



Common Thread Quilt

Guild Annual Report

**For the year ending
June 30, 2025**

Presented at the AGM, November 11, 2025

President's Message 2025

Diane Grover

This guild year marked one of the most significant changes since our inception – we moved the location of our monthly meetings. For over two decades, the Common Thread Quilt Guild has met at MIFO, a cultural centre in Orleans. However, due to redevelopment plans, we were forced to find an alternate venue until the re-opening of MIFO, currently forecast for 2027. The search took 18 months and covered a vast area and variety of potential locations. We were fortunate to find Greenbelt Church on Shefford Rd. The guild's last meeting at MIFO was in December 2024 and the first meeting at our new site was April 2025 (winter meetings were held on Zoom). Despite some adjustment and growing pains, our new meeting spot has been well-received and suits our unique and specific requirements very well.

There were some mid-year changes in the executive, as some members stepped down or stepped up to fill vacancies amongst the leadership team. It is only through the dedication, commitment and support of volunteers that we are able to continue to offer diverse programming, workshops, retreats and of course, support our community. Community Projects was particularly busy, especially with the increasing demand for hospice quilts. Together, we made and donated over 600 quilts to community organizations to support those in need.

A very positive development for the guild has been the number of new members. This past year, we welcomed 48 new members. Some came as friends or family of current guild members, some were referred by local quilt shops, while others found us online or by word of mouth. It is clear that quilting continues to be popular with people of different ages and backgrounds, suggesting a bright future for the Common Thread.

Annual General Meeting (AGM)

Tuesday, December 10, 2024 at 7:30pm

At MIFO, Ottawa

Diane Grover, President, Common Threat Quilt Guild called the Annual General Meeting to order. The Vice-President, Janice Namiesniowski was in attendance. Diane reminded members that they had received an electronic copy of the Annual Report and Financial Document ten days prior to the meeting. She reviewed the highlights of the report, which she had prepared. There were no questions from members. A motion was made to accept the Annual Report and Financial Document and it was seconded. The motion passed. The Business Meeting was adjourned.

Past President

As the President stayed on for another year, the Past President position was vacant.

Guild Executive Election

Tuesday, June 11, 2025

At Greenbelt Church, Ottawa

Diane Grover, President, called the Business meeting to order and welcomed all members present. She presented a rose as thanks to outgoing members. She made a special presentation to Rhonda Thibault for her extraordinary efforts and support to several executive members that extended well

beyond her tenure as Programme Chair. Diane Grover then presented the following slate for the 2025-26 Common Thread Quilt Guild executive and Committees:

President: Janice Namiesniowski (new)

Secretary: Sherrill Crowder (returning)

Treasurer: Libby McRobbie (returning)

Library: Veronica Baker (new)

Retreats: Catherine Parkinson (returning) and Laurelle Callaghan

Newsletter: Marian Burke (returning)

Newsletter - Billing/Advertising: Cathy Duchesne (new)

Membership: Debbie Jolley

Community Projects: Elizabeth Barr (returning)

Programme: Ruth Lenarduzzi

Workshops: Heather Wolczanski and Joanne Villeneuve (new)

Sew Days: Joanne Villeneuve (new) and Cathy Caron-Tatta (new)

Website Administrator: Daphne Uras (returning)

Non-Executive

Fat Quarters Club: Del Jazey & Susan Baker (returning)

Challenge: Elizabeth Barr (new)

Shop of the Month: Monique Boileau-Levesque (returning)

There were no nominations from the floor. The slate was acclaimed by the membership. The new Executive was welcomed by a round of applause.

The Business meeting was adjourned.

Financial Report for 2024-25

Treasurer: Libby McRobbie

Note: The following Financial Statement for 2024-25 is presented as a true statement. The entire statement and supporting documents are being sent for external Review and were not received in time to be circulated. The Reviewers statement and any changes that are required to meet good accounting standards are not reflected in this statement and will be presented to the membership at a later date.

The Final Reviewed Financial Statement will be posted on the Guild website.

Common Thread Quilt Guild
Balance Sheet
2025

	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Cash	32,422	38,424
Short-term deposit	18,469	17,461
Prepaid rent	0	0
Total Current Assets	50,891	55,885
LIABILITIES & EQUITY		
Accounts payable	0	3,287
Deferred revenue	4,120	4,015
Total Current Liabilities	4,120	7,302
Retained Earnings beginning of period	45,582	41,287
Net Income (loss) for the period	-1,811	7,295
Retained Earnings, end of period	46,771	48,582
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	50,891	55,884

Common Thread Quilt Guild
Income Statement

	Year Ended Jun 30, 2024	Year Ended Jun 30, 2023
REVENUES		
Guest fees	205	150

Guild pins and nametags	186	235
Library fines and fundraising	222	114
Membership	9,400	8,520
Newsletter advertising	1,904	2,176
Quilt Show	0	22,620
Retreats	13,295	12,110
Sew days	574	744
Shop of the Month - Fundraising	1,788	1,639
Term deposit interest	1,008	905
Workshops	2,865	1,840
Challenge income	410	0
Misc income	0	5
Total Revenue	31,857	51,058

EXPENSES

Bank charges	252	249
Challenge (includes prizes)	675	300
Community Projects	2,905	1,884
Equipment Lending	1,665	626
Guild pins and nametags	203	203
Insurance (via CQA)	594	398
Library	0	736
Membership	249	168
Newsletter	0	0
Office and general	1,633	1,657
Programme	3,758	3,816
Quilt show	0	13,199
Rent	5,310	5,370

Zoom	444	518
Retreats	9,943	9,563
Sew days	539	367
Shop of the Month	1,050	1,092
Website	221	351
Workshops	4,227	3,265
Total Expense	33,668	43,763
NET INCOME (LOSS) FOR THE PERIOD	-1,811	7,294

Membership Committee

Chair: Susanne Martin until November 2024, Debbie Jolley from December 2024

A big thank you to Susanne for her hard work during the last three years in keeping track of membership applications, payments and creating detailed spreadsheets to provide contact information to the Exec.

Members for 2024-2025

Total: 232

Returning Members: 184

New members: 48

New members taking advantage of the Spring Special (May/June 2024):8

Executive members receiving free membership :26

Attendance at in person meetings at MIFO and Greenbelt Church

Attendance at in person meetings at MIFO, and the new location Greenbelt Church, remains similar to previous years with an average attendance of 96, with 5 guests

Zoom meetings

Zoom meetings were held for January, February and March 2025 meetings, there was an average attendance of 96 members and 1 guest.

Membership updates

A new application form has been created, and the policies on the form were updated, the Anti spam policy was removed as this is not required as a Guild policy. This coming year all returning members were asked to complete an application form with their payment. This will help make sure Members contact information is up to date and that the new policies have been read and initialled. The ability to submit an application form through the CTQG website became untenable. Software glitches meant that applications were 'lost' in the system and the Website chair spent considerable time trying to retrieve them. By February, it was obvious there would not be a fix in time for the registering of members at the

start of the Guild year. Therefore, the ability to submit an application online was removed from the website. However, an application form is available for download on the website and a fillable version is available for members to email directly to the membership chair. Paper copies of the application form will be available at meetings as usual.

Membership and Guest fees 2025 - 2026

Membership fees for the upcoming year will remain at \$40.00 (June 30th 2025 - July 1st 2026)
New members continue to have the option of joining/paying in May/June 2025 and receive one or two months free. Guests wishing to attend Guild meetings remain the same at \$5.00
Name tags supplied by Rembal have increased from \$18 to \$20

Volunteers

Many thanks to those members who assisted at the membership table this year. During the registration season volunteers are essential to help process the applications and payments.

Door prizes

Quilty Pleasures, our Orleans based Quilt store, continues to support our Guild with the donation of four Fat Quarters as door prizes at our in-person meetings. We thank them for their generous support of our Guild!

Programmes

Committee Chairs: Diane Grover, Rhonda Thibault and Ruth Lenarduzzi

The programme chair remained vacant until January 2025 when Ruth Lenarduzzi stepped up. The previous chair had already set up elements of a fall programme, though the President had to fill this role and coordinate the activities until the position was permanently filled.

Our programs for 2024-2025 continued to be compelling and engaging for guild members. There was considerable positive feedback about the variety of interesting presenters. The US exchange rate continued to pose budgetary pressures but were managed within the allotted funds.

Sept 2024 – Sherrida Giddings shared her Quiltworx trunk show

Oct 2024 – Irene Blais talked about Colour Energy and shared a trunk show

Nov 2024 - Nancy Arbogast presented on Quilts of Valour

Dec 2024 – Bonnie Rankin shared her appliqué, English paper piecing, wool work projects. This evening marked the last guild meeting at the MIFO Centre.

Jan 2025 - Our meeting was via Zoom with Laura Hartrich talking about quilt labels as “love letters”, highlighting this often-overlooked aspect of quilt documentation.

Feb 2025 - Once again our meeting was via Zoom. Karen Eckmeier aka “The Quilted Lizard” talked about her different quilting techniques such as “accidental landscapes” and “happy villages”.

Mar 2025 – Cheryl Arkison joined us on Zoom for her presentation “An IKEA bag of scraps”, in which she shared her scrappy improvisational approach to quilting.

Apr 2025 – Nellie Holmes and Christine Baker from Upper Canada Quiltworks were the inaugural presenters in our new location, Greenbelt Church. They discussed their wool applique designs and projects.

May 2025 - This month we had a social and featured the Guild Challenge quilts. Quilts were displayed for voting purposes and later in the evening, members got to present their projects. Prizes were awarded for winning entries.

Jun 2025 – The guild year ended with Patti Carey from Northcott fabrics, who shared new fabric lines and quilt patterns.

Guild Challenge

Coordinator: Libby McRobbie and Marion Burke

The Guild Challenge ran from September 2024 to May 2025. This year, the challenge was a mystery for which participants purchased a brown paper bag with a surprise fabric that had to be incorporated into a quilt or quilted project. Each bag contained a half-metre cut of new fabric from Quilty Pleasures, who provided a valuable guild discount, offsetting some of our expenses. Forty-one kits were sold at \$10 each (one person purchased two), with 31 projects submitted, a very admirable participation rate. Entries were displayed at the May meeting for member voting. Six small prizes (mugs) along with a fat quarter, pen and chocolate were awarded. The Viewer's Choice prize won by Jackie Ruano de la Haza was all of the above plus \$150 cash. The Challenge came in under budget with revenues of \$410, expenditures of \$675 and a budget allocation of \$300.

Shop of the Month

Coordinator: Monique Boileau-Levesque

1. September 10, 2024: Ron's Fabrics
2. October 8, 2024: Fran's Quilting
3. November 12, 2024 Watergirl Quilts
4. December 10, 2024: Quilt Fabrics (Tracy Myers)
5. March 11, 2025: Mami's Quilts from Saskatchewan (Zoom meeting)
6. April 8, 2025 Upper Canada Quilts
7. May 13, 2025: Auntie Em's
8. June 10, 2025: Quilters Barn and Gifts

CTQG Library

Library Coordinator: Veronica Baker

The library operated out of MIFO Sept-Dec, at that point a new venue was being scoped out. Finding a venue that would house the library collection was very challenging.

At one point in the search, it was doubtful about the continuation of the CTQG library. Hence, the lack of spending of any of the library budget (\$500-\$800). Thus, the only financial activity was in collection of overdue fees and the May Used book sale (\$111.50).

Fortunately, the new venue, Greenbelt Church, provides storage for the library and we are able to continue with this very valuable quilting resource for our membership.

The space for display of the library is smaller than MIFO. With this in mind, the annual culling of library items included items not checked out since 2019, all magazines, all novels and all rulers. The latter three are mostly due to a lack of lender activity. The cull was a total of 7 Rulers, 14 Novels, 50 magazines and 90 Quilt books.

Community Projects

Committee Chair: Elizabeth Barr

Once again, our Guild Members have made an outstanding contribution to enhancing the lives of those facing life altering challenges in our community. I would like to thank both our members and non-member friends of the guild who generously donated their time helping kit, staffing the tables, piecing, quilting and graciously answering the call for fabric donations.

Processing fabric donations highlighted an opportunity to make piecing accessible to everyone by offering precut tumbler kits and precut squares in various sizes. An additional kitting step was created to assist with getting more quilts quilted faster. Since alleviating the longarmer from not having to bind quilts, we have seen an uptake in the number of quilt kits being signed out and returned.

During this year Community Projects saw an increase in demand for quilts from a couple charities and a decline in need from others. Ongoing conversations with our community partners clarified their need, patient/resident turnover and suitability.

Donations were refocused to support those most in need. This past year, a total of 624 quilts of various sizes were donated to our charitable partners:

- 382 Cuddle Quilts to the Ottawa General Hospital Neonatal Intensive Care Unit
- 69 Wheelchair Quilts to Perley Rideau Health Centre
- 56 Comfort Quilts and 3 Bed Quilts to Ottawa Hospice
- 10 Bed Quilts to YMCA
- 14 Bed Quilts to Carty House (newcomer refugee support for women)
- 25 Bed Quilts to Interval House (shelter for women, children and pets fleeing abuse)
- 6 Bed Quilts to Cornerstone Housing for Women (shelter for unhoused women)
- 62 Children's Quilts in various sizes to CHEO Long Term Care

These quilts were delivered with the greatest pride in our guild, and I am honoured to pass onto you the most sincere gratitude shown by those receiving our gifts of love.

Retreats

Committee Chair: Catherine Parkinson

This past guild year, we held all 6 in-town retreats at the Notre-Dame-des-Champs Community Centre, 3659 Navan Road.

Homemade meals were provided by attendee volunteers at all the retreats.

The number of participants and dates were as follows:

- Retreat #1 October 18-20, 2024 - 25 attendees
- Retreat #2 October 25-27, 2024 - 28 attendees
- Retreat #3 January 17-19, 2025 - 28 attendees
- Retreat #4 January 24-26, 2025 - 27 attendees
- Retreat #5 April 25-27, 2025 - 31 attendees
- Retreat #6 May 2-4, 2025 - 29 attendees

This year we ended up replacing two of the irons as they had stopped working.

CTQG Workshops

Workshop Chair: Laura Malo

This year we held 5 workshops as follows:

Curves with the Peacock presented by Tamara Kate held in September 2024

Beginning Paper Piecing— Christmas edition presented by Diane Quirouette held in October 2024

Tamarack Children's Jacket presented by Melanie MacDonald held in November 2024

Happy Village Fabric Collage via Zoom presented by Karen Eckmeier of The Quilted Lizard held in February 2025

Lotus Flower Foundation Paper Piecing presented by Sherida Giddings held in May 2025

Sew Days

Activity Coordinators - Lynn Bradley and Ruth Oswald

Sew Days are held throughout the year, typically on the second Saturday of the month (excluding July and August). Guild members and some of their friends gathered at the Notre Dame de Grace Community Center on Navan Road to enjoy quilting and sewing, engage in a little show and tell, and share ideas. In-person Sew Days occurred on: September 14, 2024; October 12, 2024; November 9, 2024; December 14, 2024; April 11, 2025; May 10, 2025; and June 14, 2025. Ruth Oswald, who also hosted or cohosted at many of the In Person events, hosted virtual Sew Days on January 11, 2025; February 8, 2025 and March 8, 2025. Participants enjoyed sewing together without venturing out in winter weather. During Virtual Sew Days we each have the opportunity to showcase our current project, and share tips which the host summarizes and emails out to all the participants.

In order to encourage use of the Guild's Accuquilt Go! fabric cutter, the dies were brought up from basement storage and made available in the main hall during all In-person Sew Days and Retreats. Guild members are encouraged to come to the Community Center during all Sew Days and Retreat days to use the Accuquilt system without having to pay any fees, unless they remain for a substantial part of the day and/or make use of other Guild tools.

Freecycle Initiative

Coordinator: Lynn Bradley

The Recycling, aka Giveaway, Table continues to thrive, allowing members to move along items they no longer require and/or acquire fabric, notions, and other quilting related items for free. This not only provides a great service to our members but also is kind to the environment. Members were encouraged to bring whatever quilting related items they were no longer using – or no longer intended to finish - and to take whatever they would like.

Fat Quarters "Club" Draws

Coordinators: Del Jazey and Susan Baker

Fat Quarters continued to be a popular activity, often having enough fabric for two bundles to be drawn. Quilts made from fabrics won during the guild year were eligible to be drawn for a prize in an effort to encourage not just participation but using any fabrics won at a meeting. The month's fat quarter themes continue to be posted online and in the newsletter before each meeting.

Newsletter

Editor: Marian Burke

The Newsletter was published 10 times, monthly from September to June, and was e-mailed to each member and posted on the Guild website.

Newsletter Advertising

Committee Chair: Roberta Ronayne

In 2024-25 our Guild had the support of 18 advertisers compared with 20 the previous year. While several advertisers did not renew for 2024-25, we gained one new advertiser, The Sewing Machine Hospital. Most advertisers retail quilting fabrics and supplies. Six (6) offer longarm services. Guild advertising rates have remained the same for more than five (5) years and will remain unchanged for the 2026-26 season. All advertisers but one (1) pay by e-transfer. Thanks to our Webmaster for updating and revising the last page of the newsletter, the regional map of advertisers. For 2025-26, goals would be to recruit new advertisers and to reconnect with previous advertisers.

Website

Website Committee Chair: Daphne Uras

Our website continues to be a good communication tool for our current and prospective guild members. The website was regularly updated to provide up-to-date information about events such as guild meetings programme topics and shop of the month, challenges, retreats, workshops, and sew days. The website also offers valuable information about membership, community projects and resources available to members such as the library inventory, the monthly newsletter, a map (and list) of our advertisers, images of the 2024 quilt show winning quilts, and more. This position also entails switching email accounts from outgoing to incoming executive members or activity coordinators.

This year we moved our domain registration from Host Papa to WHC and formally ended all hosting with Host Papa.

Much time was spent (with our web host and form plugin companies) trying to solve the problem of non-delivered forms (when using a Gmail address). The unsolved problem prompted exploration of other guilds' registration solutions. Plans are to speak with OVQG and Ottawa Modern Quilt Guild executive members about their systems for member and event registration (and email communication) and share this information with the executive members of our guild. The aim of these discussions will be the implementation of a new system by late 2025.