. With power cutting, you carefully position the two strip sets right sides together, matching the centre seam & **then** subcut. The pieces can go straight under the needle without any more fussing.
- Stack your strips before you sub-cut. With a sharp blade in your rotary cutter & you should be able to go through 6-8 layers of fabric at a time.

How to be a Prolific Quilter (continued)

- Cutting is time consuming... If you have extra pre-cut strips at the end of a project, then **sort** them into zip-lock bags by strip-width. When a large ziplock (27x28cm) is full, add a couple metres of tone-on-tone background & there's enough fabric to make a scrappy single bed quilt or couch throw.
- If you have an overflowing scrap bag, then either get rid of it (donate it to a new quilter) or cut it up into usable sizes while watching TV. The definition of "usable size" is up to you... it depends on which scrap quilt you'd like to make next... I personally keep bags of 1½", 2", 2½", ..., 6", 6½" strips/squares. Bonnie Hunter has lots of ideas in her *Scrap User's System*.
- Threading your machine & dealing with knots on the bobbin side is time consuming... I'd say that 85% of sewing machine problems have to do with the thread jumping out of the take up lever... 10% of the remaining are due to the needle unthreading itself... If you chain piece and **always** leave a piece of fabric under the needle, then you can avoid both of these.

Taking it one step further is Bonnie Hunter's *Leaders & Enders* idea. While working on other projects, she always has a box of 2" squares beside her machine. When done chain-piecing during any step of her project, she simply pairs up 2 squares and sews off her project & onto the squares. When ready to start again, she sews off the squares & onto the project fabric. Over the course of time, she completes an entire scrap quilt without consciously working on it...

References:

Making Time to Quilt by Carol Miller (http://www.quiltuniversity.com/making_time.htm)

10-20-30 Minutes to Sewing or *10-20-30 Minutes to Quilt* by Nancy Zieman (*Sewing with Nancy*)

Sew Fast, Faster, Fastest by Sue Hausman (*America Sews*)

Anita Hallock's *Fast Patch* books (<http://www.pacinfo.com/~hallock>)

Power Cutting by Debbie Caffrey

Linda MacPhee's classes & videos (<http://www.macpheedworkshop.com>)

Kaye Wood's Quilting Friends TV Show & Books (<http://www.kayewood.com>)

Bonnie Hunter's *Scrap Users System* and *Leaders & Enders* (<http://www.quiltville.com>)

Rodale's Successful Quilting Library – titles include *Perfect Piecing*, *Applique Made Easy*, etc.

Programs:

Feb 5	History of Quilting
Mar 5	Learning Stations
Apr 2	Quilters Profile
May 7	Fabric Selection - Christine Burrill
Jun 4	Pot luck

Work Days:

Feb. 10	Stack-n-Whack - Cecile Grant
Mar. 3	UFPD
Mar. 17	Paper-Piecing – Linda Hubbard \$20 pre-registration required
Apr. 20-21	Mini-Retreat

Library

Kimberly Day, Librarian

In the year 2005-2006 Elm City spent approx \$900 on new books for the library. These books have been well received and enjoyed by many members.

The library is proposing that between Feb.-Apr. we take suggestions for new book titles.

The library is also requesting a budget for the purpose of purchasing some of these new books.

April Magazine Draw

Due to low circulation, the library will no longer subscribe to any magazines. The *binders* have been cleaned out and bundled into 20 prizes. At the April meeting, one raffle ticket will be given in exchange for each donation of a non-perishable food item or \$1.

This is a great way to help the food bank!!

So you want to do Stack-n-Wack... with Cecile Grant

February 10th 9 am - 3 pm at the Masonic Hall

Choosing your *focus fabric* is fun! You will be selecting colours and a design which you love. Normally, you may not purchase this fabric due to the *scale of the design*, but for this pattern, it will be perfect! Select a design which has a *variety of lines and angles*. The busier and more colourful the pattern, the more interesting the blocks will be. Fabrics depicting *sceneries, large flowers, birds, and animals* are usually good choices. Avoid small scale prints or those which lack a lot of contrast.

You will need to purchase **eight (8) pattern repeats** of the focus fabric. Depending on the design, the pattern may be repeated at every 8, 10, 12 or more inches. For this project, you must base your purchase on the number of repeats & not the number of metres.

You will need one or two complimentary fabrics. It is a good idea to bring more than one of these because it is often very difficult to tell ahead of time which colour will be best to enhance the kaleidoscope. These fabrics may be plain or, at least, the design must not compete with the focus fabric. You may want to purchase the same amount of these as of the focus fabric. You may even have these in your stash.

The purpose of the workshop will be to make *kaleidoscope blocks*. The way in which you decide to set those blocks will determine how much of the complimentary fabric you will need. The purchase requirement which I am suggesting should be enough to make at least a single bed quilt. My recommendation is always: **if you love it, buy lots!**

Flat headed (ie: flower) pins are essential!!

Contact Cecile with any questions:
472-8089 or cng@nb.sympatico.ca

PS: if you can't make the class, checkout the step by step photos at

<http://www.bobrow.net/kimberly/Quilts/Tutorial>

Quilters Are An Economic Powerhouse

discovered by Kathy Feltmate

According to the latest Quilting in America survey just released, there are now more than 27 million quilters in the United States, who collectively spend a total of \$3.3 billion per year on quilting supplies and equipment. The survey, by Quilter's Newsletter Magazine and International Quilt Market and Festival, has been conducted every three years since 1994.

The survey also takes an in-depth look at the "dedicated quilter" (less than 5% of all quilters). Defined as quilters who spend more than \$600 per year (as opposed to the average of \$172 per year), the dedicated quilter is:

- Female
- 59 years old
- Well-educated (72% went to college)
- Affluent (\$87,000 average household income)
- Spends on average \$2,304 per year on quilting (88% of total spending comes from this group)
- Has been quilting an average of 13 years

The survey confirms that quilting is still a burgeoning pastime in the U.S. and not, as some have stated, a dying craft. For more information about this study and how to obtain a copy, go to <http://www.quiltchannel.com>

Finish those UFOs (unfinished objects)

Even if you don't like whatever it is that you've made, finish it up somehow. It doesn't matter if it becomes the center of a tablecloth that you sit a vase on, or a dog blanket. If you don't finish it, the mental energy that is drained off will keep you from starting anything new. If all else fails, follow Mary Ellen Hopkins' advice and put it in a silver box with a bow on it and a card that says "To my son's future wife", and put it on the top shelf of your closet. Problem solved.

Linda Schmidt
<http://home.comcast.net/~shortattn>

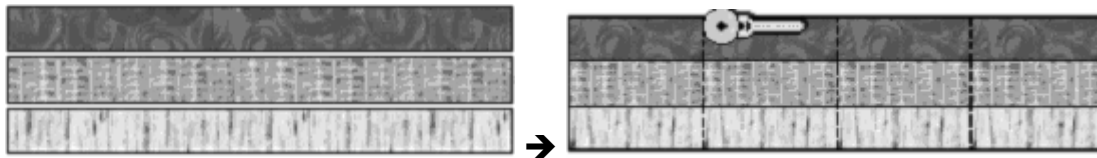


Mystery Quilt Part 4: Rail-Fence - Cheryl Petreman

Using the remainder of the medium & dark 2" strips cut in Part 1, construct rail-fence blocks as follows:

Option 1: Scrappy

Sew any 3 strips together, in any order. Press the strip-sets open & subcut every 5".

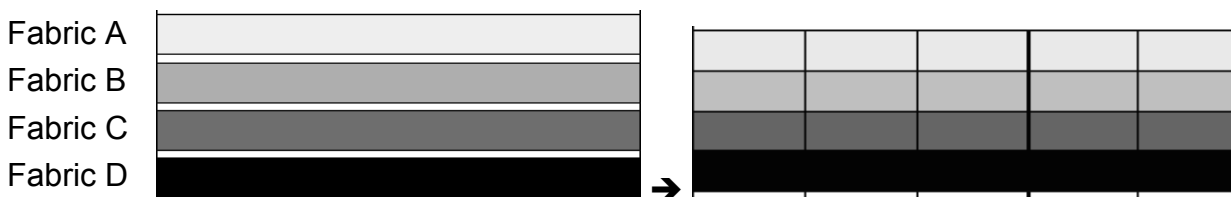


Your blocks will be 5" square. Make the following number:

Crib	Double	Queen
28	60	80

Option 2: Using only 4 Fabrics

Sew 2" strips of each fabric in order. Press the strip-sets open & subcut every 5".



Your blocks will be 6.5" x 5" rectangles. Make the following number:

Crib	Double	Queen
21	45	25

Valery Moreland & Lois Mehan invite you to join them on Tuesday, February 27th, between the hours of 9am & 3pm at the Holy Family Parish Church Hall on Hanwell for a

Transition House Workshop & Pot Luck Lunch

This is our Swan Song. We have enjoyed many of these workshops in the past and have decided to hang up our thimbles, so to speak. We have over a dozen pinned quilts ready to quilt, more "kits" ready to put together, and much fabric to organize and/or disperse. Those of you who have come in the past know how much fun we will have and how well we will eat. If you've never made it to one of these workshops before, ***this is your last chance***. We will mark, pin, sew and bind quilts for children in Transition Houses, giving them something to "own" after they have had to leave so much behind in their flight from abuse. The Fredericton Quilters' Guild has taken a broader approach to our charity work within the city, and that is not a bad thing. However, a lot of fabric has been donated "for Transition House" over the years, so we thought one final fling for the cause might clear up the backlog.

Come out, bring your machine if possible, walking foot, some thread, a pot, and enthusiasm. If your machine is not available, we always need people to pin, mark, cut binding, press, etc. It is a FUN day. It is a learning day for those new to the art of quilting. (**What better way to learn** all our quilting shortcuts than to see them at work?) It is a social day, cementing friendships and making new ones. And because we are all such good cooks, it will be a "gourmet" day as well. Anyone in need of transportation could call either Val (454-3760) or Lois (459-5708) and we will try to arrange a ride, if possible.

PS – Guild membership is not a requirement! We welcome all friends and relatives!