



Ontario Handspinning Seminar

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Fall 2014 Newsletter

Are you ready? It is time to start planning for the 2015 Ontario Handspinning Seminar. After the wonderful weekend in 2014 celebrating the 50th anniversary of the Seminar, we are getting ready to carry on the tradition of great learning shopping and fun. Be sure to set aside the dates!

Destination Fibres



June 12 - 14, 2015
DELTA TORONTO EAST HOTEL
2035 Kennedy Road
Toronto, Ontario

Join us for an inspiring weekend of creativity and learning. Get ready to travel the world with us as we go off and explore fibres.

Reserve these dates for a wonderful weekend with people who share your passion for fibre and travel.

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 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 as soon as it is released.

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 Delta Toronto East Hotel, at Kennedy and Highway 401 in Toronto. The hotel rooms are \$139.00 + taxes per night. There is a surcharge of \$25.00 per person, per night if there are more than two people in the room.

Please book your room early.

For reservations please call **416-299-0562, ext. 6006** or the Global Reservation Number at **1-888-890-3222** and use our group code **GOHSS2014** for the Seminar rate.

The block of rooms will be held until May 12, 2015.

The hotel's website may be found at www.deltatorontoeast.com.

2014 - 2015 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President: Esther Grav

Vice President: Elisabeth McConaghy

Secretary: Mara Lusic

Treasurer: Colleen Thomson

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

2015 Organizing Committee

Chair: Barb Ross

Board Liaison: Mara Lusic

Registrar & Treasurer: Anne Reynolds

Workshop Conveners: Hanna Fulton, Louise Fulton

Salesroom Convener: Kim Bushby

Display Conveners: Yvonne Hugli, Eileen Land

Special Projects: Yvonne Hugli, Eileen Land

Fashion Show Convener: Yvonne Hugli

Facilities: Barb Ross

Newsletter and Secretary: Eileen Land, Barb Ross

Sales Room Contact

Yes! There will be a Sales Room at the Seminar this year. There has been some confusion about this amongst both our vendors and our spinners, but rest assured, there will be a Sales Room at the Seminar.

The sales area has easy access for set-up and for 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 Kim Bushby at bushbykim@gmail.com. Vendors from last year's Seminar will automatically receive an application.

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. For all categories the following guideline applies.

- 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 the categories must have been completed in the last year.
- Seminar participants who act as judges may not submit entries in the competition.

Baggie Challenge

Think back. Think waaay back. We did not have the Baggie Challenge in 2014 because of our 50th Anniversary celebration. The Baggie challenge for 2015 is to be created from the fibre you received in 2013. Remember the packages with three types of fibre? 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.

Spinning Tales

Burlington Holiday Inn
June 14 to 16, 2013

The connections of spinning, history and stories inspired the theme of this seminar. '*Baa, Baa, Black Sheep, Have You Any Wool?*' was our starting point for the baggie challenge. We are pleased to provide everyone with three bags of fibre as you **Spin Your Tale**, this coming year.

This year's fibre challenge is to create a small item that is inspired from a story. Please consider the following guidelines:

- *Choose a story, nursery rhyme, myth or folktale,*
- *Use the fibre provided in these bags,*
- *You may add fibre(s) to create your item*
- *Emphasize all the beautiful provided fibres,*
- *Embellish your item as desire,*
- *And, finally decide how you will Spin your Tale...*

Have fun creating a small item as you enjoy reading and reconnecting with your favourite stories. Remember to bring your item for display at next year's seminar!

Contents: Approximately 48g; Sugar Candy Merino, White Merino + Pinch of Gold Angelina & Ashland Bay Streaky Polworth (Fibre Garden)

2014 Award Winner

At the Seminar's 50th Anniversary in 2014, there was no judging. The Display room was set up as a tribute to past Seminars and the people who made them special.

The only award last year was presented to Gord Lendrum in honour of his years of exceptional support and for his creation of the Diabolical Contraption!



Skeins Competition

Skein Competition Criteria

Novice: You have been spinning for fewer than two years.

Intermediate: You have been spinning between 2 - 5 years.

Advanced: You have been spinning for more than 5 years.

You are encouraged to enter handspun skeins in any or all of the four categories that follow:

Simple 2-ply skein: Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn that is appropriate for the end use suggested in your documentation.

3 or more ply: Your goal is to produce a consistent, balanced yarn that is appropriate for the end use suggested in your documentation.

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.

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 for Submitting a Skein to be Eligible for Judging

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 and a maximum of 25 metres in length. Skeins must be tied in four places with figure eight ties made from fine cotton. Skeins must not be twisted. The beginning of the skein must be tied to the end of the skein. 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.

The entry form will be included with the Spring 2015 Newsletter.

Special Projects Competition

Special Projects Competition Criteria

You are encouraged to submit an item based on techniques taught at the **2013** Seminar. Techniques and subjects featured at the 2013 Seminar include: spinning flax, stash reduction, spinning mohair for a rug, spinning hemp, spinning different fleeces, spinning for Kumihimo, Linsey-Woolsey and spinning variegated yarn!

Enter as:

Novice: You have been spinning for less than 2 years.

Intermediate: You have been spinning between 2-5 years.

Advanced: You have been spinning for more than 5 years.

The categories are:

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 for Special Projects

All items must be 100% handspun. You may use any appropriate construction technique. Please include the following to qualify for judging.

- 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 five metres in length - of the final yarn used in the project.

The entry form will be included in the Spring 2015 Newsletter.

“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 competition is not for you but you wish to share the projects you have worked on for the past 2 years, 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 2013 Seminar and may be made of any fibre. **Think of this as the biggest Show and Tell of the year!**

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 members to send their registration early!

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.

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 submit to the Seminar Board, in writing 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 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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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 Handspinner's Research Scholarship

The Ontario Handspinning Seminar Inc. has made 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 in the application. Recipients are required to share the results of the experience with the participants of the Ontario Handspinning Seminar within three years of receipt of the Scholarship. Everyone is encouraged to apply - there is still a lot of time to meet the January 31 deadline! For more information visit the website: www.ontariohandspinningseminar.ca

Fashion Show

The Fashion show is one of the highlights of the Seminar. You may model your own creation or have someone else model it for you. A form will be available to fill out with the Registration form accompanying the Spring 2015 Newsletter. Don't be shy. No one is looking at the models - they are looking at the fabulous handspun articles!

Raffle!

Remember the yarn that everyone created as part of the Saturday morning group event at the 2013 Seminar. The theme was *Spinning Tales* and we spun yarns to illustrate different aspects of different fairy tales. We all had fun producing some very interesting yarns.

At the end of the Seminar, there were a lot of small skeins left over so the Board thought it would be good idea to use them. Susan Alain took on the challenge and has been knitting away to create a throw which will be raffled off at the 2015 Seminar.

Here is a sneak peak at how it is coming along...



Spring Newsletter and Registration Forms

The Spring 2015 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 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>

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

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.