

# THE CANADIAN GOURDER

*Fall - 2022*



## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### ***HAPPY FALL!***

Fall is definitely in the air as we watch our gourds mature, the leaves becoming brittle and brown on the vines, finally showing all the gourds the leaves were hiding. Now, we all wait for the frost to “set” the gourds before picking them. My kettle gourd vines that have been just dawdling all summer have suddenly taken off, sending out literally yards of new growth, flowers galore, and healthy leaves. It is taunting me daily as I know it is too late for the gourds to survive. I think it is punishing me for snipping off the vines at six feet months ago to encourage more secondary arms on the plant. Oh well, there is always next year. Meanwhile, the jewelry gourd plant has produced lots of little spinner and bottle gourds on the same vine!

Sharron mentions Culture Days that the Kawartha Gourders participated in recently. When we gathered all the gourds brought in for display, and set them all out, it was simply amazing to see the large variety of what can be made with gourds. Visitors were struggling with the concept that all the creations were made of gourds; they were overwhelmed with the variety we had. I spoke with a man originally from Ethiopia who was in town to visit his daughter at Trent University. He told me about how gourds were in use where he grew up, how his grandmother stored so many food items in them as well as the gourd water bottles used in the fields. He had never seen gourds decorated like the ones on display.

I guess it is now time to start preparing for Christmas, making gourd decorations for family members and friends, gathering gourds for Christmas sales, filling calendars with so many events and appointments, gatherings and classes, all that were missed the last two years at this time. I still mask when away from home, when going inside stores and meeting with people, and look forward to the day I feel comfortable not needing my mask.

Yours in gourding,  
Barbara



# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## MEMBERSHIP.....

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 [www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders](http://www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders), the Kawartha Gourder Facebook page 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).

## GOURDS FOR SALE.....

If you are interested in buying gourds contact Barbara Bellchambers ([bellcham@nexicom.net](mailto:bellcham@nexicom.net)), and let her know what you need/want.

## FALL ARTISANITY....

ARTISANity, our fall sale, is being held again. It is being held at Peterborough Square on November 4<sup>th</sup> (12 noon to 6 pm) and November 5<sup>th</sup> (10 am to 3 pm). It was a great success last December and we hope to make it an equal success this year. Again, there will be a wide selection of beautiful gourds, fibre work, pottery and wood turned items. If you are in the Kawartha area, come and see what you might buy for yourself or that special other.

## ONTARIO CULTURE DAYS.....

The annual Ontario Culture Days is part of a national celebration of arts and culture! At the end of each September and through October, millions of people attend thousands of free participatory arts and culture events across the country. These programs invite the public to get hands-on and behind-the-scenes, highlighting the importance of arts and culture in our communities.

The Kawartha Gourders had a display of gourds with various techniques on September 24<sup>th</sup> (photos below).

For more events visit the Ontario Culture Days website: [click here!](#)

*"Creativity takes courage."*  
--Henri Matisse

**ONTARIO CULTURE DAYS.....**



**SUNFLOWER FESTIVAL.....**



The Sunflower Festival, hosted by Art-2 Peterborough, was a great success with proceeds of over ten thousand six hundred dollars donated to the *GlobalGiving Ukraine Crisis Relief Fund*. The Kawartha Gourders donated many sunflower-themed items.

These are a few of the gourders' donations.



Sharron Anstey



Michelle Adams



Barbara Bellchambers



Barbara Bellchambers



Michelle Adams



Michelle Adams



Anne Carling



Patti Blackburn



Anne Carling



Sharron Anstey



Anne Carling



Sharron Anstey



Dorothy Hawkins

# PATCH REPORT



## KAWARTHA GOURDERS

The summer saw the Kawartha Gourders returning to some semblance of routine. Although the number of gourders varied on Mondays the usual fun and joking was ever present. Most of July we were producing sunflower and Ukrainian coloured items for the fundraiser. Dorothy's sister, Joan visited during that time and made a sweet snowman. We also celebrated Dorothy's birthday while she was here. Anne made an awesome chocolate cake.



Joan



Anne taught three members how to make a Shekeree. The room was filled with the sound of rattling beads and an occasional expression of frustration.

She also held a first-time coiling workshop. Michelle was the only participant but enjoyed the challenge. At the Potters Summer Clay and Crafts Camp, Anne also made Wacky Birds with the kids using small gourds and assisted Julia with paper making.



During the last week of August four gourders were invited to a gourd retreat at Sharron's Muskoka country home. The project this year was the application of cactus fibre to the gourd. Barbara brought a bunch of fibres which she and Anne diligently and pain-stakingly separated. The finished products were beautiful and there was also time to work on other creations.

Michelle, an avid drummer, brought drums and a few other noise makers for each of us. What a fun evening we had as she taught a number of different beats and rhythms.



We celebrated Barbara's birthday; ate a lot of chocolate cake; had mouth-watering meals that everyone contributed. Three brave souls of the five went swimming and everyone spoiled the dog.



'Cutting the Cake'



'Drumming'



'Spoiled & Happy'

# WORKSHOPS : COMPLETED

Sunflower Workshop  
 Decorative Eggs for Sunflower Festival  
 Gourd Shekere Workshop  
 Cactus Fibre Workshop  
 Coiling for the First Time Workshop  
 Beginner Pyrography



Woven Design on Gourd



## **FUTURE WORKSHOPS**

Introduction to Basketry



Beginner Gourd Art



Apoxie Sculpt on Gourds

Sunburst Chip Carving



**FUTURE WORKSHOPS**

If you wish to stay up-to-date on current workshops and gourdng activities in the Peterborough area, check out the Artisans Centre website at [www.acp35.wildapricot.org](http://www.acp35.wildapricot.org) or [www.artisanscentre.ca](http://www.artisanscentre.ca).

**GOURD GARDENS**



Dale says: "It is still hot down here and very warm at night too so the growing season is extended which helps make the gourds thicker."

**Dale Adamson**



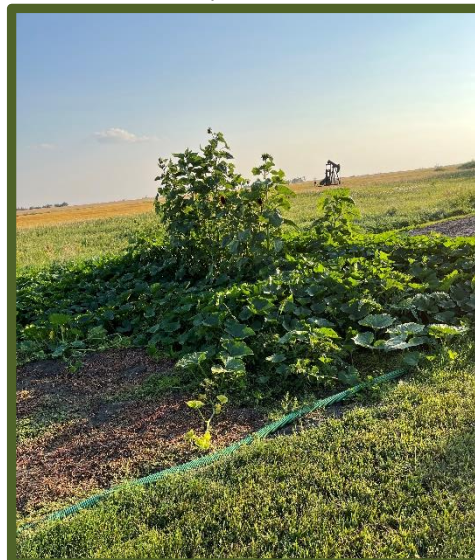
**Barbara Bellchambers**



Barbara says: "Here is a photo of my crazy jewelry gourd vine. Please note that all the gourds are growing from one plant, yet there are spinners and bottle gourds growing on the one vine."

**Julie-Anne Wallewin**

Julie-Anne grows beautiful ornamental gourds with the help of a sprinkler system set up for her. The Saskatchewan landscape is beautiful!



# HELPFUL HINTS



## CLEANING GOURDS THE MUDDY WAY

SUBMITTED BY JULIE-ANNE WALLEWIN

I read about this method years ago and thought I would give it a try, as I had a big box of smaller gourds to clean.

Place some potting soil in bottom of pail, add a gourd, add more potting soil to cover.

Place more gourds on top, and add soil.

Keep adding layers until pail is full and potting soil is on top. Water generously.

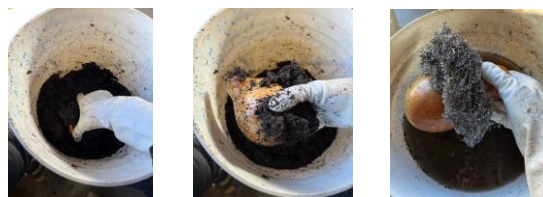


Top gourds may pop out, so push them down and cover with soil. I had to place a heavy pail on top for the first time until the soil got saturated with water. The soil will be quite muddy. *I'm reliving my childhood fun of playing in the mud.*

Leave for a day or two. Pull each gourd out and use a pot scrubber to get the outer layer off.



If the skin still requires a lot of scrubbing, put back in dirt and let sit for another day. I found the gourds with lots of white skin take longer for it to be easily removed. There is



no simple way to get the outer layer of a gourd off, but this made it a bit quicker. It's worth a try.



**THANK YOU, JULIE-ANNE, FOR  
THIS HELPFUL INFORMATION.**



## Keeping your bits and burs clean

Another helpful hint:

originally from Bonnie Gibson, former owner of Arizona Gourds. (<http://www.arizonagourds.com>)

The easiest way to clean all types of burs is to get a small jar (baby food size is fine) and fill it with enough acetone (nail polish remover) to cover the bur cutting heads. Let the burs soak for a while, the acetone won't hurt them. This will loosen the resins that are clogging the cutting surfaces. After the burs are removed from the acetone, simply scrub them off with a toothbrush shaped brass brush. This should eliminate the majority of the debris. You can resubmerge and repeat if necessary.

# SPECIAL :

**PATTI BLACKBURN HAD A SEPTEMBER SHOW AT THE PARROTT GALLERY IN BELLEVILLE. CONGRATULATIONS, PATTI!**

*Here are some photos from the show:*



**The Parrott Gallery & The Parrott Gallery Shop**  
September 2022

**Exhibitions**

**Quinto Fibre Artists: "Evolving Traditions 2022"**  
We welcome the return of this group exhibition featuring the artwork of 10 local artists. Exhibition runs until September 28.  
Meet the Artists - August 27, September 10 & 24, 2:00 - 4:00 p.m.

**Josh Connell: "Reflections"**  
Hyper-realistic drawings by emerging local artist Josh Connell. Exhibition runs until September 28.  
Opening Reception - September 1, 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.

**Rob Morrow: "In the Footsteps of Lewis and Clark"**  
Paintings in the Corridor Gallery. Exhibition runs until October 6.

**Patricia Blackburn: "Painted Gourds"**  
Mixed media sculptures for sale in our corridor display cabinets. Exhibition runs until September 23.

**Painted Gourds**  
by Patricia Blackburn

Exhibition runs in the Corridor Gallery display cabinets until  
**September 23, 2022**

254 Front St. Belleville  
905.633.1111



**THE FOLLOWING GOURD WAS DISPLAYED AT ONTARIO CULTURE DAY. CREATED BY ARTIST GARY DEVINE AND PURCHASED FROM HIM BY BARBARA BELLCHAMBERS, IT DEPICTS A NUMBER OF DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES.**



**Pencil Crayon & Pyrography**



**Carving & Colour**



**InLace & Carving**



# MEMBER GALLERY



Michelle Adams  
*'Sea Turtle'*



*'Cactus Fibre Sample  
on Gourd'*



Barbara Bellchambers  
*'Cactus Fibre Bowl'*



Dale Adamson



Dorothy Hawkins  
*'Maple Leaf Bowl'*



Julie-Anne Wallewin  
*'Gourd Pendant'*



Patti Blackburn



Lorraine Hodges  
*'Thunder Drum'*



Lorraine Hodges



Anne Carling's  
'Carved Bark & Pileated Woodpeckers'



Michelle Adams  
'Cactus Fibre'



Sharron Anstey



Barbara Bellchambers



Eva Pasztor

"I was fortunate to take a Bonnie Gibson spiral gourd class. I love doing feathers, both burning and carving".

"Here I have used transparent acrylics for color, burned the rope and feathers, carved the leather look, applied gold leaf, and added the feather concho that went with the theme of the gourd".

EP



Barb Powell  
'My daisy gourd creation won 1st prize at the Saanich Fair!'



Barb Powell  
*'Flowers'*



Michelle Adams



Dorothy Hawkins  
*'Ammonites'*



Marianne Pedretti



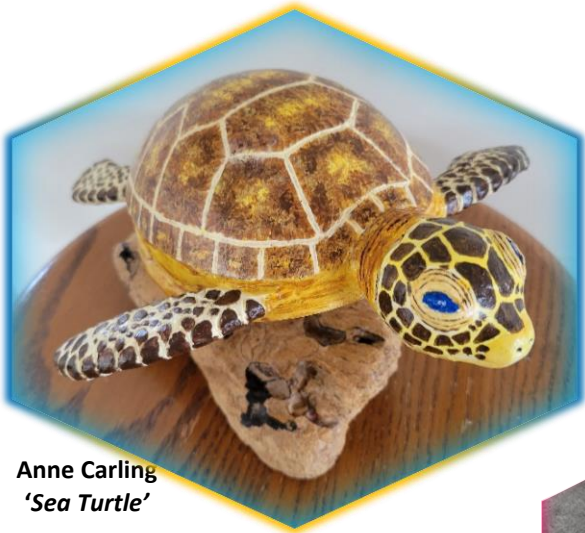
Anne Carling  
*'Painting on Barn Board'*



Dorothy Hawkins  
*'Cactus Fibre'*



Michelle Adams



Anne Carling  
'Sea Turtle'



Eva Pasztor

"I had another request for a brand gourd. I used the transparent acrylic on the gourd, and surrounding the brand. I skinned and carved the back of the brand with a small ball burr to achieve a leather look. I burned the stitch holes and painted the stitches. To complement the shape of the gourd I braided a piece of leather, from our cattle days, and secured it on the side of the gourd.  
EP



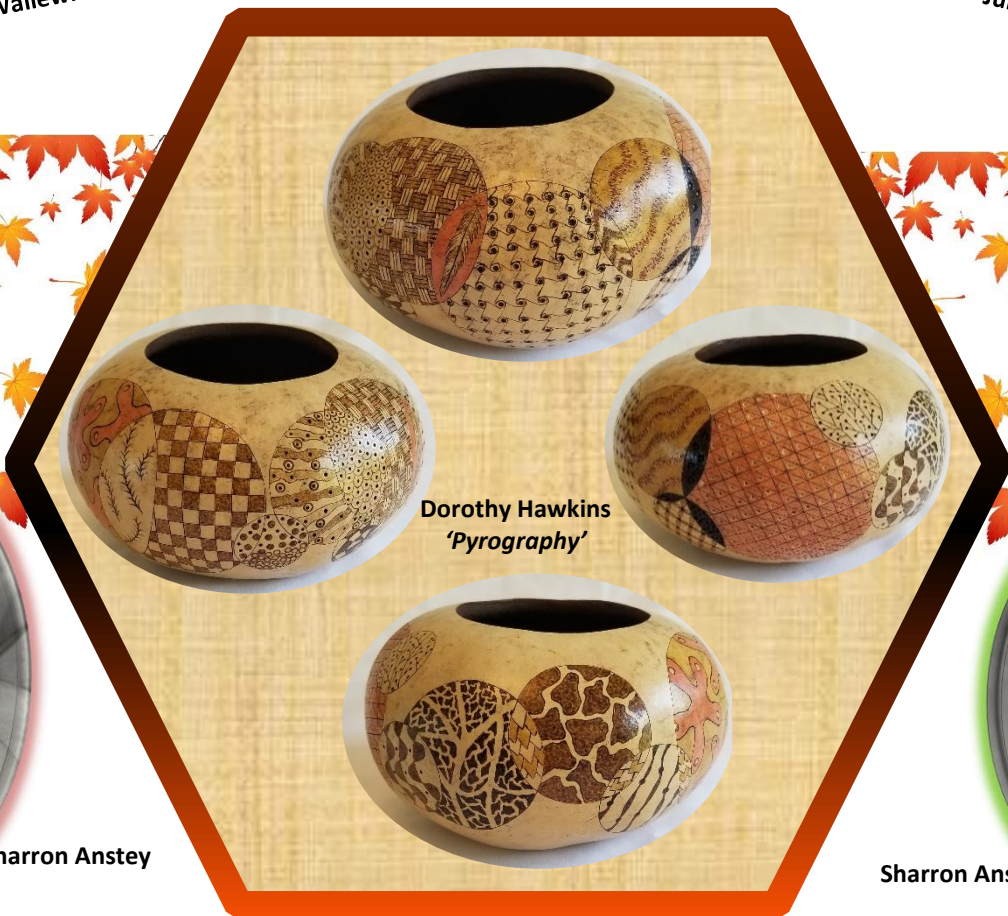
Sharron Anstey  
'Trixie Tortoise'



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Dorothy Hawkins  
'Pyrography'



Sharron Anstey



Sharron Anstey



Lorraine Hodges  
'Thunder Drum with  
hand-made gift card'



Michelle Adams  
'Shekeree'



Dorothy Hawkins  
'Shekeree'



Barb Powell  
'Ready to finish after using  
a new Proxxon saw''



Barb Powell  
'Mushrooms in the making'



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*

**President**

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