

Membership Handbook
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**Canadian Quilters' Association/
Association canadienne de la courtepointe**

**P.O. Box 22011
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Ottawa, ON K1V 0C2**

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Welcome!

A warm welcome to all new and renewing members of the Canadian Quilters' Association/Association canadienne de la courtopeinte (CQA/ACC).

This handbook provides an overview of the activities and objectives of the Association. The Association aims to make quilting better known to Canadians, so that they may appreciate the skill and artistry involved in quilting. The Association also promotes high standards of workmanship and design. We encourage members to participate in the many Association activities and welcome your input.

Our website: <http://www.canadianquilter.com/> provides up to date Association information and contact information. The mailing address for the Association is: CQA/ACC, P.O. Box 22011, Herongate Postal Outlet, Ottawa, ON K1V 0C2.

Acknowledgement

The handbook is the result of a collaborative effort by the members of the Board of Directors of the CQA/ACC.

The Inspiration for the cover comes from the Dorothy McMurdie Award albums that were created in 1989 and 1997 by the late Elizabeth Taylor.

Aims and Objectives

Formed in 1981, the aims and objectives of the CQA/ACC are:

- To promote a greater understanding, appreciation, and knowledge of the art, techniques, and heritage of patchwork, appliqué and quilting
- To promote the highest standards of workmanship and design in both traditional and innovative work
- To foster cooperation and sharing between quilt-makers across the country.

CQA/ACC Events and Activities

National Juried Show

The National Juried Show (NJS) is the Association's annual exhibit/competition of quilts and wearable art. The location of the NJS varies from year to year, providing quilters from across the country with the opportunity to experience this show. The NJS is held in conjunction with Quilt Canada and Alternate Year Events. Awards are presented in a variety of categories. A Call For Entry (CFE) is only available on website <http://www.canadianquilter.com/> and through our Regional Representatives.

Quilt Canada

Quilt Canada is the Association's biennial week-long conference. Held in even numbered years, it includes: workshops, lectures, the Annual General Meeting, quilt shows, including the NJS, and a banquet. Workshops for Quilt Canada are carefully selected to meet the wide range of skill levels and interests of participants. In addition we offer: a merchant mall, special events and professional development sessions.

CQA/ACC Trend-Text Quilters' Challenge and Auction

The annual challenge, offered each fall, is open to all **individual** members. Participants purchase a fabric kit, create a wall quilt following a suggested theme, and donate the completed piece to the Association. Trend-Text Fabrics Inc., a leading Canadian wholesaler of quilting fabrics, generously donates these fabrics annually.

The wall quilts are judged and prizes are awarded. Following an exhibit of the submitted pieces, the wall quilts are sold by various auctions held by the Association at both the Quilt Canada and Alternate Year Events. The proceeds help support Association activities. More information on the Challenge can be found in the autumn issue of *The Canadian Quilter* and on our website, <http://www.canadianquilter.com>.

Merchandise/Other Fund Raising Activities

From time to time, merchandise is available for purchase through *The Canadian Quilter* and the website. The proceeds from the sales support activities of the Association. In addition we offer the Trend-Text Challenge each year for participants to create a small quilt from five fabrics provided by Trend-Text Fabrics Sales Ltd.

Benefits of Membership:

The Canadian Quilter

The Association publishes and distributes, to its membership, a quarterly newsletter, *The Canadian Quilter*. This publication is a glossy, full colour magazine that is only available to CQA/ACC members or by purchasing from a CQA/ACC member shop. The focus of the newsletter includes a wide variety of quilt related articles: interesting and exemplary quilts, quilt makers, guilds and groups, quilt professionals, patterns and books, shops and quilt related websites, events and call for entries, traditional and innovative equipment/techniques, standards for excellence and articles about our quilting heritage. The emphasis is quilting in Canada!

As a member, you may submit articles to the Editor or a member of the editorial team for publication in the newsletter editor@canadianquilter.com. You will find contact information for these individuals at the back of each issue. We are pleased to list your guild events, or Call For Entry - free of charge in our Events Calendar and on our website. Submit the information to the Membership Director at membership@canadianquilter.com.

We offer advertising space at reasonable rates for quilting related businesses. If you are interested in advertising in *The Canadian Quilter*, please contact the Editor online at editor@canadianquilter.com.

Resources

Resource materials are available to members on our website. Various articles of interest may be printed for use as instruction. A CD/DVD of the National Juried Shows and the CQA/ACC Trend-Text Quilters' Challenge are available for purchase to individual members since 2011. A copy is sent to every member guild for presentation at their meetings

Website

The CQA/ACC website provides information about the Association and its activities. Our address is <http://www.canadianquilter.com/> Many of the Association's forms and documents may be printed directly from the site.

Rosette Requests

Rosettes, for the use at guild shows, are available to guilds that hold a membership with CQA/ACC. On-line forms are available on the CQA/ACC website, and through the Membership Director. We request that this ribbon be used for either the best quilt in the show, or for a Viewers' Choice Award. A MEMBER GUILD MAY ORDER ONE ROSETTE PER YEAR. When your photo is received via an online form on our website at <http://www.canadianquilter.com/photo-gallery/forms.php?display=rosette&page=54> your guild's rosette winner will be posted to the website and may be printed in the *Canadian Quilter* Newsletter.

Quilting Professionals

The Association collects and maintains a list of CQA/ACC members who are quilting professionals. This list includes teachers, appraisers, shops, long arm quilters, CQA/ACC Apprentice Judges and CQA/ACC Certified Judges, pattern makers and other related professionals performing quilting functions, such as presentations and trunk shows. Members who wish to be included on the list must complete the Professional Membership application for membership. The form can be obtained from either the Membership Director, the Administrative Assistant, or printed from the Association's website. The completed information form is to be submitted to the Administrative Assistant. The list is updated on a regular basis on our website to include a link to the

professional member's web site or blog. If unable to access the web site, individual members may obtain a copy of this list by placing a request to the Membership Director. The list is available electronically, as well as in hard copy. There is a fee to copy and mail the list to individual members. Please contact the Membership Director for the current cost.

Awards

The Dorothy McMurdie Award

Dorothy McMurdie (d.2003) was a charter member of the Association and a long time supporter of quilting on the local, provincial and national levels. She provided an endowment fund to the Association that, for a number of years, was used to fund an Education Bursary and the Joseph McMurdie Awards of Excellence in Piecing and Appliqué.

The Dorothy McMurdie Award is Canada's most prestigious quilting award. It is presented annually to someone who has made a significant contribution to quilting in Canada and may be a quilter, teacher, author, researcher, historian, collector and/or editor of a quilting publication. The purpose of this award is to recognize these individuals and pay tribute to their accomplishments, as well as to establish documentation of their contribution to our Canadian quilting heritage.

Winners are selected from all nominations submitted. If the nominations received in a given year do not meet the criteria required for this award, it will not be given out in that year.

Nomination information appears in the Autumn issue of *The Canadian Quilter* and on our website. The nomination form may be printed from our website, or can be obtained from the CQA/ACC Secretary.

Teacher of the Year

The Teacher of the Year Award is presented to a member teacher who had made a lasting impression on his/her students of quilt making, thereby ensuring that the art continues as part of our heritage. Introduced in 1991, this award has been presented to teachers from across the country. Visit our website for information about how to nominate a teacher. If the nominations received in a given year do not meet criteria required for this award, it will not be given in that year.

Nomination information appears in the Autumn issue of *The Canadian Quilter*. The nomination form may be printed from our website, or can be obtained from the Vice President.

Agnes Boal Bursary

Agnes Boal (d.1996) was the President of the CQA/ACC in 1990-91. Her love of quilting and the Association were evident to all who knew her. In her memory, the Board of Directors established the Agnes Boal Bursary.

The Agnes Boal Bursary is given to a guild or group holding a CQA/ACC membership to assist in bringing a Canadian member teacher in for a lecture or workshop. Applications must be received by the Membership Director, either by mail or electronic mail. If the applications received in a given year do not meet the criteria required for this award, it will not be awarded in that year. A draw from eligible applicants to determine the winner will be held at the Annual General Meeting.

Governance

Board of Directors

The Association is administered by a working volunteer Board of Directors elected/appointed by the membership for a term of one or two years. The offices of the Association are the President, Past President, Vice President, Secretary/Publicity Director, Treasurer, Membership Director, and Director at Large. A slate of officers is presented at the Annual General Meeting for approval. To obtain a copy of the nomination form, contact the Past President, or go to the Membership Information menu on our website <http://www.canadianquilter.com>.

Regional Representation

Regional Representatives are individuals who represent each province and territory in Canada. Someone wishing to serve in one of these positions must be nominated and may then be appointed by the Board of Directors for a period of two years. Regional Representatives serve as an information conduit between CQA/ACC members in their region and the Board of Directors. To obtain a copy of the nomination form, contact the Past President, or go to our website.

It is the goal of the Regional Representative to provide an overview of quilting in their province or territory. They do this by submitting quarterly reports detailing regional news and events to *The Canadian Quilter* for publication in the newsletter. Representatives are encouraged to perform activities in their region to promote quilting, and CQA/ACC. Members are encouraged to contact their Regional Representatives with stories and items of interest to share with fellow CQA/ACC members through *The Canadian Quilter*. The liaison between the Regional Representatives and the Board of Directors is the Vice-President.

Volunteer Opportunities

The Association is privileged to showcase the volunteer efforts of our members who contribute to *The Canadian Quilter*, organize the biennial conference, hold the National Juried Show and promote the aims and objectives of the Association. If you are interested in a position on the Board or as a Regional Representative contact the Past President. If you would be interested in working on specific projects as they arise, contact the Board Member responsible for that project.

Frequently Asked Questions

A new quilt shop or professional has opened in my area. Is the Association interested in hearing about this?

Yes – The Association welcomes your input to our database of quilt shops and professionals that we maintain in order to provide contact information to interested quilters. Please forward this information to the Administrative Assistant.

What is an artist statement for a quilt entered a show?

Most quilt shows, including the National Juried Show, creates a show card for each quilt. This is a written statement that specifies information such as: inspiration and theme of the quilt, unusual techniques or materials, original design or use of a pattern and size of the quilt. Note: credit must be given to a teacher who inspired the quilt or the pattern maker and /publisher or any person who has worked on the quilt.

How can I get involved in Association activities?

There are a number of ways to become involved with the Association. You could put your name forward for an elected position on the Board of Directors or become a Regional Representative for your area of the country. The Past President serves as the Nomination Committee Chair for open Board positions as well as appointed positions. Please contact the Past President if you would like additional information about any of the positions, or if you are interested in applying. The information for what is required for each position is on the web under the Membership Information menu.

If you live in an area of the country where a Quilt Canada Conference or Alternate Year Event is being held, you could volunteer to help with the organization and running of the conference or event. In addition to these opportunities, there are sometimes postings on *The Canadian Quilter Notice Board* and or the CQA/ACC website for other positions needed to aid in the operation of the Association.

Are back issues of the newsletter available?

Yes, some issues are available. Contact the Administrative Assistant to identify which issues are available and at what cost.

I'm moving. Whom should I contact?

You should contact the Administrative Assistant who will update the membership database with your new information.

How is my membership dollar spent?

Most of the membership dollar is spent on the production and distribution of *The Canadian Quilter*, which is published four times a year. CQA/ACC also sponsors awards, the National Juried Show, and information mailings to guilds. There are many aspects involved in our efforts to fulfill the aims and objectives of CQA/ACC.

Where does CQA/ACC obtain the money to operate?

Sources of funding for the CQA/ACC include membership fees, advertising in *The Canadian Quilter*, show admissions, the CQA/ACC Trend-Tex Quilters' Challenge Auction, various fundraising activities, merchandise, donations, and sponsorship. Every other year, revenue from Quilt Canada provides funding for the operating expenses of the CQA/ACC, as well as for the Annual General Meeting.

What is the difference between a guild, and individual, professional and a shop membership?

Individual membership is geared toward the individual quilter and includes one copy of each issue for *The Canadian Quilter* and the opportunity to attend CQA/ACC events. Individuals also receive early registration privileges for Quilt Canada, the alternate year events, and reduced entry fees for the NJS, membership pin and handbook, an opportunity to participate in the CQA/ACC Trend-Tex Quilters' Challenge, and access to resources such as slide shows and printed materials.

Professional membership is designed to publicize persons who provide services to members and/or their business. An on-line form is available for professional members.

Guild memberships are meant for guilds or quilting groups, and includes two copies of each newsletter issue. Guilds that have a CQA/ACC membership may obtain rosettes for quilt shows and apply for the Agnes Boal Bursary. There are no individual benefits for the quilters who belong to a member guild, only guild benefits.

Shop memberships are meant for shops that wish to have five copies of each issue of *The Canadian Quilter*. A shop owner may have an individual and or a shop membership, or may have more than one shop membership. Member shops can link our website to their own website

Where should I send information about local quilting activities?

Member guilds should submit information regarding their activities to their regional representatives on a regular basis. Special guild stories may be forwarded directly to the Editor. Additionally, individuals may have stories of interest that they may submit to the Editor.

The Membership Director responds to Rosette requests. The resulting Rosette award information, as well as events and calls for entry, should be submitted to the Membership Director for inclusion in *The Canadian Quilter* and posting on the website.

membership@canadianquilter.com.

How long does my membership last?

You may choose a one or two year membership. Your membership starts on the first day of the month you join, and is due for renewal on the anniversary of that date one or two years later, depending on the length of membership you chose.

How do I know when to renew?

Each issue of *The Canadian Quilter* comes in a clear plastic sleeve with a mailing label inside. This label includes your name, address, membership number and a reminder of the date that your membership expires. The balance of the page is blank except for a note indicating that there will be a special full page included when you are due to renew your membership.

When you receive the last issue of *The Canadian Quilter* before your membership expires, it will include a coloured mailing label with a page of information to fill out. The page will start with IT IS TIME TO RENEW... Please fill in the requested information, return the form to the Administrative Assistant. Delays in completing and returning this form may mean you will miss an issue.

When was the organization founded?

At Quilt Toronto 1981, a number of quilters discussed the need for an association to unify quilters from across Canada to form the Canadian Quilters' Association. A steering committee was created to establish the Association. **On April 14, 1983** the Canadian Quilters' Association/Association canadienne de la courtepointe was incorporated.