

VOLUME 14 • ISSUE 7  
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# knitting Yarns



## MARCH 17: DYE-VERSION

Dye-Version is all about colour. We hand-dye fabrics and yarns in exciting and unique colourways. We have a variety of knitting fibres including bamboo, wool, silk, linen, and cotton to name a few. Our Showroom is in Mississauga and our hours are flexible. Whenever we're in the studio, the Showroom is open and there is always a pot of coffee on!

Jane and Anne are a sister act. Dye-Version came about as result of our love of textile and fibre arts. Anne is an avid knitter and designer. Jane has been working in the film and television industry as a costume designer specializing in unique wardrobes from models to monsters and puppets. This specialty work has led to an expertise in a variety of traditional and contemporary dyeing techniques.

For the last few years we've enjoyed the Knitter's Frolic (aka knitter's heaven). We are looking forward to the DKC meeting on March 17 so we can share our ideas on colour and meet fellow fibre freaks!



## APRIL MEETING PREVIEW

Our own past president and current Dr. Knit will be giving the talk, "A Knitter Visits Peru." at our April meeting. In October of 2009, Denise had the pleasure of visiting Peru on a textile-focused tour.

Peru has a long and very rich tradition of textiles created in many techniques. This will be a presentation about the history of textiles, design elements, techniques, and current state of various types of textile production in Peru.

Denise will also bring examples of Peruvian knitting, backstrap weaving, braiding, and machine embroidery.

## MAY MEETING PREVIEW

Just confirmed—knitwear designer and DKC member Robin Hunter will give a presentation entitled 'The Barbie Factor' about knitting, fashion and body image.

### Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, April 21, 2010  
Wednesday, May 19, 2010  
Wednesday, June 16, 2010

### Location

Innis Town Hall, 2 Sussex Ave.  
NW corner of St. George St. and Sussex Ave.  
on the University of Toronto campus.

### TTC Access

Five-minute walk south from St. George subway station.  
Parking available at several nearby locations.

**Meeting Time:** 7:30 p.m.

**Doors Open:** 6:45 p.m.

### Admission

\$6.00 for guests and Newsletter Only Subscribers  
Free to Full Members (please show card at door)

All Downtown Knit Collective meetings, functions and events are governed by the Rules of Conduct as determined by the Executive. To read a copy of the Rules, please visit [www.downtownknitcollective.ca/dkc\\_conduct.html](http://www.downtownknitcollective.ca/dkc_conduct.html)

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THE FEBRUARY 2010 MEETING

### Announcements

The DKC is still looking for a **note taker!** We need someone who regularly attends meetings to do a brief write-up of the guest speakers' presentations for the newsletter. Please get in touch with any member of the executive (contact info on back page).

**St. Michael's Hospital** is still in need of washable newborn hats and sweaters, crib-sized blankets, child and adult scarves and children's mittens (toddler - age 6) in gender-neutral colours. Please drop off items at the DKC or contact Donna Campbell (Kittycrazy on Ravelry) at [KittyKnitter@bell.net](mailto:KittyKnitter@bell.net).

**Volunteers Needed!** Knitter's Frolic 2010 is the premier knitting event this spring in

Ontario. Sixty plus vendors are already registered for our marketplace and two full days of workshops planned.

It takes many volunteers to run the Frolic. We need members for promotion and advertising. We need many many volunteers to sell admission tickets, run the raffle and assist the vendors on Frolic weekend. Please offer your help. We will reward you with free Frolic admission and a food voucher. Please contact Joan Kass at [events@downtownknitcollective.ca](mailto:events@downtownknitcollective.ca).

A new **Back to Back Challenge** is happening this spring, and naturally the DKC's Toronto Spiders will be a part of it. Further details will be revealed as they become available.

### Raffle Winners

Micheline Gouguen  
Sandy Wetherald  
Gloria Williams

### Mini Workshops

A good time was had by all at the annual Skills Exchange Mini Workshops. We'd like to thank the following teachers for lending their expertise for the evening:

Gloria Williams—**Easy, Almost Invisible Seam for Garter Stitch**  
Joan Kass—**Lifelines (Knitter's Insurance)**  
Robin Hunter—**Centre-Out Cast-on**  
Diane Martin—**One-Row Buttonhole**  
Denise Powell—**Continental Knitting**  
Carole Adams—**Needle Felting**



## KNITTING BY THE NUMBERS by Wendy Eng

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All patterns state the number of stitches you should have on your needles as you are working, but have you ever considered the total number of stitches that went into making the item?

Those of you who were at the December meeting for the fashion show may remember the Icarus shawl. I calculated that there were over 131,000 stitches in the shawl, as I used a finer needle (2.5mm instead of 3.25mm) and I made it bigger, to 80"x40", and used almost twice the yarn stated for the pattern.

I was curious as to how many stitches went into creating the shawl, and so I put my computer programming skills to work. While the numbers are not exact, nonetheless, it's still impressively large.

Just for interest's sake, the shawl, as originally written, would have had approximately 61000 stitches; and I say only approximately as I did not include the set up rows before even starting the lace pattern, and I may have missed some rows not included in the charts and whether I count bind off stitches, decreases, etc as a stitch or not. If I was paid for this work, I'd spend much more time writing for an exact count and then checking by manual counting with a calculator and paper and pencil!

For comparison, some of you have made the Fiddlesticks Flirty Ruffles shawl, and lived to tell about it. There were a total of

110,780 stitches, again only an approximation, give or take 1000. And yes, there were 2,245 stitches on the needles when the ruffle was finished. In fact, 47,573 of the total stitch count was just for the ruffle. Of course, none of this takes stitch complexity or frogging into account.

A pair of plain toe-up socks with short row heels, 9" foot length and 8" circumference, yielded the following numbers (rough calculations only):

- knitted at a gauge of 8st and 10rows to the inch, one sock has 10,000 stitches, a pair has 20,000 stitches.
- at 9st and 12r to 1", one sock has 14,000 stitches, a pair has 28,000 stitches.

And finally, consider a stockinette stitch, crew neck, long sleeved, modified drop shoulder pullover as given in Ann Budd's *Handy Book of Sweater Patterns* with a finished chest measurement of 40". If knitted in a worsted weight gauge of 5st and 7rows to the inch, then approximately 42,000 stitches went into the sweater. In a chunky weight yarn, it would be about 25,000 stitches.

So a pair of socks could have the same stitch count as a chunky weight sweater, depending on the foot size and leg length, i.e. smaller items like socks are not less work just because they are small. The total stitch count tells another side of the story!

## OLYMPIC SIGHTINGS by Joan Kass

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A knitter could not help but notice some of the gorgeous knitwear at the 2010 Olympics. Discussion groups are already busy on Ravelry trying to reverse engineer some of these lovely items.

The U.S. Olympic Hat, a combination of Fair Isle and intarsia, retails for \$65. This hat features moose circling the hat. Actually, there is some debate about whether it is a reindeer or moose. Ravelry member Helen Bristow offers her version of "The Olympic Reindeer Hat" as a free Ravelry download.

For the Opening Ceremonies, the U.S. team wore a chunky aran cable knit sweater. Made from a blend of wool and cashmere, it has a ribbed turtle neck, cuffs and hem and of course the Official Team USA Vancouver 2010 embroidered patch accents the left arm. Retail value: \$425. So far, I have only seen efforts to deconstruct the centre cable of the sweater on Ravelry.

A group of volunteers knit mittens for the USA Women's Curling Team. This pattern is a free Ravelry download "Mitts for Medals". They feature coin cables to symbolize the Olympic rings on either side of the vertical letters USA.

Another Raveler, Marlene Klewais, copied the Olympic Ring Hat that Lindsey Vonn wore when she won a gold medal in skiing. It can be found under "USA Olympic Hat" on Ravelry.

Another gorgeous sweater and hat combination was worn by the team from Andorra. This fair isle hat is encircled with snowflake motifs. Designed by Kama, Ravelers have determined it is machine knit and sewn at the crown.

Canadian volunteers delivering the medals and flowers at the awards ceremonies wore a coat knit in a chunky yarn with a shawl collar and designed by Aritzia. According to Vancouver designer Yumi Ito, special knitting needles resembling fat drumsticks were required to create just the right "chunkiness" needed in the sweater's knit. The sweater's form is set off by a thick leather belt embossed with a First Nations artwork pattern. I am waiting for this pattern to appear on Ravelry.

The pattern for the wonderful red Canadian maple leaf mittens that appeared all over the Olympics is now available for free at the Diamond Yarns blog ([www.diamondyarn.com/blog](http://www.diamondyarn.com/blog)).

The subject of much controversy is the Canadian Olympic team lambswool Cowichan-inspired sweater worn by Canadian team members at the closing ceremonies. Apparently, the Bay sweaters are knit in a much finer gauge (more like sportswear). Didn't the Canadian Team look great when they entered wearing the sweaters?

Lucky Seamus O'Regan was given the men's version of the Dale of Norway Vancouver 2010 sweater when he interviewed the King and Queen of Norway on CTV. Apparently they gave him a hat as well. But not to be outdone, I understand that there was a certain Motor Coach Driver from Toronto who is well known to all DKC Bus Trip attendees also sporting this lovely sweater and hat. Rumour has it that his wife enlisted the help of several of her DKC friends to get it finished on time! Watch for the full story and pictures in the next DKC newsletter.

The Winter Workshops were another success this year, with great teachers and courses.

The Tvaandsstickning Mitten class was sold out. It was a new technique to many, and there were other applications for what was learned, and making the mittens was a lot of fun. And yes, you can make a hat without a pattern if you took Denise Powell's class. There was a lot to teach and to learn in the classes, and new approaches to age-old problems.

And kudos to the teachers who were at the workshops for two (or even one) full days, you must be tired. Thanks to all the teachers, and you, the students.

Now, on the classes at the Frolic!



## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Canadian Bead Oasis Show

March 12-14, 2010 at the Metro Toronto Convention Centre. A retail show featuring beads, supplies, tools, and classes too! Visit [www.oasisshows.com](http://www.oasisshows.com) for more details.

### Knitting Retreat

March 26-28, 2010—Shall We Knit First Annual Knitting Retreat at Benmiller Inn (Goderich, Ontario). Two days of Lace Knitting Workshops taught by Joan Kass. Details at [www.shallweknit.com](http://www.shallweknit.com) or by calling Karen at 519-662-9916

### DKC Knitters' Frolic

The weekend of May 8-9, 2010, at the Japanese Canadian Cultural Centre. This is the big one—the knitting event of the year!

### Crafting Spring Get-Away

May 28-30, 2010 at the Five Oaks Centre near Paris, ON. Carole Thomas is organizing a knitting (or quilting, sewing, beading, embroidery or whatever you enjoy). It will be a lot of fun and the scenery is beautiful! Total cost is \$210 double, \$250 single, all meals and snacks included. For full info, please email [mcgaudet@rogers.com](mailto:mcgaudet@rogers.com) and include "Five Oaks" as the subject line.

### Seeking Knitting Events

Got inside info about a fibre-related event? Let our newsletter editor know: [heatherbee@gmail.com](mailto:heatherbee@gmail.com)

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