

VOLUME 17 · ISSUE 1
SEPTEMBER 2012

knitting Yarns



SEPTEMBER 19: A CELEBRATION OF YARN

In the finest DKC tradition, we proudly kick off our 2012/2013 season the best way we know how—with a celebration of yarn. This year we're proud to showcase two of our favourite "indie" yarn brands: Dye-Version and Indigodragonfly. Each company has its own unique approach to fibre and colour, and both will have vendor tables at the meeting (cash preferred).

Catch up with **Dye-Version** and see what the girls have been working on this summer. They have some new yarn weights, exciting new colourways and several new patterns to offer. Plus, we'll visit with old friends and see some of the new and limited edition colourways that are available this fall. Also, there will be an exclusive look at a new yarn that will be launching in the Spring (just in time for the Frolic!)

Well known for her yarns, colors, yarn names and her attitude, Kim McBrien is the soul and founder of the indie dyer company **Indigodragonfly**. Her yarns are delightful to knit with, and the names make us smile and feel good. Kim will introduce her new yarns and supporting patterns.

CREATIV FESTIVAL KNITS FASHION SHOW

The Creativ Festival will celebrate knitting with two fashion shows dedicated to knitted garments on October 13th and 14th. The shows are hosted by Creative Yarns, and the DKC was invited to participate and submit entries. This will be a juried show, no entry fee is required.

They are looking for outstanding craftsmanship, innovative use of yarn, various renditions of commercial patterns, or original designs.

If you are interested in submitting anything for this fashion show, please contact Cristina Simionovici (programme@downtownknitcollective.ca) and send one or more pictures of your item (a Ravelry link is

acceptable), a short description, source of pattern and yarn used. If your entry is selected, you will be contacted by the organizers with further details. The show is open to all knitters, however it is only 45 minutes each day so not all submissions will make it to the runway.

NEW DKC WEBSITE

The DKC is in the process of revamping and modernizing our website. As part of the development, we will be adding a members-only section which will include such things as a forum. We are also adding an online marketplace so that we can automate the membership and workshop sign-ups.

We're hoping to have the new website up and running by the beginning of September, and information on how to sign up for this year's membership will be available online at that time. We will continue to have membership sign-up sheets at each meeting for those who decide to join while at the meeting.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

Wednesday, September 19, 2012

Wednesday, October 17, 2012

Wednesday, November 21, 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

\$8.00 for guests and Newsletter Only Subscribers

Free to 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

President Carole Adams welcomed approximately 80 members to the June meeting (the first day of summer). Most knitters had lightweight summer projects in tow.

Announcements

The Needle Emporium will be holding its fourth annual Knitting Camp from September 20-23.

World Wide Knit In Public Day was a success, despite the rain. A crazy WWKIP tree (coated from top to bottom with green yarn) was brought to the meeting, and is sure to become an annual icon. Who gets to keep it until next year?

September brings a change in fee structure to the DKC. We have been running a deficit for the past few years, and a multi-tiered membership has been devised.

Joan came up to speak about Relay for Life. She noted that the team raised double what they usually do, and were awarded a gold certificate from the Canadian Cancer Society for surpassing the \$10,000+ fundraising level. Huge thanks to everyone who participated and donated to the team.

Speaking of fundraising, the final raffle total for our new Canadian Cancer Society initiative reached \$1688 by the end of the June meeting, exceeding our \$1500 goal for the year. Thanks to everyone who bought a raffle ticket. We plan to renew our fundraising for the 2012/2013 season.

Show and Tell

Trish Denhoed stepped out of her comfort zone to make her first venture into Tunisian crochet—a tiny baby dress in eggplant. She also showed a pair of eye-catching colour-transition Cat Bordhi-style socks in Knit Picks Chroma.

Grace Bolton showed a striking fuchsia one-sleeved shawl with cables, made with Debbie Bliss yarn.

Elizabeth Hilton showed a number of items, including a Knit One Below blanket using a pattern of columns she “just made up”, a Vogue 2005 reversible jacket, a Dye-Version bamboo fingering-weight vest (“just a rectangle with holes”) based on

horizontal lace from a stitch pattern book. Amazing work.

Dale Hendry showed a burgundy shawl using Handmaiden Camelspun and beads, from the Vogue winter issue. A luxurious project with outstanding results.

Holly Yip displayed Estonian spiral socks made from yarn that Knitomatic gave away in goodie bags at the very first TTC Knitalong. As fate would have it, the pattern from *Think Outside the Sox* called for the exact same yarn and colourway. She likes the socks so much, she bought shoes to go with them (we like the way you think, Holly).

Fiona Ellis had a cool project to share with the audience. She’s always tried to match her nail polish to her knitting, and she’s collaborated with SOAK to create ingenious Soakbox gift sets which include a skein of luxury yarn, matching nail polish, hand cream, yarn wash and a fingerless glove pattern. What a great idea!

Raffle

Tiny Yarn Animals and two balls of Patons Lace went to Dalia Besasparis. *Colour Style* and two balls of Patons Lace went to Patricia Ross. *More Big Girl Knits* and two balls of Patons Lace was won by Lydia Trzoch.

Guest Speaker

MEGAN ERIN

Our young and talented speaker Megan is a recent graduate of George Brown’s four-year Bachelor of Design program, noting that she was one of the few graduates who chose to work with knitted garments. Items from her collection, Willomyne, were shown at the meeting. Megan attempted to push the boundaries of what knitting can be, and she definitely succeeded. She also gave us a glimpse into the process of starting out with a concept and ending up with a garment.

Megan’s assignment was to create five outfits for an existing or emerging fashion market, and it was a year-long project. She had to identify her key customers and competitors, and assess the suitability and saleability of her line. Megan noted the challenges inherent to the creation of knitwear—most importantly, the fact that

it’s very labour-intensive. This came as a surprise to no one in the audience. After identifying her ideal customer (high-income urban females over 35) and source materials (local alpaca farms), Megan then found a labour source (Joan). She tried to deal with a number of factors we’re all very familiar with, including stability, complexity, gauge, weight, density, hand and stretch. Megan noted that every yarn is like a different personality; each has a different annoying habit you just have to learn to live with or work around.

Megan’s final evaluation featured a judging panel of industry professionals. Their feedback was very positive, though they wanted to see lower prices. Megan’s Kinley jacket had potential to be a commercial success—one judge was interested in stocking it—but in the end, the price point was just too high (over \$650).

In the end Megan had to concede that handknits are simply too time consuming to be commercially successful. It’s nearly impossible to strike a balance between craftsmanship, functionality and price. She believes there is definitely a place for handknits in craft, and as an artform.

Where does Megan go from here? She’s currently interning three days a week at Roots while applying to corporate jobs and working on her own line of yoga wear. We foresee a bright future for this talented, articulate young designer. We’d like to thank Megan for giving us this inside look into the world of fashion design.



WORLDWIDE KNIT IN PUBLIC DAY (TORONTO EDITION) by Edna Zuber

On June 9, when knitters from around the world were celebrating World Wide Knit in Public day (WWKIP), the DKC was right there. It was hosting WWKIP Toronto Edition at Speaker's Corner in Nathan Phillips Square, for all knitters and fibre artists in the Greater Toronto Area. The objective was to create an inclusive WWKIP event that would put a new face on knitting, emphasizing the social nature and rejuvenated art of knitting using the tagline "Who's Knitting Now".

After a few months of planning and promotion, it all came together, with many, many knitters (young and not so young) joining the celebration. There were groups from shops such as the Purple Purl, Knit-O-Matic, Wise Daughters Craft Market and Creative Yarns, as well as a vegan knitting group and a church prayer shawl group. It was difficult to count the number of knitters and crocheters that came and went throughout the day. A media report had the attendance at 200, but 100 to 150 is more realistic. The threat of rain scared off some knitters, but the brave were rewarded with only a few sprinkles at the beginning of the day.

The support from the knitting community was amazing. Before the event, knitters and yarn stores promoted the event on their websites, blogs and through tweets. Jonathan from Romni Wools had his staff make up a couple of hundred kits of yarn and needles from the infamous basement so folks could pick them up on their way to the celebration. Haley from Knit-O-Matic donated prizes and yarn for the Scarf Relay and Learn to Knit Kiosks. Wise Daughters Craft Market donated prizes for the Scarf Relay. On the day, StreetKnits Project set up a display promoting their charitable knitting program for the homeless and gave out kits for knitters to make warm scarves or hats for them. The DKC's Relay for Life team was on hand to promote their event the following week, and collect donations.

In addition to knitting, there were special events to entertain people. There were a couple of "Raveler Meet Ups" and an all day Learn to Knit Kiosk. After a slow start, the Scarf Relay became a reality. The notion was that each team would knit a section of a scarf which would be judged both for speed and execution. Cristina would later graft the pieces into a Streetknit scarf. "Flying Needles" won first prize for speed and execution of the scarf, plus an additional prize for "best named team." Second prize went to the "Knitters of Yarnia" team. A consolation prize was awarded to the "Show me Your Stitches" team which had the best execution.

The WWKIP Toronto Edition team promoted the event through the DKC Newsletter, Ravelry, a blog wwkiptoedition.tumblr.com, Facebook, Twitter and many community bulletin boards as well as sending out a news release to the mainstream and community media. There was a good response. The National Post printed an amusing comic "How T.O. Knit in Public" by Sarah Lazarovic, republished below with permission. Two Asian television crews were on site for the event and interviewed many of the groups attending. The CNC World video is available here: tinyurl.com/wwkip-vid. SNAP published 14 pictures and a brief summary on their website for Downtown Toronto in July—they can be found at tinyurl.com/wwkip-pics.

Many thanks to the fabulous team that organized the event; Carole Adams, Erin Kent, Pam McNaughton, Debra Rowland, Lacey Richmond and Cristina Simionovici. Everyone did a great job finding creative ways to make this event fun for everyone. Drivers on the QEW and Gardiner Expressway surely were taken aback by the branches of an 8 foot tree waving out Debra's SUV window as she sped in from Oakville with the yarn bombing prop she had designed. A special thank you to Cristina who led the team on June 9 in my absence.



Focus Group Update

On Sunday June 3, 2012, eight members of the DKC gathered at the Officer's Mess at Canadian Forces College on Yonge Boulevard to discuss volunteer opportunities and program planning for the guild. What ensued was a spirited conversation with many thoughtful, creative suggestions on both topics. Notes of the conversation have been distributed to the participants and will be reviewed by the DKC Executive at the end of August. A summary of the Focus Group will be published in the October DKC Newsletter.

Many thanks to Elizabeth Hilton who hosted the event in this lovely heritage building which few of us would have an opportunity to see, much less tour. It was a wonderful opportunity to knit, nibble on baked goodies and chat in a charming setting on a drizzly Sunday afternoon.

2011 INCOME STATEMENT by Wendy Mauzeroll

	2011 Budget	Income/Expense	
Membership Dues	7,500.00	7,275.23	
Non-Member Admission	800.00	774.00	
Dollar Table	90.00	133.50	
Table Rentals	100.00	105.00	
Presenter Honorariums	(1,400.00)	(1,250.00)	
Catering Dec. Meeting	(300.00)	(213.65)	
Mini Workshop Honorariums	(180.00)	(120.00)	
Space Rental	(4,520.00)	(4,520.00)	
Executive Meetings	(600.00)	(63.39)	
Administrative Costs:			
•Promotion	(100.00)	(51.42)	
•Bank Charges	(50.00)	(96.81)	
•Miscellaneous	(500.00)	(74.36)	
	\$840.00	\$1,898.10	\$1,898.10
Newsletter			
Advertising income	0.00	0.00	
Printing	(300.00)	(210.31)	
Posting	(1,000.00)	(665.21)	
Editorial costs	(1,000.00)	(400.00)	
	(\$2,300.00)	(\$1,275.52)	(\$1,275.52)
Special Projects			
Relay for Life	(50.00)	(14.13)	
•Raffle	0.00	86.00	
•DKC Bags	0.00	45.00	
Knit For a Cure	(100.00)	0.00	
	(\$150.00)	\$116.87	\$116.87
Bus Trip			
Participant registration	4,000.00	3,350.00	
Bus rental	(2,400.00)	(2,400.00)	
Lunch costs	(1,100.00)	(731.00)	
Admin. costs	0.00	(11.30)	
	\$500.00	\$207.70	\$207.70
Winter Workshops			
Registration	\$0.00	0.00	
Presenter honorariums	0.00	0.00	
Admin. costs	0.00	0.00	
	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Pucks 'n Purls			
	\$0.00	(\$515.41)	(\$515.41)
WWKIPD			
	\$100.00		
Knitter's Frolic			
Admission	7,035.00	7,422.14	
Workshop Registration	5,700.00	8,549.47	
Vendor Revenue	14,900.00	13,783.73	
Raffle Table	1,000.00	1,173.41	
Venue Rental	(11,400.00)	(10,367.75)	
Insurance	(450.00)	(469.80)	
Parking Costs	(450.00)	(585.00)	
Promotion	(2,500.00)	(2,709.97)	
Instructor costs	(3,300.00)	(4,545.62)	
Administrator honorariums	(2,000.00)	(2,000.00)	
Administrative costs:			
•Signage	0.00	0.00	
•Food	(800.00)	(745.25)	
•Miscellaneous	(2,000.00)	(1,010.25)	
	\$5,735.00	\$8,495.11	\$8,495.11

Net Income for Year:

\$8,926.85

UPCOMING EVENTS

Kitchener-Waterloo Knitter's Fair

The annual fair returns to Bingeman's in Kitchener with shopping, speakers, classes and snacks on September 8.
www.kwknittersguild.ca

Yarn Dyeing Workshop

A three-hour workshop entitled Yarn Dyeing 101 will be given by Beth Casey from Lorna's Laces at The Workroom on Tuesday, September 18. There will be two sessions, 11 a.m. and 6 p.m., each costing \$100. To register, please call The Workroom at 416-534-5305 or visit theworkroom.ca to download the full workshop schedule in PDF format.

Creativ Festival 2012

October 12, 13 & 14 at the Metro Convention Centre. This massive fall craft event is celebrating its 25th year. Visit www.csnf.com for directions, workshop info and tickets.

DKC Executive

President: Carole Adams

president@downtownknitcollective.ca

Programming Coordinator: Cristina Simionovici

programme@downtownknitcollective.ca

Promotion Coordinator: Edna Zuber

promotion@downtownknitcollective.ca

Communications Coordinator: Donna Lyons

communications@downtownknitcollective.ca

Treasurer: Wendy Mauzeroll

treasurer@downtownknitcollective.ca

Secretary: Trish Denhoed

secretary@downtownknitcollective.ca

Special Events Coordinator: Joan Kass

events@downtownknitcollective.ca

www.downtownknitcollective.ca



@DKCtoronto



facebook.com/DKCtoronto