



ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

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Fall 2013 Newsletter

On June 27, 1964, seventy-five spinners from all over Ontario and neighbouring states gathered at the farm of Edna and Wes Blackburn. It was the first event of its kind in North America. The program that day included demonstrations of sheep shearing, fleece sorting and scouring, vegetable dyeing, fibre preparation, and spinning with spindles and various types of spinning wheels. Organized by Edna Blackburn, Ted Carson, and Dorothy Kirk, the meeting was such a success it was decided that the Ontario Handspinning Seminar should become an annual event.

The 2014 Committee is hard at work planning a very special program for our 50th anniversary celebration, one that will be enjoyable and informative for all spinners, from beginner to advanced. This year's program will be organized a bit differently from previous years. There will be opportunities to participate in many hands-on activities, and everyone will have a chance to try them all. The program will include a rare opportunity to view the Kirk spinning wheel collection, and to work with several of the wheels.

Please join us for our 50th anniversary celebration as we will revisit our:

SPINNING ROOTS Friday, June 6 – Sunday, June 8, 2014 The Best Western Inn on the Bay Owen Sound, Ontario

The Best Western Inn on the Bay is located on the waterfront in downtown Owen Sound, and is easily accessible by car. Parking is free at the hotel, so no parking passes are required. There is Greyhound bus transit to Owen Sound from Toronto via Barrie.

The Saturday program will take place at Grey Roots Museum and Archives, just a short drive from the hotel. We will provide signs and other support for those who wish to drive to insure that you find your way to the museum without difficulty. You will not be required to bring your spinning wheels for the Saturday program (but do pack your spindle if you have one), so it will be easier to car pool. There is ample, free parking at the museum. Shuttle bus service will be arranged for those who require it.

Accommodations

A block of hotel rooms has been set aside for our use. The hotel rooms are \$134.99 plus taxes per room – no matter what size the room is. There are a number of single rooms (1 queen-size bed and 1 pullout sofa) and a number of double rooms (2 queen-size beds) reserved for us. There is **no** surcharge for extra people in the hotel room (up to 4 people per room). Breakfast is **not** included in the room cost.

Please book your accommodations early! Reservations can be made at any time by calling:

519-371-9200 or 1-866-719-9200

When you make your reservation, it is essential that you state that you will be attending the Ontario Handspinning Seminar.

The block of rooms will be held until 11:59am on April 24th, so be sure to book your room well before that date in order to stay at the Seminar location!

For information about other options for accommodations, as well as things to do and see while you are here, see: www.owensoundtourism.ca

Salesroom Contact

Anyone wishing to have Salesroom space should contact:
Dorothy Hinchcliffe
519-363-2290
dorfarm@hotmail.com

Vendors from last year's Seminar will automatically receive an application.

2013-2014 Board of Directors

President: Linda Needles
Vice President: Esther Grav
Secretary: Mara Lusic
Treasurer: Brenda Pedden-Boyce
Members at Large: Dianne Lamb, Elizabeth McConaghy, Colleen Thomson, Elona McCubbin, Susan Alain

2013-14 Committee

Chair: Harriet Boon
Board Representative: Elisabeth McConaghy
Registrar: Brenda McLister
Facility: Barbara Aikman
Salesroom Convenor: Dorothy Hinchcliffe
Saturday Program Convenor: Bridget Lewis
Saturday Evening Activities Convenor: Colleen Thomson
Sunday Program Convenors: Diny Warren & Lindy Smith
Display Convenor: Barbara Scott
Mistress of Ceremonies: Lindy Smith

2013 Competition and Award Winners

Special Project 100% Silk or Slik Blend: Wearable, Advanced	1 st Barb Ross 1 st Eileen Land 2 nd Elaine Horemans
Special Project 100% Silk or Silk Blend: Non-Wearable, Novice	1 st Yvonne Hugli
Special Project, Open: Wearable, Intermediate	1 st Hanna Fulton
Special Project, Open: Wearable, Advanced	1 st Barb Ross 2 nd Betsy Walters 3 rd Liz Van Wyck
Special Project, Open: Non-Wearable, Advanced	1 st Leslie Ordal 2 nd Diny Warren
Skein Competition: Simple 2-Ply, Novice	1 st Marianne Charbonneau
Skein Competition: Simple 2-Ply, Intermediate	1 st Louise Fulton
Skein Competition: Simple 2-Ply, Advanced	1 st Liz Van Wyck 2 nd Pat Jarvis
Skein Competition: 3 or More Ply, Intermediate	1 st Hanna Fulton 2 nd Louise Fulton
Skein Competition: 3 or More Ply, Advanced	1 st Pat Jarvis 2 nd Jessie McGregor 3 rd Leslie Ordal
Skein Competition: Spindle Spun Skein, Novice	1 st Karen Fowler
Skein Competition: Spindle Spun Skein, Advanced	1 st Pat Hardy 2 nd Leslie Ordal 3 rd Leslie Ordal

Award Winners

Founders Award: Dorothy Hinchcliffe. 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.

Barb Patterson Award: Karen Fowler. 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".

Ontario Handweavers and Spinners Award: Betsy Walters. 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 Award: Beth Abbott. This award of a gift certificate and handwoven ribbon is presented by the Handweavers' Guild of America in recognition of "a work of hand weaving, 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: Bridget Lewis. This award of \$50 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.**

Re-inspired Spinner Award: not presented. The purpose of the award is to allow the individual to further their education and re-inspire them by attending a workshop, class or course that is of interest to them. A cash value of \$250 will be awarded to the successful applicant.

New to the Seminar Awards: Kate Michalska & Susan Reeder. This award will go to the first two people to register as first time attendees. The award will be the registration fee along with \$50.

The Edna Blackburn Award: Yvonne Hugli. This award will be presented to a novice spinner (less than 2 years experience) for a 100% handspun article. This annual award will be for the amount of \$50. The award will be chosen by the judges from the current Seminar, and awarded by the Committee Chair.

Scholarship, Competitions, and Awards

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 – there is still lot of time to meet the January 31st deadline.

For more information on the requirements and submitting an application, visit our website at www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca.

New to the Seminar Award

This award will go to the first two people to register as first time attendees. The award will be the registration fee along with \$50. Be sure to encourage your spinning friends to join you, and be sure to get your registration in early!

All other competitions and awards will be suspended until 2015.

The **Baggie Challenge** from Seminar 2013 will be judged in 2015.

Display

The Committee is planning to include in the program a display about our history, and hopes to offer a view into past events. We are trying to find printed documents, photographs, and handspun items. If you have any such items, please contact Barbara Scott at barbaraescott@rogers.com or 519-824-3210.

Spring Newsletter and Registration Form

This Newsletter, as well as the Spring Newsletter and registration forms, will be available on-line at the Ontario Handspinning Seminar website. Please pass this information along to your friends and tell them to visit www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca. If you received this Newsletter, please be assured that your registration form will be mailed by regular Canada Post with the Spring Newsletter.

Be sure to follow the conversation at www.ravelry.com/groups/ontario-handspinning-seminar-fans.

In the meantime, save the dates!

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.