

Quilt Canada 2012 – “Seams Like Home” in Halifax

by Colleen Paton and Kate Madeloso



Citadel Hill above downtown Halifax. Photo Credit: Destination Halifax/N.S. Tourism and Culture/W.Hayes

It's been a long sixteen years since Quilt Canada last took place in Nova Scotia. Our excitement is building with the prospect of welcoming quilters from across the country to our home. Halifax will play host to quilting enthusiasts from May 29 to June 2, 2012 and the line-up awaiting them is dazzling!

Quilt Canada 2012 will be held on the historic campus of Dalhousie University, one of the oldest and most beautiful universities in Canada. Thirty teachers will offer 110 workshops over four days with new techniques, new patterns and opportunities to experience something exciting and different. Five international teachers – Anita Shackelford, Barbara Olson, Jo Diggs, Norah McMeeking, and Sandra Meech - will be here to share their quilting expertise. For a sneak peek at the workshops being offered visit the Quilt Canada blog at <http://quiltcanada2012.ca> for the list of teachers with links to their web sites.

Classrooms will be closely located with easy access via elevators on the Dalhousie campus. On-site accommodations are available in nearby university residences at bargain prices. Meals will be arranged for those with busy workshop schedules. The Merchant Mall, with more than 80 vendors expected from all parts of the country, will offer lots of shopping opportunity and fun.

Special events include the Opening and Closing Banquets, the Opening Reception for the National Juried Show and a down home Kitchen Party. What's a Kitchen Party, you ask? Kitchen parties are a

well-known Maritime tradition where family and friends gather, for any excuse, and have a rollicking good time. Plan to join us in our “kitchen” and enjoy some Maritime music, laughs and good food with your new quilting friends.

It's quite fitting that the theme for 2012 is *Seams Like Home*. The theme was proposed by international award winning quilter, Anne Morrell Robinson, of Kingross Quilts in Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. When asked for the inspiration for the theme, Anne told us, “One of the things that makes Nova Scotia (and the Maritimes) special for visitors is the hospitality of the people and their willingness to open their homes and lifestyle to visitors. People from other parts of the country or world always comment on how comfortable they feel here, just like home.” She also comments, “For most quilters if you are surrounded by beautiful quilts and fellow quilt makers who are happily stitching and learning, then you have the comforts that ‘seam’ like home.”

Quilt Canada 2012 is an exciting reason to come 'home' to Nova Scotia, or visit us for the first time and become an honorary 'Maritimer' while you attend the conference and take in all the sights.

Halifax, right on the Atlantic coast, is an exceptional place to visit. The city is dominated by Citadel Hill, a historic site that overlooks on one side the downtown area with the harbour and on the other side the Halifax Commons. The waterfront features a boardwalk where Haligonians and tourists alike enjoy the ships, rest stops, shops and restaurants. Picturesque stone buildings and century homes line narrow streets that radiate up from Water Street. There is a hustle and bustle of this port city that creates an atmosphere of yearning and adventure.



r

Halifax Waterfront, Photo Credit: Destination Halifax/N.S.Tourism and Culture/W.Hayes

Nova Scotia is an explorer's paradise with oodles of variety in day trips from Halifax. Only a short distance from the city lies the world famous Peggy's Cove and lighthouse, an icon of the Maritimes. Less than an hour from the city, the South Shore drive boasts the quintessential towns of Chester and Mahone Bay, with quaint main streets lined with shops, and beautiful water views. Just a stone's throw further, Lunenburg, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, is where you can view the rebuilding of the celebrated Bluenose ship and take in the many shops, art galleries and famous seafood restaurants.



Peggy's Cove Lighthouse, Photo Credit: Destination Halifax/N.S.Tourism and Culture/W. Hayes

The Annapolis Valley, a one hour drive from Halifax, is a lush green valley dotted with towns, orchards, wineries and unique shops. Take the secondary roads for the most scenery. En route you can explore the Grand Pre Historic Site and the Statue of Evangeline. The Eastern Shore will award you a tour of unspoiled rugged coastlines where you can even watch world-class surfing. And a jewel for unmatched scenic beauty - Cape Breton - with its Celtic culture that can't be missed. The Fundy Shore boasts the highest tides in the world. Request your copy of the Doers & Dreamers Guide at <https://www.novascotia.com> or call **1-800-565-0000** to start your planning for 2012.

Don't forget - get out your calendar and mark the dates – from May 29 to June 2, 2012 - plan to be “home” in Halifax.