

knitting Yarns



NOVEMBER 16: JACQUELINE SCHILLER



Our presenter this month is **Jacqueline Schiller**, an extremely talented local knitter and textile artist. Though only 24, she has been knitting for 20 years. She learned to knit at her mother's knee, and has not put down her needles since. In 2007, she spent a year studying in Florence, Italy and

is heavily influenced by the traditional processes and incorporates them into contemporary practice.

Jacqueline graduated from Ontario College of Art and Design in 2009, where she majored in drawing and painting. Her love of textiles prevailed, and she decided to incorporate her drawings into her knitting. Jacqueline knits mainly portraits of people and animals, as well as anatomical drawings. Her work has been shown in both solo and group exhibitions in Canada and abroad, and now she will share it with us. Please join us as we share our podium with this talented young fibre artist.

Dye-Version has been confirmed as our November vendor, so don't forget to bring cash if you want to take home some of their unique hand-dyed yarn.

DKC member Maureen Hicks will be the first participant in our **Crafter's Corner** experiment, selling her hand-sewn wares including project bags and cat toys at the November meeting (cash only, please!).

Want to be a part of Crafter's Corner? Here's what you need to know. The table is open to all DKC members who wish to sell small items or de-stash, for a flat fee of

\$10 for the evening. Please contact Cristina Simionovici (programme@downtownknitcollective.ca) at least three weeks in advance and let her know your preferred date, as well as details about the type of items you wish to sell.

COMING UP IN DECEMBER

Once again, it's time to celebrate ourselves and our craft with our annual Work Of Our Hands Fashion Show. Do you have something to show? Something that perhaps is not quite finished? Now's the time to hit that knitting accelerator to get it done for the show.

Whether you're a newbie or a pro at knitting, we want you to strut your stuff. This meeting is always the highlight of the year, and a ton of fun for the models and audience alike. Please note that this meeting has been moved up to the **second** Wednesday of the month, whereas it usually falls on the third Wednesday of the month.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Wednesday, December 14, 2011

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

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

The second meeting of the season drew a crowd of about 120 members.

Announcements

A projected backdrop greeted DKC members as they filed into the auditorium, featuring the agenda for the evening's meeting. Carole credited new exec member Edna for this great idea.

DKC meetings now benefit from an **accessible entrance**, found at the front of the auditorium, just to the right of the projection screen.

Member **Flo Fleury** has been invited to teach at the Northern Fibre Guild in Whitehorse, YK. Pack a sweater, Flo!

A big announcement—the DKC has been working closely with the Toronto Marlies to come up with a fun-filled winter knitting/hockey event. **Pucks & Purls** has been slated for February 11. See page 4 for more details.

Winter Workshops are in limbo at the moment—many city venues are all booked up. We will keep you posted.

Raffle

Five copies of Shirley's classic book *Canada Knits* (which she assures us is now a collector's item worth lots of money on eBay) were raffled off and signed by the author. The winners were: Barb Angier, Hélène Schroeder, Lydia Trzoch, Inga Tomas and Diane Wright.

Guest Speaker

Shirley Anne Scott

"Shirl the Purl" is a knitting historian and former DKC member (and president) who has called Newfoundland home for the last five years. She began her presentation by noting that the words "tradition" and "history" are not hot at all right now when it comes to knitting—the emphasis today is primarily on fashion, design, creativity and high-end yarn. Very little is said about knitting tradition anymore—quite possibly a result of the younger generation of knitters trying to distance themselves from the old-fashioned image. Shirley's book, *Canada Knits*, written in 1989, was all about knitting history, and no one has really done much research since. Clearly this is something that needs to change, as

evidenced by the audience's reaction to Shirl's presentation. It may be as simple as replacing the word "historical" with "vintage", which tends to generate a lot of interest.

Shirl talked about three knitting traditions that she considers distinctly Canadian: The Cowichan sweater, Mary Maxim and the very distinctive double-knitting style of Atlantic Canada. She notes these are living traditions, with lots of new takes on the old classics still going on.

The Cowichan Sweater

It's important to note that before the Europeans came, there was no knitting in Canada. Missionaries had a lot to do with spreading knitting in those early days, as well as the Hudson Bay traders who were primarily Scottish in origin. The Sisters of St. Ann taught the Cowichan people to knit, and the result was the instantly-recognizable sweater we know today—big, heavy and grey with distinct native motifs (thunderbirds, killer whales) in black and white. They're still sold today as an authentic product, with official certification required to call it a "real" Cowichan. Shirley pointed out that a distinctive feature is the drop sleeve—knock-offs have raglan sleeves.

The Mary Maxim Sweater

Mary Maxim was founded in 1954 in Dauphin, Manitoba. Much the way Betty Crocker was invented to put a human face on baking mixes, the name Mary Maxim was based on the Ukrainian house servant of the founder's family called Mary Maximchuk, who was completely oblivious to her fame for most of her life. As you may have noticed, the basic look of the Mary Maxim sweater was borrowed from the Cowichan, with modern takes on the traditional motifs—the ubiquitous curling stones, bowling pins, snowflakes and hunters that became immensely popular with knitters (including the Cowichan, who borrowed these motifs right back).

The genius of the pattern is the knitting chart, as well as the different sleeve options. Both of these innovations were unknown at the time, but standard today. As the popularity of these cardigans is once again on the rise, Mary Maxim is reissuing many of their classic patterns.

The Newfoundland Mitten

These distinctive mittens are usually big, bulky and black-and-white, made with heavy wool and often featuring an extra finger for threading hooks, gutting fish, pulling triggers and other maritime tasks (no comment on their other nickname, Torbay nosepickers). Newfoundlanders relied on them for many years, younger generations distanced themselves from them, and now they're coming back in a big way. Shirley has seen them on bookmarks, greeting cards, even in miniature form as Christmas ornaments.

Influenced by German missionaries (the Moravians), continental knitting can still be found in pockets around Newfoundland. In her endless search for vintage mittens, Shirley has discovered that the knitters of yore didn't seem to have any concept of gauge. They did the pattern as they had always done, regardless of the thickness of the yarn—the result was often ridiculously large mittens, though at least they were warm.

Shirl ended her presentation by imploring audience members to find out all they can about knitting traditions before it's too late. Read old books, talk to old knitters, collect old patterns and samples, and do what you can to preserve this vitally important aspect of our craft.



PUCKS N' PURLS

Mark your calendars for Saturday, **February 11, 2012**. The DKC is sponsoring Pucks n' Purls, a family-oriented event with the Toronto Marlies for knitters, with lots of activities and fun for family members of all ages.

Location:	Ricoh Coliseum (Exhibition Park)
Marlies' Alley Open:	1:30 p.m.
Gates Open:	2:00 p.m.
Game Time:	3:00 p.m.
Seating Location:	Behind Marlies bench (Section 100/119)
Price:	\$20.00 per ticket



One and a half hours before game time, Marlies' Alley, a family interactive zone with inflatable figures and games such as bubble hockey, hockey shooting challenge and foosball is opened for ticket holders to have active fun with their friends and families. Before the game and at intermission, there will be knitting-related activities, contests and draws for prizes.

And for a very special treat, starting about fifteen minutes after the game, there will be an hour free skate (no hockey) on the Marlies ice, exclusively for the Pucks n' Purls ticket holders up to a limit of 250 skaters. Note that skaters or their parent/guardian will have to sign a waiver before going on the ice and that children 12 and under must wear a helmet.

What a fabulous Christmas gift or stocking stuffer. Think of all those grandchildren, nieces and nephews that are so difficult to buy for. Tickets will be on sale at the upcoming DKC meetings starting November 16, 2011. Tickets can also be purchased by contacting Joan Kass at dkcevents@hotmail.ca.

In the near future, tickets for Pucks n' Purls will be available electronically on the Marlies website with a DKC promotional code. Tickets and space at the post-game skate are limited—buy now to avoid disappointment.

Enthusiastic volunteers are still needed to help in developing and organizing this event. Please e mail Edna Zuber at edna@zuber.net if you are interested.

PUCKS N' PURLS DESIGN CONTEST

Calling all knitwear designers and wannabe designers!

Duke the Dog, the Marlies mascot, has a wardrobe emergency. Although his wardrobe is extensive, including even a tuxedo, he does not have a hand knit scarf or toque. He's a pretty big guy with a much larger than normal head size so its tough for him to buy "off the rack". That was a call for action to the DKC. Custom Knitwear R' Us.

The Contest:

- To enter the contest, send your name to Edna Zuber at edna@zuber.net to receive a pdf of the Marlies logo and Duke's measurements.
- Submit your design entry, consisting of a sketch of either a Duke the Dog toque OR a Duke the Dog scarf with knitting instructions to Edna Zuber at edna@zuber.net by December 7, 2011. (Note - if the winning designer is willing to knit the garment, knitting instructions are not required.)
- The winning design must include either the Marlies logo OR the word "Marlies". It must be knit in the Marlies colours, light and dark blue, and white. We will be attempting to match the Pantone shades to the yarn. Since Duke is such a big guy, his toque or scarf will be knit with yarn at a gauge of 4-4.5 stitches per inch.
- The winner of the design contest will be announced at the DKC meeting December 14, 2011. Duke the Dog is trying his best to clear his calendar so he can make the design selection in person, hug the winner and give him or her a ticket to the big game.



The original directions have it as a single colour —however, as you see, I had to start playing. Use the make 1 (rows 2 and 14) to start the 2nd colour.

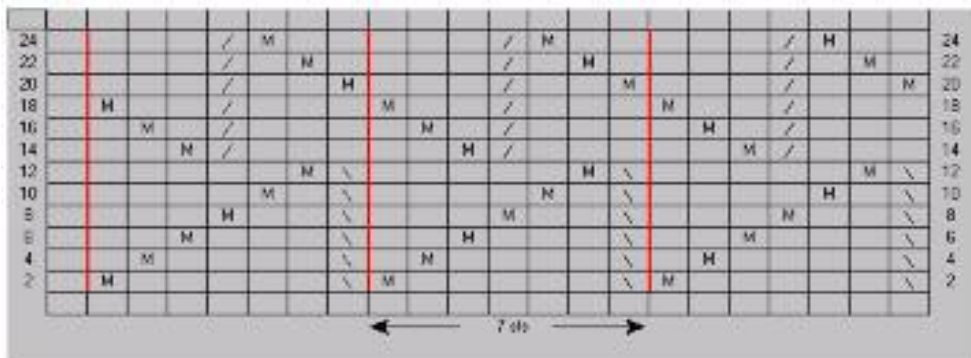
Flame Wave Stitch

Symbols in Graph:

- M make 1 by lifting the yarn between the stitches onto the left-hand needle, and knitting it through the back loop
- \ left-leaning decrease (i.e. ssk or slip 1, knit 1, pass slipped stitch over)
- / right leaning decrease (i.e. k2tog)

All odd number rows are purled and are not illustrated on the graph.

According to the description given, the stitch is a multiple of 7 plus 5. However, I found the count to be fluid. If I attempted to maintain edge stitches, the “plus 5” varied from row to row. If I incorporated the shapings at the appropriate spots, the stitch count remained a multiple of 7.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Top-Down Knitting Weekend

November 18-20

Deb & Lyn Gemmell of Cabin Fever are holding a Weekend of Top-Down Knitting at Fern Resort, which is an all-inclusive resort located within a 15-minute drive of Orillia. For the details of workshops and how to get involved, contact info@cabinfever.ca

TMC Holiday Sale

From December 1-24, the Textile Museum of Canada’s shop will be having a special sale —museum members will receive 20% off their purchases.

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