

the seminar

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

www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca

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Fall Newsletter 2019

As the days turn colder, greyer and we find ourselves confronted by snow on the ground, it's always fun to look forward to June and the next Ontario Handspinning Seminar. The Committee is busy planning a weekend that will inspire you to look in new directions and bring more sustainability to your spinning.

Sustainable Fibres

Supportable, Renewable Choices: The Options are Endless

June 12-14, 2020

Holiday Inn, Burlington Hotel and Conference Centre

Keynote Speaker

Helen Knibb

Canadian Studies Program, Trent University

The Seminar Organizing Committee is very happy to announce that our 2020 Keynote Speaker will be Helen Knibb. Ms Knibb has a BA in History, a MA in Museum Studies and is currently a doctoral candidate in Canadian Studies at Trent University in Peterborough. Her thesis explores the history of wool growing in Ontario and the prospects for re-generating a regional wool industry. She has a farm just outside Lang Village where she runs a small flock of Grace Clare's sheep, works her border collies and raises Ojibway and Newfoundland ponies.

Ms. Knibb, through her research, has been studying a culture of change among small-to-medium scale fibre producers, processors and consumers in the UK, Europe and the USA. These studies are being compared, through the Ontario Wool Study led by Dr. Nicole Klenk, to the challenges of wool growing and processing in Ontario.

Ms. Knibb, through her work on the challenges and sustainability of the Ontario wool chain and her interest in the conservation and uses of heritage breeds, will make an informative and educational speaker for the 2020 Seminar.

2019-20 Board of Directors

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2019 Seminar Committee

Co-Chairs:	Beth Showalter & Joan McKenzie
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Workshop Convenors:	Leslie Falzone & Joan McKenzie
Fashion Show Convenor:	Kitt Fisher
Display Convenors:	Angela Whyte, Lis Baston
Baggie Challenge Convenor:	Angela Whyte
Newsletter & Facilities:	Barb Ross

Receiving the Newsletter

The newsletter is 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 that the newsletter is available on the website. Anyone who does not have a computer or access to email will receive a copy of the newsletter in the mail.

Accommodations

Our accommodations will be 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 at the Holiday Inn Burlington in the past and have been very happy with the all-under-one-roof facility. **A block of hotel rooms has been set aside for us until May 13, 2020.** Reservations can be made by calling, toll-free, 1-888-987-4888. Please be sure to mention that you are attending the Ontario Handspinning Seminar in order to receive the group rate. The price per room (with 2 queen-sized beds) is \$135.00 + 13% HST per night. There is a surcharge of \$10.00 per room per night if you have 3 or 4 people staying in one room.

Seminar 2020 Registration

An email notification will be sent when the Spring 2020 Newsletter, including workshop details and registration information is available online at www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca. The Spring Newsletter will be mailed to those not able to receive email.

Vendors Contact

The sales area has easy access for set-up and take-down by the vendors. Booth space is allocated on a first-come, first-included basis. Anyone wishing to reserve space in the sales area should contact the Salesroom Convenor, Edy Marlatt at edymarlatt1@gmail.com. Vendors from last year's Seminar will automatically receive an application. Vendor registration will be completed online. All accepted vendors will be listed on the Seminar website.

A big Thank You to our vendors who generously donated the door prizes awarded during our Sunday morning activity.

Awards



Baggie Challenge Award

If you attended the 2018 Seminar, you received a lovely triangular bag, which contained the baggie challenge. The challenge was to create an item of "headwear" to be displayed at the 2019 Seminar. You had to use at least some of every fibre in your baggie and you also had to dye some of the fibre with the package of unsweetened Kool Aid provided. You could also use additional fibres and dyes from your stash.

The winner of the 2019 Baggie Challenge Award, as voted by the people attending the Seminar was Catharina Forbes.

Photo: Catharina Forbes



Founders Award

This award honours the founders of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar: Edna Blackburn, Ted Carson and Dorothy Kirk. It is chosen by ballots cast by the Seminar attendees from display items made from 100% handspun yarn.

The 2019 Founders Award was presented to Catharina Forbes.

Photo: Catharina Forbes



Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Award

This award is presented 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.

The 2019 OHS Award was presented to Sandi Nemenyi.

Photo: Ontario Handspinning Seminar Website

WOW Award

This award is judged by the Display Committee of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar Committee and is given to the item which makes them say Wow!

The 2019 WOW Award was presented to Julia Lee.

Photo: Julia Lee



President's Award of Excellence

This new 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.

The 2019 President's Award of Excellence was presented to Renee Biewenga-Hyams.

Photo: Ontario Handspinning Seminar website



New to the Seminar Award

This award was presented to Leslie Falzone and Sarah Lawson.

They received a refund of their registration fee plus \$50, awarded to the first two people to register who were attending the Seminar for the first time.

2020 Display Categories

Everyone is encouraged to bring an item 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 also is 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.

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 in the last year.

Levels of Experience: Beginner (2 years or less), Intermediate (2-5 years), Advanced (more than 5 years).

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.

2020 Awards

New to the Seminar Award: This award will go 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. 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.

WOW Award: This \$50 award recognizes an article that inspires the viewer to say... "WOW!" **All articles submitted for display are eligible.** The WOW award is decided by the 2019 Seminar display convenors.

Baggie Challenge: The \$50 award recognizes an item created from fibre received in the baggie at the 2018 Seminar. 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 (current or former), or an appointee, 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"

2020 Baggie Challenge



You Can't Make a Silk Purse Out of a Sow's Ear

This expression was a proverb from the mid-1500s, meaning to produce something refined, admirable, valuable from something which is unrefined.

Your challenge for the 2020 Baggie Challenge is to make a 'purse' out of the "unrefined" items found in the bag handed out in 2019. Your finished 'purse' will be displayed at the 2020 Seminar. You must use at least some of every fibre in your baggie and you may also use additional fibres from your stash if you wish.

The winner of the Baggie Challenge \$50.00 Award is selected by ballots cast by the 2020 Seminar attendees.

We can't wait to see what everyone creates!

Photo: Barb Ross

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.

Scholarships

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar organization has developed two different scholarships; the Ontario Handspinner's Research Scholarship and the Re-Inspired Scholarship. Detailed information and application forms are available on the website: www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca/scholarship.html

The Handspinner's Research Scholarship: The Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc. has funds 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 handspinning and dyers. A specific plan of study must be included with the application. Recipients are required to share the results of their experience with the participants of an Ontario Handspinning Seminar within three years of receipt of the scholarship. Those interested are encouraged to apply before the January 31st deadline.

Re-inspired Spinner Scholarship: The purpose of the 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. A cash award of up to \$250.00 will be given to the successful applicant. The applicant must send their application to the Secretary of the Board of Directors at seminarsecretary@gmail.com by January 31st, a description of the intended course or workshop they would like to take and a description of what they hope to learn from it. The recipient is required to share the results of the experience with the participants of The Ontario Handspinning Seminar within two years of receipt of the scholarship. This can be done by a short oral presentation or visual display in a format in which they are comfortable.

Application forms can be downloaded from the website, or a print copy can be provided upon request by contacting the Board Secretary.

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 and*
- *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



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