

Kincardine Sunset Quilters' Guild History

The Kincardine Sunset Quilters' Guild started when two Kincardine ladies, Joyce MacDonald and Simone Lynch wondered if anyone in Kincardine would be interested in having their own Quilt Guild. They advertised for anyone interested to come to a meeting at the Scout Hall and on January 19, 1994, 15 ladies showed up despite the fact that it was the first "snow day" for the schools in a long time. Since there was such a good response, a date was set for the next month and February 1994 became the first official meeting. Joyce was already the president of the Teeswater 5 Star Guild, so Simone took on the roll of president.

Right away the first quilt was planned despite the slim budget and nothing in the bank. A constitution was drawn up for the group based on the 5 Star Guild guidelines and was signed by Simone, Marie Jardine and Elaine Thacker. When the quilt was raffled, the money raised was used to start the Guild Library. At the end of the first year the Kincardine Sunset Quilters' Guild could count 40 members.

Meetings were at first held in the Scout Hall and then moved to the United Church basement and then to the Kincardine Legion Hall. Today the group consists of 78 members and meets the 2nd Wednesday of the month in St. Anthony's Church Hall from 9:30am-11:30am. As well, members meet on Mondays for the UFO Club where they work on unfinished projects or do hand quilting, appliqué or other needle crafts.

Sunset Quilter's Guild is a charitable and non profit organization, and any profits or funds collected by the group are used to promote the following objectives: Provide community support through donations to those in need, promote quilting in the community, share knowledge, expertise, books, sources and tools with other members, assist those practicing quilting in any way deemed advisable and improve the skill and artistry of those practicing quilting through educational services.

For the past 18 years members have been involved in various charitable endeavours. Each year a donation quilt is prepared and given to a non-profit community group to use as a fundraiser. The 2011 quilt, "***Back to Our Roots***" was donated to the Royal Canadian Legion, Kincardine Branch. Some of the other groups receiving donations in the past have been: the Kincardine Hospital, The Women's House, Special Olympics, The Walker

House, Children's Aid Society, Canadian Mental Health Association, PRANCE and the Kincardine Old Boys Reunion.

Last year, we donated 67 quilts to the Kitchener-Waterloo & Cambridge Chapter of Project Linus, a charity that provides blankets to children who are ill, traumatized or in need of security. As well 12 quilts were donated to Project Japan in the wake of the nuclear accident at Fukushima. This fall, 10 quilts were donated to the Goderich Relief group. In years past turbans have been made for cancer patients, bonnets for preemies, touch quilts donated to local nursing homes for Alzheimer patients, play stimulation quilts given to maternity homes and placemats made for Meals on Wheels and the local hospital.

Guild members practice both hand and machine quilting. Classes for beginners taught by Denise Jameson have been very popular. Workshops and demonstrations help develop skills in all needlecraft areas: landscape quilting, needle painting, appliqué, fabric dyeing, colour and fibre art. Professional teachers as well as local members instruct monthly workshops.

Today the Sunset Quilters' Guild maintains a library of hundreds of books and patterns that are available to all members of the community. Members come from many parts of the area: Port Elgin, Hanover, Southampton, Paisley and Walkerton. As well, cottagers have also become active members.

This year plans are being made for a Quilt Show in October and a bus trip to the Vermont Quilting Festival in June. The groups has members of all ages and all skill levels. Newcomers are always welcome.

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Co-Chairs for 2011-2013 Mary Coates and Martha Sol

Special Projects Convenors: Lydia Kus, Dianne Knight, Agnes White

2012 Quilt Show Convenors: Marg Cale, Liz Cooper

Membership: Joyce Bowker