



A Day at Quilt Canada 2016

by Jackie White

Are you thinking of coming to *Quilt Canada* 2016? Are you wondering whether it is worth going, what you will do there and how you can manage it all?

This article should calm any nervousness you feel... we will explain how to figure the conference out and, most importantly, get you to the best quilt event that has happened to you in a long time!

First, I recommend checking out *Day at a Glance* on the blog: cqacanadianquilting.blogspot.ca The blog provides you with a concise overview of the conference, which

runs from June 15 to 18, Wednesday to Saturday.

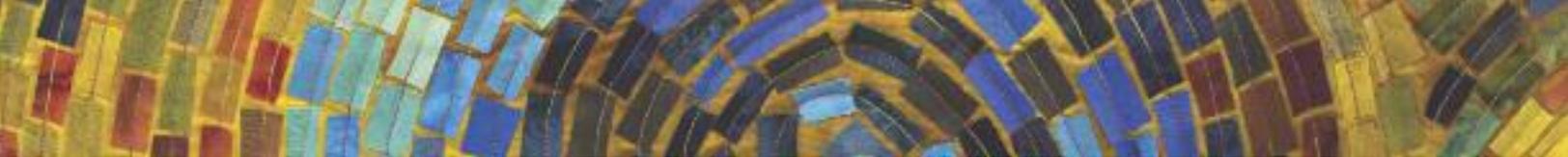
Next, go to our website and click on the main picture to be directed to the conference site. The information can be a little overwhelming when you see details about lectures, workshops, hours, etc., but take your time and peruse what interests you.

If you don't know what you want to do at *Quilt Canada*, work through the website tabs and check everything out. If you know the days you are going then look at events happening on those days. If you haven't made

up your mind, but want to take a lecture or workshop, find what interests you and schedule your time around that event.

What do I recommend? If you have time to take a workshop—take it! The instructors brought in are the finest around. You will learn new techniques, have fun and meet other like-minded quilters. If you can't commit to a full day of workshops, then try a lecture or two for a perfect blend of learning with participating in other activities.

What do you do when you arrive at the conference? We will have a huge table located



front and centre to welcome you and give you a show guide! This guide will include a map, a list of vendors, a list of the different shows and times and activities in the demo booth. I am already planning to visit the demo booth to check out this cool sewing machine I heard is being demonstrated. There will be vendors demonstrating fun tips, tricks and new products. Plus you can rest your feet while taking a short break to learn something new and fun. This is a drop-in, *free* activity for you!

What you simply *must do* when you attend the conference—go to the **Merchant Mall**. There is no two ways about it—if you quilt, you go. This year hosts the largest merchant mall we have ever had. There will be vendors from everywhere, as well as our amazing sponsors showcasing wonderful products! Not only is the Merchant Mall the best place to pick up the latest and greatest fabric, tools and notions, but there is a chance for you to speak to experts in the quilt industry about longarm machines, sewing machines, batting, thread and more. They are all under one roof—ready to chat with you!

How much time should you plan for the merchant mall? That really depends who you talk to and what your shopping habits are. Anywhere from two hours to four days is usually sufficient time.

Another must see is our *National Juried Show (NJS)*. Each year quilters put themselves out there to see if their quilts will have what it takes to be juried into the *NJS*. Once the quilts get accepted, they are judged by a highly trained team to award quilts that are the best in their categories. This is a quilt show like no other. If you want to learn more about the fabulous quilts and the inside scoop on the *NJS*, take a 45-minute tour with one of our board members who have observed the judging at previous *NJS* shows.

Our *Trend-Text Challenge* is in its 28th year! It is CQA/ACC's only fundraiser by silent auction. You can admire the beautiful wall hangings, which are all made using the same

five fabrics. Even better, when you bid on a quilt you have a chance to own one of them!

Our four concurrent shows this year include: the *Invitational* where volunteers and staff of the conference showcase their quilts; the Fibre Art Network's *Canadiana* exhibit; an exhibition by the Toronto Modern Quilt Guild and Beaconsfield Guild's *Colour Cascade* exhibit.

If you can, plan to attend our *Quilters' Nite Out* on Thursday night. This event is a first for us, so we are making sure we do it in full style. It starts with a lecture by incredible teacher and pattern designer, Jane Sassaman, and followed by giveaways and a social—the evening promises to be loads of fun. We have limited tickets for *Quilters' Nite Out* and we expect it to sell out—don't delay getting your spot!

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Jane Sassaman

Workshop sewing machines sponsored by:

JANOME



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We are absolutely thrilled to host an *International Gathering of the Guilds* on Friday night. This is an incredible opportunity to participate in! There is a speaker from Ireland who will talk about quilting. Be sure to bring a small, quilted item because everyone is welcome to participate in a huge show and share!

The very best part about *Quilt Canada* is the people you meet! Whether you walk in the door by yourself or travel on a bus full of quilters, you are going to make friends, laugh and have the time of your life! We're working hard, with hundreds of people behind the scenes, to make this conference perfect for you. Make your plans—we will be at the front door waiting for you! ♦



We want YOU!

Join the CQA/ACC Team
at *Quilt Canada 2016*
June 14 to 18 and be a
Volunteer...

Seven ways to Help!

- » Set Up and Take Down
- » Registration
- » Front Desk/Admissions
- » Hostess/Host/White Glove
- » Classroom/Lecture Angels
- » Floaters/Jack-of-all-Trades
- » Aides & Scribes for NJS Judging

Check out the benefits of volunteering!

Go to our website and sign up now:

www.canadianquilter.ca/events/quilt-canada-2016-jobs.php

Questions? Email Jane Sanders, our Volunteer Coordinator:
quiltcanadavolunteer@gmail.com



The International Centre
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