



# ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

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## SPRING NEWSLETTER 2012

### *Enduring Silk - A Timeless Classic*

Friday, June 15 - Sunday, June 17, 2012  
Holiday Inn, Burlington, Ontario

Are you tired of the strange winter weather that we've been having? Think forward to the warm days of June and the 2012 Ontario Handspinning Seminar. Join us in Burlington as we continue our study of Silk, an exciting and luxurious fibre. You'll have lots of opportunity to browse amongst the vendors' stalls, admire the skills of your fellow handspinners and become inspired during an informal and fun weekend.

### SATURDAY MORNING KEYNOTE ADDRESS

#### *Unsinkable Fashion: Costumes from the Titanic Era* Norma Shepherd

To mark the centennial of the sinking of the Titanic, Norma Shepherd and The Mobile Millinery Museum is presenting a sentimental look at authentic fashions from the Edwardian Era. Many of the silk gowns and gauze dresses touring with this trunk show are as ethereal as the mist that engulfed the doomed vessel itself. Learn why passenger Delia McDermott risked her life to return to her cabin to fetch a new hat purchased prior to the voyage and view a wedding gown that would have travelled on the only voyage of the fated liner, had it been completed in time.

This trunk show will provide us with an exciting opportunity to view vintage silk gowns, dresses, shoes, hats and lingerie. Due to their fragile nature, many of these garments have been rarely seen. At the previous Seminar we learned where silk fibre came from and how it's created. With this Keynote Address, we hope to present you with a historical perspective of why silk continues to be an enduring, timeless classic.

**A BIT ABOUT NORMA ...** Norma Shephard is the founder and director of the *Mobile Millinery Museum*, a unique travelling museum whose "working hats" have raised funds for such diverse causes as shelters for homeless teens, cancer research and diagnostic equipment. Norma uses vintage hats, shoes, and bridal gowns to promote the cultural stories that elicit the telling of tales, myths, and legends and transforms audience members into folklore informants, eager to share their own reminiscences.

Recognized as an historian and authority on vintage costume, Norma has appeared on *Canada A.M.*, *CBC Morning*, *CBC Fresh Air*, *CBC Ontario Today*, *CH Morning Live*, *Breakfast Television*, *Canadian Living Television*, *This Morning Live*, *Main Street*, *CKCO*, *The Source*, and *Neighbour to Neighbour* and has been featured in numerous print media. She is the author of:

- *Accessorizing the Bride; Vintage Wedding Finery Through the Decades* (Schiffer Publishing),
- *1000 Hats* (Schiffer Publishing),
- *In Step With Fashion: 200 Years of Shoe Styles* (Schiffer Publishing),
- *Lingerie; Two Centuries of Luscious Design* (Schiffer Publishing), and
- *Dear Harry; The Firsthand Account of a World War I Infantryman*.

## PROGRAMMES AND WORKSHOPS

### Saturday Workshops

The workshops will begin shortly after the Keynote Address on Saturday morning and run from 10:15 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. and continue in the afternoon from 2:15 p.m. to 4:15 p.m. A list of specific equipment requirements will be sent out in May with your Registration Confirmations. We've assembled an interesting selection of workshops and instructors who will inspire, motivate and expand your knowledge. We will try to accommodate your preferences, but workshop assignments will be made on a first come, first served basis. Register early!!

#### AN OVERVIEW OF SPINNING SILK ON A DROP SPINDLE

DANNY OUELLETTE

Spinning silk on a drop spindle is fun and easier than you think! This class will get you started and give you a taste of lots of different silk options. We'll cover choosing a spindle appropriate to the silk you want to spin, spinning silk from several preparations including top, silk bricks and hankies, working with commercial silk blends, hand blending silk and finally some options for plying your yarns. Skill Level: Able to spin and ply using a drop spindle.

**Danny Ouellette** is a long time knitter, spinner, dyer and knitwear designer. He has been spinning for about twelve years and is going into year five of the OHS Spinning Certificate Programme. He has a particular fondness for working with mohair and silk blends. He lives in Guelph with his partner and has more fibre-related stash and equipment than he knows what to do with.

#### FOR THE LOVE OF BLENDS

DONNA HANCOCK

In this workshop, we will experiment with various blends of silk with other protein fibres, such as wool, mohair and alpaca. We will determine what fibres to use, what percentages work well and how to spin them for the use you would like from that yarn. We will learn how to incorporate unusual fibre, bits and pieces into batts (crazy batts) and into the yarn while spinning it to achieve a usable yarn. Donna will help you to demystify the world of blending. Have fun with it!

**Donna Hancock** is a graduate of the Ontario Handspinning Spinning Certificate Programme. She is the owner of Wellington Fibres, where she dyes and processes fibre into roving and yarns. Donna has taught many workshops, from beginning spinning to dyeing and blending.

#### FROM COCOON TO LOOM - WEAVING WITH SILK

BRIDGET LEWIS

Weaving with silk has long been practiced in many parts of the globe. Now, it is your chance. In this workshop we will examine samples of silk fabric, analyse fibre preparation and weave structures. We will then turn our hands to produce yarns suitable for weaving, both with pure silk and silk blends.

**Bridget Lewis** has completed both the Master Spinning and Dyeing Course (Georgian College) and Master Weavers Program (OHS). The yarns that she uses are becoming finer and finer. Her current passion is to travel far and wide to study with local producers of traditional textiles.

#### SPINNING LOVELY LACE WITH SCRUMPIOUS SILK

MARION F. SATCHWILL

We will introduce you to silk spinning techniques and tips to get you going. It will be a great opportunity to try spinning from dyed silk hankies, Bombyx sliver, Muga, Eri and Tussah and to then try some silk blends. If you are a beginner using silk or if you just want to enjoy another adventure with luscious silk fibres, come prepared to ooh and aah.

**Marion F. Satchwill** is a retired high school teacher from Strathroy, Ontario where she lives with her husband and their two favourite dogs. She took up spinning, weaving and dyeing as a hobby in 1988 and then decided to take courses at Georgian College. Marion became a Master Spinner in 1996. She has taught spinning classes and workshops, in Canada and the U.S., on a variety of fibres and techniques, as well as dyeing. Marion has written articles for fibre magazines and newsletters and won a number of awards for her handspinning. Her greatest desire is to share her love of spinning and dyeing with other fibre enthusiasts.

#### SHIMMERING STITCHES

BETH ABBOTT

Immerse yourself in a day of luxury. Create some sumptuous silk fusion backgrounds in the morning and try your hand at creating some silken threads for stitching in the afternoon. This combination is wonderful for hand stitched cards, art pieces and three dimensional pieces - all in shimmering silks. Dyed silk will be provided for the silk fusion and plain silk for practice spinning the threads.

**Beth Abbott** attended her first Seminar in 1976 and has been spinning ever since. She earned her Master Spinner Certificate from Georgian College in 1990 and her In-depth Study on the Icelandic Sheep has been published and recently reprinted as a book *Icelandic Fleece - a Fibre for All Reasons*. Beth has been teaching in the Ontario Handweavers & Spinners Spinning Certificate Programme for the past 20 years and one of her specialties is silk. Beth has also developed a summer course for the Haliburton School of Art on Silk Paper and working with silk in fibre art. Beth has won several awards for her work, including twice winning the Founders' Award.

#### SILKEN BUMPS AND LUSTROUS LUMPS

BARBARA SCOTT

This hands-on session will focus on making textured yarns suitable for knitting, crochet or weaving. We will explore use of different forms of silk in a variety of yarn construction techniques including marl, crepe/cable, knop, inlay and encapsulation, bouclé, and beaded. The class will discuss combining more than one technique in a single yarn, yarn finishing, and how and where best to use these yarns. Combed tussah, silk hankies, waste silk, dyed and degummed carrier rods, and wool/silk blends in different colours will be provided for the learning exercises and in-class experimentation.

**Barbara Scott** is a Master Spinner who completed the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Spinning Certificate programme “with distinction”. She has taught at conferences, guilds and colleges, and has written for Ontario-based and U.K. publications. To spinning, she brings curiosity, a need for technical mastery and delight in experimentation.

#### **SPINNING SILK - AN INTRODUCTION**

#### **MARA LUSIS**

This workshop will be for those who have never tried to spin silk, or for those who have tried and been frustrated by the experience. In the morning, you will learn about the different types of silk and about the various preparations that are available for the handspinner. You'll try spinning both wild (Tussah) and cultivated (Bombyx) silk preparations and get tips and tricks to make spinning this wonderful natural fibre a pleasurable experience. Then, after lunch, we'll embark on the whys and hows of blending silk with other fibres to produce fabulous, unique yarns.

**Mara Lusi**s has been spinning for over 20 years and is a graduate of the OHS Spinning Certificate Programme. She is now an instructor in that Programme and enjoys the experience of passing on what she has learned because “By your students you are taught”. Mara loves to spin many different types of fibre, to knit lacy things, to flirt with sculptural crochet and to experiment with nature dyeing.

#### **SPINNING SILK AND SILK BLENDS FOR RUG HOOKING**

#### **DINY WARREN**

Rug hooking is an excellent medium to use your handspun yarns. Silk and silk blends give that extra lift to a hand hooked rug. You will learn about various ways spinning silk for rug hooking in the morning and, in the afternoon, we will hook with our handspun yarns. No experience in rug hooking is required.

**Diny Warren** is a Master Spinner, has been involved with the Ontario Handspinning Seminar since 1988. Started rug hooking upon retirement thinking this would help to reduce her fibre stash only to find out that was just a myth.

## **Sunday Morning Lectures**

#### **9:00 a.m. SOAK**

#### **JACQUELINE SAVA**

Join us as Jacqueline Sava, the creator of Soak Wash, guides us through a journey not only about fibre care but also about creating a meaningful business in the world of fibre arts. From her background in knitwear design to the challenges of growing Soak, Sava will inspire you with stories, imagery and useful tips related to fibre care.

**Jacqueline Sava** currently heads the company Soak Wash Inc., designing, manufacturing and distributing Soak, which is Modern Care for the Laundry you Love. When not working on her business, Jacqueline quilts, sews, knits and crafts. She balances her creative side by teaching design strategy and lecturing on business development and entrepreneurship. Her major accomplishments include a distinguished selection of awards including VIRTU, Canada's design award, OWIT Women Exporter of the Year and TBDC Youth Entrepreneur of the Year.

#### **10:15 a.m. WHO, ME?**

#### **HARRIET BOON**

Learn the ABC's of entering a competition and the XYZ's of judging. You are all winners and here's how.

**Harriet Boon** earned Master Spinner certification in 1976 and has taught and judged fibres and spinning since that date in both Canada and the U.S.

**2011-2012 Board of Directors**  
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## **2012 COMPETITIONS AND AWARDS CATEGORIES**

We hope you have spent the long, cold winter wrapped in the warmth and satisfaction of spinning some fabulous fibre and perhaps using the yarn to fashion a glorious creation. We want to see them!

In an effort to encourage more entries, we have rewritten the criteria for some of the categories, hoping to persuade you to enter your projects. If you find it confusing to complete some of the forms, please ask for help. If you don't want to be judged on your project, then enter the “Just for Fun” category. You may not think that you are good enough to enter, but don't be shy! You may have come up with a colour combination that surprises, a fibre blend that entices or a design that everyone wants to try. We all love to see what others are doing, no matter how simple or complex. Plan now on entering your projects in the 2012 Displays. It's all about participating!

- Seminar participants are limited to one entry per category.
- Entries in the Special Projects Competition are eligible for the Founders Award if they meet the criteria that the item is made totally of handspun yarn.
- Entries in all categories must have been completed within the past year.
- Seminar participants who act as judges may not submit entries in the competition.

### **Baggie Challenge**

Remember the bag of luxurious fibres that you received at last year's “Wild about Silk” Seminar? It contained 10g each of Eri and Muga wild silks along with the colourful throwsters waste, cocoons and carrier rods.

This year's fibre challenge is to create a small luxury or decorative item that is made of 100% silk. Please consider the following guidelines:

- Use all 20g of the fibre provided in this bag.
- You may add other silk to create your item.
- Emphasize the beautiful natural colours of the wild silk.
- Embellish your item with beads, charms, buttons or shells as needed....

Have fun creating a small luxury item just for you as you enjoy exploring wild silks! Be sure to bring your item to be displayed at the 2012 Seminar in Burlington.

### **Skeins Competition**

#### **Skeins Competition Criteria**

You are encouraged to submit handspun skeins in any or all of the three categories.

- If you have been spinning for fewer than two years, enter as “novice”.
- If you have been spinning for more than 2 years, enter as “advanced”.

1. Simple 2-ply skein: Your goal should be 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 should be 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, remember that the yarn must be stable and suited to the end use you have stated on your entry.
4. Spindle-spun skein: This 2-ply skein must be spun on a hand spindle. It will be critiqued on the same basis as the wheel spun 2-ply skein...grist, twist, balance and appropriateness for end use.

#### **Guidelines for Submitting a Skein and to be Eligible for Judging**

1. All skeins must be a minimum of 20 meters and a maximum of 25 meters in length.
2. Skeins must be correctly tied in four places with figure eight ties made from fine cotton. Skeins must not be twisted. The beginning of the skein should be tied to the end of the skein.
3. All entries must be handspun (including binder threads) and include the following in order to qualify for judging:
  - a. sample(s) of the fibre(s) used, before and after preparation. If using commercially prepared fibre, include a sample of the unspun fibre.
  - b. percentage of each fibre (if using more than one) in the skein
  - c. an explanation of how the fibre was prepared, including blending
  - d. full explanation of yarn construction techniques
  - e. a description of the intended end use for the yarn AND a description of why the yarn suits the end use.
  - f. 2"x2" swatch worked in the technique specified for the end product.

The entry form will be sent out with your Confirmation Package in mid-May.

## **Special Projects Competition**

#### **Special Projects Competition Criteria**

You are encouraged to submit an item based on techniques taught at last year's Seminar.

- If you have been spinning for fewer than two years, enter as "novice".
- If you have been spinning for more than 2 years, enter as "advanced".

Techniques and subjects from last year's Seminar include: Beginning Silk Spinning, Dyeing with Indigo - Shibori, Exploring the Subtleties of Silk, Fine Silk for All Reasons, Making Silk Paper, Spinning Silk for Weaving and Spinning Silk on a Spindle

The categories are:

1. 100% Silk
  - a. Wearable Items  
Projects for this category may include, but are not limited to: Items for the head, neck, hands or feet; items that are worn over the shoulder or that lie on your lap; items for your pet.
  - b. Non-Wearable Items  
Projects for this category may include, but are not limited to: Items for carrying or for use around the house.
2. Open - Any Percentage of Any Fibre
  - a. Wearable Items  
Projects for this category may include, but are not limited to: Items for the head, neck, hands or feet; items that are worn over the shoulder or that lie on your lap; items for your pet.
  - b. Non-Wearable Items  
Projects for this category may include, but are not limited to: Items for carrying or for use around the house.

#### **Guidelines for Special Projects and to be Eligible for Judging**

All entries must be 100% handspun, although felted items and items made with silk paper are included this year. You may use any appropriate construction technique. Please include the following in order to qualify for judging:

1. Sample of the fibre(s) used, before and after preparation. If using commercially prepared fibre, include a sample of the unspun fibre.
2. An explanation of how the fibre was prepared, including blending
3. A brief description of the spinning technique used
4. Sample skein (about 5 metres in length) of the final yarn used in the project.
5. Felted items and silk paper items will be judged on creativity and construction technique.

The entry form will be sent out with your Confirmation Package in Mid-May.

## **"Just for Fun" Submissions**

These creations will not be formally evaluated but are eligible for the Founders Award, WOW Award, the OHS Award and the HGA Award.

If competitions are not for you but you wish to share your achievements with your peers, bring your skeins or projects along to display. There is only one criterion in this category - all "Just for Fun" submissions must be created since the last Seminar (Wild about Silk in 2011) and may be made from any fibre.

## **AWARDS**

Any article submitted may be eligible if the appropriate guidelines are followed.

#### **Founders Award**

This award honours the founders of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar: Edna Blackburn, Ted Carson and Dorothy Kirk. The award of \$100 is presented to the person with the best article on display, made of 100% handspun yarn. It is judged by the Seminar attendees, who cast ballots for their favourite.

#### **Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Award**

This award of \$100 is presented by the Ontario Handweavers and Spinners. The award is given in recognition of the 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 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 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 \$25 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"

## **THE HANDSPINNER'S RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP**

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc. has money available for an annual Scholarship that is to be used in the exploration and development of new techniques, equipment and/or related research of interest to handspunners and dyers. A specific plan of study must be included with the application. Recipients are required to share the results of the experience with the participants of an Ontario Handspinning Seminar within 3 years of receipt of the scholarship. Everyone is encouraged to apply - the next application deadline is January 31, 2013.

For more information on the requirements and submitting an application, visit our website at [www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca](http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca).

## **EVERYTHING ELSE THAT YOU NEED TO KNOW**

**HOLIDAY INN:** We are holding the Seminar at the Holiday Inn in Burlington, Ontario. The hotel is located at 3063 South Service Road, Burlington, Ontario, Canada, L7N 3E9. All events will be held in the Hotel. Meals will be served in Harvester Hall and the Sales Room and the Competitions and Display area will be in Halton Hall. These 2 rooms are across the hall from each other. All but one workshop room is on the ground floor. The Hotel also has an indoor swimming pool, sauna and fitness centre available to all those who book their accommodation with them.

**REGISTRATION INFORMATION:** The registration fee includes Saturday morning Keynote Presentation with Norma Shepherd, Saturday workshops and Sunday morning presentations, all supplies, handouts, access to Sales and Display Room and a beverage break on Saturday morning. Registration must be **postmarked no earlier than Tuesday, April 10, 2012 and no later than Friday April 27, 2012.** Please note that the name appearing on your Registration Form is the name that will be printed on your name tag. Forward the completed Registration Form with your payment to the Registrar (see above for address) **by mail.** Email registrations cannot be accepted. Note that registration will be accepted in order of receipt. You will receive confirmation of your registration and a list of items to bring by mail in mid to late May. Acceptance of late registrants will be dependent on workshop space and room availability.

The **Registration Desk** will be open from 4:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m. on Friday, June 15, 2012 in the hallway outside Halton Hall, where the Sales Room and Displays will be located. We'll be there to greet you and answer any questions you have about the weekend. On Saturday morning, the Registration Desk will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 8:30 a.m., again outside Halton Hall.

**FEES:** The total amount must be submitted with your Registration. All cheques should be made payable to **ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR COMMITTEE.** Post-dated cheques will **not** be accepted. For our American attendees, 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 those specifically meant for international use. Domestic, U.S. money orders cannot be cashed in Canada. NSF cheques will be charged \$25.00. Some restrictions may apply to requests for refunds. An administration fee of \$15 will be applied to all refunds. Due to contractual obligations with the Holiday Inn, no refunds will be made after May 11, 2012.

**PARKING PASSES:** No parking passes are required! Parking at the Holiday Inn is complimentary.

**ACCOMMODATIONS:** Again, like last year, a block of hotel rooms has been set aside for our use. The hotel rooms are \$99.00 plus taxes per hotel room - no matter what size the room is. There are a number of single rooms (1 double bed) and a number of double rooms (2 queen-sized beds) reserved for us. There are no surcharges for extra people in the hotel room so if you have 4 friends who are willing to share a double room, you can split the cost 4 ways. Breakfast is **not** included in the room cost.

**Please book your accommodations early! As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012, there were only a few rooms left. Reservations can be made at any time, Monday to Friday, between 8:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m., by contacting:**

Tijana Bucalo, Reservations Coordinator  
Tel: 905-639-4443, ext 4676 or at 1-888-987-4888

It is essential that you quote our group number when you make your reservation: #908184

The block of rooms will be held until May 16<sup>th</sup> so be sure to book your room well before that date in order to stay at the Seminar location!

Check-in time is anytime after 3:00 p.m. on Friday. Parking is free for the duration of your stay. Check out time is 11:00 a.m. on Sunday.

**SALES ROOM:** On Friday, the Sales Room will be open from 4:00 to 10:00 p.m. in Halton Hall. The Sales Room will be open on Saturday from 12:15 noon to 2:00 p.m. and, at your request, after workshops from 4:15 p.m. to 5:30 p.m., at which time they will pack up.

**Any vendors, who still wish to register for space in the Sales Room, please contact Barb Ross at [bec.ross@sympatico.ca](mailto:bec.ross@sympatico.ca).** As of March 1<sup>st</sup>, there were a few spaces left.

**VISITOR PASSES:** If you have friends who will not be attending the Seminar, but would just want to visit the Sales Room, Visitor Passes will be available for a small fee of \$5.00. They may be purchased in advance or at the door.

**MEALS:** Please indicate the meals that you wish to purchase on the Registration Form. Also indicate if you have any **food allergies or dietary requirements** that we must accommodate. Please also note that we are contractually required to charge 15% gratuities and 13% HST on all meal costs. All Meals will be served in Harvester Hall in the Hotel.

**SATURDAY BANQUET AND FASHION SHOW:** The Saturday evening Banquet will start with a cash bar at 6:15 p.m. followed by the dinner and Fashion Show. We urge you to bring all the wonderful things you have made over the year, to model or have modelled, for the show.

**DISPLAY, COMPETITION AND BAGGIE CHALLENGE ITEMS:** This area will be set up in Halton Hall. Display, competition and baggie challenge items may be dropped off at the intake desk in Halton Hall from 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. on Friday night. Judging will take place on Friday night. If you aren't able to drop your creation off on Friday night, the intake desk will be open again in the hallway outside Halton Hall (beside the Registration Desk). **Items dropped off on Saturday morning will be ineligible for judging.** You will be able to pick up your items from the Display area in Halton Hall after the Fashion Show on Saturday night. Anyone not attending the Banquet will be able to pick up their items on Sunday morning in Harvester Hall after the close of the Seminar.

**VOLUNTEERS:** Each year, the assistance of volunteers is a key part of the success of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar. If you would like to volunteer to assist us this year, please mark the appropriate box at the bottom of the registration form.

**THE CITY OF BURLINGTON** is situated on Lake Ontario and is host to many landmark sites, including the Royal Botanical Gardens. For those interested in non-fibre shopping, there is also an IKEA store and Lee Valley Tools, close at hand. There are always major events taking place in the city which is all the more reason to book your hotel reservations early!

**SURPRISE SATURDAY EVENING ACTIVITY:** Now, it wouldn't be a surprise if we told you what it is, but join us in the Atrium, after the Fashion Show for a "Make and Take" activity. This runs until 11:00 p.m.

**AND DON'T FORGET...** On Friday evening, join us in the Atrium of the Holiday Inn for a "Meet and Greet". Come for the lively conversations or just to sit and spin. It will be open from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

**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.