



THE HISTORY OF THE ROUGE VALLEY QUILT

The Rouge Valley Quilt was inspired by the beauty of the Rouge River Valley and an intense interest in the flowers and birds that are found there. All of eighteen months went into the making of it and gave Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild a chance to demonstrate their needlework talents. The finished quilt displays to viewers what a vibrant and creative art form we have in quilting today.

Initiated by Kay Sayer in the early 1980s, the individual block drawings and overall design were done by Barbara Cooper and Judy D'Hondt. This committee of three then chose fabrics to represent the blue of sky and water with browns and greens for earth and vegetation. These colours formed the background for the variety of fabrics chosen to depict the individual flowers and birds.

Block drawings and fabrics were made up into kits and offered to members to appliqué and embellish with embroidery. The often three-dimensional life-like results attest to their skill with a needle. The stylized river blocks which, flow through the quilt in varied blues and brown, were Barbara Cooper's innovative idea. These then were pieced together.

The finished blocks were collected and joined together by machine and the curved border, which frames the quilt so well, was added by hand. The quilting pattern for the border was designed by Barbara Cooper as a trailing vine of leaves and flowers framing, and spilling over into, the central area. Judy D'Hondt incorporated the Guild name and the dates 1982-1984 into the border.

The quilt top was then combined with batting and backing and set into a quilting frame. Sixteen members devoted about 150 hours of quilting over a two month period enhancing this exciting project with their expert stitches. The binding was then added and the quilt was finished. 38 members of the Guild had worked to create the quilt.

It was first exhibited at the Whitby Festival of Crafts in May 1984 to enthusiastic comments. At the Hamilton Quilt Symposium in June, it won Third Prize in the Mixed Techniques category. Visitors to the Pickering

Museum Village in September of that same year, and the York Heritage Quilt show in November, were delighted to see it and were generous in their praise.

Rita Rottman, when she appraised and evaluated the quilt in 2000, described the quilt's impact as:

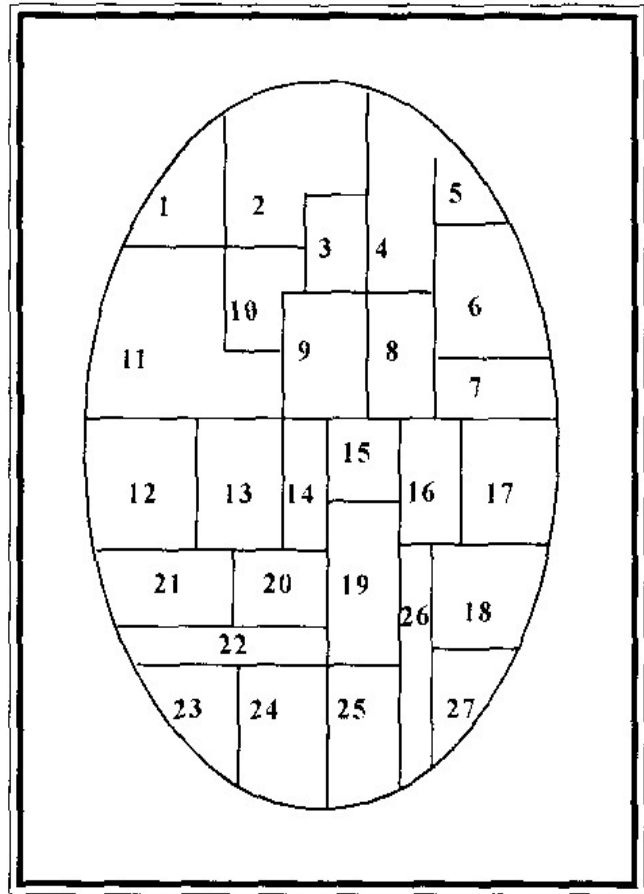
“strong and appealing with naturalistic and realistic depictions of plants and birds found in the Rouge Valley. Adding to the appeal are unexpected elements such as deer tracks and curving stylized river banks.”

The quilt remains the property of the Rouge Valley Quilters' Guild and exhibited at our Guild quilt shows and at the discretion of executive.

THE ROUGE VALLEY QUILT

The 150 hours of quilting were done by the following Guild members:

Kay Sayer, Carolyn Millikin, Fran Jones, Sally Filosa, Linda Hoiko, Joan O'Neill, Myrtle Spurrier, Evelyn Black, Uylond Lynch, Barbara Cooper, Connie Shea, Judy D'Hondt, Maureen Samuel, Daphne Brockhurst, Dorothy Ingledew and Cyd Wallington.



Compare the diagram on the right to the list below for the discription of the block and the Guild member(s) who appliquéed and embroidered that block.

The blocks were pieced, appliquéd and embroidered by the following Guild members.

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|--------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. River | Brenda Novak |
| 2. Mallard Duck | Judy D'Hondt |
| 3. March Marigold | Myrtle Spurrier |
| 4. Cattails | Jeanne Moran |
| 5. Maple Leaf | Dorothy Stein |
| 6. Canada Goose | Linda Hoiko |
| 7. Water Lilies | Carolyn Millikin |
| 8. Milkweed | Uylond Lynch |
| Embroidery | Barbara Cooper |
| 9. Ferns & Violets | Barbara Cooper |
| 10. River | Nancy Alderdice |
| 11. Heron & Frog | Heather McAdam |
| Embroidery | Carolyn Millikin |
| 12. Blue Cohosh | Rita Micallef |
| Embroidery | Myrtle Spurrier |
| 13. River | Connie Shea |
| 14. Goldenrod | Norma Offenbacker |
| 15. Cardinal | Carol Donn |
| 16. Canada Lily | Maureen Samuel |
| 17. Owl | Betty Stevenson |
| Embroidery | Kay Sayer |
| 18. Jack in the Pulpit | Elizabeth Kole |
| Embroidery | Kay Sayer |
| 19. River | Anne Hawkins |
| Trilliums | Fran Jones |
| Embroidery | Kay Sayer |
| 20. Blue Jay | Barb Cromar |
| Embroidery | Bette Procunier |
| 21. Red-shouldered Hawk | Wendy Angelo |
| | Carol Smith |
| 22. Deer Tracks | Lyn Hunt |
| 23. Spring Beauty | Ginny Rowlands |
| Embroidery | Connie Shea |
| 24. Cedar Waxwing | Judy Mahood |
| Embroidery | Connie Shea |
| 25. Red-winged Blackbird | Marg Egoroff |
| 26. Pussy Willows | Kay Sayer |
| 27. River | Freda Cutts |