

**ONTARIO NETWORK OF NEEDLEWORKERS
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
5 OCTOBER 2024 9:30 A.M. - online**

Attending:

Jess Blackmore, Canadian Embroiderers' Guild London (Zoom host)
Jennifer Meister, Canadian Embroiderers' Guild London President
Fiona White, Embroiderers' Guild of Peterborough
Judy McMullan, ONN Webmaster (CEG Guelph) (Recording secretary)
Pat White, Canadian Embroiderers' Guild Guelph President
Mavis Brown, Canadian Embroiderers' Guild Guelph (Chairing)
Audrey Chaput, Toronto Guild of Stitchery
Alexandra Semeniuk, Scarborough Needlearts Guild
Marilyn Girndt, Trillium Embroidery Guild Vice President
Barbara Cook, Brant Needle Arts Guild
Roma Smith, Sudbury District Quilting and Stitchery Guild
Gemma Burke, Oakville Stitchery Guild

Regrets: Canadian Embroiderers' Guild Kitchener-Waterloo
Norfolk's Own Needle Arts Guild
Northumberland Hills Stitchery Guild
Dianna Thorne, ONN Treasurer

MOTION by Fiona White/Mavis Brown to accept the minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 14 October 2023. CARRIED

2025 Annual General Meeting

Jennifer (CEGL) says that CEG London will be able to be online hosts for next year's Annual General Meeting but they will need better information passed to them about who will be attending the meeting and their relevant email addresses.

Fiona (EGP) noted that we should announce the AGM meeting date in the summer newsletter.

Mavis (CEGG) said that she could chair the meeting next year.

It was recommended that the ONN AGM should always be the first Saturday of October, each year.

The next AGM will be held on October 4, 2025 at 9:30 am for 2-3 hours.

Reports

Brant Needle Arts Guild

Barb Cook of Brant Needle Arts Guild said they currently have about 12-15 members attending. Glenhyrst will no longer allow them to store books or other goods so everything has been taken by members to store at their homes. They recently held a "T.G. It's Finished" event. Other highlights this year have been Stitch of the Month and Show and Tell. They will join Norfolk or Guelph from time to time for special events. They try to share knowledge and materials amongst their members. They are planning for a show at the Glenhyrst Art Gallery in Brantford in 2026.

Canadian Embroiderers' Guild Guelph

CEGG still meets at Kortright Presbyterian Church every other Tuesday from 9 am to 2 pm. This year, they had 18 new members. Classes are mostly taught by members. They offer 6 teaching classes in the fall and 6 classes in the Winter. There is also an "independent" table at all times.

Some classes coming up this year are: Putting on the Glitz, Embroidery Fundamentals for Beginners, Come Away With Us (maps/cityscapes), Tudor Embroidery Techniques. They will also be having a 2 day workshop with Kathryn Drummond.

Their fall Stash Sale earned almost \$800.

Over the summer, they had displays at WeftFest, the Fergus Medieval Faire and the Aberfoyle Fall Fair.

Canadian Embroiderers' Guild London

Jennifer Meister reported that they have 136 members this year, which is down very slightly from last year. They have moved to a new location – Westmount Presbyterian Church. They have been incorporated for about 18 years. Last year, they had a legal team working on their by-laws. They do not have charitable status. A few years ago they were advised that charitable status was not suitable for them.

Classes this year range from traditional to contemporary and include: maps, blackwork.

Every Thursday is Guild Day. They have: classes or events; new stitches; speakers (many of them online). It was noted that the speaker names are on CEG London's website.

Summer workshops for 2025 will be with Julia Garcia and Carolyn Parks.

Their first post-pandemic Showcase went very well!

Toronto Guild of Stitchery

Audrey Chaput reported that TSG meets on the 1st and 3rd Thursdays of each month from 10-12 and then from 7-9. Members can stay all day if they want to. The program on the first Thursday is typically finances and program. The third Thursday is usually "Find It, Finish It" (FIFI).

Their October speaker was the Anglican Ecclesiastic Stitchers. November will be a program on Shadow Work. December will feature a Christmas ornament. The TSG 50th Anniversary is coming up in 2025. They will do a collective project. They plan to have the author of the book "The Gown" come to speak to them.

Stitch in Public is done 2-3 times a year. For instance, they held one at the Duke of York pub. They usually have an all-day Stash Sale, once a year. They held a 2 day workshop with Mike Parr. They have a library. Once a year, they have a stitching retreat at Nottawasaga or Crieff.

Embroiderers' Guild of Peterborough

Thanks to CEG Guelph for hosting the ONN Fair. It was beneficial to meet other guilds.

EGP meets in the local United Church on the 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays of the month. The second Wednesday is a stitch-in and the third Wednesday is a program. They are trying to do less business and more program.

Instead of "stitch of the month" they like to study a stitch group and how the stitches are used. Teachers come from within the group with occasional outside workshops. They are trying to have workshops on Saturdays to attract younger people. One of the Saturday workshops will be Christmas ornaments. Another technique they are using to attract new members is to advertise to quilt guilds. EGP would like to have a needle painting workshop and they wondered who to ask.

One of their big successes was the Whisper Project. This year they plan to have a "Colour Play" project. It will be a 6" x 6" piece done predominantly in a chosen colour. Twenty people have signed up for Colour Play.

Membership is about 30 people. Some retired from last year but there are several new people this year.

Scarborough Needlearts Guild

Alexandra Semeniuk also gave SNG's thanks to CEG Guelph for hosting the ONN Fair. SNG meets Mondays from 10 – 1:30 from September to June. Business meetings are once a month. This is their third year meeting at St. Mark's.

Membership this year is 42 – which is up 7 from last year – almost to pre-pandemic levels. SNG has participated in Guild Alive with Culture (an initiative of the Guild Inn in Scarborough) for 2 years now and it has brought them more exposure. SNG also participated in the Schomberg Christmas Festival. They have had new flyers made and distributed. They are also thinking about stitching in public, especially on the University of Toronto campus. The idea would be to promote stitching as a stress reliever.

In terms of programming, they have 9 members participating in a year-long round robin. Their 50th Anniversary will be in 2026 and they hope to exhibit in local galleries. Recently, their speaker was Richard Pikul. A new program was to have an interesting YouTube video projected onto the wall for all to see at once. Another program has been for individuals to tell the group the story of

how they got into stitching. In November, the Ukrainian Museum of Canada will give them a presentation on Ukrainian embroidery. Alexandra noted that the Museum has an online, self-guided tour of their textiles that ONN members might enjoy.

SNG's social efforts are retreats at Elim Lodge twice a year.

Stash sales are good fundraisers for them.

Their library gets new books regularly though, of course, they must cull old books.

Sudbury District Quilting and Stitchery Guild

Roma Smith reported that they have over 100 members altogether. About 20-30 of those are stitchers. They meet 4 times a month, on Tuesday evenings. The first week is a general meeting. The second week is the stitching group. Sometimes they bring their own work and sometimes they have a project. Recently, they had three project workshops – Bargello, Dyeing and flat fold assemble to display stitchery.

One of their goals is to entice younger people and so their workshops are being led by younger members.

September was busy with planning their big quilt show for Oct 19/20. A stitchery display is included in the show. The challenge for the quilt show is "What Art Means to You".

Linda Lachance is a stitchery designer who is a member of the guild. She sometimes teaches workshops for SWDQSG

Trillium Embroidery Guild

Marilyn Girdnt reported that Trillium has 26 members right now. They are down 5 from last year. They meet on Saturdays from 12-3 except for the summer. They have a room at a condo that they have been meeting in for the last 25 years. Business meetings are Wednesday nights from 7-9.

They recently paired with Scarborough Needlearts Guild for a retreat at Elim Lodge.

They don't usually have a summer project but they had a Cornflower Embroidered Scissor Case as a summer project this year.

Mavis Brown came to speak to them earlier this year.

They are now members of the Embroiderers' Association of Canada and one of their members – Poppy Bleau – is on the Board of Directors of EAC. Barb Angier, Trillium's President, is the EAC Treasurer.

Trillium holds the yearly "TATA" (Themed Adapted Work) contest for original embroidery work.

Useful Websites

Websites mentioned was those of Mary Corbet <https://needlenthread.com> and Sarah Homfray <https://sarahhomfray.com>.

The meeting concluded at 11:10 am