



JULY GATHERINGS

*JULY
at a glance*

JULY 13 - Second Monday Gathering at Sewing World

JULY 23 - Fourth Thursday Gathering at The Royal Canadian Legion

JULY 13

10:00 AM to noon, Sewing World
136 71 Ave. SE in the upstairs classroom.

If you wish, bring along a snack to share. Remember to park in the rear of the store. Please thank them for their support when you shop.

JULY 23

1:00 to 3:00 PM, Royal Canadian Legion, 606 38 Ave NE.

The Legion provides this venue to us free. Do not bring food or beverages in to the Legion. These are available at their snack bar. Consider a food bank donation as a thank you.

NEWS FROM HANDCRAFTS COMMITTEE

DEMO DAY - JUNE 10, RECAP

Thirty-five crafty, caring, talented women attended Demo Day and more than 60 demo seats were occupied through the day. Some attendees took in 2 or 3 demos and some came for the company and to experience a day of leisure and learning and sharing and friendship.

A Demo Day cannot happen without people willing to share their skills. Many thanks to the six Demo Divas; Mary-Anna Louise Kovar, Roz Cooper-Key, Janice McDonald, Dawn Bolger, Glenda Sweetland and Carol Spring. It could not have happened without you.

Product Custodians turned out with samples, kits, patterns and suggestions. It was an opportunity to fondle and love all the things you make so well.

And congratulations to the following members who were the lucky winners of the draws for each of the demos and for coming in the door:

- Joanne Underwood won a bottle of Eucalan.
- Joyce Goddard won felting needles.
- Janice Capriotti won stitch holders & darning needles.
- Maureen Whitehead won a colour wheel.
- Darlene de Moissac won a pair of thread snips.
- Shelley Murakami won a package of Wonder Clips.
- Sue Pasveer won the Some Bunny tea cozy & "Stash" tea.
- Shelley Murakami won a CRAFTSY class of her choice.
- Joyce Goddard won an Indigo Gift certificate.
- Glenda Sweetland will enjoy a 1.5 hour Reflexology session from Tanya Salwach.
- No one was able to put all the right names to the Pin-Up Babies so we drew a name from the best guesses and Carla Lorfing won the Pintastic Pin Dispenser. Cool!
- It was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate the talent of a fine group of friends. Thanks to all who participated and let's say this was the first **annual** event so we can look forward to the next one.



BLOCKING KNITS

WHY BLOCK?

- Swatches should be blocked before measuring to ensure your finished garment matches your swatch gauge. This is particularly important when the finished item will be washed. Block the finished garment using the same technique used for the swatch.
- Blocking evens out the stitches and lessens rolling of the edges. This is particularly important with color-work.
- Blocking cleans oil from hands, pet hair and will remove unset dye from the piece.
- Blocking brings garment pieces to the right size and shape which is particularly important for sewing seams or picking up stitches along edges.
- Wool, hemp, linen and cotton will soften with blocking.
- Silk blooms and becomes more drapery.
- Fuzzy fibers often have sizing applied to make it easier to spin and knit. This sizing needs to be removed to allow the knit fabric to bloom.

WHEN DO YOU BLOCK?

- Anytime a garment needs to be seamed it should be blocked first. This will make it easier to find the correct stitches to use for seaming. Weave in ends after blocking.
- Lace, colour-work and patterned knits should always be blocked to define the shape.
- If a garment is to be washed, it should be blocked.

To learn more about HOW to block and details for specific garments and fibers, go to the full notes on the [PATTERNS](#) page.

Thanks to Mary-Anna Louise Kovar for these notes from her demo.



Pins will work very well, but Knit Blockers are a real aid to blocking.

They are very SHARP.

Ask me how I know.

WHAT IS QUALITY?

BAGS, BABIES & BEYOND began with the sale of beautiful purses. Now, we sell a wide variety of products. We are successful because we are having fun creating quality items. Creating quality products is achieved by following just a few basic guidelines.

- Start with the best quality yarn or fabric that you have available. Pick up great raw materials from our stash.
- Make your item up-to-date, unique and fashionable. What sells best is this year's or next year's fashion fad. Look online for the latest patterns and trends.
- Bright colours are always popular but there is still a market for country and other colours. A variety of colours in the products helps sales.
- Prepare fabrics by pre-washing and pressing so that all your hard work will not be wasted the first time the product is washed by our customers. If the finished product is not going to be washed, pre-washing may not be necessary.
- You do not have to be a perfectionist but quality sewing results from attention to small details.
 - Match the thread colour to the fabric.
 - Backstitch straight on the seam line.
 - Match edges and corners accurately.
 - PRESS as you go at each step and again when you are finished.
 - Straight stitching lines should be straight and topstitching should be even.
 - Check the finished product carefully for any missed seams or threads that need trimming.
- Extras such as matching potholders for aprons or casserole carriers add value and increase the price.
- Put a small ribbon loop on aprons to make them easier to hang.
- Where velcro might touch the skin, apply the fuzzy side not the prickly side. Ouch!
- Where appropriate, add buttons, ribbon, lace, beads or other embellishments to increase the appeal of the item. This translates to higher pricing.
- For bags and purses it is important to have pockets, zippers and/or closures.

Make what you like. Make what you like to make. Like what you make. Have fun and be proud of the items you have created.

Thank you for all of your hard work!