

the seminar

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

www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca

Lesley Inman, Registrar, ontariohandspinningseminar1964@gmail.com

Fall Newsletter 2023

Photo by [Yuri Bodrikhin](#) on [Unsplash](#)



DIAMONDS IN THE FLUFF: 60 YEARS OF SPINNING

June 7 – 9, 2024
Wilfrid Laurier University
Waterloo Campus

- 2 Theme Introduction • Call for Presenters
- 3 Newsletters • Registration • Accommodations • Info for Vendors
- 4 2023 WOW Award Winner • Fashion Show • Baggie Challenges
- 5 2024 Display Categories • 2024 Competition Categories
- 6 2024 Awards
- 7 Ontario Handspinner's Research Scholarship • Re-Inspired Spinner Scholarship
- 8 Legal Disclaimer • Code of Behaviour • Find Us on Social Media • Board Members • Committee Members

DIAMONDS IN THE FLUFF

Whether you're starting from a raw fleece or creating yarn from a prepared top, this year the Handspinning Seminar will explore creating diamonds from fluff. Beginning to advanced spinners can explore the diversity of "fluff" and options to spin "diamonds" to admire or to take to the next step, an end product.



Celebrate 60 years of spinning at the Seminar! Join the 2024 Seminar at Wilfrid Laurier University to explore fluff and all its uses, take a look at the Seminar's history and share your 60 years of diamonds at the seminar events including the displays and fashion show.

CALL FOR PRESENTERS

Diamonds in the Fluff: 60 Years of Spinning

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar is searching for speakers for keynote session(s) and workshops focused on converting unprepossessing starting materials into awesome diamonds. The steps in diamond production are exploration, mining, cleaning, cutting / polishing, and sale. Show us how processing fluff can create textile gems!

All sessions will be in person. Keynote session(s) are scheduled on Saturday and/or Sunday. Hands-on workshops are scheduled on Saturday and may be half-day (approximately 2.5 hours) to full-day (approximately 5 hours) in length. If you wish to submit more than one proposal, please complete a second form.

Presenters of accepted sessions and workshops will receive an honorarium and complementary pass to attend the Seminar.

Please complete [this form](#) to submit your session/workshop proposal.

Deadline to submit Sunday, December 17, 2023

Successful presenters will be contacted in January 2024.

For more information, contact Pat Shaver, pat.shaver@gmail.com

ACCOMMODATIONS The Seminar will take place at **Wilfrid Laurier University** (Waterloo campus). The campus is conveniently compact with pleasant grounds, and our activities will all take place within the area of a city block, so it is easily walkable. There is street parking nearby (3 hr. limit) and paid parking on campus. This is a 100% smoke-free facility.

A block of rooms in the Bricker Residence has been set aside for us. Each suite of rooms consists of four single bedrooms, two bathrooms, and a small kitchenette. You can specify suite-mates or leave it up to us and make some new friends! You will be provided with a pillow, pillowcase, blanket, 2 sheets, and 2 towels. The kitchenette has functioning appliances but no utensils.



The price per room is \$60.00 + 13% HST per night. A campus parking pass costs \$5/day. Some rooms are accessible; please book early (after registration opens) to secure these rooms.

RECEIVING THE NEWSLETTERS The Spring and Fall newsletters are posted on the Handspinning Seminar website www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca. Those who have attended the Seminar in the past three years or who have requested information about the Seminar will receive an email to notify them when the newsletter is available on the website.

SEMINAR 2024 REGISTRATION The workshop details, schedule, and registration information (for both the Seminar and accommodations) will be available in the Spring Newsletter.

VENDORS Booth space is limited and will be allocated on a first-come, first-included basis. Vendor space is adjacent to the Friday night spin-in. We will supply vendors with the workshop details to help fine-tune your offerings, as well as the vendor-related results of our 2023 survey. 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.



2023 WOW AWARD WINNER:

Catharina Forbes

Catharina writes:

The first frog started innocently enough. I had a pattern (Frog by Claire Garland) and yarn. That was fun, so I made another. It just grew from there. Handspun clothing followed, along with handmade shoes and boots. Someone mentioned the Seminar and the frogs begged me to go. Well then, they couldn't go without bags, tools, and projects any more than I could, so back I went to the workbench. The frogs had a great time at the

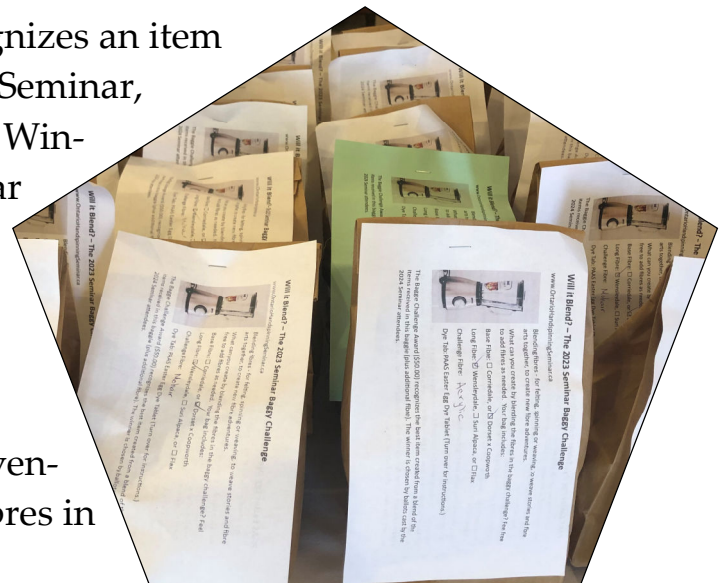


Seminar, loved meeting everyone, and were honoured and delighted to win the award!

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. Winners are chosen by ballots cast by 2024 Seminar attendees. If you attended the 2023 Seminar, bring your Baggie Challenge items!

2023 — Will It Blend? Blending fibres—for felting, spinning or weaving, to weave stories and fibre arts together, to create new fibre adventures. What can you create by blending the fibres in the baggy challenge?



2024 DISPLAY



Please bring items to put into the Display Room. This is where we exchange ideas and 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.

2024 COMPETITION

The Committee encourages everyone to submit entries to the competitions. While it’s nice to win an award, often the helpful comments from the judges are more valuable than any prize.

CATEGORIES

Simple 2-ply skein; 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!

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 include what you’d expect: hats, scarves, socks and so forth, but don’t limit yourself!

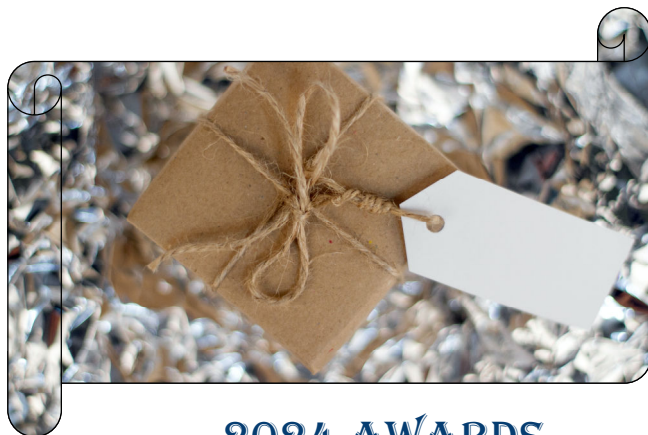
Other: Projects can include dolls, tea cozies, placemats, household items, abstract art, rugs...



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.

Photo by [Kostiantyn Li](#) on [Unsplash](#)



2024 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.

2024 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). Complete [guidelines and application requirements](#) can be found on the Handspinning Seminar website.

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.

The application deadline for both scholarships is January 31, 2024. 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

DISPLAY ROOM RETROSPECTIVE

In honour of the 60th anniversary of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar, our display committee is planning a 60-year retrospective in addition to our regular Display Room. We're still working out the details – keep an eye out for e-blasts and the Spring Newsletter. In the meantime, start looking for your vintage items (or photos of them)!



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/



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



www.instagram.com/thespinningseminar/

2024 Seminar Committee

Pat Shaver: Chair, Speakers/Workshop Leaders

Barbara Fawcett: Treasurer

Betty Trach: Competitions, Fashion Show

Cat Haggert: Newsletter, Venue

Debbie DeChamp: Baggie Challenge

Donna Hancock: Board Rep/Liaison

Jane Steeves: Stash/Book Trading Post

Lesley Inman: Registration, Advertising/Social Media

Margo Murley: Salesroom

Marion Jenkins: Sponsorships

Merrin MacRae: Displays

Yvonne Hugli: Events

Seminar 2024 Board of Directors

President: Edy Marlatt

Vice President: Grace Clare

Secretary: Anna Warren

Treasurer: Catherina Forbes

Directors at Large: Donna Hancock, Beth Showalter, Kathryn James, Carol Blue

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.