



Special Isewlation Edition

Quiltkingston.org/khq/

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From Rosalind Hanes

Jeannine did a wonderful job of appliqueing the central leaves on our centre for the Canada quilt. I added some embroidery for the stems and veins but have yet to be brave enough to attempt to attach it to the quilt.



Kingston Heirloom Quilters

President's Message

Hi everyone!

I hope you're keeping busy; quilting, gardening, reading etc. I've been cleaning up my sewing/quilting space over the last month or so. I had so many scraps, a lot I don't know why I kept! I've been sorting, pressing, throwing out and discovering things I didn't remember having.

Such as, I found 37 six-inch squares of kids fabric that were an exchange when I was still in Kincardine. I now have enough fabric to make my youngest grandson his big-boy quilt. I had previously given all these kinds of fabric away for baby quilts and the boutique, because I had been informed there would be no more babies! I have sorted all my batiks into usable scraps, larger pieces, fat quarters and yardage. I didn't throw out much of these! I am now cutting smaller pieces of



fabrics into strips, and squares for future use. At least they'll be organized!

During my cleaning up I found a number of UFO's,
(Cont. next page)





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both my own and some partially completed tops that were donated to the group quite a while back. I'm basting them and hope to machine quilt them on my domestic this summer. Unless, someone would like to take one to practice quilting?

My 365– Quilt Block Challenge (right), which was supposed to be a large quilt, has been demoted to a wall hanging instead; I know I will never finish all the other blocks.

I've hand quilted my Oriental Tin Can challenge top, and my Rows Round Robin challenge top, it still needs a binding, label and sleeve. Both of these were from my Kincardine days. My garden is all planted now and everything is growing well. I can't wait

to start picking my lettuce and spinach and having wonderful salads with these fresh greens. We've picked rhubarb twice and I made some rhubarb cobbler for the kids today. I hope they like it!

Four of us went to the church to pick up some things from the closet. Peggy got batting, Wendy and Sally got touch quilt stuff and I dismantled the Wish You Well quilt so I can put it on my frame to work on during the summer. We went on Tuesday morning, which would have been our pot luck lunch day for the group. It was nice to talk to someone face -to- face, other than my hubby.

Let's hope we can all meet again this fall. I will continue as President until December, but then someone else will have to take the position. Wendy is also looking for a replacement for the newsletter for June 2021. We will be needing a new secretary, and there may be others on the executive that want to step down as well.

I will keep you informed if, and when, we can meet again. In the meantime, stay safe, and get lots of quilting done.



Simone



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From Joyce

I followed the Mystery Quilt offered this spring by Laundry Basket Quilts. A good friend, very far away, participated at the same time, so we had a chat each day about our progress.

My quilt is the one on the top and my friend's the one below on the floor. I thought I could make it entirely from my stash but I broke down and purchased the blue for the large star online, and have a co-ordinating material to use when I make a border.





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The masked singer.



Donna found this one—you have to laugh!



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Jose made this soft lap quilt (left) for her great-granddaughter for the car. It has all sorts of things to touch and explore including a 'phone', a calculator, a book of shiny buttons and a pad and pencil for writing.

Below, and on the next page, are the imaginative touch quilts Josie has made —and is making—for dementia patients at a local long-term care home.

She has also been experimenting with masks—lots of masks





Kingston Heirloom Quilters





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From Diane D

Some of the things I've been doing to keep busy in self isolation. I'm glad it has forced me to start hand quilting again. Maybe I can have this quilt ready for the next show!

Some of the masks I've made for the family, including my granddaughter who has finished third-year nursing, and has been working in Ottawa at the Civic and General hospitals, even in a Covid 19 ICU ward.

Stay safe everyone.

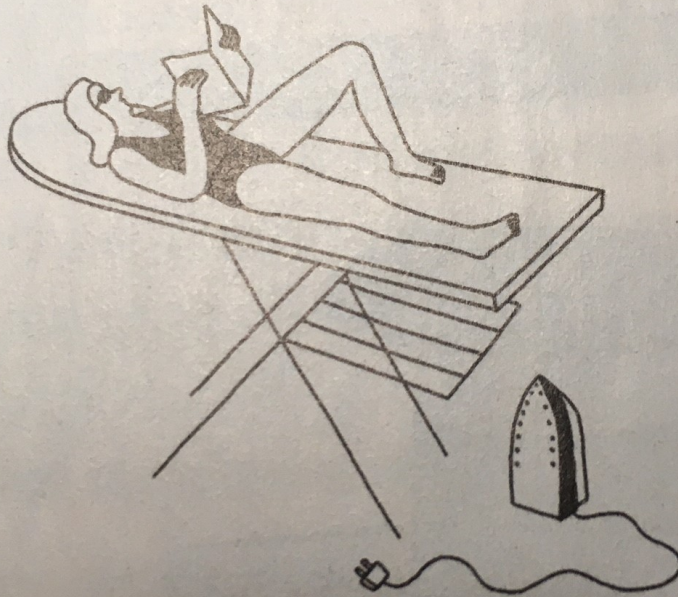




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against a city that still harbored a significant civilian population. One front-line S.D.F. commander told me that he called in U.S. air strikes on solitary gunmen.

When the last ISIS holdouts surrendered, the layout of the city was unrecog-



From Lou Ann Meloche

Quilter's Covid Vacation
from The New Yorker
Magazine

nizable. Months of labor were required just to uncover the streets. The effort was overseen by the Raqqa Civil Cour



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Ramblings from Ros

I have a terrible confession to make. - I have yet to make a single mask!! I think I can hear gasps of horror from everybody! However, I have a very industrious neighbor who has made more than 150 and who has supplied the whole neighbourhood.

I have done my bit by supplying her with lots of bits and pieces, including the fabric for these beauties. My fellow baby quilt makers will remember this fabric with fondness I'm sure. Don't worry Pat; I still have some left. In the early days of staying home I decided to try to finish some UFOs, but soon got overwhelmed. They stretch back more than 40 years!

However, I did manage to finish off some small things (baby, lap and Alzheimer) and have a stack of tops and backings waiting for battings.





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More Ramblings from Ros

One of the oldest things waiting to be used was a stack of precut 5" squares of Laura Ashley fabric that I was given when I left England for Australia in 1980. Nice bunch, eh? They go beautifully together!

I decided to make a disappearing nine patch, used all the wrong sides and it turned out not too badly.

Unfortunately there are still a few squares left.

Sigh ...





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From Jeannine

Boy, what was I thinking!!!

Years ago, I thought, if I ever have a granddaughter, I'd like to make her a dollhouse. My father had done one that I'd helped on. It was fun. Mind you, I'd only worked on small things like pictures for the walls and a rug for the floor. All done in petit point, which I was really into at that time.

Then, seven years ago, while on vacation in England, we went, with Mum, to Norfolk. Excellent place to visit. In a little town, called Diss, there was a dollhouse emporium. I decided I had to visit it. While Mum and Michael waited in the car, I went in and fell in love. I found a pattern for a thatched roofed cottage that I just thought would be ideal. I had time, after all, our granddaughter was just one.

This year, she's eight. It's time to do the dollhouse. Before the pandemic hit, I had drawn the pattern on to boards and got a friend to cut them out for us. Then, closure of everything. Great, a project to work on together and keep us busy. We started.

most important, took over a month. I was getting very impatient. Having said to my son, they could row it to Amherstview faster than it's getting here by mail, and straight from England, down the St Lawrence to a spot not far from our door. It's



frustrating. Finally, it arrived, I was so excited. Hmm. Wallpaper, baseboards and a kitchen range/cooker. Ah well, I can do the papering and get things ready for the next step.

In the meantime, we had started assembly, had the three outside walls, which comprised front and both sides, in place on the floor base. Then, a brilliant idea, we could do hardwood floors. Use craft sticks, (which we discovered, come in various widths at the dollar store). Cut the rounded ends off, glue in place, stain and voila hardwood floors. Very realistic looking as well. Then, I waxed them, yes, beeswax, I don't even wax the floors in my house and here I was, waxing the floors in the dollhouse, but boy, do they look great.

This is a two up, two down, cottage, no lighting, except oil lamps or candles. We decided early on it would stay in the past. Easier for us, and, little hands don't need to be playing with light switches and batteries. No plumbing, although we've got Rebecca on board. She's to let us know, when she starts playing with it, where she thinks a bathroom will fit. In the meantime, her dad is going to be doing the garden outside, and will make an outhouse for it. She giggles whenever she thinks about it.



Little suspecting how addictive it would be, and how frustrating at the same time. Most of the things I needed to do parts of the house had to be ordered from England. Duly ordered. And then wait, and wait.

The first parcel, which wasn't the



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While going through the steps to do this house, the ideas that come up in my head, and figuring out how to implement them, have got the brain working overtime. Michael has been making things like plank doors, and furniture. He did the kitchen trestle table and a bench. He's experimenting with making kitchen chairs that match some his grandmother had. We'll see how that goes. I made a wing-backed chair, upholstered it, and a sofa to go with it for the living room. Rebecca wants 'a window seat and bookcases by it with real books that open Grandma'. I made a padded bench, which I did tufted upholstery on. Michael will be doing the book shelves, and I tasked Rebecca the job of making books that open, with her dad. Had three books on dollhouses that I got from my father, one of them has plans for books in it. Gave a photocopy of that part to them to work from. She is so excited to be able to do things for her dollhouse.

"And Grandma, you can make quilts for it, and lace for the curtains and some pictures for the walls. Good thing you know how to do things." While I'm happy I can, I sometimes wonder what I got into with this. But, it's exciting to see it coming together.

So far, we are still waiting for the second parcel to come from England, which has the windows we need, (they open). Can't move on till windows are installed. Not enough room to

do so if we put the second floor on. Things are being worked on so we can to keep the momentum going. Once the parcel of windows arrives, we'll be no time at all finishing the house.

On the first floor, the hardwood is down and the kitchen painted. The large hole you see in the wall where the range/cooker will go, is a fireplace, it will be fastened on the outside, but, first, we need to get the brick-slips that will cover parts of it. Those are in with the windows, as are the chimney pots. Once it comes, we can do what needs to be done, fasten the fireplace, and move on.

Also waiting for the windows to arrive is the completion of the timber framing, and outside plaster, and putting the inside walls in place. The walls that can be are already papered, with doors hung, and the living room fireplace finished as well. Then, the second floor can go in. It's already got hardwood on it, the ceiling side is painted and ready. Then, the stairs can be installed, and the walls on the second floor set in place as well. After that, roof and thatching. Yes, I have thatching for it.

The bedrooms on the second floor have the paper on the walls, even the ones not installed yet. So, it's all ready to come together.

Rebecca chose the wallpaper. She loves the rug, which we picked up in Scotland at the Childrens museum.

(Continued on next page)



The living room with paper, and baseboards. The upstairs bedrooms with poppy paper will be a child's room. The small print wallpaper is the master bedroom. It is a work in progress.



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From Jeannine (cont)

I have picked up pieces for the house over the years as we went to England.

Dishes with silverware, four -place settings. Kitchen items, a quilt rack that looks just like one I have in my home. I've made little pottery bowls and jugs. And, four quilts for the beds. A brother- in -law is making furniture to help, my sister is making fondant eggs and pasta, as well as some veggies and such. She will seal them to preserve them, and that will all go in the kitchen. Mommy is making braided rugs for the floors of the bedrooms and kitchen. And trying her hand at weaving small blankets for the beds.

As I said, addictive, and everyone wants to get in on it and help. Which I'm very grateful for. I will keep a record , with photos, of the work as it goes, and when it is finished. I'm putting them in a small album for Rebecca to have. So, crazy, probably, but it's fun going there .



Photos—On the far side are the stairs that are going into the dollhouse. The risers and spindles will be painted the white, and the

treads, newels and banister will be stained. The window seat bench was made by Michael and upholstered—and tufted—by Jeannine . A friend put together the little fabric bolts and fat quarter bundles from Jeannine's stash for the craft area





Kingston Heirloom Quilters



From Eileen

Eileen has been sewing masks like a demon including some made from the left overs from children's quilts from the last 10 years—or so. She gave one to Cheryl from Cloth clothing store in downtown Kingston, who has been looking for someone to make masks for her customers. She delivered a new golf shirt to Eileen and received a mask as a gift. It was turquoise with ties in white, with multi coloured polka dots.



Turns out Cheryl's mother-in-

law lives in Eileen's building, so she called when she arrived to deliver her dinner and Eileen went down to the lobby to pick up her shirt and present the mask.

Cheryl later wore the mask on the local news and Eileen snapped a photo.



Fabric for Ouch Pouches for women after breast-cancer surgery



Kingston Heirloom Quilters





Kingston Heirloom Quilters

From Wendy N.

I have spent most of my isewlation finishing up projects—which should have been done years ago—and cleaning out drawers in my sewing room. I do this every year but I always seem to find things I missed. I have been doing more in-the-hoop embroidery work on my machine and the design on the far left is called Folklore Rabbit from Sweetpea Designs in Australia. I love this. I have another ITH project under way. On the upper right is a paddles quilt I just bought the pattern for at the beginning of March. I altered it to have it look as I wanted it, and ordered the background fabric from Spoonflower. I had lots of fun piecing the paddles. For my living room. The quilt on the bottom uses fabric I cut for it more than a year ago. It came together beautifully but, because I am not a flower person, I am not sure what I will do with it. In the upper corner on this page are reversible placemats for Meals on Wheels using the 52 Blocks CQA quilt along. In the middle is a few of the masks I made. On the bottom is an appliqued table cover from the Wetland Wonders pattern. Again I altered the pattern and made the blocks about three years ago. I finally appliqued the pictures on and put the cover together. I am almost out of UFO's, but am doing the CQA row by row quilt along!





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From Mary Catherine

Here are two photos of my current quilting project. I used techniques taught by Mary Ann McAndrews. The first one (square) is complete. The second one (long; will be a table runner) is pinned together in readiness for machine assembly. It will then be quilted and bound.





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From Karen

Karen has worked almost every day since the isolation began, but still found time to finish this pretty little hanging before Easter.

From Mary Anne K

ART SMART
COUNTRY HART DESIGNS
GAIL PAN DESIGNS
HAT CREEK QUILTS
HATCHED AND PATCHED
HUGS 'N KISSES
LYNETTE ANDERSON DESIGNS
MARG LOW DESIGNS
MATERIAL OBSESSION
PATTERN POOLE
PETALS AND PATCHES
PIECES TO TREASURE
SOMERSET PATCHWORK
TAG-ALONG TEDDIES
THE BIRDHOUSE
THE TEXTILE PANTRY



LIBBY RICHARDSON
ROBYN WELSH
GAIL PAN
DEIROE BOND-ABEL
ANNI DOWNS
HELEN STUBBINGS
LYNETTE ANDERSON
MARG LOW
KATHY DOUGHTY
ALAUORA POOLE
LEANNE KNELL
JENELLE KENT
KAREN STYLES
KRIS MEARES
NATALIE BIRD
LEESA CHANDLER

I'm involved in a stitch-a-long on Facebook. A group of Australian designers (listed) have come together to create a Stitch-Along to keep us in good spirits while we are in isolation. If we can't get out and about, at least we can all stitch along together.

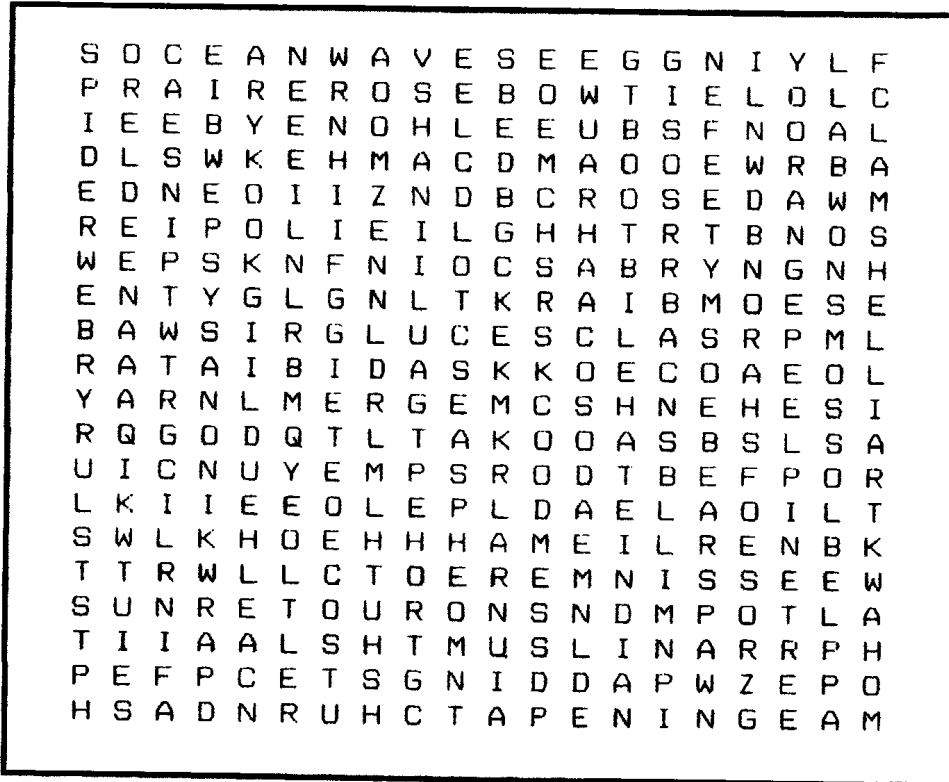
Each of the designers,

and each of the participants, donates a block and lets everyone else know how to make it. To see each of the designer's blocks you google their websites, and look under the Love and Hugs name to find it. If you are on Facebook, join the group and all the links are there. Also loads of photos and conversations about all the different ways people are doing them. I have decided to do redwork/ applique. I got so far behind just deciding what to do! One block is here. Some people have their whole top done! Then again, some haven't started!





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CLUES:

- | | | |
|---------------|--------------|------------------|
| APPLE-BLOSSOM | LONE-STAR | PRAIRE-ROSE |
| BABY-BLOCKS | MAPLE-LEAFS | QUILTS |
| BASKET | MILKY-WAY | RAILFENCE |
| BEAR'S-PAW | MODEL | ROSE-OF-SHARON |
| BLAZING-STAR | MOHAWK-TRAIL | SCHOOLHOUSE |
| BOW-TIE | MUSLIN | SEAM |
| CARD-TRICK | NEEDLE | SHOO-FLY |
| CHURN-DASH | NINE-PATCH | SMILES |
| CLAMSHELL | OCEAN-WAVES | SNOWBALL |
| CLOTH | OHIO-STAR | SPIDER-WEB |
| DUTCH-ROSE | ORANGE-PEEL | STORM-AT-SEA |
| FLOWER-BASKET | PADDING | SUN-FLOWER |
| FLYING-GEESE | PATCHES | THREAD |
| GARDEN-MAZE | PINE-APPLE | THIMBLING-BLOCKE |
| HEIRLOOM | PINE-TREE | TURKEY-TRACKS |
| HONEY-BEE | PINS | WEDDING-RING |
| INDIAN | PINWHEEL | WIND-MILL |
| LOG-CABIN | | |

Quilting Word Find

Here is something to keep you busy. The 14 leftover letters will spell out a three-word message. To really challenge yourself, cover the clues and find the quilt words without them. Karen found this for us and, when she did the search, found that the block name in the third row should be Tumbling -Blocks, not Thimbling -Blocks



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From Lorna

I would like to share pictures of my sewing room, which I share with the laundry sink, washer and dryer. My husband made the work table to my specs. When a quilt needs basting I clear off the table and roll it to the middle of the room.

The quilt top shown is a leaders & enders design. I have been making parts of blocks for a number of years, eons it seems!

Covid -19 has given the gift of time for quilting. In the winter I will get the quilting done.





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From Nelly

We arrived safely in Kingston on Tuesday evening, May 26. Our trip odometer read 4,393 km when we parked in our driveway. The driving was good all across the country with mostly sunny and warm conditions, so different from all the other years! We enjoyed the fresh spring green and blue waters, no snow or ice anywhere! Of course, this brought out the bugs and it took daily windshield scrubblings to be able to see out! As well, even though it was very inviting to step out for walks (which we did on the prairies), in Northern Ontario we stayed mostly in the air- conditioned vehicle on account of the ferocious black flies! I have some nasty bites! And then there was road construction with lots of delays! You know what they say... 'There are two seasons in Canada, winter and construction!' The whole journey took eight days, including an extra day in Wawa for some rest and relaxation.

The owners of the house we rented in Invermere BC had to come back early from Arizona by March 23, due to COVID, so we had to scramble to find another place to rent, pack up, clean the place and move for another five weeks. We couldn't start driving back to Ontario since everything was closed along the way! Leaving Invermere on April 30, we spent 18 days in Edmonton with family, having a really great time (social distancing of course)! With restrictions relaxed, we could finally start our journey home! When we left, the family supplied us with homemade frozen meals, which lasted the whole trip, just heating them up in the hotel microwaves. And I made lunch every morning. We had our own breakfast food if necessary, but most accommodations offered take -away bags. No problems getting gas. Finding washrooms was a challenge, but we managed!

The last day, we drove in a heat wave, temperatures reaching 33 C. at some point during the afternoon! And it was 29 C when we arrived home on Tuesday at

5 pm.

First thing we did after arriving, was to head to White Mountain for ice cream; thought we deserved it after our long journey in the heat!

The van is now unloaded and we're slowly getting unpacked and settled back into a routine. We continue to find what's open/closed here for necessities.

The lilacs are blooming, and we took some time to see them at the Barriefield Gardens before they are finished.

I've been doing some gardening, mostly weeding and the house needs a good cleaning (once we get totally unpacked). I still have to find out if my cleaning service is operational during COVID. Never a dull moment! When will I get back to stitching?

Have a good summer everyone and stay safe!



Having lunch outside the Upsala, ON Family Restaurant



Near Invermere, BC



Edmonton, AB



Near the Battlefords, SK



Lake Superior



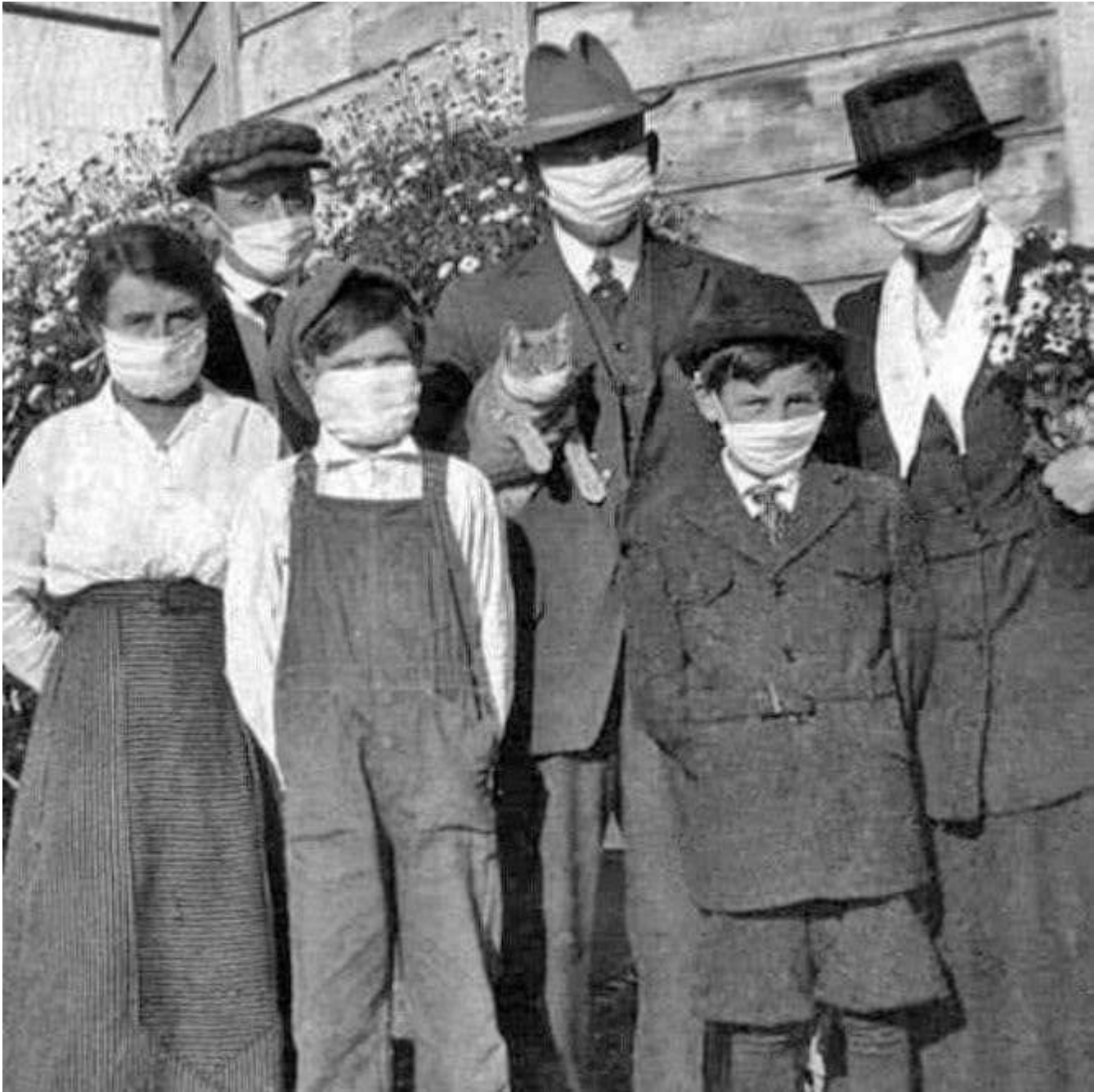
CONSTRUCTION!



The Lilac Garden at Barriefield



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Kathy Breau found this photo, although the source is unknown. Taken sometime during the Spanish Influenza outbreak just after the First World War (100 years ago!) it looks very familiar today. Even the cat has a mask!



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From Donna



In mid March 2020 we all found ourselves in a new world thanks to the Covid-19 pandemic. Everyone was affected across all countries, all nationalities, all races, young and old. And very few countries were ready, including Canada. There were only a limited number of N95 masks which would effectively keep the virus particulate at bay. This meant that even the doctors and nurses would have a limited supply, to say nothing about the rest of the population. Normally, the N95 masks would be used once and then be tossed. But with a short supply, they needed some way to extend the life of these masks. And that is when the quilters, embroiders, and sewers everywhere found their stash and skills being called to service. Just make a mask. We can do it!

The first mask pattern that I came across was designed by a Kingston nurse, the AB Mask. I tried it after I spoke to a KHQ friend who had already made several.

She told me about all the problems. If you're like me, when I sew a new pattern, I have to make all the mistakes first, before I can go into production mode. And my first mask had many frog stitches, rip it, rip it, rip it. This pattern became popular for the tighter fit around the nose and chin. It has pleats and uses binding as ties. Darts are placed at the nose and chin. When worn, the pleats fold downwards. This was just the beginning of the patterns.



Should we use elastics instead of ties? The Turban Mask shown to the right is one with elastic. There was less fussing with binding and it was fast. It has pleats and elastic around the ears. Then we heard about "ear fatigue". What??? Yes, if you had to wear the mask all day over an N95 mask, your poor ears would tire from all the weight. There was another issue with elastic: would it stand up to the many heavy-duty washings at hot temperatures?



We made lots of masks with 1/4" elastic and found ourselves in an elastic shortage as quickly as the toilet paper shortage. What to do? Some creative sewers chose to use t-shirt fabric. If you cut it on the horizontal or vertical grains, the fabric would just curl around itself. However, we found out the hard way, the vertical strips were not as strong as the horizontal, and often broke in half. One creative lady in the embroidery guild, used drapery cord as ties!

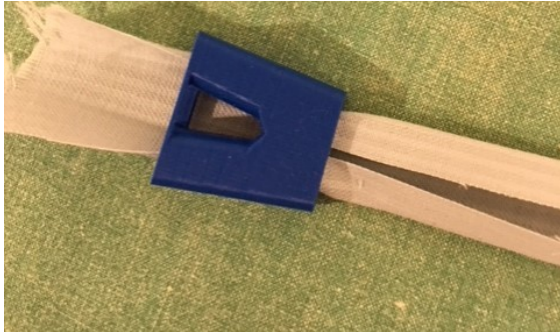
I make my own ties by folding, ironing, and stitching. I'll admit it was a slow process UNTIL ... someone made a "bias tape" tool from their 3D printer (see next page) and gave one to me and several other mask makers. It was wonderful! I didn't burn my fingers anymore, and the ties were made much faster. Necessity is the mother of invention! Thank you stranger!



(Continued on next page)



Kingston Heirloom Quilters



Then there was this mask: the Sweet Red Poppy Bias Tape Surgical Face Mask with Flexible Nose. This pattern is a simple pleated mask with a 6- inch piece of *gardening wire* inserted under the bias tape as a flexible nose piece.

NOW there were debates about putting a “wiring” of some kind under the bias tape as a flexible nose piece. The wire needed to be strong enough to go through heavy-duty washing machines at hot temperatures, hopefully without rusting. Or people took them out before washing. Creativity abounded with these mold-ings

being used: pipe cleaners, flower wire (several pieces), and any wire you could find at the Dollar Store including the wires we use to close a bag.

There was the pocket mask that was very popular. You could fit a piece of woven non-fusible interface between the two layers, to keep out more of the particles. It could be added to any of the above masks and provided even more protection.

There was another pattern that fitted much better but had a seam down the centre. It came in several sized patterns and could be made with or without the nose wire or the pocket.

Our resident expert, Eileen, after making way too many masks, came up with her own design. And although no one else volunteered this information, I bet there are a few more of us who designed our own mask.

Online we had instructions and videos for how to make every mask you could think of. One lady even took the time to show that ANYONE could make a mask, as she cut her fingers, and generally got into trouble with her sewing machine.



My fav was the bra mask. Not sure how effective it would be, but there it is. And it came with elastic!

And sew we made lots of masks, for family, friends, and community including the nurses. They were collected by and at curbside at *Stitch by Stitch* and *Quilt Thyme Retreat*, and *UPS* at the Clock Tower in Kingston and were distributed to different groups and organizations around Kingston. Our members also delivered masks to different organizations personally. My informal tally did give me a number which I will share with you. But I think our numbers are larger, and that others were shy to share how many they made. DRUM ROLL, please

(Continued on next page)





Kingston Heirloom Quilters

From Donna (cont.)

Fifteen members of KHQ made about 1040 masks!

We've been busy! Why did we do this? Cause we wanted to help our family, friends and neighbors stay healthy. We often don't find our skills being in demand. It's been very satisfying to be able to do something and make a difference in this time of isolation. As of May 27 at 9pm, the "Canada Sews" facebook page announced that 136,764 masks have been made! And we have been part of that! Hats off to our front-line workers! May they stay safe!



Here are some Kingston hospital staff wearing some of the masks that I made, pictured above at home. The masks worn by the three ladies to the right are pictured above; the green one in the left foreground, and the beige and bright yellow ones are in the background in the bag (I had washed them.)

Should we make more masks?

Yes, we should make more if you're up to it. If you drop them off to any of the places named above, or ask for someone to pick them up, they will be washed, and distributed to the groups who are contacting Canada Sews. Check out the website for more information.

I was sent a Youtube video that was done by "The Fabric Patch", entitled "What we learned after making 167,000 masks". I was curious. I had to watch it. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N4r8nwFdUxY> It discusses each of the issues mentioned above. I don't necessarily agree with all of what she says, of course, but she makes some interesting suggestions. There is also a link to making a fitted mask for yourself and your family and friends by literally measuring parts of your face to get a mask that will have no gaps; be the perfect fit.

There is no longer the urgency of making masks for our front-line workers. But everyone you know, and don't know, will still need a mask. And many doctor's offices, hospital departments, and other groups are handing them out for free as needed. We will probably have masks around for awhile. If you want to make more or experiment making better fitted masks, go for it! They are appreciated!

This has been some experience. At the beginning of this quilting season we wondered why it was possible to send 200,000 quilts made by Canadians to our friends overseas during World War I. Why did they do it? We now know the answer. Because they could and wanted to help, to contribute. And sew they did because they knew how, and their stash had been called to service.





Kingston Heirloom Quilters

From Donna

Days in Isolation

Like most of us, I was taken by surprise when mid-March arrived and I suddenly found myself at home, being told to stay where I was. Being a quilter and embroiderer, I had lots to do at home, sew many UFO's! However, I didn't find myself tackling any of those projects. Initially, I took to my stash and sewing machine to make masks. That was different, and a way to help, to contribute in these strange times.



When I took a break, I wasn't reading books (although I did some of that). I found myself on the Internet, looking for news. But after awhile, I couldn't do that anymore and stayed away from it. I had been a busy individual with lots of things to do that was stunned. Stopped in my tracks. What had happened?

I found myself enjoying what was around me: spring flowers, birds and assorted wildlife. I heard the woodpecker long before I found him and was able to grab my camera to take a picture. He was a big guy – which I didn't appreciate until I saw a fellow woodpecker a few weeks later that looked just like him but half the size. A friend told me the small one was a downy woodpecker – not the big one. I have lived here



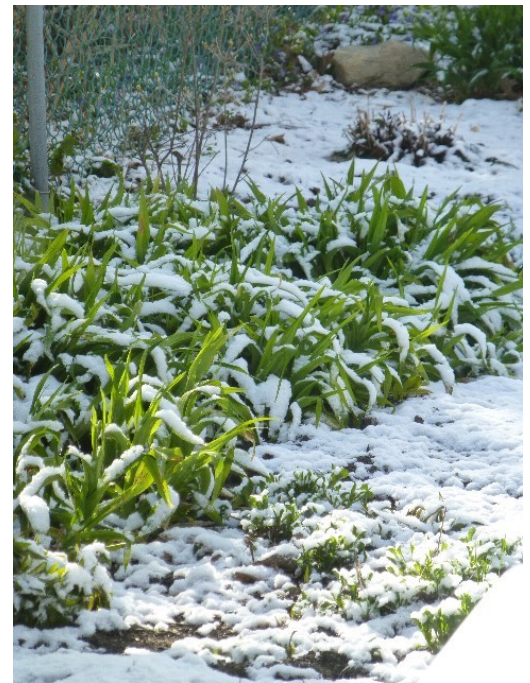
for 40 years, and never seen one of these birds. This guy was all over the neighbourhood, pecking away at the dead wood. I heard him on my walks for a couple of weeks. Then he was gone. I wonder where he went.



And then there was that day in MAY! Yes, the day it snowed, May 9. And it wasn't a few snowflakes in the air. The snow accumulated – we must have had about ½ to 1 inch! Never seen that in May before. Luckily, it was gone the next day.



And then there was the day we discovered the racoon up my neighbour's maple tree, sleeping, precariously I might add. I had watched squirrels take their rite of passage trying to make a nest in the same spot for years. Each and every time the nest ended up in my backyard. And here was this coon, sound asleep.



We saw him for several days sleeping up there. And then he disappeared coming back several days later. (Cont. on next page)



Kingston Heirloom Quilters

From Donna (cont)

Only this time it was 3pm and he was returning to the nest. He hobbled on three legs. His left rear paw was either gone through some accident or hurt. But it didn't stop him from running across the wooden fence and climbing on up to his apartment!

The neighbour's kids were excited when they saw who had decided to camp in their backyard. The little girl let out a squeal that I can still hear. Maybe that's why we haven't seen him since. Or maybe he tired of eating the grubs from my lawn.

The full moon in April was a beauty! And the sunset on May 19 was simply gorgeous!

And a week after the May snowstorm, we were "enjoying" temperatures with a humidex of 30 to 35C! Yes, it has been an interesting 2020.

Covid-19 has taught us to appreciate what we have around us; to appreciate the friends and family we have, and can't visit. Luckily, we have phones and the Internet and can still "see" one another. It isn't the same, thought, is it? I miss our meetings, and how inspiring they are to keep us quilting. I have planned to stitch on anything that I can find. And yet, I haven't. The house has been cleaned more than it ever has. I've washed my hands a million plus times, till they cry for cream. My seeds finally got planted and have sprouted. Some seedlings are in the garden while others are awaiting their time. Everything is the same, yet all is different.

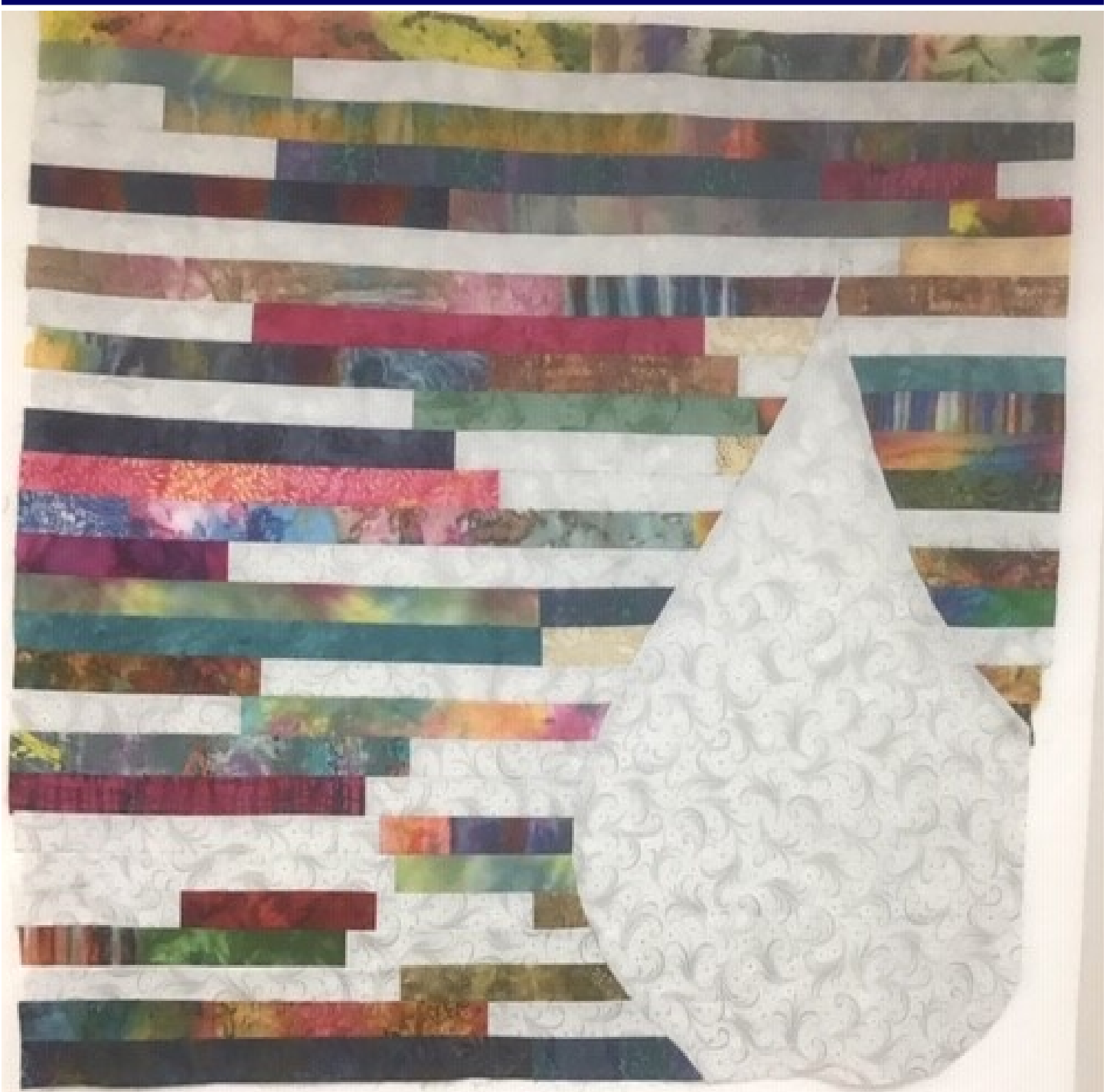
I have been in contact with many KHQ friends. And thank goodness you are there. With a lot of luck, they will find a vaccine soon, and we can go back to ... to what? Enjoying friendships, hugs, more hugs and lots of interaction closer than six feet. Imagine going to the grocery store without planning for a mask, gloves, hand sanitizer and social distancing! I long for those days and for everyone's voice and presence, all of us together in the Church Hall having problems hearing each other over the sound of each other. Talking quilts. After all, we have been speaking (yelling) to each other at least six feet away for many months. Yes, I'll have to bring ear plugs for that first meeting back!

See you at the Church Hall! Soon, I hope!





Kingston Heirloom Quilters



Sally's latest quilt top she is calling Covid Tear Drop



Kingston Heirloom Quilters

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Meetings usually held the first Tuesday and the third Thursday of each month from September to June at St. John's Anglican Church Hall in Portsmouth.

quiltskingston.org/khq/

KHQ *usually* meets twice monthly, from September through June on the first Tuesday and the third Thursday of the month. Meetings are from 9:30am to 3pm at St. John's Anglican Church Hall on Church Street in Portsmouth Village, Kingston.

Members bring a lunch and spend the day with fellow quilters.

Activities center on group projects, workshops, demonstrations and guest speakers.

Meeting days without a formal program are spent on a variety of group projects.

Membership is open to both experienced and learning quilters who support our goals of developing and preserving the skills of heirloom quilting. We welcome visitors to our meetings.

Please join us for the love of quilting.

Drop in or contact us at khq at quiltskingston.org. We love to meet new and experienced quilt enthusiasts.

