

# THE CANADIAN GOURDER

*Winter- 2022*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

MERRY CHRISTMAS FELLOW GOURDERS!

I am finding it hard to remember that it is almost Christmas. Even with Covid threatening right around the corner, this has been a fast and busy year. We have had Christmas Shows and Sales, heard Christmas songs, decorations are up on the houses, Santa sits right outside the Artisans Centre in his little house with trees all around, and a rapidly filling sleigh of toys for good children. Give me a couple of days and I will be fully immersed in Christmas.

Monday will be our Kawartha Gourders Christmas Party. It will be a day of fun, games, birthday cake for one of our gourders, and friendship. The day will be unusual, as no gourding is planned. No, you read this right, there will be no gourding. Instead Anne and I have planned other activities to keep us challenged and laughing. You will see photos next newsletter, I promise.

I have been hinting and hinting to my husband and that the Christmas tree needs to go up, as if it is late going up, it will be very late coming down. I must tell you that my sister Mary, who many of you have met, has had her Christmas tree up in her living room for 2 years so far! The decorations keep changing, hearts appear in February, Easter eggs, bunnies and chicks in April, you get the idea. However, as Mary suffers from extreme dementia, it is a surprise for her each day when she enters the living room. She does not recognize it as a Christmas Tree anymore, just a pretty tree growing in her house. No watering needed!

All my family will be home for Christmas this year. I am so looking forward to having everyone here. Of course, Jenna is the only one who lives away in Ottawa, Andrea and Danny are here in Lakefield. Let the games begin! We always do a 1,000 piece puzzle each year. I hope that it is completed before Jenna leaves or it is up to me to finish. Lots of good food and talking and laughing, what more could anyone desire?

I have chosen 3 classes to take at the Wuertz Gourd Festival in February 2023. Are you planning to go? If you will be going, please let me know so we can arrange to meet up there. I have missed going for two years, so I am really looking forward to this. I will have a list of items to purchase for the Kawartha Gourders. We need lots of carving bits as more gourders are doing power carving now. I cannot promise that I will be successful, but with going to the Festival I should be able to purchase seeds there. Please write to me at my address below and let me know if you want some. I will do my best.

In January I usually make my Christmas decorations so they are done and ready for the Christmas sales. It might seem early to be making them, but somehow the year gets away on me and then they do not get made. I have not yet decided on my new style, but I have a few ideas rolling around in my head.

I hope you all have a happy and healthy holiday with family and friends, and we will be in touch again in 2023.

Best wishes,

Barbara

Barbara Bellchambers <[bellcham@nexicom.net](mailto:bellcham@nexicom.net)>



# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**



## **MEMBERSHIP.....**

A warm welcome to our newest member, Sheila Plant from Minden, Ontario.

Just a reminder that if any of your personal information (address, phone number, email address) has changed, please let us know. *Thank you.*

If you wish to communicate via *snail-mail* the address can be found at the end of this newsletter or contact by Phone: 705-775-1797 or at [canadiangourders@gmail.com](mailto:canadiangourders@gmail.com). If you are in the area, drop in and visit. Gourd workshops are posted on Kawartha Gourders facebook page ([www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders](https://www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders)), and on the ACP website ([www.acp35.wildapricot.org](http://www.acp35.wildapricot.org)).

## **CGS WEBSITE....**

Don't forget to check out the CGS website. It no longer requires a username or password to see all of its features. Check out the growing tips, health and safety when working with gourds, tutorials and more. Fill in the membership form so we can contact you with upcoming events and news. If you have a website or gallery, send the web address to [canadiangourders@gmail.com](mailto:canadiangourders@gmail.com) for consideration to have it advertised on the website, ([www.canadiangourdsociety.ca](http://www.canadiangourdsociety.ca)). In addition, if any member would like to see his/her gourd creations in the website gallery, email Sharron with a large picture for forwarding to the webmaster.

## **ON-LINE ARTISANS MARKET PETERBOROUGH....**

Check out the Artisans Centre Peterborough online gift shop which has a number of Kawartha Gourders members' gourd art for sale. In addition to gourd art, there are wood-turned items, pottery, weaving and other ACP member articles. To access the gift shop, go to the ACP website at [www.artisanscentre.ca](http://www.artisanscentre.ca).

## **ARTISANity....**

ARTISANity, our fall/Christmas sale, was held the first weekend in November. Although not as successful as 2021, a steady number of customers did result in sales although with the current economy, people did not seem to be purchasing as much. Keep an eye on the ACP website at [www.artisanscentre.ca](http://www.artisanscentre.ca) and Kawartha Gourders facebook page for the dates of the spring ARTISANity show.

## **PAINTING RETREAT....**

Do you like to paint? Dreaming about a get-away to a warm foreign country during the cold Canadian winter! If so, then keep on reading, as this may be just what you are looking for.

One of the society's newest members and a well-known Muskoka artist, Mary Gair, in collaboration with a friend and fellow-artist from the Netherlands, has helped organize a painting retreat in Marrakech, Morocco.

If interested in more information, just click on this link: (<https://mariekekamperman.wordpress.com/art-retreat/art-retreat-in-marrakech-march-2023/>) to read the brochure and look at some beautiful photos.







**KAWARTHA GOURDERS**

Monday get-togethers with the Kawartha Gourders is always a lot of fun. Numbers vary each week which doesn't seem to affect the comradery and joking that is always present. The opportunity to learn new gourdng techniques, receive ideas and constructive help for finishing a project is there for the asking (and sometimes you don't even have to ask). Of course, there is always chocolate to soothe the nerves and add a bit of energy.

Everyone worked diligently to finish gourd items for ARTISANity. Most were holiday and seasonal related, with many ornaments and snowmen. Barbara taught woven designs (Tenerife) on a gourd with Michelle finishing her work of art in no time. As usual, some of us don't read instructions and set out to recreate and, in general, make the project much more difficult than it need be. Anne is the official Beginner instructor and Patti is the Apoxie Sculpt guru.

The first Monday in December brought eight out to celebrate Christmas coming. Anne and Barbara put a great day together with a new challenge...gingerbread houses were given to each member. Icing, candies, sprinkles, cookies and many other wonderful edibles were available to enable decorating the house. Each one was unique. A rollicking word game, similar to charades, had everyone laughing after lunch. The day finished with the traditional wind-up snowmen, santas, and elves in a race. Lunch was finished off with a wonderful, yummy birthday cake in honour of Patti's special day!



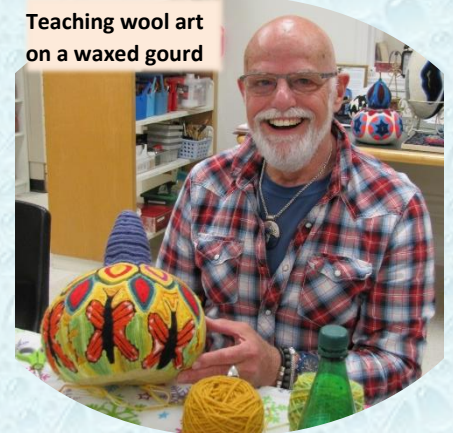


## IN MEMORY:

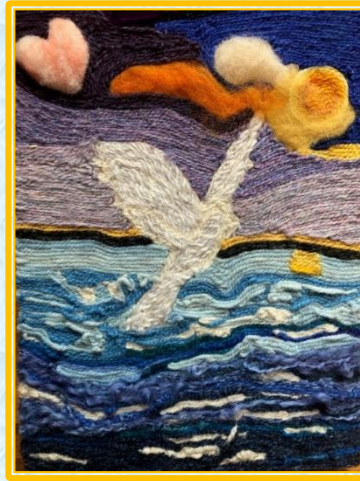
Sadly, the group lost one of its talented artists to cancer this month. Len de Graaf, with his partner Steve, joined the group a few years ago and was an inspiration. A wonderful teacher, Len was a skilled fibre artist who incorporated fibre-work with gourd art. His positive, love of life was demonstrated in much of his fibre art.



Teaching wool art  
on a waxed gourd



COVID-19 piece.... "a fractured world that can  
only be mended by love and compassion"



Peace Dove



*You Will Be Missed, Len!  
Fly High and Free!*

## WORKSHOPS : *COMPLETED*

Woven Design on a Gourd  
Beginner Gourd Art  
Apoxie Sculpt on a Gourd





## **TUTORIAL**

### **Tenerife on a Gourd Shell** by Barbara Bellchambers

#### **Materials**

Opened, prepared gourd – cleaned inside and out

Pencil

Tapestry Needle

Waxed Linen, 3-5 co-ordinating colours

Beads (optional)

Hand Wipes

Paint for inside of gourd

Awl

Ink Dye

Varnish

Scissors



1. Draw your design on the gourd with a pencil. If this is your first time, use a simple shape such as a circle, square, or oval, starting small – maybe 6" in diameter.
2. Mark your holes approximately ½" apart.
3. An even number of holes will make you end at one side or your design. An uneven number will result with ending in the middle, where you can begin weaving.
4. Use an awl to make a small indentation where your hole marks are.
5. Drill the holes, using a 1/16" or 3/32" drill bit. First test on a scrap to make sure that the threaded needle can pass through the hole once.
6. Dye or paint the outside of the gourd, as well as the inside of the holes. Heat set dye.
7. Varnish the gourd to seal the dyes.

#### **The Warp**

1. The warp provides the base stitches for making the design. Choose a colour of waxed linen that blends with the gourd, or compliments the coloured gourd.
  2. Formula for determining how much warp thread you need:
    - Measure the diameter of your shape using the widest diameter.
    - Each thread will go across the front of the design, through the gourd, to an adjacent hole and -back through the gourd.
    - Diameter = distance between holes + 2 x thickness of the gourd = "A"
    - Divide the total number of holes by 2. If you have an odd number, round up = "B"
    - Add another 12" = "C"
    - ("A" x "B") + "C" = how long a warp thread you need.
- Now you know how long a warp thread you need you can cut it and thread the needle.





### Stringing the Warp

1. If this is a first time for you to do this, I recommend that you make a rough diagram of your shape and mark the same number of holes on the shape. This way you can mark how you will be threading the warp.
2. Attach a bead large enough to not pull through the hole, preferably the same colour as the inside of your gourd, to the loose end of the thread.
3. Knot the end so the bead cannot be pulled off.
4. Pull the needle to the front of the gourd from the back, pull the bead snug to the inside of the hole.
5. It is usually best to start at the top of your design and go to the bottom of your design.
  - a. **Even** number of holes, there should be an equal number of holes on either side.
  - b. **Odd** number of holes, there will be one more hole on one side than the other.
6. Insert the needle through the bottom hole, and then bring it back out through the hole next to that hole, and pass through to the back.
  - a. **Even**, does not matter the side you choose, just keep it consistent.
  - b. **Odd**, go to the side with the extra hole, and keep moving that direction.
7. Make sure your warp threads are snug and tight to the gourd., but not so tight you will tear the holes.
8. Continue on crossing the front, down in the hole to the back, up in the adjacent hole.
9. All threads will cross over the centre of your warp!

### Finishing the Warp

1. **Even**, when you finish the needle will be on the underside of the gourd when you have completed the warp and used all the holes on the perimeter.
  - a. You can knot the warp there and cut it off, or
  - b. Go through the next hole and bring it up to the centre of the design, making a double strand which you will treat as one thread from now on.
  - c. Slip the needle under the centre of the warp to secure your double warp thread.
  - d. Weave over and under the centre of the gourd in an alternating pattern around the centre for 3 rows.
  - e. Since you have an even number of warp threads, it will be necessary to go over or under two consecutive warp threads at the end of each round to keep your pattern alternating.
  - f. Pull the threads snugly to the centre.
  - g. Insert the needle under the woven centre to bury the thread tail.
  - h. Carefully snip the thread. No knot is needed.
2. **Odd**, when you go through the last hole, your needle will be on the front of the gourd.
  - a. Slip the needle under the centre of the warp to secure your last warp thread.
  - b. Staying at the centre, weave over and under in an alternating pattern around the centre for 3 rows.
  - c. Pull these threads snugly to the centre.
  - d. Insert the needle under the woven centre to bury the thread tail.
  - e. Carefully snip the thread. No knot is needed.

## Tenerife on a Gourd Shell

by Barbara Bellchambers

The following is the method that Barbara used to draw this particular design.



I first marked the area around the rim I wanted to save for Pyrography later. I marked the centre of the Tenerife area, and then used a compass to mark a rounded line at both edges. I drew lines across from one side to the other, to see how the lines would work.



## Tenerife on a Gourd Shell – cont'd



When happy, I numbered the lines, and then figured out how the sewing of the warp would work. I had an even number of holes, which would make the sewing end at one edge. Since I wanted to end in the middle, I changed one side to have one more hole, giving me an uneven number. Mark your holes by using an awl, and then drill the holes using a small drill bit.

After drilling the holes and dyeing the gourd, I dyed the holes so they would not show as much. You can see the result in this photo. Yes, the holes are all the same size! Dyeing makes a difference in the appearance of the hole. I also dyed the inside of the holes black so they are not noticeable inside the gourd.



## MEMBER GALLERY



Dorothy Hawkins



Marilyn Van Gerven



Anne Carling



Michelle Adams



Julia Hayes





Anne Carling



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marianne Pedretti



Julia Hayes



Barbara Bellchambers



Dorothy Hawkins





Sheila Plant  
*'Bowl from Beginner Workshop'*



DH



Anne Carling  
*'Tea Light'*



Sharron Anstey



Barbara Bellchambers



Dorothy Hawkins'



Marianne Pedretti



Marilyn Van Gerven

*"Originality is nothing  
but judicious imitation."*  
--Voltaire



Michelle Adams





Marianne Pedretti  
'Elf House'

*"Art is never finished,  
only abandoned."*  
--Leonardo Da Vinci



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven



Anne Carling  
'Tea Light'



Dorothy Hawkins  
'Hand-painted Card'

*"Everything has its beauty,  
but not everyone sees it."*  
--Andy Warhol

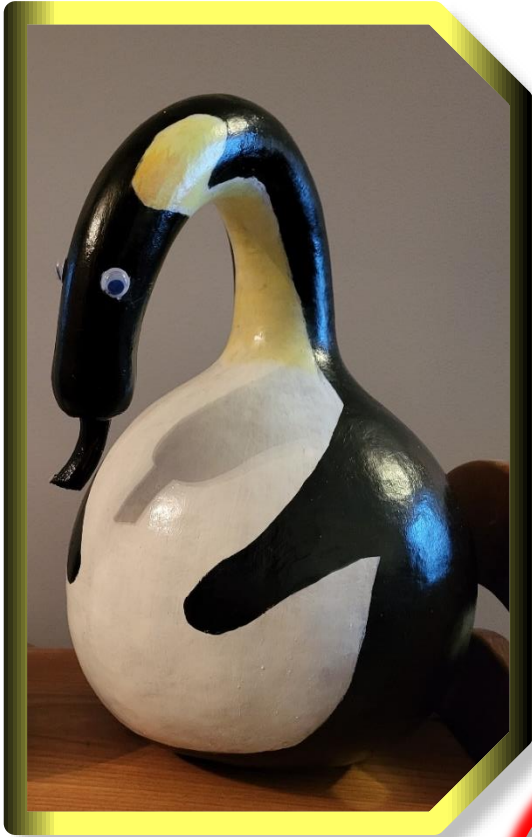


Julia Hayes



Dorothy Hawkins





Michelle Adams



Julia Hayes



Anne Carling



Sharron Anstey



Marianne Pedretti



Marilyn Van Gerven

*"Have no fear of  
perfection, you'll  
never reach it."*  
--Salvador Dali





Dorothy Hawkins

*"To be an artist is  
to believe in life."*  
--Henry Moore



DH



Anne Carling  
*'Tea Light'*



Dorothy Hawkins  
*'Hand-painted Card'*



Sharron Anstey  
*'Homely the Elf'*



Michelle Adams



Marilyn Van Gerven  
*'Thunder Drum'*



Julia Hayes





Julia Hayes



Marilyn Van Gerven



Dorothy Hawkins



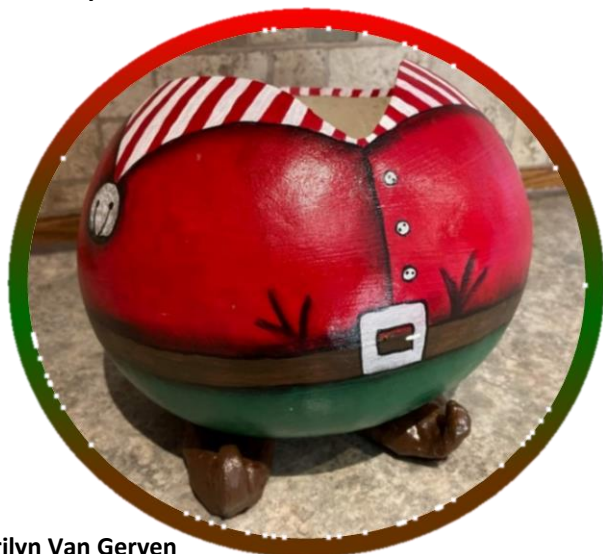
Dorothy Hawkins  
'Hand-painted Card'



D H



Michelle Adams



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marianne Pedretti





Anne Carling  
'Tea Light'



D H



Marilyn Van Gerven



Sharron Anstey



Dorothy Hawkins  
'Hand-painted Card'



Julia Hayes



Dorothy Hawkins





Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven  
*'Thunder Drum'*



Dorothy Hawkins



Marilyn Van Gerven



Dorothy Hawkins  
*'Hand-painted Card'*



Michelle Adams  
*'Hand-painted Santa'*

*"Learn the rules like a  
pro so you can break  
them like an artist."*  
--Pablo Picasso



Marilyn Van Gerven





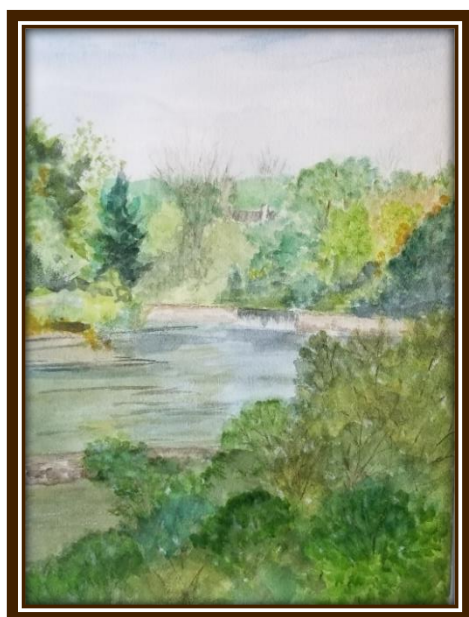
Marilyn Van Gerven



Marilyn Van Gerven  
'Thunder Drum'



Dorothy Hawkins  
'Hand-painted Card'



Dorothy Hawkins  
'Water-colour Painting'



Michelle Adams  
'Painting of Grandchildren'



D H



## *Seasons Greetings and All the Best in 2023!*

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Newsletter and to all the persons who read it.

Keep sending those photos and any gourd-related experiences for the next newsletter.

**STAY SAFE!**

**STAY HEALTHY!**

**KEEP ON GOURDING!**

*Sharron Anstey*

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