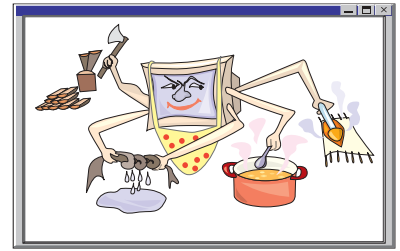


Check out your local club on our website
--<http://www.sewersforum.com>

For more info, contact Cheryl Wray
Telephone-- 905 623-3589
E-mail - sewersforum@sympatico.ca



The New Year has arrived, bringing with it the anticipation of making positive changes to our personal lives to improve health, family life and surroundings. Those of us lucky enough to enjoy a "hobby" such as sewing already know that if we can find more time to spend at it, we will. We recognize the benefits. Yet there is another reason to find the time to do it. A couple of years ago, I wrote a little column on the possibility of getting up in the morning, dictating a description of what type of clothing I needed for the day to the computer and by the time I finished my morning shower, the new clothes would be magically made and the old ones discarded. While reading the newspaper the other day, I noted a little story that announced "wet suits" that will be available in Japan this February. These suits are "shower-cleaned" by hanging them inside out, dousing them with warm water, turning them right side out and repeating the process, then letting them drip dry. Hmmm! Last year Air-conditioned clothing was announced --- now shower cleaned business suits!--- what next? Maybe my little fantasy wasn't as far fetched as I thought. If so, where does that leave me and my sewing machines?? I guess that tells me where to set my priorities this year. I had just better enjoy my sewing machines while I can because it may not be too long before both they and I are extinct.



THE MODERN WOMAN Early 1900's (or earlier) Motor Romance

Alice and her beau one day
Went riding in his Chevrolet
Her beau was fat, his name was Frank
And he was somewhat of a crank
It was too bad he wasn't smarter
But he couldn't even work the starter.
She showed him how, the little dear
And also how to shift the gear.
Away they went, but something broke:
'Twas just a measly little spoke.
He fixed it with a piece of wire;
Then something popped- it was a tire
'Twas mended soon, but next ker-flop
They struck a branch and smashed the top
"Dear me" cried Alice. "That's too much!"
Then something happened to the clutch.
And next, poor Frank, unlucky dub,
Just grazed a rock and mashed a hub.
They crossed a brook but missed the ford
And sank down to the running board.
"Oh Frank," cried Alice with a squeal
"I think we're going to lose a wheel
They climbed a hill, and then 'twas seen
The tank contained no gasoline.
They coasted downward toward the lake,
But Frankie couldn't work the brake
They struck a post a moment later,
That almost wrecked the radiator.
So both climbed out and poor old Frank
Bought gasoline and filled the tank
And gathered up from road and field
The fragments of the broken shield
They fixed the engine tight and snug
And had to use a new spark plug
Just then he slapped at a mosquito
And dropped a wrench on the magneto
'Twas useless then to sweat and toil
Nothing now would run except the oil.

THOUGHTS.....

- My mind works like lightning. One brilliant flash and it's gone.
- My next house will have no kitchen---just vending machines and a large trash can.
- If diamonds are a girl's best friend and a dog is man's best friend, who really is the dumber sex?
- A procrastinator's work is never done.
- You should never insult the crocodile until after you have crossed the river.
- The only perfect science is hindsight.
- If puns were outlawed, only outlaws would have puns.
- A waist is a terrible thing to mind.
- Adults are just kids with money
- All I want is less to do, more time to do it, and higher pay for not getting it done
- Editing is a rewording activity.
- Forbidden fruits create many jams.
- Have you ever had deja vu?? Have you ever had deja vu??

SEWING TIP

Anyone who has batteries in their sewing machine to power the memory, you need to check the batteries regularly to be sure they are not leaking and corroding your contacts. This is good advice actually for anything that is battery powered in your sewing room.

In this issue:

Bowmanville/Westport/Pickering	Pg2
Campbellford/Scarborough	Pg2
Bobbin Reminders.....	Pg2
Ottawa/Lindsay/Peterborough	Pg3
More Sewing Tips.....	Pg3
Ever Wonder.....	Pg4
Organization - 2008.....	Pg4

BOWMANVILLE

MEETINGS

2

PICKERING

NEXT MEETING is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 29th**, 7:30 p.m. at Memorial Park Clubhouse, 120 Liberty St. S., Bowmanville. This will be our annual members fabric sale so bring along anything from your stash you might want to turn into a little cash. We will also do all do a review on the new Margaret Islander DVD which covers easy methods of different zipper insertions without pins or basting. For more information, call Cheryl Wray at 905 623- 3589 or www.sewersforum.com

NOVEMBER MEETING - Our project for the month was the Scissor Holder Brooch. We started off our meeting with a demonstration on how to use a Bowmaker. The bow we made was then used to decorate the top of a glass block into which Christmas lights had been inserted, resulting in a pretty "present" to give a friend for Christmas. There was lots of Show & Share and we all picked up several ideas for Christmas gift giving. Bev Turner's determination to finish long term projects had to be admired as she had several of them completed for us to see. After consuming Christmas goodies supplied by the members and being wished a Merry Christmas by Santa, we got down to business. Our project for the evening was making 3 different 3-dimensional flowers that could be made and used in a great variety of ways, from decorating presents to adorning sewing projects and quilts and everyone did a wonderful job. Happy New Year to all!



OUR NEXT MEETING will be held on **Tuesday, January 15th** - 7 to 9 p.m.- at Pickering East Shore Community Centre, 910 Liverpool Rd. We will be demonstrating techniques with linings, how to join laces for a seamless finish and different ways to join chiffon and linings. For further information, contact Faye at 905.420.6903 or Cynthia at 905.839.0887

NOVEMBER MEETING - This was our Christmas celebration and we had our "potluck" at the Imperial Buffet in Ajax. The food was great, Santa brought presents so it was a great time for everyone. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!

CAMPBELLFORD

OUR NEXT MEETING will be held on **Tuesday, January 15th** 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the West Side Sewing Shoppe, 27 Ranney St., Campbellford. This will be our "New Years" social. We are going to have a pot luck dinner and we will "dress" for the occasion. The dress code is "formal", allowing some of us the opportunity to wear some of our glitzy attire. For more information, contact Rosemary at 705.653.4633

NOVEMBER MEETING: This month, we learned how to recreate an Alfred Sung jacket, by using easy ways to do buttonholes and pockets using the correct stabilizers, threads and fabrics. We also looked at a "manipulated" piece of dress leather as a continuation of last month's meeting. We decided to hold a New Years Social at our next meeting instead of a Christmas social this year. We have also discussed possibly making small quilts to supply our local ambulance. However, our eyes were opened when we conducting some tests to see how fire proof certain fabrics are. We were surprised to see just quickly regular fabric burns when coming near a flame.

WESTPORT

OUR NEXT MEETING will be **Wednesday, January 30th**, at 9:00 - 12:00 at the Creative Styling, 3 Bedford St, Westport. We will be starting off the New Year by making SF fabric shopping bags for each of us to use in lieu of plastic bags when shopping. For more information, contact Joanne Coleman at jc@creativestyling.com

NOVEMBER MEETING:- A productive meeting of the Westport Sewers Forum was held Wednesday November 28th at Creative Styling in Westport. New members joined in as 125 Christmas Stockings were sewn and filled with toys for the children at CHEO. Children who are staying in hospital during the Christmas season will be surprised to receive these lovely additions to their breakfast trays. A wonderful effort was made on behalf of Sewers Forum Members to obtain donations to support this cause.

DECEMBER MEETING: Westport Sewers Forum met for a Christmas lunch at the Cove Country Inn. A fun time was had by all as they outlined their programs for the coming year. Best wishes to all other members, a very Happy Holiday Season and Best Wishes for 2008. Happy Sewing to All!

SCARBOROUGH

OUR NEXT MEETING will be on **Thursday, January 17th**, 7:30 - 9:30 p.m. at the Ellesmere Community Centre, 20 Canadian Road, Scarborough. (Ellesmere and Warden area). We plan on continuing to review pattern alterations and we will use some hands on demos to accomplish this. If you intend to visit our group, please contact Monica at 416.445.4725 for more information.

NOVEMBER MEETING: This month, we reviewed pattern alterations and specialized shortcuts in sewing techniques.

BOBBIN REMINDERS

You should always use the bobbins recommended for your own brand of sewing machine. If you have more than one machine that requires different bobbins, you can store each type of bobbin in their own glass jar labelled with the sewing machine name.

You should always wind your bobbin at a medium speed to ensure even winding of the thread. If the thread on the bobbin is unevenly wound, you may experience tension problems.

You shouldn't overwind your bobbin thread. Overwinding can cause problems with

the timing of the needle thread and the bobbin thread. It could place the bobbin thread out of position when the needle thread goes to grab it to form a stitch, resulting either in tension problems or uneven stitches.

Make sure that you are placing the bobbin in the bobbin case correctly, with the thread pulling off the bobbin in the direction that your manual suggests. Once the bobbin is properly inserted, be sure to position the bobbin case correctly into your machine.

Don't forget that when you need to adjust the tension on your machine, if the thread is clumping up underneath your fabric and into the throat plate, check your top tension. If the bottom thread is showing too much on top of your fabric, then you need to adjust the bobbin thread. When adjusting bobbin tension, it is "righty tighty-lefty loosey". Make slight adjustments until the tension has corrected itself.

OUR NEXT MEETING will be held on **Wednesday, January 30th**, 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. at 770 Quaker Road, north of Oakwood. The members have agreed to think about our agenda and come to this meeting with some more thoughts and suggestions as to the direction they would like to take. For more information about the COKL Sewers Forum, contact Pam Campbell at 705 953-9741 or pamiam@sympatico.ca.

NOVEMBER MEETING: November '07 meeting of COKL (Lindsay) Sewers Forum took place on Wednesday, November 28th at 770 Quaker Rd., Oakwood in Pam Campbell's studio. It was our Christmas get-together. The members brought the goodies and one present under \$10, home-made or store bought, to play a game. We used Cheryl's story to move the presents back and forth and had a lot of fun doing it. We took turns reading each of the Martha Stewart 'Days of Christmas' and laughed so hard that the tears were flowing. A couple of other jokes were a great hit too! A new member requested that we actually work on a sewing project. I suggested that we set a Saturday date to get together to sew a project. On January 26th our group is taking a 'Feet First' class at Ultimate Sewing in Oshawa.



OUR NEXT MEETING will be on **Wednesday, January 9th** 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. We will be meeting at Darrell Thomas Textiles -217 Bank Street, Tel: (613) 239-3854- where we will see a demonstration on making an origami jacket. For more information, contact Esther Campbell at esthercampbell@gmail.com, or 819-684-6061.

NOVEMBER MEETING

The Ottawa branch held their November meeting at the Canterbury Community Centre. Eight members and one guest were in attendance. Naomi Lindstein spoke about the success of the Inspirations Needlecraft show this year. Although the Hampton Conference Centre was a wonderful place to hold the show, Naomi is putting out feelers for ideas for a slightly less costly venue for her show next year. Tove Edens took on the charitable items agenda item from last month and made each member a paper pattern with excellent instructions on making simple or fancy Adult Bib's (otherwise known as a spaghetti bib). These are very useful in long term care facilities and we will either choose a pet location, or take our creations to various facilities when they are brought to one of our meetings. Tove suggested making them into "tuxedo" or "fancy blouse" creations to encourage laughter (the best medicine). We discussed our upcoming visits to Darrell Thomas Fabrics in January and Knit-Knackers in March. Linda Doyle of Dragonfly Fabrics brought a plethora of wonderful new embellishment items she is now carrying in her store. There are felted yarns, fabric dyes and embellishment plates, hand-dyed silk ribbons, wonderful new books and fabrics. New clothing creations were pulled out by the members and we talked about different types of sewing machine feet and their uses. After tea/hot chocolate break, Linda Doyle handed out foam slabs, pieces of boiled wool, wool roving, and barbed needles and the group proceeded to create lovely flat felted designs on their boiled wool. She also let us get a close-up of a needle felted wizard and Santa Claus. I think we are having too much fun!!!

PETERBOROUGH

NEXT MEETING - will be held on **Wednesday, January 30th**, 7:00 -9:00 p.m. in the Friendship Room at the Northminster United Church, 300 Sunset Blvd. The program for this meeting will be a group of member volunteers' show casing their textile hobbies. A reminder to the volunteer presenters of the January 9th meeting at Krystyna Perron's at 2:00 pm to arrange the meeting protocols and formats. If you wish any further information, contact Krystyna by telephone at 705 741-1472. or by e-mail at dandk@sympatico.ca

NOVEMBER MEETING: The Peterborough Sewers Forum met on November 28th and the meeting was hosted by Pat Blewett; thank you Pat for chairing the meeting. The group found the presentation and assistance provided by Skip Shaw on the 20 inch purse to be most instructive. Skip showed the group a variety of samples and the numerous ways one could attach a shoulder strap. Spring should find many of us sporting a new bag. Wonderful dessert pot luck was enjoyed by all and the sound of joy and laughter permeated the hall. Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year.

MORE SEWING TIPS

--Keep your fabrics smelling nice while keeping bugs, etc away. Use those last little tidbits of soap and lay the pieces carefully between the layers of your folded fabric in your stash. You can also use these leftovers as fabric markers
 --You could also wrap some of your fabrics around cedar planks or shingles before you put them back in the cupboard.
 --After sewing elastic into a waistband, sew an "X" on the back part of the waistband. This way, you don't have to guess which is front and back, particularly if you are in a hurry. This is especially effective in children's clothing.

--When using your serger, a good rule of thumb is to clean the blades with alcohol and then coat them with sewing machine oil to prevent them from dulling. Also add in a little drop of oil wherever your manual suggests. This should help keep your blades sharper longer (reduces friction) and keep your serger serging longer.
 --When changing the thread in your serger, if you tie a square knot (right over left, then left over right), you should be able to pull the thread slowly through the eye of your needle to avoid having to cut the thread and re thread the needle.

EVER WONDER..

--Why writers write but fingers don't fing, grocers don't groce and hammers don't ham?
 --Why there isn't any egg in eggplant, ham in hamburger and apple or pine in pineapple?
 --Why, when the plural of tooth is teeth, the plural of booth isn't beeth or how about one goose, 2 geese and one moose, 2 meese?
 --Why quicksand works slowly, boxing rings are round and why there isn't any guinea or pig in a Guinea pig?

If you understand what you're doing, you're not learning anything.

ORGANIZATION -- 2008

As soon as NewYear rolls around every year, my thoughts automatically shift to getting things cleaned up and organized. It's almost the same as when Spring arrives and it seems the whole house needs cleaning from top to bottom. However, at this time of year, I tend to concentrate on the sewing room as opposed to the whole house.

Organizing one's work space take time and thought. If one is just starting to get organized, making the decisions on how to deal with the numerous bits and pieces that go with sewing can make one weary even before beginning the process. Decisions also depend on whether or not one has a designated sewing room or a shared space.

For those who sew in a shared area, it may be a problem finding a location that sufficiently houses their supplies, gives them space enough to sew without disrupting others in the household and still remains somewhat orderly. A fresh look around the house might turn up some new possibilities, such as the corner of a seldom used room (a dining room using a room divider to separate the space), a guest bedroom (using a futon instead of a bed), one end of the laundry room, the area underneath the stairs or even a closet. With a few slight renovations and/or a proper sewing cabinet and desk, the sewing area can now be defined.

The next step to address is determining layout of the area. Once that choice is made, then tools and notions are sorted and judgments are made regarding the best containment for the various tools, fabrics, etc. The crucial part of all of these decisions is figuring out what is right for you and your space, whatever size or shape it is.

Some of the larger and most useful storage items available which generally can be used in either a large or small space are built in cabinets, stackable block cubes, sewing cabinets, rolling carts with drawers, steel wire or wooden shelves, bookcases and old dressers, desks and cabinets

In addition to the aforementioned units, there are a multitude of plastic storage drawers and cubes that are available to hold bulky items. For smaller items, there are tackle boxes, tool boxes, plastic containers with dividers, plastic tubs and bins, stackable drawers,

baskets, CD boxes, pizza boxes and coordinated cardboard photo boxes to consider. The majority of these items would sit or stack neatly on a bookcase or shelving.

For very small items such as buttons, snaps, etc., one can use magnetic containers and/or magnetic spice racks. Magnets can be glued to the bottom of small containers, then attached to a magnetic strip or sheet (or even a metal cookie sheet) on the wall to hold these items in place. Other choices include small inexpensive glass jars or baby jars which can either be grouped loosely in a wire basket which is attached to the wall or the jars could be attached to a piece of wood fastened to the wall.



(jars are fastened to the wood by using small screws to attach the tops to the wood). Divided sewing boxes are great. Ice cube or cutlery trays and appropriate jewelry organizers that fit nicely in a drawer will organize small loose things. Old film canisters or used pill bottles (hot glued to a plastic tray) with a sample of the contents glued to the top works very well too.

Items such as zippers and ribbons can be hung by safety pins, on a circular shower hook (hook goes through the hole in the tab) or on a rotating and/or wall mounted tie rack. Braid and trims store well on empty cardboard paper towel or toilet paper tubes or in photo storage boxes. Clear food containers would work here also.

Tools can be hung on a pegboard, placed in a tool holder, plastic bin or in a plastic shoe organizer. Rulers can either be hung on the wall or placed sideways in an open letter holder. Measuring tapes can go in a desk drawer or be hung on bulletin board with a pin. Threads can be placed on a pegboard, a thread stand, in Rubbermaid containers, in plastic storage drawers and even in the freezer to keep it moisturized and dust free. Needles can go in a small jar, a needle book, a divided tomato pin cushion or a small plastic sewing case.

Patterns can be stored in plastic bins, labeled file boxes, an old dresser, a filing cabinet or in baskets. Magazines can go by themselves or in magazine holders or in a big binder on a book shelf. File boxes would also be appropriate for them. Quilting and Sewing books can go on a book shelf or stand up in a file box. Both magazines and books would also store well in stacked Cube blocks (with the opening facing you)

Fabrics could be hung from a rolling clothing rack or in a closet, placed in labeled

cardboard boxes or large Rubbermaid containers, folded into a shelf, bookcase, old trunk or cabinet. Fat quarters would store nicely in a cardboard shoe storage box (number of slots vary depending on where you purchase the box), a bookcase or stackable blocks (with the opening facing you). Small pieces can lay flat in a plastic storage bin or a pizza box.

Equipment accessories and manuals should be stored in a rolling cart with wheels or a designated bin with the sewing machine parts placed in drawers, small plastic containers or jewelry organizers in the same cart or bin to keep everything in one place.

Your cutting area, depending on available space could be a regular table, a table on wheels (to easily put away when not needed), a counter top, a board across the top of a baby crib or even a baby change table. Your design wall could be as simple as a having a long 1" strip of metal attached to a wall so you could hold your flannel in place with magnets.

Your current project information and/or everything required to finish the project could go in a designated file box, large plastic or cloth project bag with identifying label on the outside or in a decorative plastic or wicker basket which has been hung from the ceiling where space permits. If you wish to work on your project in another room, place everything to do with it in a rolling cart with drawers. You can then move it anywhere you want.

A bulletin board can hold the loose pattern pieces, envelope or any pertinent information for your project as you work on it and also a calendar to remind you of the date your project is due.

My sewing space is finally fairly well organized and it has taken a couple of years to figure out what works best for me. I have learned three important things in the process. If I provide a proper place to store things, I will actually put things away (sooner more often now than later). I will eventually get to know where everything is and most important, the more see through containers and drawers I store the items in, the quicker I reach my goal of knowing where everything is.

Now that I am delightedly "organized", I'm ready to simply enjoying my sewing. How's your sewing room these days? Here's to Happy Organizing - 2008!!

The Sewers Forum Newsletter is available by subscription to non-members. The yearly rate - \$12- includes eight newsletters, instructions for our monthly project, a free personal sewing related ad in our newsletter and web page. Contact Cheryl Wray -phone 905 - 623 - 3589 or www.sewersforum.com