



Ontario Handspinning Seminar

Spring 2016 Newsletter

Ready for some fun? We have workshops on so many fun topics that it will be hard to choose! Let your hair down and relax with us this year. Come for the good food, great company and lots of shopping!



“Come Play With Us”

June 3-5, 2016

Ambassador Hotel and Conference Centre
1550 Princess St.
Kingston, Ontario

Elaine Horemans, Registrar, 26 Fortune Line Rd. RR#2 Lyndhurst, ON K0E 1N0
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2015-2016 COMMITTEE

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Programmes and Workshops

We've noted over the past few years that handspinners who attend the Seminar are very happy with the programmes and workshops offered. This year we are offering a variety of workshop lengths, some half day and some full day. Full day workshops are noted after the title. Most workshops are suitable for beginner spinners; those that require some experience are noted. Some of you will have the opportunity to take two different workshops. Be sure to indicate, on your Registration form, your 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th choices. Your selections will be assigned on a first-come first-served basis, according to space availability.

1. Batts, Rovings and Rolags – Oh My! Fibre Blending with Cheryl Roberts

Come and explore ways to use your drum carder or blending board to create exciting fibre preparations. Using a variety of techniques and fibres, Cheryl Roberts of Fullin' Woolens, will show you new ways to expand your blending repertoire of batts, rovings and rolags – oh my! A mixed bag of fibres will be included for students to practice the techniques Cheryl will be demonstrating. If you have a blending board, feel free to bring it along. (Optional – students are encouraged to bring fibres of their choice, as well)

Cheryl Roberts, Fullin' Woolens

I have always been creating with my hands, exploring many different facets of needlework, as well as other venues. A love of colour, funk, and strong tactile tendencies brought me to the world of wool, specifically dyeing, spinning and felting. I am dazzled by the magic of taking wool and using the very essence of its nature to create a totally new material from it! It is my passion and purpose to maintain the heart of these ancient crafts, while at the same time learning new ways to push the boundaries. As I choose colours to spin yarns, I take great delight in watching the yarn come to life as it winds its' way onto the bobbin. I wonder how it might inspire someone's creativity, and am thrilled when people share with me what they intend to make from my art.

2. Slash the Stash with Harriet Boon

This workshop will use all those bits of 'stash' that clutter our space--we need to find odds & ends a meaningful life! We'll explore creative ways to create texture & colour effects leading to an end use.

Harriet Boon

Harriet Boon, a spinner of 40 plus years, is in need of gaining 'stash' control. Harriet earned a Master Spinner & Dyer certificate in 1976 and has been an instructor with spinning certificate programs since then. In addition to conducting classes she pursued fibre and dye instruction in both Canada and abroad (adding to stash).

3. Landscape Bags with Jennifer MacPherson (full day)

A rainbow of coloured wool rovings will be the paint to transform a landscape image into a fibre reality. Using painterly spinning techniques a yarn will be created to knit into a small bag.

Jennifer MacPherson

Jennifer is a Kingston spinner and knitter of usable items--especially ones that use up the remains of previous projects.

4. Spinning Pet Hair—Free Luxury with Marty Gryciuk (full day)

Students will learn how to wash and prepare the fibre for spinning. Starting with 50/50 blends with wool and working to 100% pet hair, they will spin the three lengths—short, medium, and long. Tips on which animals will work and which will not, what wool to blend with etc will be discussed. Samples of how the yarn may be used will be on display. This workshop is not suitable for beginners.

Marty Gryciuk

Marty Gryciuk is a graduate of the OHS Spinning Program and her interest in spinning pet hair is what got her started. She has been spinning pet hair for over 10 years, and has named her pet line ``Forget Me Nots``. She has been teaching and assisting at the Haliburton School of the Arts with the OHS Spinning Program and also at various guilds around the province. Marty is an experienced designer and lifelong knitter, inspired by texture and colour. Her work is available through the Textile Museum of Canada, various galleries in the province and at her studio.

5. Space-Dyed Rovings with Beth Showalter

Spaced-dyed rovings are visually attractive and alluring, but it can seem that there is only one way to spin them. This is most definitely NOT the case! Rather, space-dyed rovings are a starting point that offer spinners a multitude of options. This workshop will examine how different approaches can result in a variety of different yarns from the same multi-coloured roving. Liberate one or two space-dyed rovings from your stash to bring with you to Kingston and you will see how much fun spinning with many colours can be!

6. Break Free from Your Colour Rut With Beth Showalter

Do you always choose the same set of colours to spin and work with? Do you look longingly at ‘the other colours’, but chicken out when you go to buy them? Do you avoid a ‘problem’ colour? If you answered ‘yes’ to any of these questions then this workshop will help you to break-free from your colour rut. You will learn and understand how to use colour to spice up your favourites and spin a variety of approaches. Before you come to this workshop, raid your stash and bring 4 to 5 of your favourite colours of wool roving with you to Kingston. Get ready to shake-up your spinning and have fun exploring the *entire* colour wheel!

Beth Showalter began learning to spin 18 years ago. She completed the OHS Spinning Certificate in 2014. Beth enjoys experimenting with fibre and colour, sharing ideas, learning new techniques and being immersed in a variety of fibre arts.

7. Triangular Woven Doll Shawl with Jackie Sylvester

Jackie will guide you through the process of learning to weave a triangular shawl with your handspun yarns. You will make a doll or teddy bear size shawl, so everyone can learn the technique. You will learn to design your own project, calculate the yardage needed and how to make your own collapsible, portable, rigid frame loom. Shawls are easily woven with one special yarn, or all your beautiful odds and ends. Wonderful for thick and thin, singles, haloed, bouclé and novelty yarns. It is a great way to use your handspun with no loom wastage.

No previous weaving experience is needed.

Jackie Sylvester learned to weave as a teenager in a summer work project. She went on to weave with Design Senior; producing tapestries, shawls, and art pillows. She is currently a member of KHWS and enjoys weaving blankets and is also enamoured by felting.

8. Fifty Shades of Colour on Greys with Beth Abbott (full day)

Dyeing on grey fleece and yarn provides a whole range of subtle, tweedy shades that are toned down from the original bright colours. You will dye a full colour wheel, across the colour wheel and around a section of the colour wheel, all on at least 2 shades of grey yarns. Go home with many samples and recipes to use on your next project. **This workshop will take place at the dye studio of the Kingston Handweavers and Spinners Guild about 10 minutes away from the hotel.**

Beth Abbott is a graduate of the Fibre Arts Certificate program from St. Lawrence College, Kingston. Beth also earned a Master Spinner Certificate from Georgian College, Owen Sound, in 1990 and has delivered workshops in Canada and the US. She has won many awards for her work and is the author of [Icelandic Fleece - A Fibre for All Reasons](#) (2001). Beth taught high school and adults for 33 years, retiring to a second career teaching and writing about fibre arts. Since then she has taught workshops and developed her own work.

9. Discover the Spindle with Alison Ginn

Spindles are simple, portable tools with which one can produce amazing yarns. They come in a variety of styles. In the workshop, learn about different spindles and how to use a suspended (aka drop) spindle to produce a useable 2-ply yarn. No experience needed. Participants are asked to bring a “drop” spindle if they have one, and 30-50 grams of prepared wool. (e.g. Corriedale or Romney) There will be a few spindles available for those who do not have one.

10. Come Twirl with Me with Alison Ginn

Not all spindles fly through the air. Supported spindles are an ancient, often neglected tool. They range in size from tiny cotton spinners to large Navajo spindles. In this workshop, learn how to use a small supported spindle to spin fine wools and cotton. This is not a beginner “learn to spin” workshop – some general spinning experience is required. Participants are asked to bring a small supported spindle and spinning bowl if they have one. Fibre will be provided. There will be a few spindles available for those who do not have one.

Alison Ginn is a spinner and weaver and a member of the Kingston Handloom Weavers and Spinners. She has been spinning for approximately 25 years. She enjoys spinning fine yarns for knitting (lace) or using as a weft for weaving. She is particularly interested in simple tools and carries a spindle with her almost everywhere.

11. Throw the Dice and Take your Chances - introducing randomness into your spinning with Danny Ouellette

Spinners sometimes need a little help in breaking out of their comfort zone while spinning. This class will cover several methods for introducing random elements into your spinning to give you that extra push in trying something new. The methods presented will include ways of randomizing fibre and colour choices, and using timers to force changes in your spinning. Students will be provided with fibre to play with but are encouraged to bring any left-over bits to add into the mix.

Danny Ouellette is a long time knitter, spinner, dyer, knitwear designer and a recent graduate of the OHS Spinning Certificate program. He has appeared in the knitting documentary Real Men Knit and in Knitty.com online magazine. He currently lives in Waterloo with his partner and more fibre related stash and equipment than they know what to do with.

Sunday Morning

Sunday morning will be a playground of different activities designed to be fun and interactive. Each play group will circulate around the room to different stations where you can try fun competitions or group spinning activities.

Baggie Challenge

The Baggie challenge for 2016 is to be created from the fibre you received in 2015. Remember the packages with three types of fibre? Did you receive hemp, or even paper? We look forward to seeing all the creations! For those of you who have lost or forgotten the challenge – here's a reminder of the criteria:

We want you to think global, to travel to countries far and near and to create a unique, unusual and fabulous item. The only criteria that we insist on is that all three fibres must be used in your finished item--in any quantity--but they must all be there. Any other fibres may be added to complete your project.

- *Wondering about embellishments?*
- *Think about things that sparkle or glow in the dark.*
- *Consider fuzzy, furry or fabulous*
- *What about beads, buttons and baubles?*

Remember to bring your item for display at the seminar. We will have a people's choice award for all the baggie challenge items displayed.

2016 Competition and Award Categories

We hope you have been planning to enter some of the great things you have made in one of the categories for competition and awards. Competition gives you feedback on your skills and we have made entering even easier! **New for 2016:** skeins are to be a minimum of 20 metres, but there is no maximum. You no longer have to cut a piece off your favourite skein for competition! **Remember to save a tuft of unspun fibre!**

For all categories the following guidelines apply:

- Seminar participants are limited to one entry per category
- Entries in the Special Projects competition are eligible for the Founders Award if they are made entirely of handspun yarn.
- Entries in all the categories must have been completed in the last year.
- Seminar participants who act as judges may not submit entries in the competition.

Skein Competition

Divisions:

Novice: You have been spinning for fewer than 2 years

Intermediate: You have been spinning between 2-5 years

Advanced: You have been spinning for more than 5 years

Categories:

1. **Simple 2-ply skein:** Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn that is appropriate for the end use suggested in your documentation.
2. **3 or more ply skein:** Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn that is appropriate for the end use suggested in your documentation.
3. **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. However the yarn must be stable and suited to the end use you have stated in your documentation.
4. **Spindle-spun skein:** The 2-ply yarn must be spun on a hand spindle. It will be judged on the same basis as the wheel spun 2-ply...grist, twist, balance and appropriateness for end use.

Guidelines:

Please be aware that failure to meet the following criteria will mean your skein will be disqualified.

All skeins must be a **minimum of 20 metres NO MAXIMUM**. Skeins must be tied in four places with figure eight ties made from fine cotton. The beginning of the skein must be tied to the end of the skein. Skeins must NOT be twisted. All entries must be handspun (including binder threads for novelty yarns) and include the following (on the entry form provided) in order to qualify for judging:

- sample(s) of the fibre(s) used, before and after preparation. If using commercially prepared fibre include a sample of the unspun fibre.
- Percentage of each fibre (if using more than one) in the skein
- an explanation of how the fibre was prepared, including blending
- a full explanation of yarn construction techniques
- a description of the intended end use of the yarn AND a description of why the yarn suits the end use.

Special Projects Competition

Everyone is encouraged to submit an item for judging in the Special Projects competition. Any technique or fibre is welcome, but if you need inspiration look at the techniques you learned at the 2015 Seminar: Alpaca, Cotton, Hemp, Angora, Paper, Shetland wool, Falkland wool and Icelandic wool.

Divisions:

Novice: You have been spinning for fewer than 2 years

Intermediate: You have been spinning between 2-5 years

Advanced: You have been spinning for more than 5 years

Categories:

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.

Guidelines:

All items must be 100% handspun. You may use any appropriate construction technique. Please include the following (on the entry form provided):

- sample of the fibre(s) used, before and after preparation. If using commercially prepared fibre, include a sample of the unspun fibre.
- An explanation of how the fibre was prepared, including blending
- a brief description of the spinning technique used
- sample skein - approximately 5 metres in length – of the final yarn used in the project.

“Just for Fun” Submissions

If competition is not for you but you wish to share the projects you have worked on over the past year, please bring your skeins and projects along for display. The only criterion for this category is that the projects must have been created since the 2015 Seminar and may be made of any fibre. **Think of this as the biggest Show and Tell of the year!** These creations will not be formally evaluated but are eligible for the Founders Award, WOW Award, the OHS Award and the HGA Award.

Awards

New to the Seminar Award: This award will go to the **first two people to register** who are attending the Seminar for the first time. The award will be the registration fee, along with \$50.00. Encourage new participants to send their registration early!

The Edna Blackburn Award: This award will be presented to a **novice spinner** (fewer than two years experience) for a 100% handspun article. The award was created with the proceeds from the auction of a painting of Edna's farm, the first home of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar. The award will be in the amount of \$50.00, and will be chosen by the judges from the current Seminar. It will be presented by the Committee Chair.

Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Award: This award for \$100.00 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.

Handweavers Guild of America: This award of a gift certificate and a handwoven ribbon is presented by the Handweavers Guild of America in recognition of “a work of handweaving, spinning, dyeing, or basket making, which embodies a unique interpretation, demonstrates a fresh individual approach and expresses personal creativity,” as judged by an appointee of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar Board of Directors.

WOW Award: This award of \$50.00 is judged by the Ontario Handspinning Seminar Display Coordinators. It is presented in recognition of an article that inspires the viewer to say WOW! **All articles submitted for display are eligible.**

Barb Patterson Award: This award of \$50.00 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**.

Founders Award: This competition honours the Founders of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar: Edna Blackburn, Ted Carson and Dorothy Kirk. The award is \$100.00 and is presented to the person with the **best article on display**, made from 100% handspun yarn. The Seminar attendees, who cast ballots for their favourite piece, are the judges.

THE NITTY GRITTY

Location: Our play date is at the Ambassador Hotel and Conference Centre in Kingston Ontario. It is located at 1550 Princess St. and is easily reached by exiting the 401 at exit #613 (Sydenham Rd.). Travel south about 3 km to Princess St., then turn left (east) and the hotel is just over the railway tracks on the right. All Seminar events will be held within the hotel. A block of rooms has been set aside for our use. We have requested that rooms in our reserved block all have fridges and coffeemakers in them. The hotel rooms are \$115.00 + fees and taxes per night (total \$133.85 per night). Please book your room early. Check in time is anytime after 4:00 PM on Friday. Check out time will be noon on Sunday morning. For reservations please call **1-800-267-7880** or email reservations@ambassadorhotel.com and mention that you are attending the **Ontario Handspinning Seminar** for the Seminar rate. The block of rooms will be held until April 19, 2016.

Parking: There is plenty of parking available at no charge. Please register your license plate number at the hotel front desk when you check in.

Registration: The registration fee includes access to the Saturday lecture and workshops, the Fashion Show, Awards presentation, after-hours activity and Sunday morning presentations. It also includes all supplies, handouts and access to the Sales and Display rooms. We ask that those of you with access to the website print out the registration, display and competition forms for your use. Snail mail recipients will be sent these forms in the mail. **Registration must be postmarked no earlier than April 1, 2016 and no later than April 18, 2016.** Please forward your completed registration form with your payment to:

Ontario Handspinning Seminar
Elaine Horemans, Registrar
26 Fortune Line Rd. RR #2
Lyndhurst ON K0E 1N0

Email registrations cannot be accepted. Registrations will be accepted in order of receipt. In May you will receive your Registration Confirmation, entry forms for Competition, Display and the Fashion Show as well as a list of items to bring for your workshops. Acceptance of late registrations will be dependent on workshop space and room availability.

The Registration desk will be open from 3:00 to 8:00 PM on Friday June 3, 2016. Competition and Display items will be received in the Atrium. The registration desk will also be open from 7:30 until 8:15 a.m. Saturday morning.

Fees: The total fee must be submitted with your registration. At this time we are not able to accept online payment. Please pay by cheque or money order. All cheques must be payable to the **ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR COMMITTEE**. Post-dated cheques will not be accepted. NSF cheques will be charged \$25.00. Decisions to provide refunds will be made on a case-by-case basis. An administration

fee of \$15.00 will be applied to all refunds. Due to contractual obligations to the Hotel, no refunds will be made after May 12, 2016.

For our American participants, please send either an **INTERNATIONAL POSTAL MONEY ORDER or BANK DRAFT IN CANADIAN FUNDS**. We do not accept either personal cheques or Travellers Cheques, and money orders must be specifically meant for International use. Domestic U.S. money orders cannot be cashed in Canada.

Menu: We have listed the menu plan for the entire weekend so you know what to expect. The Hotel will accommodate those with allergies and dietary requirements – please indicate them on the Registration Form. The prices posted include 15% gratuities and 13% HST. There is a slight cost savings if you take the full meal package. There are refrigerators and coffee makers in the hotel rooms.

Saturday Canadian Breakfast:

Coffee (Reg and Decaf), Assorted Teas
Selection of Chilled Juices
Seasonal Fresh Fruit Cocktail
Hot Oatmeal with Assorted Dried Fruit and Nuts
Selection of Fruit Bottom Yogurts
Farm Fresh Scrambled Eggs
Skillet Potatoes
Crispy Bacon
Breakfast Sausage
Assorted Freshly Baked Breakfast Pastries
Toasted Breakfast Breads, Fruit Preserves & Whipped Butter

Saturday Business Lunch:

Vegetarian & Gluten Free Soup from the Chef's Kettle
Mixed Field Greens with Ranch and Italian Dressings
Assorted Cold Sandwiches on Crusty Buns, including a Selection of Vegetarian Sandwiches
Seasonal Market Fresh Vegetables with a Creamy Garden Dip
Assorted Cookies & Squares
Coffee (Reg and Decaf), Assorted Teas
Bottled Water, Assorted Soft Drinks

Saturday Dinner Banquet Buffet:

(cash bar)
Roasted Lemon Tarragon Breast of Chicken-Chardonnay Cream Sauce
White Wine & Citrus Flavoured Poached Atlantic Salmon with Lemon Scented Beurre Blanc Sauce
Freshly Baked Rolls & Butter
Tossed Garden Greens with Balsamic or Raspberry Vinaigrettes or Creamy Italian Dressing
Seasoned Rice Pilaf
Fresh Seasonal Vegetables
Assorted Cakes & Pies
Seasonal Fresh Fruit
Coffee (Reg and Decaf), Assorted Teas
Bottled Water, Assorted Soft Drinks

Sunday Canadian Breakfast:

Coffee (Reg and Decaf), Assorted Teas
Selection of Chilled Juices
Citrus Fruit Medley
Assorted Cold Cereals with 2% Milk
Selection of Fruit Bottom Yogurts
Farm Fresh Scrambled Eggs
Skillet Potatoes
Crispy Bacon
Maple Glazed Ham
Assorted Freshly Baked Muffins
Toasted Breakfast Breads, Fruit Preserves & Whipped Butter

Sales Room: The Sales Room will be open on Friday from 3:00 to 9:00 PM, and from 12:00 to 2:00 PM on Saturday. Any person who is not registered for the Seminar may visit the Sales Room for only \$5.00. **If there are any vendors who would still like to register please contact Kim Bushby at bushbykim@gmail.com.**

Banquet and Fashion Show: The Banquet and the Fashion Show will take place on Saturday evening. There will be a cash bar at 6:00 p.m. followed by the Banquet and the Fashion Show where we will enjoy seeing all the items everyone has been working on over the past year.

Hospitality Room: We will again provide a hospitality room on Friday evening. Bring your wheel or spindle and spend some time reacquainting with old friends and sharing your purchases!

Saturday Evening Activity: We have another fun group activity planned for Saturday evening, after the Fashion Show and all supplies will be provided!

Display, Competition and Baggie Challenge Items: Display, competition and baggie challenge items may be dropped off in the Atrium from 3:00 to 8:00 p.m. Friday night. Items for competition must be dropped off Friday night before judging begins at 8:00 p.m. **Items not eligible for competition may also be dropped off on Saturday morning.** Items are to be picked up after the Fashion Show on Saturday evening.

Volunteers: Volunteers are an essential part of the Seminar. If you would like to volunteer, please check off the appropriate box on the Registration Form.

A NOTE ABOUT LIABILITY

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.