



# Ontario Handspinning Seminar

## Fall Newsletter 2015

Elaine Horemans, Registrar, 26 Fortune Line Rd. RR #2, Lyndhurst ON, K0E 1N0  
[ontariohandspinningseminar1964@gmail.com](mailto:ontariohandspinningseminar1964@gmail.com)

### Come Play With Us



**June 3-5, 2016**

**The Ambassador Hotel & Conference Centre  
1550 Princess St  
Kingston, Ontario**

Join us for an inspiring weekend of creativity, learning and fun! Have more fun with your spinning--try something new, surround yourself with colour and just play a bit! Reserve these dates for a wonderful weekend with people who share your passion for fibre and fun.

### Mailing Changes

In an effort to save on ever-increasing postage and printing charges, the Newsletter is now being sent out electronically.

If you don't already receive the Newsletter electronically and wish to do so, please let us know, in writing, at [ontariohandspinningseminar1964@gmail.com](mailto:ontariohandspinningseminar1964@gmail.com) to have your email address entered into our database. If you do not have a computer or access to emails, don't worry. We will continue to send you paper copies in the mail.

All documentation will also be available on the website [www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca) as soon as it is released.

## **2015-2016 Board of Directors**

**President:** Esther Grav

**Vice President:** Elizabeth McConaghy

**Secretary:** Mara Lusic

**Treasurer:** Colleen Thomson

**Members at Large:** Susan Alain, Diane Lamb, Elona McCubbin, Linda Needles, Brenda Pedden-Boyce

## **2016 Organizing Committee**

**Chair & Registrar:** Elaine Horemans

**Board Liason:** Esther Grav

**Facilities Convenor:** Betsy Walters

**Workshop Convenor:** Beth Fisher

**Salesroom Convenor:** Kim Bushby

**Emcee and Secretary:** Kelly MacGregor

**Fashion Show Convenors:** Marilyn Trudeau & Nancy Bowman

**Display and Competition Convenor:** Susan Finan

## **Accommodations**

Once again we will be having everything in one great location. Once you arrive you can relax until it is time to return home. A block of rooms has been set aside for our use at the Ambassador Hotel, on Princess St., 3 km from the 401, exit #613(Sydenham Rd.). The hotel rooms are \$115.00 + taxes per night. Please book your room early.

For reservations please call **1-800-267-2880** or email [reservations@ambassadorhotel.com](mailto: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 is free.

## **Sales Room Contact**

The sales area has easy access behind the building for set-up and take-down by the vendors. Booth space is allocated on a first come, first served basis. Anyone wishing to reserve space in the sales area should contact the Salesroom Convenor Kim Bushby at [bushbykim@gmail.com](mailto:bushbykim@gmail.com). Vendors from last year's Seminar will automatically receive an application. All accepted vendors will be listed on the Seminar website.

## **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 next year's seminar. We hope to have a people's choice award for all the baggie challenge items displayed.

## **2015 Competition and Award Categories**

It is time to start planning and working on all the great things you will make to enter in the categories for competition and awards. Challenge yourself to enter something in one of the categories. 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!** Entry forms will be included with the Spring 2016 Newsletter.

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.

## **Skeins 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 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:

- 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.

## 2015 Competition Winners

Very few entries were received in the skein competition, and only one met the length criteria. (See above for changes to this year's criteria.) **Advanced 3-ply skein** 1<sup>st</sup> place: Elaine Horemans

No entries were received for the Special Projects in either the novice or intermediate divisions.

### Special Projects Advanced division:

**Garment** 1<sup>st</sup> place: Leslie Ordal 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Jessie MacGregor

**Accessory** 1<sup>st</sup> place: Elaine Horemans 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Elaine Horemans

**Other** 1<sup>st</sup> place: Kitt Fisher 2<sup>nd</sup> place: Linda Helms 3<sup>rd</sup> place: Julia Lee

## “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 2015 winners were Jeannique Cote and Nancy Wilcox.

**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. The 2015 winner was Susan Reeder.

**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. The 2015 winner was Kitt Fisher.

**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. The 2015 winner was Beth Showalter.

**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.** The 2015 winner was Jean Kazmierczak.

**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**. Not awarded in 2015.

**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 2015 winner was Elaine Horemans.

## Scholarships

**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](mailto:seminarsecretary@gmail.com) by **January 31<sup>st</sup>**, 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 2 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.

**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 handspinners 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.

## Fashion Show

The Fashion show is one of the highlights of the Seminar. This year we hope to have something special for you—stay tuned!

## Spring Newsletter and Registration Forms

The Spring 2016 Newsletter and the registration forms will be sent out by email and will be available online at the Ontario Handspinning Seminar website at [www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca) as soon as they are released. They will still be mailed out to those not able to receive them by email.

For updates and further information, you may also follow us on Facebook and on Ravelry through the following links:

<http://www.ravelry.com/groups/ontario-handspinning-seminar-fans>

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/ontariohandspinningseminar>