



Website: <http://www.mahonebayquiltersguild.com/>  
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## President's Message

Happy March! Could it be Spring soon? I certainly hope so! We've had so much snow, but as someone pointed out yesterday we haven't had to cancel one of our Winter meetings yet (although I know I'm inviting trouble just mentioning it).

I first want to extend our most heartfelt condolences as a Guild to our beloved members Cheryl and Taylor Borden, on the very sudden death of Bob Borden, Cheryl's husband of 37 years and Taylor's dad. Robert John Borden died at home in Wellington, NS on February 19. I can only imagine how shattered their entire family is by this incalculable loss, and I know we are all thinking of them at this time. We will of course be sending a card to Cheryl and Taylor as a Guild.

The Guild is bustling and busy right now, with many events and workshops coming up. We met for our first Open Sew Day on Saturday February 21, and the ten of us had a marvellous time sewing, chatting, sharing tips and enjoying Elizabeth Murphy's presentation on flange binding, which I think has inspired us all. It's so good to see many new members gathering and forming friendships together and getting to know each other.

Didi and I are very excited to see how this monthly sewing day, open to all members, will continue to develop. We've already got suggestions for names for the new event/group some of which may remain private! Our goal with the event is always to keep it welcoming and

## Executive Members

**President** – Nina Scott-Stoddart –  
[president@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:president@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Vice President** – Vacant

**Treasurer** – Jill Rafuse –  
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**Secretary** – Dawn Pritchard  
[secretary@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:secretary@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Communications** – Cheryl Borden –  
[communications@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:communications@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Membership** – Betty Learning –  
[membership@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:membership@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Library** – Heather McEwan, Pam Hancock  
and Diane Binmore –  
[library@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:library@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Past President** – Annette Fralic –  
[pastpresident@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:pastpresident@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Workshops** – Josie (Pina) Wall and Didi Morton-  
Spaan –  
[workshop@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:workshop@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)  
or 902-693-2018

**Monthly Program** – Sandy Morrow-  
[program@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:program@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

**Newsletter** – Sheena Gibbs –  
[newsletter@mahonebayquiltersguild.com](mailto:newsletter@mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

## Next Meeting

Our next meeting is **March 2, 2026 @1:00pm**.  
Doors open at 12:30pm. It will be in-person  
only at the Trinity United Church.  
\*see page 14 for meeting reminders!

For Information on Slow Quilting, Sew Zoom  
and other Guild Activities check out our  
Website Calendar:

<https://mahonebayquiltersguild.com/events/>

open to all members.

Our March 2 business meeting is our last daytime meeting until the late fall. We have the important work of reviewing the proposed 2026-27 Guild Budget at this meeting, although we may not ratify it until the April meeting, depending on the extent and direction of the discussions arising from it. A budget is more than just a dry document, it's a statement of an organizations goals and priorities and it's always good to reassess those. You'll find the budget attached along with some of the questions your Executive wishes to ask you. It would help us all so much if you could review this document before the March meeting, and please do send me or Treasurer Jill Rafuse your thoughts by email if you prefer that to speaking up in a meeting, which I know is not to everyone's taste.

More enjoyably, the March 2 meeting features Didi Morton-Spaan as our guest speaker. Didi is a professional organizer in addition to a quilter so I can't wait to get some tips on organizing space for sewing.

March brings workshops and Cuddle Quilt Day, another Open Sew and many opportunities for us to gather and share our friendship and knowledge. In a world that's increasingly polarized, scattered and digital, quilting with friends is a chance to carve out some time for fellowship, improvable skills resulting in a tangible, practical and beautiful object and overall share a decidedly analog experience :) Also snacks.

Nina

## **Program News**

Join us at our March meeting for "Sew Organized with Didi." Our very own Didi Morton-Spaan will be giving us tips and tricks on how to organize your sewing space. I don't know about you, but I could really use some help in organizing my sewing room! As usual, there will be tea, coffee, and treats served. Feel free to bring along a treat to share, if you so choose. And remember, March's fat quarter draw theme is "green." See you there!

## Final Decision re: Quilt Show Awards and Judging

Our quilt show celebrates creativity, skill, and community. Entering your quilt in the Guild's Show is a fantastic way to express your creativity, tell the story of your quilt, grow as a maker/artist, inspire others and contribute to the legacy of the craft.

Over 50% of those members who submitted feedback expressed that they prefer that there be no formal judging at this quilt show to ensure every quilt and every quilter is honoured, making the show both uplifting and true to the spirit of quilting.

All entries into the quilt show will be eligible for the Best in Show and Viewer's Choice awards. There will be 2nd and 3rd place awards for each category.

The Best in Show winner will receive the CQA Ribbon and be eligible to enter their quilt into the 2027 CQA Quilt Canada Guild Rosette Invitational.

All winners will receive a rosette and a monetary prize. Awards are presented to the quilt maker(s), who would share the rosette/ribbon and prize money, should there be more than one maker, such as if the quilt is made by a bee.

Monetary prizes for awards are paid out from a fund that is held separately from the guild accounts. Historically, proceeds from memorial donations and the guild yard sale are used to fund the prizes.

Award	Description	Selection By:	\$ Prize
Best in Show	Award of achievement of exceptional workmanship, design and overall impact as selected by peers.	Guild Members who cast ballots during the show.	1 <sup>st</sup> - \$ 250 2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$100 3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$ 50
Viewer's Choice Award	Showcases the crowd favorite with no restrictions—let the public decide what speaks to them most.	General Public who cast ballots during the show.	1 <sup>st</sup> - \$ 250 2 <sup>nd</sup> - \$100 3 <sup>rd</sup> - \$ 50

## Final Rules to Enter Your Quilts into the 2026 MBQG Show

Have you started making your quilt to enter the show? Now is the time to get started as you must submit your entry in **June of 2026**. The Show is intended to showcase our member's work and be a fun event. Participation is open to all members.

Rules for entry:

- ❑ Only quilts that have been made by our members are eligible to be entered.
- ❑ Groups/Bees comprised of guild members may enter quilts that they have made together. Please only submit one entry and include the names of the members and others who participated in the making of the quilt. This would count as one of three permitted entries for each member of the group/bee.
- ❑ Quilts that have been entered in previous Mahone Bay Quilters Guild Quilt Shows are not eligible for entry into the 2026 show.
- ❑ Members must have paid their membership dues for 2026-27 on/before the quilt submission entry deadline of June 28th, 2026.
- ❑ Members may enter up to three quilts each, which excludes challenge quilts donated for the silent auction and all products for sale in the boutique.
- ❑ Members must rank their three entries to provide the Hanging Committee with the flexibility to curate the exhibit based on available space, quilt sizes, number of entries and overall layout. We endeavor to display all entries, and the committee will ensure every member has at least their first ranked quilt/entry exhibited. The hanging committee will reach out to members if their entries are not able to be exhibited or to discuss display options, such as folding a large quilt.
- ❑ No minimum/maximum size.
- ❑ Members may submit original works or quilts/wearables made from published patterns, kits or workshops.

- Entries must include a photograph and dimensions of the quilt/wearable to ensure we can accurately plan the show layout, showcase your work and minimize last-minute changes.
- Entries must credit the pattern designers, quilting pattern designers and those who created the quilt, including a longarmer. It is not necessary to seek the approval of the pattern designer.
- Quilts must adhere to the following content and presentation restrictions to ensure our quilt show is welcoming, inclusive, and appropriate for a wide audience—including children and community members of all backgrounds. Quilts submitted for display must not include:
  - Graphic or explicit imagery (e.g., violence, nudity, or sexually suggestive content);
  - Hate symbols or discriminatory messages (including imagery or text that could be interpreted as racist, sexist, homophobic, or otherwise harmful);
  - Political endorsements or campaign materials;
  - Profanity or offensive language, whether stitched, printed, or written;
  - Copyrighted images or logos used without permission;
  - Odours (laundry products, smoke, perfume, mildew); and,
  - Embellishments that could pose a safety hazard (sharp objects)
  -

Should any concerns arise, the Co-Chairs will reach out to the maker privately to discuss next steps. The Quilt Show Committee reserves the right to decline any quilt that does not meet these rules for entry.

Members will be requested to fill out and submit an entry form on the guild website for each quilt. Paper entries will be added manually, so no worries if tech isn't your thing. The entry form has all the key information required to plan the layout, print the labels, and confirm which quilts will be for sale. When members submit their entries, they will be requested to identify if their quilt has been hand-quilted and if they are a first-time entrant. This allows us to highlight these elements when we hang the show.

We plan to enable members to add a brief note to express something special about the quilt such as what inspired them to make it, who it was made for, or something new that they learned etc. If

you are working on a piece and unsure whether it meets the completion criteria, please reach out—we're happy to help clarify.

Instructions will be provided for hanging sleeves for quilts to be hung. Labels need to be on quilts and wearables to ensure we can recognize and return quilts to their owners and match up with the typewritten labels that will be displayed at the show. Ideally labels would be placed on the bottom left when facing the back of the quilt.

We deeply appreciate your creativity, care, and commitment to making this show a celebration of our shared artistry.

### **Raffle Ticket Sales Progress**

Raffle tickets are ready for pick-up from Tara Lynas. With 100 members, our collective goal is to sell 500 tickets prior to the show— just five per member. So far:

- 400 tickets deployed (80%)
- 150 tickets sold (30%)

Please return sold stubs and funds to Tara at any upcoming guild meeting. Remember, there will be a \$100 gift card from a Nova Scotia quilt shop of the winner's choice as a prize for the member that has the highest ticket sales. Winner to be announced at the September 2026 meeting, with gift card presented shortly after.

## 2026 Quilt Show & Sale Postcards

It's only 6 months away...

MAHONE BAY QUILTERS' GUILD

# A WORLD *of* COLOUR

## 2026 QUILT SHOW & SALE



**SEPTEMBER  
25-27**

MAHONE BAY CENTRE  
MAHONE BAY, NS



MORE INFORMATION  
[mahonebayquiltersguild.com](http://mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

MAHONE BAY QUILTERS' GUILD

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# A WORLD *of* COLOUR



## 2026 QUILT SHOW & SALE

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Mahone Bay Centre  
45 School Street,  
Mahone Bay, NS

**Show Hours**  
Fri./Sat./Sun. September 25-27: 10 am - 4 pm

**Admission** \$6 at the door.  
Children under 12: free.  
Wheelchair-accessible

- Raffle Quilt
- Artisan Member Boutique
- Vendor: Quilts by the Bay
- Silent Auction for Christas Daddies

**MORE INFORMATION AT**  
[mahonebayquiltersguild.com](http://mahonebayquiltersguild.com)

CELEBRATING 35 YEARS - 1991 - 2026

Our 2026 Quilt Show & Sale postcards are ready for distribution!

Didi, our Quilt Show Promotions Manager will have them available at the March meeting. Pick up a few to share with your quilty and crafty family and friends.

## Sew Day

*Mahone Bay Quilters' Guild*



**Sew Days #1** - February 21, 2026

The first of our soon to be renamed event was a resounding success! In spite of nasty roadways 10 intrepid quilters made it to Mahone Bay to enjoy a day of sewing & sharing. Elizabeth Murphy gave us a great demo and handout on Flange Bindings.

Much laughter and eating of shared treats was enjoyed by all too. Here are a few photos of the day...



Signup sheets for future fun days just like this will be available at the March meeting or by emailing Didi at: [sewdidisew@gmail.com](mailto:sewdidisew@gmail.com)

The next dates: March 7, April 18, May 9 and June 6

Time: 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. Place: Trinity United Church Hall

Coffee and tea provided, bring your lunch and if you wish, treats to share.

Hosted by: Didi & Nina

## Workshop News

**Fantastic Fabrics with Judy Cooper**

**March 28 • 9:30–4:00 • Trinity United Church**

Get ready for a day of pure creative joy. Judy will lead us into the wonderful world of sheer and sparkly materials — think threads, yarns, lamé, tulle, organza, and all the magical bits that make fabric shimmer. You'll layer, play, experiment, and stitch your way to a one-of-a-kind textile that's perfect for appliqué, backgrounds, piecing, or even framing as art. Free-motion stitching ties it all together in a beautifully textured, expressive surface.

## Registration & Supplies

- The class is currently full — but the wait list is open
- **Workshop fee: \$40, due by March 15**
- Pay in cash or cheque (payable to Mahone Bay Quilters Guild) at the March 2 meeting
- Or e-transfer to mbqgtreasurer@gmail.com — please reference March 28 Workshop
- A materials list will be sent to all paid participants on March 16

## Tamarack Jacket/Coat Class with Kate O'Brien

### April/May/June, Trinity United Church

Ready to make a quilted coat that fits you perfectly? Kate will lead us through the whole adventure — from whipping up your own mock-up jacket, to cutting the pattern, choosing fabulous fabrics, adding pockets, buttons, embellishments, and finishing it all off with elegant French seams.

## Workshop Schedule

- In-person kickoff: April 25
- Online sessions: May 16, May 30, and June 13

## Registration

- Registration is officially open
- **Workshop fee: \$40 plus the Tamarack pattern, due by March 15**

## Pattern & Supplies

- Tamarack Pattern – discounted price \$28 (sizes 0–18 and 14–30), to be paid separately. We'll place a group order on [March 11](#) so your pattern arrives in time for the April meeting
- Size charts will be available at the March meeting
- Pattern Ease (for your mock-up jacket) is also available to order
- Material list will be sent to all paid participants on March 16

## Payment Options

- Cash or cheque (payable to Mahone Bay Quilters Guild)
- E-transfer to mbqgtreasurer@gmail.com — please reference Jacket Workshop

## Pop-Up Shop with Kate — April 25

**Time: tba, Trinity United Church**

Kate is bringing a pop-up shop to our April 25th session, and everyone is invited to browse, dream, and stock up on goodies. To make your shopping extra smooth, take a look at her website: [openquiltsstudio.com](http://openquiltsstudio.com). Pick out your favourites, place your order, and she'll have everything ready for you to pick up on April 25.

## Membership News

### MBQG Membership Questionnaire Results

I have put together the results and comments of the 2025-26 Membership Questionnaire..

Please see the summary below, but always feel free to add to this if I have missed something or you have something new to add. Your feedback is always helpful and appreciated. Here is a summary of findings from members who participated;

- Most of the members responding were 60 and above. (which is no surprise as this is the general retirement age when people finally have time for their hobbies).
- Average years of being a member was 20 years.
- Average years of quilting was 10 years.
- There are a considerable variety of activities and workshops that you enjoyed and/or you would like to see. (In response to this, I have compiled a long list of possible workshops/programs for you to check off to help us with planning for the majority. This will always be an ongoing process. I will circulate this checklist at future meetings.)
- We need to balance the needs of both new and experienced quilters.
- Members generally wanted more of everything! (I believe you will notice that your executive has made a giant step forward in this direction with the multitude of events and workshops that are planned for 2006 and 2007. And the upcoming Quilt Styles and Techniques checklist will help for future plans).
- Members generally felt that it was important to reach out and share our craft through community activities such as the Quilt Show, Quilter's Dessert Party/Tea, Charity Quilts, Raffle Quilts, Yard Sales and Exhibitions.

- Recruitment ideas Hold a Bring a Guest Night, Offer Beginner Classes to new and non-members, Advertise notices of guild meetings in public venues (libraries, art schools, newspapers), Send out press releases of charity work, Offer a balance of Zoom and in-person activities, Add more weekend events, Help new members feel welcome/less intimidated with activities such as beginner workshops, Sew and Tell Night for newer quilters only, or have them first in line for Sew and Tell, Hold a September Meet and Greet to get to know members, Encourage Executive Members to mix with members during meetings, at eating tables and at quilting events - do not always sit with people you know..
- Retention ideas: Encourage experienced quilters to share their skills, give workshops, and share tips with members, Hold member display of First and Most Recent quilts, Spend more money on workshops and activities, Offer workshops with new and challenging techniques, Keep members connected through UFO Days, Zoom meetings, Slow Quilting, Sew Days, EQ, Retreat, Quilting Bee etc.

### **Non-Renewals:**

In reviewing all the members that have not renewed in the past two years, I noted that several had increased health issues, a number had to be home to care for a family member, and many had quite a distance to travel to meetings and workshops (several were from Halifax, Dartmouth, Bedford, Fall River, and even Yarmouth). Of course, some loss of members is inevitable, but the more we implement your ideas and suggestions, the more you will enjoy your guild and stick around! Thank you to all who took the time to participate in the Questionnaire.

Betty Learning, MBQG Membership Chair

[mbqgmembership@gmail.com](mailto:mbqgmembership@gmail.com)

## **Cuddle Quilt Day**

Cuddle Quilt Day Coming Soon!

Every year in March on National Quilters Day, we get together at Trinity United Church in Mahone Bay for **MBQG Cuddle Quilt Day**. This year it will be held **Saturday, March 21, from 10am - 4pm**. Members, friends and neighbours are invited to donate quilt tops, completed quilts, or backing fabric and join us for a day of quilting and binding the unfinished quilts for local charities, care homes, etc. Any size is gratefully accepted, but most requests are for Twin, Lap or Child of any design. We also get

requests for Wheelchair Quilts and Walker Carry-Alls, with patterns found online. If you cannot access a pattern, please contact me and I will supply one. And if you cannot make it to the Cuddle Quilt Day, you can certainly participate at home by making a quilt or quilt top to drop off at any meeting.

This year we will be adding **Quilted Hugs** to our options!. These are cuddly quilted shawls to keep you cozy when sewing, reading, or just puttering around the house. They are especially welcomed by those bedridden or in wheelchairs. A big THANK YOU to Valerie and Sheila Langille, who will be leading us through the process and supplying most of the materials needed. I believe Didi Morton-Span will be their back-up roadie.

So join us for a fun day or even for a couple of hours. The Sign-up Sheet will be circulated again at our March meeting, or contact me via the email address below to add your name to the list. We have traditionally opened this event to the general public, inviting them to join us in our much appreciated charitable work. So you may see our event listed in your local newspaper.or feel free to add it to your fb page! Last minute drop-ins are welcome too!

I will be sending out a flyer directly to members with more info on what to expect and what you need to bring. Any questions, please contact me at [mbagmembership@gmail.com](mailto:mbagmembership@gmail.com).

Betty Learning, Cuddle Quilt Day Coordinator for 2026.

## **Library News**

The library committee gave everyone an update at the February meeting. Three of us worked hard one day at the church and the cupboard is well on its way to being organized! The books are numbered and are in the cupboard with more recent additions on the highest shelf below the magazines.

Members can search the library list on the website, note the book number and then find it more easily in the cupboard.

All magazines are arranged in separate standup containers. Older magazines were offered to members and many were taken. The remainder will be on the library table at the next meeting. Please help yourselves.

The Japanese magazines were also offered to the group. One member chose to take them and a generous donation of \$50 was given for library use!

Rulers will be on the table in a binder for members to see what we have.

We hope this system will work well.

Submitted by  
Diane Binmore

## **2026 MBQG Retreat**

We have had a wonderful response to the retreat registration, and I am happy to say we have a full house again this year. I will continue to take a wait list for anyone who is interested as there are always changes to peoples' schedules and spots do become available.

I will need to have payment by Cuddle Quilt Day which is March 21<sup>st</sup>. I will be accepting cash or e-transfer and I plan to be at the general meeting on March 2<sup>nd</sup> if you would like to pay by cash. The cost of the retreat is \$50 for the 3 days. If I don't receive payment by March 21<sup>st</sup> I will offer your spot to the next person on the wait list.

Meals and accommodations are your responsibility. Please book your hotel room ASAP to secure your room. The hotel block of rooms will be released a month before the event, and they may get booked up.

The Wooden Spool Quilt Shop will be attending as a pop-up shop for the weekend. If there is anything you would like them to bring, please message the shop or call Donna (manager) on her cell 1-902-532-8592.

Looking forward to a weekend of friends and quilting.

Annette

## Meeting Reminders

Meeting is at Trinity United Church Hall, Mahone Bay:

- Doors open at 12:30 pm, meeting begins at 1:00 pm
- Wear a name tag, please
- Meetings are scent free
- Treat to share (optional)
- Green themed fat quarter(s) for draw

Sheena Gibbs, Newsletter Chair