

The Fabric Cottage

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As we welcome the lazy hazy days of summer keep in mind that as well as visiting, traveling, relaxing and enjoying the sunshine it can also be a great opportunity to quietly take some time to sit and enjoy working on some of your portable quilting projects. Hand appliqué comes to mind with gardens in full bloom to inspire you and get your creative juices flowing. A digital camera is a wonderful tool to have in your quilting supplies, imagine how easy it is to take a macro photo of a fascinating flower then use a bit of technology to create your very own quilt design. You could print the flower on fabric, you could easily print the outline of the flower then colour it with crayons and watercolour pencils or simply use the outline to produce a flower appliqué pattern that is all your own. Summer invites all of us to be playful and relax so go ahead play with your camera and learn new quilting skills along the way!

Along with the very big celebrations of *Independence Day* in the US and *Canada Day* right here at home there are other interesting celebrations going on all around us. On July 3rd 400 years ago Samuel de Champlain first landed where Quebec City is today.

Not to be forgotten is *National Ice Cream Day* the 3rd Sunday in July but unfortunately THE FABRIC COTTAGE is not open on that great day. However we will celebrate on *Monday July 21st* with selected ice cream Sunday fabrics on sale at 20% off. A little "ice cream" wall hanging kit has been designed especially for THE FABRIC COTTAGE, another fun little project to help you "keep your cool".

Where would a quilter be without her stash and her chocolate fix? Make sure to stop in at THE FABRIC COTTAGE on *Monday July 7th* for a *KISS* and/or a *HUG* to celebrate *National Chocolate Day!* We look forward to seeing chocoholic quilters visiting us all day long.

Something else we all need to be mindful of is CHRISTMAS!!! Did you know as of JULY 15 2008

there are only.....163 days 'till Christmas! Put another way that means as of the same date you will have *ONLY 3912 hours left to get your sewing done!* Scary but true.

With a that in mind we would like to announce that we have received the **Nancy Halvorsen** Twelve Days of Christmas Collection which as all of you know sells out almost as soon as it hits the shelf. We also have the new book that accompanies this collection it is full of simple fun ideas for your Christmas gift and decorating projects. The printed panel in this collection seems to sell out very quickly so be sure to visit us soon before your favourite prints disappear.

In June we hosted Catherine Nicholls, she studied with City and Guilds of London England so has a wealth of information to share. What a fun inspirational 2 days that was for those who attended. Catherine is a recognized quilt artist who willingly shares her unusual techniques and helps inspire quilters to bring more interest to their quilts. The weekend was spent laughing and learning as we experimented with paints and thickened dyes however our extremely dry climate presented problems with mono printing but Catherine was up for the challenge and a solution was quickly presented.

Catherine Nicholls lives in Vancouver Canada teaches in England and is part of the exciting group ladies of *Thr3fold Journal* fame. The CD's included in the *Thr3fold Journal* are full of special techniques and how to achieve them. We now have the newest *Journal* as well as the first 2 *Thr3fold Journals* but again they tend disappear as soon as we receive them.

The *Painted Quilt DVD* has arrived, this features Laura and Linda Kemshall the other 2 ladies involved in *Thr3fold Journal*. The *Painted Quilt* is brought to life in this DVD as Laura and Linda present 3 new projects and explain how the quilts in the gallery were achieved. The first shipment sold out in 2 days but we have just received another shipment so don't wait if you are a curious quilter!

Have a wonderful summer!

Love from all of us at

The Fabric Cottage.