

A Summer of Colour

Prince Rupert Library Quilt Display
June 8, 2009 to September 8, 2009

1. "Asian Waterways" by Sandra Duffus

This quilt design was adapted from a pattern called "Pennsylvania Turnpike". Sandra pieced the quilt in April 2009, and had her work professionally quilted by Betty Doering or Terrace, BC.

2. "Orphan Blocks" by Ella Gilker

Ella made this quilt as part of an Orphan Blocks class by Pam Mahoney. This quilt was professionally quilted by Betty Doering in 2008.

3. "Pink and Cream" by Ceu Cunha

Ceu designed this quilt herself and when it's not hanging in the library it graces her own bedroom.

4. "Beach Tramp Mariner" by Sheila Seidemann

"I made this quilt for my Dad, Dave Martin. Dad has always loved boats, and when I was growing up, boats were always in our lives.

There were rowboats, punts, runabouts, hydroplanes, skiffs and probably even some I don't remember. In 1970. Dad bought the 40 ft. pleasure craft,

the "Beach Tramp" which is pictured on the quilt. We didn't know how prophetic the name was at the time, but we enjoyed many years of traveling to secluded beaches and bays and islands around the north coast on that wonderful boat, which he still has.

When I thought of making a quilt for Dad, I knew it had to start with a Mariner's Compass block. For the background of this block,

I tried to mimic the deep dark green of the ocean during a southeast storm. Other blocks included are: Pine Tree - this is meant to symbolize Dad's love of the woods, and of his never ending pursuit of good firewood; Sail Boat - included because of the the boat theme; Card Tricks - symbolizes Dad's enjoyment of Cribbage games; Northern Lights Blocks - in the four corners to symbolize the love of home here in northern British Columbia and the fascination we all have with the northern lights; Maple Leaf - four in the outer border for our pride in our homeland.

I struggled with what to put in the intervening blocks. Finally I found the perfect navy batik fabric. The three petalled objects may seem like flowers to many, most in fact, but I am my own father's daughter and when I first saw them, I thought, "Wow! Propellers!". They are perfect for this nautical themed quilt."

Designed and made by Sheila Seidemann. Machine quilted by Pam Holma and Sheila Seidemann.

5. "Sunny Path" by Ella Gilker

"Sunny Path" is a quilt made in a class taught by Pam Mahoney. Ella had her creation professionally quilted by Betty Doering in 2009.

**6. "That Littl' Purple and Yellow Quilt" by Karen McKinster,
Dodge Cove, BC**

Karen chose the colours of this quilt to set off the purple and yellow grape-patterned fabric, a present from a friend. The quilting is a combination of hand and machine work; the quilt is backed with flannel, making it especially warm and cosy. Design by Pam Mahoney.

7. "Gramenii" by Eunice Seidemann, Hunts Inlet, BC

"My Gramma gave me her work on an unfinished quilt. I packed around hand-cut-and-sewn-9-patch squares for years. Every now and then I'd pull them out and marvel over the colours and tiny prints. She used little cardboard templates to individually cut each piece from salvageable parts of Grandpa's plaid shirts and her own house dresses. After agonizing over "just right" fabric choices and layout, I now have a combination of both of us to pass to the next generation."

8. "Convergences" by Sue Sullivan

Sue made this quilt as a gift for her daughter's 12th birthday in December 2007.

9. "Traditional Log Cabin" by Lou Allison, Dodge Cove, BC

Lou ambitiously started this quilt while pregnant with her daughter Jeannine, never having made a quilt and not having very good sewing skills. The quilt actually took two decades to complete, growing along the way from crib to double-bed sized.

The "Sunshine and Shadows" setting of the blocks creates alternating light and dark diamonds. The strip-pieced border and the cotton batt are in keeping with the traditional character of this scrap quilt.

Lou works part-time for the Prince Rupert Library and when she isn't quilting or gardening she shares her sunny personality and positive outlook with staff and patrons of the library.

10. "Scrap Quilt" by Carol Negraiff, Big Rain Quilters Guild, Prince Rupert, BC

This scrap quilt was an attempt to use up fabrics from my 'stash'. I originally saw this border in a magazine and knew I wanted to use it on a quilt. The flowers and leaves in the border are all hand appliqued.

11. "Spectrum Range" by Sheila Seidemann

"I started this quilt to use up a lot (over 300) of half triangles that I had made for another quilt, but didn't use. This block is called 'Delectable Mountains'. I thought this arrangement was my original idea, but I realized after I made it that I must have seen it in a book called "Scrap Quilt Sensations".

In 1983, I was privileged to visit Mount Edziza Park in northern British Columbia, and while there, the beautiful Spectrum Range. The soft mauves, corals, pinks, reds, browns and muted greens of the rocks were surrounded by the dark greens of the trees in the valleys nearby. This quilt reminds me of the Spectrum Range.

Recently, I took a look at the area on Google Earth. I see that it is now called the Rainbow Mountains, but it will always be the Spectrum Range to me."

This quilt was made by Sheila Seidemann and professionally machine quilted by Betting Doering.

12. "Serendipity" by Nancy Roberston

"On January 30, 2006 I wrote in my journal: Life is simple. I cut into new fabric (old pillowcases, shirts, sheets bought in Vancouver thrift shops). Chose light blues & whites. Sewed center piece together - bland - but will try to keep it mellow & simple. Totally addicted to fabric and sewing.

The search for fabric also became addictive. I continued to search thrift shops, garage sales and flea markets always on the lookout for more fabric. I brought my finds home, washed, cut and ironed them. My daughter mailed me a small piece of tiny stripped, blue leftover fabric and my brother-in-law cleaned out his trunk and gave me a large piece of blue linen he found inside.

I didn't know what I was making. I just wanted to sew fabric together to see what it would look like. It became too large for a placemat so I thought maybe it could be a tablecloth. But I couldn't stand the idea of someone spilling spaghetti on the love whites and soft shades of blue.

The idea that it could become a queen-sized quilt materialized as the project grew larger and larger. When I made the last four corners, I was almost out of fabric. I just sewed what I had together. Incredibly, it was only out a half an inch when I sewed the last corner on. The making of the top of this quilt was surely serendipity.

I bought a queen-sized sheet at Zellers for the back and it was too small. I sewed strips together out of all the scraps and sewed them into the sheet to make it big enough for the back. The task of machine quilting it all together was daunting on my mother's old Singer sewing machine. Many times I got discouraged because it buckled and overlapped and looked messy to me. When I put it aside to take it all apart, my daughter phoned me and said, "Just

finish it, Mom. If you don't, it will always lay in a bag in the attic. It will look beautiful when you're finished and you won't notice your mistakes." She was right."

This quilt was pieced & machine quilted by Nancy Robertson.

13. "A \$10 Quilt" by Ella Gilker

In 2003, the Fabric Boutique launched an interesting project: for \$10, customers could sign up for an on-going mystery project, choosing one or two colour-ways: pretty and pastel or dark and rich. Every month, participants received a paper bag with pieces of fabric and instructions for a quilt block. Every month, they were expected to drop in to the store with their completed block, in order to receive the next installment. If late, participants had to fork over another \$10 to stay in. None knew what the completed project would look like. Eventually, participants had to purchase fabrics for the sashings, border, backing and binding, but all the blocks were provided by the Fabric Boutique.

The project was a lot of fun: the fabrics and designs were interesting and challenging, the sense of group participation was stimulating and the mystery kept the interest level high. Over a hundred people signed up, including a number from Haida Gwaii and White horse, who phoned in their report and received their packages by mail. Those who participated were glad they did; those that did not rued the day! Thanks and accolades are due to Pam Mahoney for her design and for engineering the project.

14. "Blended Table Topper" by Laura Walker

This project was started November 20, 2004 and finished June 2007. Laura machine pieced and hand quilted this table topper, from a design by Judy Livingston, in a class taught by Pan Mahoney on November 20, 2004.

15. "Black & White & a Touch of Red" by Nancy Robertson

"I have collected black & white fabric for three years. Just a quarter of a metre at a time. At the start of this year, I decided it was time to try and use it. A lot of the collection is not in this quilt. Tones of blacks and whites are quite dissimilar and when put together look quite gray. It became the size it is because I ran out of the black & white fabric I chose to sew together. I used the leftover solid colours for the back and sewed in small leftover pieces for contrast. I had fun making both sides of this quilt.

Nancy pieced and machine quilted this project."

16. "The Frog" by Sandra Duffus

Very little is known about this quilt made by Sandra, except that is lovely and aptly named. Sandra mentioned that she and Ella Gilker made their froggy quilts at the same time.

17. "Flower Frog" by Ella Gilker

This cute quilt was made by Ella in June 2007.

18. "With a Japanese Air" by Gale Perry

Gale tells us that she made this Oriental theme quilt during a class with Pam Mahoney. The embroidered detailing was done with a sewing machine with an embroidery attachment. Gale made this quilt in 1999.

19. "The Early Bird..." by Carol Negraiff

I made this quilt "The Early Bird Gets the Worm" several years ago after seeing it done by a friend. The chickens are all appliqued onto the quilt. It was fun to do.

20. "Sunburst Flowers" by Pam Mahoney

Pam developed this design from the traditional Sunburst quilt design combined with star patterns to create a garden. This quilt was template pieced and paper pieced.

21. "Upstairs Downstairs" by Gale Perry

This quilt was a challenge using 3 pieces of fabric. Gale says she'd never made Prairie Points before and the colours are her favourites! The "stairs" are like the many short flights in Gale's house. The quilt was made as part of a Guild challenge in 2001.

22. "Star-Glow" by Laura Walker

Laura machine pieced and quilted this this quilt as part of a class taught by Pam Mahoney. The original idea was by Jinny Beyer. Laura started this quilt on April 9, 2006 and finished it the same month.

23. "Christmas Table Runner" by Ceu Cunha

Ceu made this charming table runner using the extra pieces she always ends up with when she is quilting.

24. "Christmas" by Helen Moore

Helen is a member of our Library Board and we are very happy that she chose to share this touch of Christmas with us.

25. "Fly Treat" by Gale Perry

The design for this quilt was adapted from a photo in a stained glass magazine. Gale layered it in 3 stages to give more depth - as it would have been done in glass. Gale used a magnifying glass to get the shading in the separate pieces of fabric. The "Fly" was Gale's idea to go with the rod. This quilt was completed on April 20, 1998.

26. "Spring with Siam" by Joan Last

Joan altered a basic cat pattern to have the look and colours of her Siamese/Himalaian cat who arrived on her doorstep a year ago at Christmas.

27. "Yoda and Sunflowers" by Joan Last

Yoda is Joan's daughter Rose's cat and this pretty quilt was a gift to Rose.

28. "Billy Among the Iris" by Joan Last

Billie is Joan's cat and this lovely quilt was made in 2009.

29. "Triangle Magic" by Dolly Harasym

This table runner was made by Dolly Harasym of Prince Rupert BC, which she gave as a Christmas gift to her friend and in-law, Jayne Coleman. The table runner was the end result of a workshop taught a few years ago by Pam Mahoney.

The triangles in the table runner were cut from fabric that had identical repeat patterns. A template was positioned on the matching patterns for each triangle to create a flow of lines and to give a kaleidoscope effect.

Dolly has lived in Prince Rupert and areas since 1975. For many of those years she resided across the harbour on Digby Island where she became involved in an inter-island sewing circle with their friends. They became known as the Coastal Quilters. Because everyone lived isolated and had to commute by boat it was not always possible to get together for a day of quilting. As a result, many of the Coastal Quilter's community made quilts were of a medallion style, consisting of a center piece which was passed from person to person so that each one could add their own creative border. All of the finished products were given away to someone special in their community either for a new baby, marriage, illness, sympathy or just because.

Dolly and her family moved from Digby Island in to town in the early 1990's where she joined another quilting group, The Big Rain Quilt Guild. Both quilting groups are still active to this day.

Some of Dolly's other interests include gardening, fabric dying, and volunteering her time with the Prince Rupert Special Events Society, to organize community festivals. Dolly also volunteers her time at the Ice House Gallery, a local artist's cooperative where some of her hand dyed silk scarves can be found.

30. "Picnic Table Scarf" by Nancy Robertson

"An entry in my journal from October 5, 2005 reads: After lunch I set up Mom's sewing machine and started quilting. First time ever. Time disappeared - like painting. So interesting and mind absorbing. Fun to use colour and fabric to make something. 6pm before I stopped.

I had purchased this fabric for my daughter who is a quilter. Something about the way each piece of fabric overlapped on the kitchen table caught my eye. I took the utility scissors from the kitchen drawer and cut a small piece of floral fabric. Next I cut some red fabric to go around the first piece. Then I set up the sewing machine. I cut and sewed all afternoon. I didn't know what I was making. I just enjoyed watching the progression of colour, lines and shapes.

Almost every day there is a mention of quilting in my journal:
Worked on my quilt. - Quilting on my mind. - Had a good long time today, love the results. - Home to quilt. - spent the morning working on my quilt, sewed it together backwards, had to undo it. - Susan leant me cutting board, ruler & cutter. - Busy day, finally got to quilting. - Susan phoned, OK with board & ruler? - Cut more pieces to sew together. - Sewed pieces, cut more. - Decide this will be a picnic table scarf for Bill for Christmas gift. - Sewed all morning. - Busy sewing. - Sewed all morning. - finished top portion of runner, started underneath section, thought I could eye ball the cutting with scissors, big mistake, took me all evening to straighten it out. - Have to sew when Bill is out of the house. - Almost finished Bill's quilt. - Done, sort of messy around the edges, but I love it."

31. "Bluebirds Table Runner" by Ceu Cunha

Ceu designed this table runner herself. This was the first project that Ceu made using her brand new sewing machine.

32. "Flowers Table Runner" by Ceu Cunha

This little square table runner was made with Ceu's old treadle sewing machine. Ceu did all the embroidery using the treadle machine as well!

33. "Rags to Riches" by Adrienne Johnston

This beautiful quilted book was dreamed, thought out, pieced and quilted by Adrienne in March 2009.

The book includes the following blocks: *Rags to Riches; Cloth of Heaven; Colour Wheel; Pieced Log Cabin; 9 Patch Sandwich; Pond Life; Towhee.*

Sincere thanks to all the wonderful quilters who so generously shared their creations with us this summer.

Staff of the Prince Rupert Library