

Audrey MacKinnon CQG#053 & 054

Audrey MacKinnon became a vital member of the guild the moment she joined after moving to Cranbrook from Terrace in 2000. She was Vice President in 2002 before becoming Guild President 2003 - 2005. Other offices were: Workshops Coordinator (2001), Quilt Show Chair (2003 with Judy Beaulac and in 2009 with Margaret Delamont), 'Quilted Treasurers' initiator (2011), as well as many years as the Hospitality Coordinator. Audrey was especially helpful with machine issues and taught the workshop "*Getting to Know Your Machine*". *Binding - Audrey's Way* was a popular demonstration at the guild's social program evening. Her technique made it easy to create a mitred binding that could be any width. Audrey never hesitated to try new things, mentoring many of the members in the process, including teaching the beginner classes the guild offered at one time. In 2019, Audrey designed the centre motif and pieced the appreciation quilt made for Ken Bridge owner of *Bridge Interiors*, a furniture store that hosted the guild's Quilt Show. In all her guild roles she was known as 'small but very mighty'.

During Audrey's term as President the guild took on the task of creating the *Cranbrook Centennial Quilt* that hangs in the Cranbrook History Centre (formerly the Museum of Rail Travel) (see CQG#080). Audrey had the honour of presenting the completed quilt to Councilman Jim Wavercan at the guild's Quilt Show in May 2005. Under her encouragement, members were generous in preparing quilts to donate to the community and added Rotary Internationals "Wrap a Smile Campaign"¹ to the list of recipients - 55 quilts went to the Cranbrook community and another 28 to the Rotary campaign.

Audrey had grown up with hand-quilted quilts on her bed. Her mother in Saskatchewan had quilted. In the rough times of the Depression era the quilts were made from sugar and flour sacks with hand-carded sheep's wool for the batt. Her family joined in the quilting bees with their neighbours. As owner of *The Fabric Boutique*, in Terrace, BC, and parent to five children, Audrey was busy with little spare time to really take up quilting. Through her shop, Patty Lenz who wintered in Mesa, Arizona, offered quilting classes, so between her mother's teaching and these classes, Audrey knew quilting basics. She had made her first quilt in 1982 through a Parks and Rec program - a Bear's Paw² pattern done with cardboard templates and scissors. Rotary cutters/acrylic rulers emerged in Canadian shops around 1979-80 but were still not in general use - cost being a factor and quilters are thrifty by nature! It wasn't until Audrey closed the store after her husband's death, and moved to Cranbrook, that she joined the guild to expand her quilting skills. In the years prior to the resurgence of quilting arts in the late 80's, Audrey's shop focused mainly on fashion fabrics. By the time the shop closed in 1998, the vast majority of the fabric was cotton quilting fabric - a testament to the growing popularity of quilting. Audrey has passed her quilting knowledge to her daughter Jane.

Audrey's pieces often had an edge of amazement. She frequently drafted the pattern from a picture (see *Jacobean Beauty* and *Fusions*). Her pieces employed varied techniques like hand appliqué in her *French Romance* quilt and, y-seams in her *Colorado Star Log Cabin* (taught my guild member Mary Lindquist). Appliqué was her favourite quilting technique. Her self-designed masterpiece, *Jacobean Beauty* (CQG#053) won viewers choice and the hand-quilting prize at the guilds 2015 Quilt Show.

¹ Wrap a Smile Campaign - Rotaplast Missions offers life changing cleft plate/lip surgery to children in third world countries. Previously, after the surgery, the children were wrapped in disposable plastic sheets. The campaign's aim is that each child would be wrapped in a quilt. (rotaplast.org)

² Bear's Paw - Brackman #1879

Most of her quilts were gifts for family: she has a 23 grandchildren/great grandchildren. She made at least 50 big quilts and many smaller items. Sometimes pieces were “just for me”. Often she made a particular pattern “just to learn”. And she sold six at the Outdoor Quilt Show at Eureka, Montana. Audrey said “Quilting is what keeps me interested in life. It keeps me from being bored. It’s good to be creative”. Indeed, she was finishing *Fusions* for her grandson Carter’s graduation, in the last days of her generous life.

Besides her guild affiliation, Audrey quilted with a group - Bev Higgins, Shirley White, Marilyn Barnett, Betty Wardle, Donna Cockwell, Donna Lamond and Wendy Litz. She learned a lot through guild friend Noreen Aikman and Noreen’s ‘insistence’ on precision. Other skills were acquired through classes offered at *The Cotton Tree Quilt Shop*. She added her hand-quilting skill to the guild’s *Tuesday Morning Hand-Quilters* latest project. Her favourite workshop was offered by thread artist Martha Cole (martha.cole.ca) out of the University of Regina.

Audrey’s home here in Cranbrook included a ‘sewing room’. She had a fabric stash from liquidating her shop, to which she added cotton’s from local shops - *Shannon’s Fabrics*, *The Cotton Tree*, *Sew Creative Chalet* - but only for the project she was working on. Fabric cost was always a consideration - she bought the quality and quantity she needed. Batiks were a go-to fabric. On the “pre-wash or not” debate, she favoured not to pre-wash ‘now’. Until her 80th birthday when she received a new *Janome Horizon* sewing machine(\$3,000), Audrey sewed for 20 years on a Husqvarna. She quilted both by machine and hand - she rented the Gammill at *Sew Creative Chalet* to stitch pantographs herself, she sent a few pieces to a professional long-armer and she hand-quilted pieces on her Q-Snap frame sometimes outside on her deck. Audrey took pride in her creations by adding a hand-printed label.

Quiltmaker	Audrey MacKinnon (nee Butt)
Date and Place of Birth	January 27, 1937 Arcola, SK
Father Occupation Birthplace	Ralph Butt Farmer
Mother Occupation Birthplace	Elsie Carlswell Housewife Arcola, Saskatchewan (?)
Date and place of death	January 14, 2025 Cranbrook, BC
Date and place of marriage	August 30, 1958 Fort William, ON
Spouse	Donald Gregory MacKinnon Forester
Quiltmaker’s occupation	Dental Assistant Fabric Shop Owner
Children	2 daughters, 3 sons
Education of Quiltmaker	Success Business College, Winnipeg, MN

Where Quiltmaker lived	Winnipeg, MN. Fort William, ON. Terrace, BC. Cranbrook, BC.
Ethnic/Cultural Background	English

CQG#053: Jacobean Beauty

Quiltmaker: Audrey MacKinnon

Current owner: Jane Ramus, Cranbrook, BC

(Viewers Choice & Hand Quilting Winner. Cranbrook Guild Quilt Show 2015, Alliance Church gymnasium)

Audrey drew her Inspiration for the centre appliqué design from a *Trish Stuart Design*. The brick frame used a Lorraine Stangness (*Country Creations*) technique. The colours were from a gift of fabric chosen by her daughter Joan and son-in-law Clayton. The quilt was made “just for fun for herself for everyday use”.

Pattern	Designed by Audrey MacKinnon. The centre applique is a <i>Trish Stuart Design</i> (trish stuart.com)
Subject	Flower in a “pseudo brick” mosaic border
Date	2015
Size	L 110” x W 110½”
Overall Style	Finished quilt Medallion/Frame, Applique
Blocks	L 8¼” x W 11½” Rectangle shaped pieces spaced with plain sashing
Sashing	W 1”
Border/frame	Border 1: W 3 ½”, cream/taupe one fabric, 1” black/grey motif accent Border 2: W 9”, beige, multi fabrics, three striped rows with appliqué motif of artistic leaf tendrils, ½” black/grey motif accent Border 3: W 5 ⅛”, “Piano Key”, multiple fabrics, feature colours of green & rust
Medallion	L 47 ¼” x 35 ¼” Appliqué: Flower with bud, leaves with tendrils
Edge finishing	Binding: W ½”, straight, machine front/hand back
Batting	Unknown, thin loft

Top fabric	Cotton, plain weave, Motif: flowers, geometric, leaves, berries, musical notes Feature colours: beige, brown, green, yellow, rust (earth tones) Background colour: Multi Neutral Tones
Top piecing method	Machine
Embellishment	Appliqué: raw edge fused/machine blanket stitch Cotton Thread Realistic: flowers, leaves and tendrils
Backing	Vertical pieced. one fabric Fabric: cotton, plain weave Feature colours: yellow, green Motif: flowers
Quilting	Traditional Hand, 5 stitches/inch, hand-quilting cotton thread Patterns: stitch-in-the-ditch, outline, cross-hatch
Condition	Used
Label	Hand written text: <i>I designed and made this quilt from fabric that was a gift from Joan and Clayton. The centre applique is a Trish Stuart Design. Completed this quilt in 2015.</i>

CQG#054: Fusions

Quiltmaker: Audrey MacKinnon

Current owner: Jane Ramus, Cranbrook, BC

Audrey designed this quilt from a picture in a 2013 *American Patchwork and Quilting* magazine, loaned to her by Deidre Gold. The fabric came from her stash and some from fellow guild member Donna Cockwell, whose stash was dispersed after Donna died. Audrey described how she drafted the quilt from the picture - starting with the centre star and moving out. She pieced the top starting in the Fall of 2023 and finishing in the Fall 2024. Audrey and her daughter Jane quilted the top with a pantograph at *Sew Creative Chalet*, in Kimberley. This quilt is a "graduation gift" for her grandson, Carter, who will graduate from Carleton University (Ottawa, ON) in the spring of 2025.

Pattern	Drafted by Audrey MacKinnon from a picture in <i>American Patchwork and Quilting</i> 2013.
Subject	Stars
Date	2023-2025
Size	L 108¼" x W 92¾"

Overall Style	<p>Finished quilt. Repeated block forming multi-coloured stars of two varieties.</p> <p>Scrappy colour mix in diagonal rows: from L - gold, blue, gold, rust, brown, burgundy, green, navy, blue, rose-grey,</p> <p>Reads as if the blocks are on-point, thought the blocks are straight set.</p>
Blocks	<p>Square connecting blocks: L 15 ½" x 15 ½"</p> <p>Number of blocks: 42</p> <p>Setting: edge-to-edge</p> <p>Block Pattern Name: <i>Maple Star</i>* with an extra pieced strip on all sides, which when the blocks are connected in a 4-patch configuration creates a secondary star.</p> <p>(* contemporary name for a Brackman # 1740 v - Maple Leaf [Aunt Martha Series ~1953].</p> <p>(* see scissortailquilting.com retrieved February 24, 2025)</p>
Edge finishing	<p>Binding: W ½"</p> <p>Machine front/hand back</p>
Batting	Possibly 80/20 with minimal loft
Top fabric	<p>Cotton, plain weave</p> <p>Motif/dyeing: Batik, Polka dots, Geometric, Leaves, Prints/blenders, Sparkles</p> <p>Feature colours: burgundy, gold, green, grey, rose-grey, navy, blue, brown, red, rust tan, teal turquoise. yellow</p> <p>Background colour: multi-tone neutrals & white</p>
Top piecing method	Machine
Backing	<p>Three lengths, vertically pieced</p> <p>Cotton, plain weave</p> <p>Motif: directional, animal print (Elephants)</p> <p>Feature colours: brown tones, gold</p>
Quilting	<p>Machine: pantograph edge-to-edge on a long-arm machine</p> <p>Thread: King-tut, variegated (beige, grey, light mauve, gold)</p>
Condition	Unused
Label	<p>Hand printed text:</p> <p><i>" Made for Carter in 2025 to celebrate your graduation from Carleton University.</i></p> <p><i>With Love from Grandma</i></p> <p><i>Audrey MacKinnon</i></p>

{Picture of Audrey quilting at a Quilting-til-You Wilt day - see short video clip on cranbrookquiltersguildhistory.ca}