

the seminar

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar has been sharing, promoting and educating handspinners since 1964.

www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca

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Fall Newsletter 2022

Blending it all together



June 2 – 4, 2023

Holiday Inn, Burlington

Hotel and Conference Centre

Come Join Us!

Many hands make light work, and we're looking for a few more hands on the Organizing Committee.

Help a little or help a lot, your contribution will surely enhance the Seminar. More than likely, you'll end up with some good friends, to boot!

Expect calm monthly meetings until May, then a frenzy of activity just before and during the Seminar.

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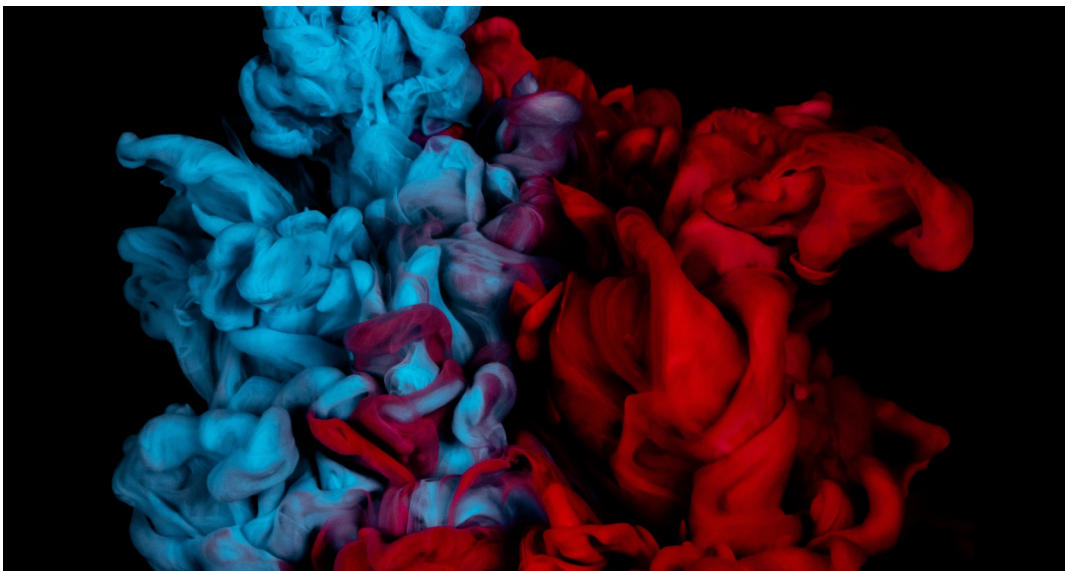
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Blending it all together

According to the dictionary, blending is the action of mixing or combining things together. In fibre arts this means a lot more than blending fibres or colours, although that is certainly one part of blending. We also blend techniques and disciplines. Blending fibres for felting, spinning yarn for weaving, weaving stories and fibre arts together to create new tales to be told. Communities are blended together through fibre arts, with people teaching others across the world. We blend so many aspects of our lives and fibre arts in all we do. This year at the Seminar we will explore some of the many ways to blend it all together. The Organizing Committee is hard at work planning an IN-PERSON Seminar. We will blend vendors and spins and competitions and workshops and a banquet and a fashion show! Keep an eye out for the Spring Newsletter, where we'll introduce our keynote speaker and workshop leaders.

Call for Presenters

The Seminar is searching for speakers for keynote session(s) and workshops focused on Blending. Blending may include colour, techniques, fibres, end use, communities, media, etc. Submit your session proposal to <https://forms.gle/1dsjpW1kpmgpR9n96> . Submission deadline is December 31, 2022.



Accommodations The Seminar will take place at the **Holiday Inn—Burlington Hotel and Conference Centre**. The Hotel is located at 3063 South Service Road, Burlington. This is very near the intersection of Guelph Line and the QEW. We have held the Seminar here in the past and have been very happy with the all-under-one-roof facility. This is a 100% smoke-free facility.

A block of hotel rooms has been set aside for us until approximately May 3, 2023. Reservations can be made by calling, toll-free, 1-888-Holiday. Please be sure to mention that you are attending the Ontario Handspinning Seminar in order to receive the group rate.

The price per standard room (with 2 double beds, or one queen bed with pull out) is \$135.00 + 13% HST + 4% MAT (Municipal Accommodation Tax) per night. There is a surcharge of \$10.00 per room per night if you have three or four people staying in one room.



Photo by [Chris Curry](#) on [Unsplash](#)

Receiving the Newsletters The Spring and Fall newsletters are posted on the Ontario Handspinning Seminar website www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca. Anyone who has attended the Seminar in the past three years or who has requested information about the Seminar in the past two years will receive an email to notify them when the newsletter is available on the website.

Seminar 2023 Registration The workshop details, schedule, and registration information will be available in the Spring Newsletter.

Vendors The sales area has easy access for set up and take down by vendors. Booth space is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-included basis. To ensure that you're on the mailing list for vendors to receive more information about our marketplace opportunity, contact the Salesroom Convenor, Margo Murley, at ontariohandspinningseminar1964@gmail.com.

2022 WOW Award Winner: Catharina Forbes for her Autumn Cardigan



Fashion Show We are pleased to offer our ever-amazing fashion show. Fashion show items may be made using any technique and fibre type. This event is a wonderful way to have your handspinning seen by your peers and to gain inspiration from others.

Baggie Challenge The \$50 award recognizes an item created from fibre received in at the previous Seminar, following guidelines set out in the Challenge. This year we will have three Baggie Challenges to award! Winners are chosen by ballots cast by 2023 Seminar attendees. If you attended the 2019, 2021, and/or 2022 Seminar, bring your Baggie Challenge items!

2019 – You Can’t Make a Silk Purse Out of a Sow’s Ear Your challenge was to make a “purse” out of the “unrefined” items found in the baggie handed out in 2019. You must have used at least some of every fibre in your baggie and you may also have used additional fibres from your stash.

2021 – Stash Dive Challenge Your challenge was to make an item solely from material you had in your stash.

2022— Spinning Together (A Community Project) Your challenge was to collectively make an item and tell us the story of your community.



2023 Display

Everyone is encouraged to bring an item(s) to put into the Display. This is an opportunity for us to exchange ideas and to indulge in a bit of “Show-and-Tell” — a chance to see what others have been working on since the last Seminar. No matter what your level of experience, it is nice to be inspired by each other. This is also an opportunity to have a close look at items that might be in the Fashion Show. Items on display will be eligible for the WOW award and items made from 100% handspun will be eligible for the Founders Award.

2023 Competition Categories

Simple 2-ply skein: Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn.

3 or more ply skein: Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn.

Novelty skein: Your goal is to construct a yarn which boasts a decorative element. This may be a spinning technique (crepe or bouclé for example) or it may consist of additions to your spun yarn (beads, feathers etc.). The choice is yours...so have fun with it.

Spindle-spun skein: The 2-or-more-ply yarn must be spun and plied on a hand spindle.

Garments: Projects may include sweaters, vests, jackets, shawls, etc.

Accessories: Projects may include hats, scarves, socks, mittens, etc.

Other: Projects may include dolls, tea cozies, placemats, household items, etc.

For all categories the following guidelines apply:

- Seminar participants are limited to one entry per category
- Only entries made entirely of handspun yarn are eligible for the Founders Award
- Entries in all the categories must have been completed since the last Seminar (2019).

Levels of Experience

Beginner (2 years or less), Intermediate (2-5 years), Advanced (more than 5 years).

Why We Do What We Do

The objectives of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc. incorporate more than the annual function of a seminar. It is also our mandate to preserve and teach the art of handspinning and to innovate new techniques. Toward this end we offer awards and scholarships.

2023 Awards

New to the Seminar Award: This award goes to the first person to register who is attending the Seminar for the first time. The award will be the registration fee, along with \$50.

Founders' Award: This award honours the founders of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar and encourages the use of handspun in an end product. Edna Blackburn, Ted Carson, and Dorothy Kirk established the first Handspinning Seminar gathering in 1964. The \$100 award is presented to the person with the best article on display made from 100% handspun. Chosen by ballots cast by the Seminar attendees.

Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Award: This award for \$100 is presented by the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners. The award is given in recognition of an article on display that demonstrates the best use of handspun yarn in a handwoven article. Judges are provided by the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners.

President's Award of Excellence: This award of \$100 is given in recognition of an item of 100% handspun yarn using a textile construction method which embodies a unique interpretation; demonstrates a fresh, individual approach; and expresses personal creativity as judged by the President of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar Board of Directors.

Barb Patterson Award: This award of \$25.00 honours Barb Patterson, one of the founding members of The Grand River Spinners and Weavers Guild. It is presented for the "Best Skein by a Novice Spinner" as judged by the Display Committee.

WOW Award: This \$50 award is also judged by the Display Committee and given to the item which makes them say Wow! All articles submitted for display are eligible.



Photo by [KAMRAN gholami](#) on [Unsplash](#)

2023 Scholarships

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar offers two scholarships: one scholarship supports research projects and the other supports you, helping you to reinspire your handspinning. Applications are made to the Secretary of the Board of Directors (seminarsecretary@gmail.com), who can also provide the complete guidelines and application requirements.

The Ontario Handspinner's Research Scholarship: The Ontario Handspinning Seminar has funds up to \$1000 available for an annual Scholarship to be awarded and used for the exploration and development of new techniques, equipment, and/or related research of interest to handspinners and dyers. The scholarship cannot be used for tuition for any other study program for any other group or organization. The initial presentation of the research findings must take place at the Seminar within three years of receiving the scholarship in the form of a workshop, presentation, or display.

The Re-Inspired Spinner Scholarship: The purpose of this scholarship is to allow the individual to further their education and knowledge of handspinning in order to re-inspire them in their craft. This is to be accomplished by attending a workshop, class, or course which pertains to spinning or dyeing handspun fibre or other related areas. The Re-Inspired Scholarship has up to \$250 available. This scholarship requires a short presentation or display at the Seminar within two years of receiving the scholarship.



Photo by [John McArthur](#) on [Unsplash](#)

The application deadline for both scholarships is January 31, 2023. You can apply to either scholarship if you...

- Participated in five Seminars within in the past eight years as committee member, workshop leader, or attendee.
- Are not a current member of our Board of Directors

Legal Stuff

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc. is not responsible for damage to or loss of personal property. We do take every precaution to protect your equipment and materials on display. Workshop and display rooms will be secured at all times when Seminar participants are not in attendance.

Ontario Handspinning Seminar Code of Behaviour

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar strives to promote and establish a safe, respectful and positive atmosphere: • For shared knowledge, • For respect of ideas, cultures, and values • In a common space for learning. We also respect the policies of the facilities where we hold The Handspinning Seminar and the support services that make this annual event a success.

Find us on Social Media

www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca



www.facebook.com/ontariohandspinningseminar/



ravelry

www.ravelry.com/groups/ontario-handspinning-seminar-fans



www.instagram.com/thespinningseminar/



Photo by [Camille San Vicente on Unsplash](#)

Seminar 2023 Board of Directors

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2023 Seminar Committee

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Registrar & Treasurer: Patricia Cooper

Board Liaison: Lis Baston

Sales Room Convenors: Margo Murley

Workshop Convenor: Pat Shaver

Fashion Show Convenor: Eileen Land, Lis Baston

Display Convenors: Cat Haggert & Eileen Land

Baggie Challenge Convenor: Pat Shaver

Newsletter: Cat Haggert

Facilities: Patricia Cooper & Eileen Land