



ONTARIO HANDSPINNING SEMINAR

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SPRING NEWSLETTER 2014

Spinning Roots

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

Join us for the 50th Ontario Handspinning Seminar

FRIDAY

The **Registration Desk**, located at the Best Western Inn on the Bay, will be open from 2:00 to 10:00 p.m. Be sure to register before you head to the Salesroom because you will need your badge for admission.

This year the **Salesroom** will be open on Friday only, so the hours have been extended to 2:00 to 10:00 p.m. The Salesroom will be located at the Harry Lumley Bayshore Community Centre, across the street from the Hotel. If you have friends who will not be attending the Seminar but would just want to visit the Salesroom, admission will be available for \$5.00, paid at the door. Any vendors who still wish to register for space in the Salesroom, please contact Dorothy Hinchcliffe at 519-363-2290 or dorfarm@hotmail.com

Back at the Hotel, the **Hospitality Room** will be open from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. Come to relax for awhile after your travel and shopping. Bring your spinning wheel or spindle.

The **Display Room** will also be open from 7:00 to 11:00 p.m. We hope you will enjoy the display of photographs and handspun items from previous Seminars. We are working hard to assemble a collection of materials that will reflect the Seminar's history and the course we have traced over the first 50 years. If anyone has pictures or an item they would be willing to share, please contact Barbara Scott at 519-824-3210 or barbaraescott@rogers.com

Gord Lendrum has constructed a **Diabolical Contraption** to challenge our spinning skills.

SATURDAY MORNING

The **Registration Desk**, located at the Best Western Inn on the Bay, will be open again from 8:00 to 9:00 a.m.

At 9:00 a.m., we will assemble in the hotel Ballroom for the **Welcome and Opening Remarks**. We will then set out for Grey Roots Museum and Archives, just a short drive from the hotel. Signs and other support will be provided for those who will be driving to ensure that you find your way to the Museum without difficulty. You will not be required to bring your spinning wheels for the Saturday programme (but do pack your spindle if you have one, and some fibre to spin), 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.

Part of the programme will take place outdoors, so be sure to pack your water bottle, your sensible shoes, and whatever you need for protection from sun or rain.

SATURDAY PROGRAMMES AND WORKSHOPS

Upon arriving at Grey Roots Museum and Archives, please proceed to the main entrance where you will be directed to your first assigned station. (You will have an opportunity to participate in all of the following activities during the course of the day.) The programmes and workshops will begin promptly at 10:00 a.m. There will be a lunch break from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., featuring live entertainment. There are no restaurants or food services near the Museum, so if you don't buy a ticket for the catered lunch, be sure to pack whatever you need. The afternoon programmes and workshops will run from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. From 3:30 to 4:00 p.m., you will be free to revisit any of the stations you wish.

KIRK SPINNING WHEEL COLLECTION AND BEHIND THE SCENES TOUR

Grey Roots Museum and Archives is opening the vault! See the Kirk spinning wheel collection, and the specialized storage room where the wheels are kept.

Joan Hyslop has worked with the Grey Roots collection since 1984. She was involved as a cataloguer when Dorothy Kirk donated the spinning wheel collection to the Museum in 1998.

WORKING WITH WHEELS

A selection of the Kirk wheels will be available for us to use. Another wheel of the same type will also be available to ensure that everyone has an opportunity for hands-on experience. With each type of wheel, there will be a workshop leader who will be able to provide information about the wheels, demonstrate how to use them, and assist us when we try our hands at spinning on them.

CHARKHA WHEEL

The Charkha, in its many forms, is a very efficient wheel for quickly introducing the ample twist needed for cotton spinning.

Beth Abbott has been a spinner for almost 40 years. She fell in love with cotton a long time ago, and now teaches cotton spinning on a regular basis.

GREAT WHEEL

Also known as the “walking wheel,” this type of spinning wheel originated in Europe early in the twelfth century. It was primarily used for woollen spinning.

Bridget Misener, as a student in the OHS Spinning Certificate programme, was inspired to purchase, study, and restore a Great Wheel as part of her second year research project.

IRISH CASTLE WHEEL

This wheel has a distinctive style, with the drive wheel situated over the flyer on a tall, narrow tripod. It was designed for spinning flax.

Roslyn Darling is finishing her final year in the OHS Spinning Certificate programme. After being afraid to spin plant fibres for 35 years believing that they were “too difficult,” she is now passionate about spinning these fibres, from line flax to cotton lint.

QUEBEC PRODUCTION WHEEL

These wheels are known for high ratios, strong draw in, and fast wind on.

Lynn Broughton became fascinated with Quebec Production Wheels 12 years ago when, as a new spinner, she read William Ralph's article about them in Spin-Off.

A LOOK AT THE WOOLLEN MILLS OF GREY COUNTY

The presentation is a general overview of where Grey County's mills were located, why they developed there, and a brief history of each. The presentation includes historical and contemporary photographs from Museum and archival sources.

Sim Salata has been the artefacts collection manager at Grey Roots Museum and Archives since 2008. She cares for over 15,000 artefacts that tell the stories of the people of Grey County.

SHEEP SHEARING DEMONSTRATION

Visit the paddock where a small flock of sheep and angora goats will be shorn.

Richard Bayly has been a professional sheep shearer for almost 30 years, specializing in “wool breeds” and also angora goats. Many of the fleeces he has shorn have placed first in the Royal Winter Fair.

FLAX PROCESSING

Learn how flax straw is processed to produce fibre ready for spinning.

Mavis Atton is a spinner, teacher, lecturer, and author of *Flax Culture: from flower to fabric*.

FROM THE DYE POT

Check the serendipity of an outdoor dye pot—natural of course..

Elisabeth McConaghy is a Master Spinner. She enjoys dyeing, and is fascinated by the variations that can be achieved from local and natural sources, such as onion skins, goldenrod, and marigolds.

FELT BEADS

In this workshop, you will have an opportunity to make 2 or 3 felt beads that may be strung as a necklace or earrings.

Esther Grav has been a weaver and spinner for more than 30 years. She was introduced to felting in 2005 when she enrolled in a Nuno Scarf workshop with Sharon Costello. Since then, she has continued to explore this fibre medium.

SATURDAY EVENING

The Saturday evening **Banquet** will start with a cash bar and live entertainment at 6:00 p.m. The dinner service will begin at 6:30 p.m.

Following the Banquet, we have some group activities planned, just for fun. Join us in the Ballroom between 8:00 and 11:00 p.m. Bring some knitting needles, any size.

The **Display Room** will also be open from 8:00 to 11:00 p.m.

You will have another opportunity to face the challenge of the **Diabolical Contraption**.

SUNDAY MORNING PRESENTATIONS

Wheels with a Canadian connection are featured with guest speakers who are closely connected to the wheels. The presentations will include history, evolution, and characteristics of the wheels. There will be a brief time for questions following each presentation.

BLACKBURN WHEEL

Wendy Bateman is a Master Spinner and textile instructor with the Haliburton School of the Arts. She has garnered numerous awards in colour and design, spinning, and weaving. She was a longtime friend of Edna and Wes Blackburn.

ROGNVALDSON WHEEL

Janet Taylor is the eldest daughter of Clarence and Dorothy Rognvaldson of Acton, Ontario. Spinning wheels were an integral part of her growing up years. She began her spinning journey with Mrs. Dorothy Kirk and Harriet Boon in Owen Sound. She has a treasured heritage in the spinning world that she is happy to share with us.

LOUET WHEEL

Dave Van Stralen is the President of Louet North America, founded by his mother, Trudy Van Stralen. Dave grew up around the fibre arts, and helped in the family business through his high school years. He began full time employment with Louet in 1994, and has been President since 2007. He has a detailed knowledge of all Louet equipment.

HYATT WHEEL

Ken Hyatt, a lifelong wood and metal worker, started making spinning wheels after he retired. His “Better Half” had learned to spin and announced that a spinning wheel would soon be needed. Now, 50 plus wheels later, the wheels have evolved, and Ken continues to take great pleasure and satisfaction with each wheel he makes.

2013-2014 Board of Directors

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Sunday Program Convenors: Diny Warren & Lindy Smith
Display Convenor: Barbara Scott
Mistress of Ceremonies: Lindy Smith

2014 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 handspinners 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, 2015. For more information on the requirements and application process, 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. *To be eligible for this award, your registration must be postmarked no earlier than April 7. Be sure to mark the appropriate box at the bottom of your Registration Form indicating that you are a first time attendee.*

All other competitions and awards will be suspended until 2015.

EVERYTHING ELSE YOU NEED TO KNOW

Best Western Inn on the Bay: The Hotel is located 1800 2nd Avenue West, Owen Sound, Ontario, N4K 5R1. Parking is free. The Hotel has two whirlpools, a sauna, and an exercise room available to all those who book accommodations with them.

REGISTRATION INFORMATION: The registration fee includes Saturday programmes and workshops; Sunday morning presentations; materials and handouts; and access to the Salesroom, Hospitality Room, and Display Room. Registration must be **postmarked no earlier than Monday, April 7, 2014 and no later than Tuesday, April 22, 2014.** 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 top of first page 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 by mail in mid to late May. Acceptance of late registrants will be dependent on workshop space and room availability.

FEES: The total amount must be submitted with your Registration Form. 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.

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 is **no** surcharge for extra people in the hotel room (up to 4 people per room). Breakfast is **not** included in the room cost.

Our Block of rooms is going fast, so book your accommodations early. You must book your room before 11:59 a.m. on April 24th to get the Seminar rate. 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.

For information about other options for accommodations, and other things to see and do here, go to: www.owensoundtourism.ca

MEALS: On your Registration Form, please indicate the meals you wish to purchase. Prices include hst and gratuities. If you have any food allergies or dietary requirements that we must accommodate, please provide details on the Registration Form.

Breakfast buffets on Saturday and Sunday, and the Saturday evening Banquet buffet will be served at the Hotel. Steps will be taken to insure that the buffets include options compatible with most common dietary requirements. Special vegetarian or gluten free meals can be arranged upon request.

Our lunch at the Museum on Saturday will be catered by Robin Pradhan, chef and proprietor of the Rocky Raccoon Cafe. There are no restaurants or food services near the Museum, so if you don't buy a ticket for lunch, be sure to pack whatever you will need. The food served at the lunch buffet will be gluten and dairy free.

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.

Updates and Information about the Seminar can be seen at : <http://www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca>

or on the Ravelry site: <http://www.ravelry.com/groups/ontario-handspinning-seminar-fans>

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.