

# Scotsville School of Crafts – Plan of Activities 2024

For the purpose of this annual plan of activities, please note that the use of the SSC facility is ongoing by both the Lake Ainslie Weavers & Crafts Guild and the Quilting Bee Guild. Scotsville School of Crafts is a facility in Scotsville, Nova Scotia owned and operated by the Lake Ainslie Weavers and Crafts Guild, which is centrally located for the communities of Inverness, Whycomomagh, We'koqma'q, and the Margarees. The facility sits on 1.25 acres of land, has a parking lot, wheelchair access, a weaving studio, a gallery space, two large workshop spaces; one serves as a seasonal Retail Space and the other for community programming.

## Communications, Advocacy & Membership Development

With the support of Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design, the Scotsville School of Crafts will launch a new website to house information about the School and its craft and art programming activities. We will launch a new brand and logo to convey our vision for the future of the organization.

We will advocate and apply for operational funding through the Department of Communities, Culture, Tourism & Heritage and the Municipality of Inverness County.

We will continue to develop a membership campaign to encourage new members to the School. This will include print, online and in-person activities.

## Craft Educational Programming 2024

Program planning is ongoing, but included here is an outline of proposed programming to date. We hope to add to this roster as new opportunities, instructors, and potential courses & workshops are identified throughout the year.

### **January/February 2024**

#### Woolly Wednesdays (Year round)

Weekly gatherings of the resident Quilting Bee Guild and Woolley Wednesday Fibre Arts group as winter weather permits. These drop-in sessions are open to guild members and the general public alike. All abilities and experience are welcome. Friends, fibre, and a cuppa!

### **March 2024**

Weaving – Beyond Beginners, 6 weeks – Eileen MacNeil, Instructor.

This course is intended for those who have some prior knowledge of weaving. It is intended to build on the skills from Weaving for Beginners course. Participants are expected to be able to prepare a warp and dress their loom with assistance.

Handmade Greeting Cards, 3-4hr workshop – Anne Peters, Instructor

Participants will learn to create their own unique handmade greeting cards for any occasion.

**Needle Felted Landscape Postcard, 4-6 hrs over two sessions – Claire Keigan, Instructor**  
Participants will learn the basics of needle felting and create their own wooly landscape postcard.

**Introduction to Table Loom – 3 weeks – Jenni Beaton, Instructor**  
A brief introduction to weaving on a table loom. Designed for beginners to explore the fascinating world of loom weaving on a smaller scale.

## **April 2024**

**Introduction to Spinning, 4weeks – Judy Lincoln, Instructor**  
Participants will learn the various steps and techniques to prepare and spin wool from the raw fleece to finished yarn.

**Drop Spindle Spinning – Eileen Rickard, Instructor**  
As a complement to the Introductory Spinning course, Eileen will guide participants through the techniques of using a drop spindle. Pre-dating the spinning wheel, these portable and versatile spindles were used throughout history and throughout the world.

**Introduction to Rigid Heddle Loom Weaving – 1 day (9am-4pm) – Sandra Gillis – Instructor**  
In this one-day workshop participants will have the opportunity to experience weaving on a rigid heddle loom – from preparing the warp, dressing the loom to a variety of techniques possible with this versatile little loom.

**Painting from Photos – Miranda Crabtree, Instructor**  
Miranda will lead participants in exploring techniques and media in creating unique paintings from a photo subject of their choice.

**Soapmaking – 2 days – Mary Pemberton, Instructor**  
Rich, luxurious tallow soap from local ingredients. Participants will learn all the steps in the process of creating these handmade bars of soap. Mary believes making our own is a fundamental skill all humans deserve to learn. Good clean fun!

## **May 2024**

**Lunch & Learn Working Bee - Dye Garden (community activity)**  
We will observe how our dye garden fared over the winter, perform some garden maintenance, and plan and plant for future expansion. Healthy local lunch provided.

**Macrame for Beginners, 6 weeks, Dylan Parkhurst – Instructor**  
This course is designed for people of all abilities and knowledge of macrame. No experience is required in any fiber art. Just a willingness “to take chance, make mistakes, and get messy” Miss. Frizzle (Magic School Bus). This course will take place over a six week period as we learn different knots and techniques all the while making some beautiful macrame projects.

## **June 2024**

World Wide Knit In Public Day – Saturday, June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2024

This day we celebrate the passion for knitting and show it to the world.

It's not everybody who is so fortunate to have someone to sit together to share company and knitting. It's a human need to be together with others and spending time together sharing the inspiration, the curiosity and the creativity.

## **June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

International Back-to-Back Wool Challenge. A team consists of seven (7) handspinners and knitters and 1 blade shearer. The objective is to complete a sweater following the same pattern within 8 hours. Funds raised support cancer research and local palliative care.

## **July 2024**

Spinning Flax – Jennifer Green- Professor NSCAD and Flaxmobile Project – Instructor

A one-day workshop to introduce spinning locally grown long line flax fibre into yarn.

Participants in this workshop are expected to have a basic knowledge of spinning in order to get the most from the day.

Sea Glass Greeting Card Workshop – Instructor Jeanne Engel

Participants will create uniquely whimsical greeting cards incorporating sea glass.

## **August 2024**

40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations – Scotsville School of Crafts – Lake Ainslie Weavers and Craft Guild. Come celebrate with us! We'll be hosting an open house with a wide variety of demonstrations, Try It for Yourself! Test Drives, mini workshops, artisan profiles, craft market, and, of course, cake! So much fibre, so much fun!

Barrie Fraser Annual Memorial Scrabble Tournament

Join us as we remember and celebrate the life and memory of one of our long-time members, gifted artist, and favourite instructors, Barrie Fraser, by participating in another of his passions – Scrabble!

## **September 2024**

Worldwide Spin in Public Day – Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024

A day to celebrate turning fibre into yarn worldwide! Bring your wheel and/or spindle (or try one of ours) and join us for a day of spinning shared with spinners around the world. A very different Worldwide Web!

Weaving – 6 weeks – Eileen MacNeil, Instructor

Participants will continue to develop their skills and competencies, explore various fibres, techniques, and designs while weaving individual projects.

Traditional Maritime Rug Hooking – 4 weeks – Eileen Coady, Instructor  
Participants will learn techniques and skills to create traditional rug creations using wool strips on linen. From drafting your pattern to cutting your wool strips to creating even loops and special effects, Eileen will guide participants through each step as they create their own mini rug.

Decorative Embroidery - 4 weeks – Sarah Faber, Instructor  
Participants will learn a variety of basic embroidery stitches as they create one of a kind embellished embroidery creations.

## October 2024

### October 11-19, 2023 – Celtic Colours International Festival Schedule

One again this year the Scotsville School of Crafts will offer a wide variety of programming during the Celtic Colours International Festival. Dates and times have yet to be determined, but the lineup is to feature the following with more events to be confirmed:

**WEAVING DEMONSTRATION** *Weaving is acknowledged as one of the oldest surviving crafts in the world. The art of hand weaving is alive in Cape Breton. Each year new students come to learn this ancient craft. Come and try your hand at throwing a shuttle. No Fee, Donations accepted.*

**HANDS ON” SPINNING DEMONSTRATION** *At the Scotsville School of Crafts, Spinning is yet another ancient craft which is alive and well. Join us there to watch a spinner at work and if you'd like to try your hand(s) at it you are very welcome! No Fee, Donations accepted*

**QUILTING BEE** *A quilt is on the frame and this is your chance to try your stitching, learn how it is done or just put in a few stitches for us. No Fee, Donations accepted.*

**SOCK KNITTING WORKSHOP** *Instructor Pat LeBlanc. This is a 3 part workshop, Monday, Wednesday and Friday 1-3:00, fee is \$45.00 materials included.*

**ART AND CRAFT EXHIBIT—LAKESIDE IMPRESSIONS”** *This is a unique showcase of local arts and crafts for sale or for your viewing pleasure. Everyone welcome!*

**BASIC CROCHETING WORKSHOP** *with Mable MacFarlane. Beginners welcome. All materials and supplies to start a small project included.*

**PUZZLE CUTTING DEMONSTRATION AND WORKSHOP** *by Melinda Shebell, Jardin Puzzles. Do you like jigsaw puzzles? Did you know the first jigsaw puzzle was a dissected map of the counties of England that was used as a teaching aid in the early 1700's? The first puzzles were cut using a coping saw. Today these high-end heirloom puzzles are cut on a scroll saw with a blade no thicker than a horse's hair. Come see a demonstration on how it is done, see examples of old and new puzzles, and learn a little history of the art. There will be time set aside to try your hand at cutting, no experience needed. \*If you are preregistered and know how to use a scroll saw, there are limited slots available for advanced instruction including your own puzzle to cut. No Fee, Donations accepted.*

**CELTIC WALK.** *Join Gaelic culture enthusiasts Geoffrey and Rebecca-Lynne MacDonald-May for a leisurely stroll along the South West Margaree, a Canadian Heritage River. This area, called Am Braighe by settlers, was once home to many bards, chief among them was the amazingly talented Malcolm Gillis whose songs are still sung Island wide and beyond. Join us for this walk along a level gravel road by the rivers edge, surrounded by maple sloped mountains. Your hosts will sing some of Malcolm's songs and discuss aspects of Gaelic culture and history (questions welcome) Approximately 2 hrs Geoffrey will pass his hat after the walk. Please gather at Scotsville School of Crafts at 10 am.*

**A HOT & HEARTY LUNCH”** *(made from fresh locally grown ingredients.) Menu: Hearty Homemade Soup and Biscuits followed by home baked Apple Crumble with ice cream, tea or coffee. Fee: \$10.*

**FLY TYING DEMONSTRATIONS** *fresh and salt water. Come and enjoy this demonstration and sales with Wayne Brightman from Isaac's Harbour. No Fee.*

**TRADITIONAL RUG HOOKING DEMONSTRATION”**

*Christine Hayes is demonstrating traditional rug hooking and showing some of her completed works. She is a talented fibre artist who calls herself a dabbler. She does immaculate quilting, felting, needlepoint, needle punch, weaving, crocheting, sewing leather, beading, grass weaving and embroidery. She is a member of Ocean Waves Quilting Guild and Firehouse Quilters. Her hobbies are gardening and fishing near her home at South Side Whycomogagh. Her vegetables have always been part of our "Hot and Hearty" lunch during Celtic Colours at Scotsville.*

**ACRYLIC PAINTING** *Paint the magnificent autumn colours of Cape Breton. Join local artist Patti MacDonald-David and create your own stunning acrylic painting. Beginners welcome. Step by step instruction. All supplies included. Fee \$25 per person.*

*are limited slots available for advanced instruction including your own puzzle to cut. No Fee, Donations accepted.*

**SEA GLASS GREETING CARD ART WORKSHOP** *by Jeanne Engel. Beginners welcome. Step by step instruction. All supplies included. Fee \$25 per person.*

**CAPE BRETON OATCAKE MAKING DEMONSTRATION** *Bernadette Campbell, one of the best Cape Breton Oatcake makers around Lake Ainslie will demonstrate with Alice Freeman, the whole process and while they are baking and you are taking in that beautiful aroma, you will receive a copy of her recipe. Finally, you get to eat these golden gems with tea/coffee/juice provided. Fee \$25.00*

## **November 2024**

Flax Processing Working Bee – Professor Jennifer Green, NSCAD, returns to host a work party with farmers, artisans, and curious members of the public as we process the locally grown flax from the Flaxmobile 2024 growing season.

Father Christmas – Needle felting – 2-day workshop - Marcia Tompkins, Instructor  
Participants will learn the basics of needle felting and create a unique Father Christmas wool sculpture.

## **December 2024**

Balsam Fir Wreath Making – Adrienne Gasior, Instructor  
Join Adrienne from A&X Farm to make your own unique evergreen wreath, decorated with foraged botanicals to brighten your holiday season.

Christmas Market

## **Exhibition Programming**

October 2024 - *Lakeside Impressions*, a showcase of local craft and art.

## **Retail**

Open retail space for summer period to provide sales opportunities for local artist products.

## **40 Years of Hands-on Creativity, Celebrating Scotsville School of Crafts**

In May 1984, the SSC (Lake Ainslie Weavers and Crafts Guild) held its first workshop with instructor Eveline MacLeod.

We plan to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2024 and are planning for events, activities, and other programming. A committee was struck, and meetings continue to plan for celebrations in August.

## **Staff Recruitment & Board Governance**

One part-time staff person (in collaboration with Cape Breton Centre for Craft & Design) was hired in May 2023. Securing operational funding will enable us to maintain this position. The role is to oversee programs and activities of SSC and support the Centre's Sustainability program.

Board meetings will be held regularly in accordance with Bylaws.

A full slate of executive and board members were selected and confirmed at the AGM held on February 10, 2024.

President – Eileen MacNeil

Vice President – Jenni Beaton

Secretary - Eileen Rickard

Treasurer – Pat LeBlanc

Past-president – Peggy Gillis

Directors – Verna MacMillan, Louise Delisle, Elizabeth Smith

## **Facility Maintenance**

Board of Directors conducted a needs assessment for facility maintenance. An application for funding has been submitted to the Communities Facilities Improvement Program for structural and electrical upgrades. If the grant application is successful, this work is expected to be completed by October 2024.

## **Fundraising**

Scotsville School of Crafts will host its annual pancake breakfast fundraisers at MacKinnon's Campground (July and September).

The resident Quilting Bee group continues to work diligently and generously on quilts for raffle as a fundraiser for the School.

The SSC has, as a CRA registered charity, created a profile with Canada Helps and will be adding a "Donate" button to the newly developed website to easily enable supporters to donate to the school.