



526 Second Avenue South, Kenora, ON P9N 1X4  
t. 807-468-1847 f. 807-468-2062, [linda@borntoquilt.ca](mailto:linda@borntoquilt.ca)

### **There's a whole lotta stitchin' goin' on!**

I love to sew! It all began with a mother who sewed for me and my 4 sisters...I remember lining up on the first day of school each year for a photo...5 little cuties in a row...all wearing the same dress! Funny how we always want what we can't have...I remember wanting a store bought dress that was not a hand me down. Then I saw this skill as something that could help me have what I need for the rest of my life. I started my sewing "career" in 4-H at the age of 12 (I wish I could say I started at the tender age of 4 at my grandmother's knee...but it just ain't true.) I sewed all my own clothes in high school and on into my 20's. After coming to Canada in 1975, I took up weaving...and left my sewing behind...I was happy to buy "hand-me-downs" at second hand stores. Then, two babies changed my life...no longer did I have hours on end to sit and weave. I started sewing again... machine quilting placemats and bags of all varieties...my girls grew up playing with my sewing "trash". (To this day, they don't sew much...but they still love art and collage from "found objects") I went on to sew cushions and chair pads for Wooddale Rustic Furniture; did a little upholstery; moved on to sewing bridal wear for local designer Biljana Baker...then designing and sewing my own clothing...designed and sewed my daughters' wedding gowns; all the while sewing curtains, drapes and shades, and simple quilts for my current abode and doing a variety of alterations and custom clothing and bags for friends and relatives. Then I joined the Quilters Guild. It changed my life. I feel like I was...



But, alas, I owned a gift store...or should I say it owned me? I could never steal enough time for quilting...until I sold my gift store in August of 2003. We added another room to the house... to accommodate my "dream machine"... an APQS Millennium long arm quilter. I love to quilt!

Since joining the local quilters guild in 1990, I've taken and taught a lot of classes...started a lot of projects. But only finished a handful. I was beginning to think I would never live long enough to see them all completed. Things have changed. I now spend all my days sewing. The quilts are getting finished. Trouble is, the more I do, the more I dream. I have an inspiring supply of fabrics, threads, and embellishments. And the equipment to complete whatever I begin. Now, I have so many quilts in my head, I may not live long enough to see them all started.

### **Linda Clark**

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Nine of my 15 years in the Guild have been spent organizing and/or teaching workshops...from demos and mini-workshops at monthly meetings to our annual Mystery Quilt Weekend. Since selling my gift shop, I've been available to teach at the local quilt shop too. My project classes are my own designs, complete with well written handouts. The next step is putting the written material together with good photos of my samples into packaged patterns for those unable to attend the classes. Coming soon...to a quilt shop near you.

## My "Formal" Quilt Education

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I continue to take classes whenever & wherever I can. Our local guild brings in two or three teachers a year, and I've taken in all or part of Quilt Canada 2000, 2002, and 2004...learning from regional teachers like Marilyn Wiebe, Judy Morningstar, Anne Morrison, Carol Galloway, Linda Nickel, Nancy Bergman, Myra Harder & Cori Derksen; Canadians Marion Spandjert, Barb Fraser, Ann Bird, Kay Phillips, Sheila Wintle, Jim Wilford, Kathy Tidswell, Jayne Willowby-Scott, Penny Berens, Carol Seeley, Judy Martin, and Gail Hunt; Americans Moneca Calvert, Marjorie Miller, Ricky Timms, Harriett Hargrave, and Australian Pam Holland.

I take all the classes I can that are sponsored by our Guild... whether I'm interested or not. Experience has taught me that there is always something to be learned...even when we least expect it. I read, and doodle...and I EQ. I make notes about the wonderful moments in other quilters' creations...an effective border treatment, an inspired quilting design, a delicious blend of color...whatever sings to me. A wise quilter once said that some part of every day should be devoted to our passion. No matter how hectic our schedules are, we need to take some time each day to quilt...to design, or cut, or piece; to admire; or just to fondle fabric, putting together combos for future quilts. Inspiration comes as "aha" moments while our minds are thus engaged.

## Awards

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Sometimes it's hard to find time to work on the challenging projects that will never be class samples, but this rewarding and valuable exercise is time well spent. I get more personal satisfaction from creating those one of a kind quilts that showcase my own unique abilities, than from designing a great new "quilt pattern". I learn new techniques and develop design skills that will help in every future project. And there is so much crossover in skill application...a diverse sewing background provides me with inspiration and expertise that I have been able to incorporate into my quilting projects time and time again. Never stop learning.

2007	<a href="#"><u>Lake of the Woods Quilters Guild Show</u></a>	First Prize (Contemporary Quilt) & Judges Choice, "Amazon Tailspin"
2006	<a href="#"><u>Hoffman Challenge</u></a>	Chosen for traveling exhibit, "Tropical Nights"
2005	<a href="#"><u>Lake of the Woods Quilters Guild Show</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Hoffman Challenge</u></a>	First Prize (Contemporary Small Quilt), "Not Your Classic Wedge-wood" Chosen for traveling exhibit, "Rhythmic Ribbons"
2004	<a href="#"><u>Lake of the Woods Quilters Guild Show</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Hoffman Challenge</u></a>	Best of Show & First Prize (Contemporary Small Quilt), "Fan-shui" First Prize (Challenge), "The Queen's Morning Stretch" Chosen for traveling exhibit, "Evolution"
2003	<a href="#"><u>Lake of the Woods Quilters Guild Show</u></a>	First Prize (Challenge), "And He shall gather His flock from the four corners of the earth"
2002	<a href="#"><u>Lake of the Woods Quilters Guild Show</u></a>	First Prize (Traditional Large Quilt, machine pieced & quilted), "Trust Me" First Prize (Contemporary Large Quilt, machine pieced or appliquéd and machine quilted), "Lost in the Woods"
1998	<a href="#"><u>Lake of the Woods Quilters Guild Show</u></a>	Best Machine Quilted Quilt in the Show, "Cinnamon Rhapsody" Best Contemporary Design, "Fandance"
1997	<a href="#"><u>Lake of the Woods Quilters Guild Show</u></a>	Best Machine Quilted Quilt in the Show, "Falling Leaves"
1996	<a href="#"><u>Lake of the Woods Quilters Guild Show</u></a>	Best Machine Quilted Small Quilt, "Holly Wreath"
1995	<a href="#"><u>Lake of the Woods Quilters Guild Show</u></a>	First Prize (Challenge) & Best Machine Quilted Small Quilt, "Sunnyfield"
1982	Northwestern Assoc. for Community Crafts Annual Show	Ontario Crafts Council Design Award, quilted jacket

### Teaching Fees

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Full Day	\$250.00 CDN
Half Day	\$150.00 CDN
Travel	\$.40/km CDN

### Accommodations

Hotel, or billet with a friendly, non-smoking quilter. Pets OK. Meals provided by host guild.