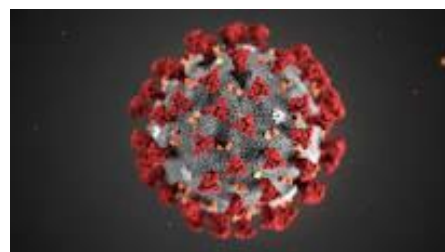


Snippets

Covid-19 Update

We are fortunate indeed that the vast majority of Canadians feel the sense of shared responsibility that is so critical for the success of social guidelines. Compliance with these rules has been difficult and at times heart-breaking.



We are now entering the first of what no doubt will be several phases which will ease restrictions in a step-wise manner until there are no more impediments to our daily lives. However, at this early stage the guidelines remain unchanged regarding large gatherings.

We are therefore cancelling Saturday Snips for June and will let you know about future Snips when we have more information.

Our Members' Exhibition for 2020 has also been postponed - see page 5 for details - due to the uncertainty of social guidelines and venue availability.

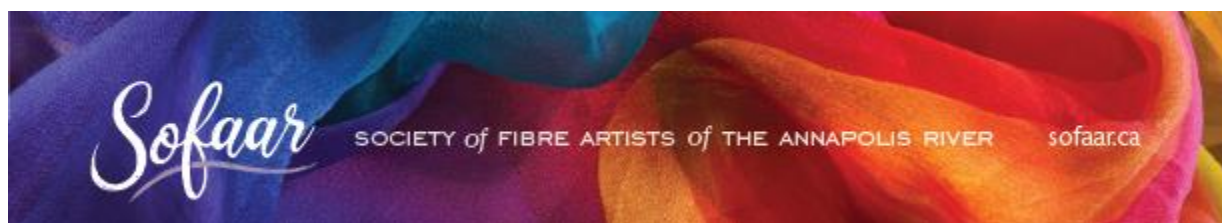
However, our Board continues to work hard doubling the frequency of *Snippets* (now monthly) as a means to stay connected. With your help, we can increase our sense of the great fibre community that we are! Send in your news, a comment, a photo, a story about SOFAAR or COVID or anything else you'd like to share to gracebutland@eastlink.ca.

In the meantime, stay safe, follow guidelines, and play with fibre!

Thanks,

Cathy Malon,

SOFAAR Board Secretary



Member News

SOFAAR members have been busy working on previously unfinished objects and creating lovely new work during this period of social distancing and sheltering in place. How lucky we are that we have work we love to do, time to finally get to it, and (for most of us) a stash of supplies on hand! See, you weren't hoarding - you were planning for a pandemic!

Here's what some of your fellow members have been up to:

Jane Nicholson sent this along: *I bought this Ehrman Tapestry needlepoint pillow kit almost 10 years ago....don't even remember where....because I liked the colours and pattern. It's part of the "Klimt" series designed by Candace Bahouth - this one is called Klimt Chocolate - and it's still available on line at [Klimt Chocolate](#). I used to do a lot of needlepoint as a much younger woman and it just appealed to me.*

I started working on it when I bought it, then must have put it aside for some reason and it disappeared into a box "somewhere". I finally found the kit in late March while I was in quarantine here in Annapolis Royal, and finished it in late April. Even though I couldn't pipe the pillow, I am really happy with how nicely it turned out and how pretty it looks in the sunporch here at home! Have to say I am pleased with myself!



Blocked Needlepoint



Unpiped edge



Finished cushion on chair



Lorrie Lafrance has clocked 298 hours on her horse from the Cave of Lascaux so far and is 60% done - still a way to go but she's enjoying every minute.



Member News, continued

Marilyn Preus recently completed this piece, called *In This Together*. It's silk, 30 inches x 30 inches, hand sewn with couching and mounted on a birch board.



Cheryl den Hartog solved her Single Sock Syndrome! In her words: *The condition now known as Single Sock Syndrome came about to recognize so many knitters complete one sock, celebrate and promptly get distracted by life. One sock meets the needs of a smaller demographic than the traditional pair. I had two pairs in this condition - one sock each. What is particularly noteworthy for me is these are the first two pairs of socks that actually went into my sock drawer. I've knit socks for about a dozen family members, many of whom have a half dozen pairs and yet these are the first socks I've knit for me. Call it Solving Single Sock Syndrome Selfishly and try saying that ten times quickly.*



Sharon Moody has gone to the dogs! Here's her explanation: *In the midst of this quieter time at home, one bright spot for me has been the Face Times with my son's family. He and his wife have two "incredible" (no bias here) children; Sophia (7) and Benjamin (2).*

I knit a unicorn for Sophia last year; my first attempt at knitting a toy. (It looks more like a giraffe, but she loves it.). Ben immediately asked me to knit a dog for him.

Our Face Times revolved around this project - which quickly became "their" project. Each week, they wanted to examine the progress and set my next goal for me. They chose all the colours and have declared the result to be a resounding success! As they were my reason for creating this dog, I am satisfied with the results - and it actually looks like a dog!





Member News, continued

Christine Igot shared this story: *When the Annapolis Royal Twinning committee went to France last October, Sally O'Grady and I were roommates. We had a great time with our twinning friends and then spent four days together in Paris. I took Sally to visit one of my favourite stitching shops Sajou (sajou.fr/en/). I bought some beautiful linen for embroidery and Sally bought a linen and felted wool bag and a book for a friend. I had no idea that friend would turn out to be me! I was thrilled with such lovely gifts.*

I decided to embroider not only the linen tag on the bag but the whole bag itself in honour of our time together and with names of places Sally and I had visited while in Paris.

I used red, white and blue floss colours from the French flag. On the one side I embroidered Paris, the date and the French word for friendship (amitié). I also embroidered two little teacups as Sally and I loved to have tea out!

On the other side of the tag I wrote "A gift from Sally"

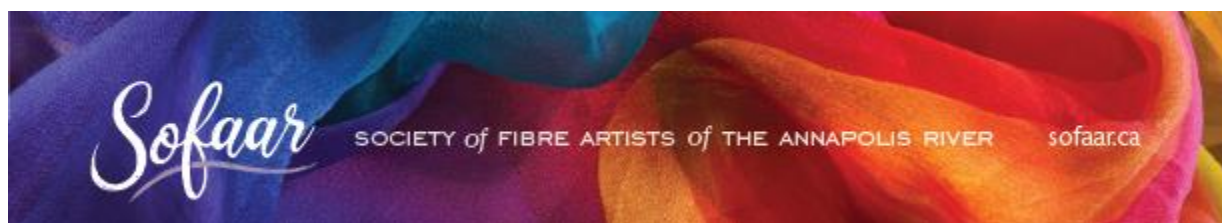


On the other side of the bag, I embroidered the Fleur de lys in French colours, the name of our hotel, the names of the museums we visited, the restaurants, the bookshop, the tea salon, the cheese shop, Sajou and Sally's favourite art supply shop Sennelier.

Now this bag holds whatever project I have on the go and is a reminder of good times and a wonderful friendship. Thank you Sally!

Barbara Nutley Hunter made a little needle case using felt, embroidery floss and a few beads.





Member News, cont'd



Tammy Sanford-Hutchinson recently completed this Russian Trotter Blackwork designed by Tanja Berlin from Berlin Embroidery Designs. Tammy says it was a very challenging piece, but well worth the effort involved.

SOFAAR Members' Exhibition Cancelled

We regret that due to the present uncertainty regarding the easing of restrictions on public gatherings in Nova Scotia, SOFAAR has cancelled our annual members' exhibition, *Our Architectural Heritage*, planned for June and July, 2020, in the Chapel Gallery, Annapolis Royal. We hope to reschedule the show for the summer or fall of 2021. If you have completed your piece, congratulations! Please keep it for next year when we will try again to show off our heritage architecture. If you are still working on your piece, you now have lots of time to finish it. If you weren't planning to enter a piece in the show, perhaps you may now consider doing so. The guidelines will be the same as posted in the January/February, 2020 issue of *Snippets*, or on the Exhibits page of the SOFAAR web site. As soon as we know more regarding the exhibition we will let you know via *Snippets*, the web site, and our Facebook page.

Wishing everyone well,

The Exhibition Committee



SOFAAR Mask Project Update

SOFAAR's Mask Committee has been very busy in the past month!

All of the materials were quickly distributed by the "area reps" to 17 volunteer sewers in different parts of Annapolis County and beyond.

Many masks have already been distributed by our sewers to those in need with recipients in Margaretsville, Nictaux, Lawrencetown, Paradise, Granville Ferry, Annapolis Royal and Bear River to date. Distribution volunteers remain available for the Clementsport/Cornwallis/Digby areas.



If you or anyone you know needs a mask, please contact info@sofaar.ca to be put in touch with your area's rep.

Thanks again to everyone who has stepped forward to volunteer!

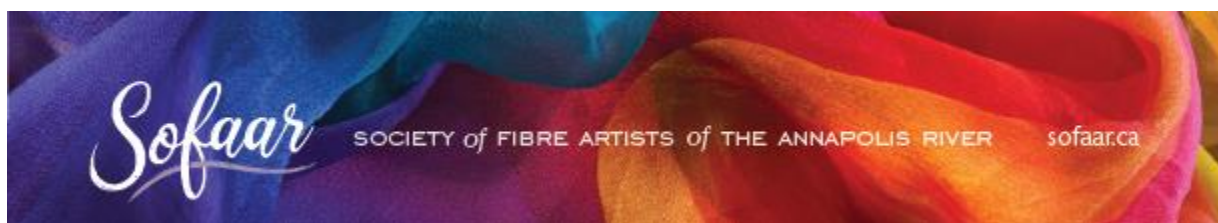
Cathy Malon (Chair Mask Committee)

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Is This Yours?



This project bag was found on the stash give-away table at the SOFAAR AGM in March. Those packing up the table felt this may have been left by someone as they searched for items of interest on the table. If you have lost this bag please contact Cheryl den Hartog at barnkatknitter@bellaliant.net to arrange for delivery. If perchance you donated it, please let Cheryl know and she will ensure it goes to a good home.



New SOFAAR "Members Only" Facebook Page

The Communications Committee is happy to announce a new Facebook page for members only. This new page is a private group page that SOFAAR members will be able to join by request or invitation. As a member, you will be able to post photos of your fibre arts projects, ask questions, request recommendations and advice, view fibre arts posts on a variety of fibre arts topics, get updates on current events and most importantly, get to know and interact with other SOFAAR members. We've even created a "Freebies" area where free fibre arts projects will be posted for your fibre arts enjoyment.

To join this new members-only page, follow the link to [SOFAAR Members Only](#).

Ideas & Inspiration

We love it when our members share info about websites, books, articles, artists, etc. that they find interesting or inspirational. Here are some things they've shared recently. We hope you enjoy them and that you will send your own discoveries to us to share.

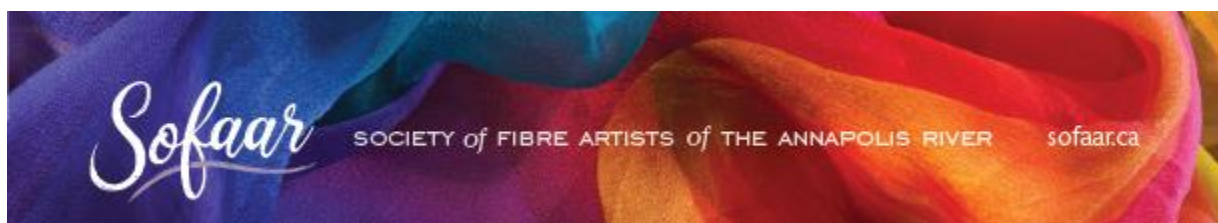


Rosaire McNeil sent us the link to this interesting article for making dye. Although these dyes were used for manuscripts, not textiles, it shows the complexity of creating dyes. See it at [Medieval Ink](#).

Christine Igot sent this link to [Nicole Dextras](#), who creates beautiful art by freezing textiles and then photographing them.



And check out [Aheneah](#), also shared by Christine, to see what you can do with some nails and yarn!



Ideas & Inspiration, cont'd



Tammy Sanford-Hutchinson passed along this link for a free shawl knitting pattern from Ravelry. It's called [Wild Swan](#) and was designed by Anne-Lise Maigaard & Nim Teasdale.

Tammy also sent this info, taken from a Facebook post on Deanne Fitzpatrick Studio (rug hooking studio located in Amherst, NS): *Antigonish rug hooker, Kathy Smith was very moved by this cartoon that Bruce Mackinnon published in the Halifax Herald about the recent mass shooting in Nova Scotia. With Mr Mackinnon's permission, she has taken on a project and is looking for rug hookers to hook some variation of this image as a wall hanging. Mr. Mackinnon is fine with any variations. She plans to present the rugs to family members of the victims. She is looking for rug hookers from anywhere to participate in this project with her as a show of love and support. If you would like to take part please contact Kathy at ksmith@novacapitalinc.ca Please share. Thank you.*

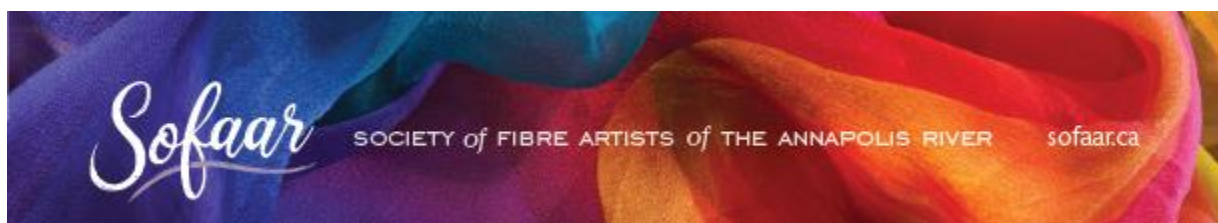


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A Puzzling Situation

How do you create stunning quilts if you can't sew? SOFAAR member Cheryl den Hartog has found the secret. She says that while this was *not quite the same thing as properly piecing with that gizmo called a sewing machine. It is as close to quilting as I am likely to get in this lifetime and it was fun.*





Yarn – Animal, Mineral or Vegetable?

Yarn forms the basis of many of the fibre arts - weaving, knitting, crochet, needlepoint, crewel and other forms of needlework. A yarn is a continuous length of spun thread and also a long, rambling story. It is fibre with enough twist to make it stable enough to work with. The sources for fibre are numerous and amazing - animal, mineral and vegetable.

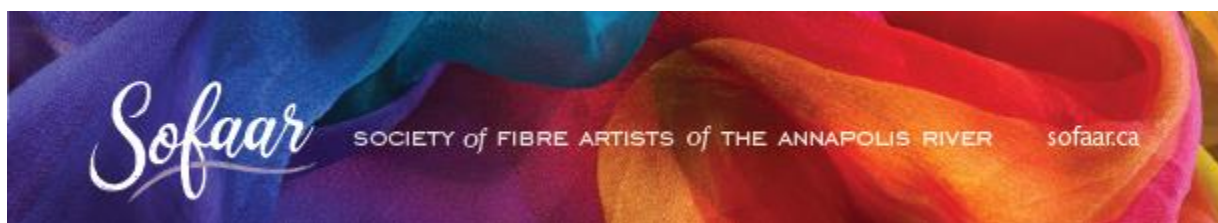
For starters there is a bewildering array of beasts that contribute to the cause. Although yarn is often referred to as wool, only fibre from sheep is truly wool. Wool varies immensely depending on the breed of sheep. Although all sheep grow wool, some breeds are grown primarily for meat and others for their fleece. E.g. Texel sheep originate from the tiny Dutch island of the same name, Merino from the hot, dry central plains of Spain.

In the realm of knitting legends, back in the day Merino sheep were reserved to grow fleeces for the Spanish king's under garments. Exporting the animals was illegal and penalties severe. These days merino is available to all and remains one of the softest wools. Merino sheep still favor hot, dry conditions and today Australia and Texas are major producers. Some 20-30 years ago a farmer on our eastern shore tried to rear some merinos but in our climate the fleece came close to felting right on the animal, not good for the animal and not good for the fleece. End of experiment.



Merino Flock - [Photo from the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers Limited](#)

Continued on Page 9



Animal, Vegetable or Mineral, cont'd

Angora goats provide the fibre for mohair, yielding a, soft, strong, lustrous and slightly fuzzy yarn. Kid mohair usually means the first shearing of a young goat. Angora goats are among some of the most photogenic farm animals and can be fairly amiable as goats go.



Angora Goat - [Photo from the Canadian Cooperative Wool Growers Limited](#)

Just to add a bit of confusion Angora rabbits are another source of fibre and their combed out hairs make up angora yarn. It is incredibly soft, very warm to wear and quite fuzzy, best in small doses.

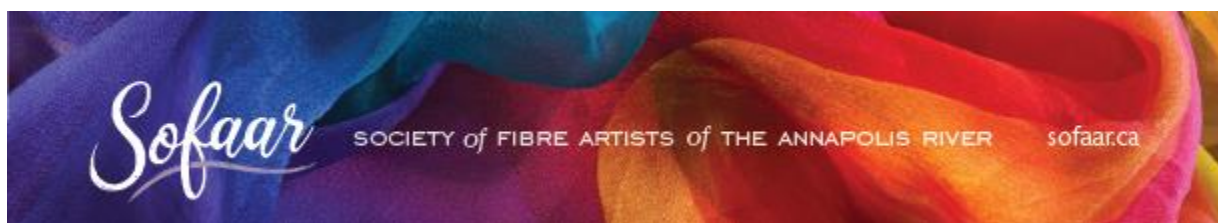
Even insects contribute to the fibre world with the prime example of the silk worm. This creature spins itself a cocoon. When unwound the cocoon filament can measure as long as 1500 metres. Silk is made by spinning a number of these filaments together to produce a strong yarn with wonderous lustre. Like wool it can absorb and release moisture and feel warm even when wet. Silk will tend to stretch over time but the strength in a light weight silk yarn makes it a perfect choice for complex shawls. It shows off stitches and can survive the odd snag or two when worn.



Silk Worm and Cocoon - [Photo by Eva Niemanen posted to Flickr](#)

The camelid family - camels, llamas, alpacas and vicunas - are also major contributors to the yarn variety seen today. Camel hair is used for heavy duty purposes such as carpets, tents and some outerwear. In Nova Scotia llamas are mostly used by sheep farmers as guards for the flock. Llamas are not necessarily fond of sheep but they really don't like coyotes or foxes. When you approach a fence with sheep in the field the llama will often move toward you, ears forward. This does not mean they are friendly, they are checking you out, assessing you as a possible threat, or not. They do not like to have their faces touched and can spit with alarming accuracy at any one committing this faux pas. (Think

Continued on Page 10



Animal, Vegetable or Mineral, cont'd

1940s baseball player fond of chewing tobacco targeting a spittoon at the other end of the room - much the same effect.)

Alpacas yield, you guessed it, alpaca, a soft, luxurious yarn with lovely drape that feels wonderful. It does not spring back to shape as wool does, so an edging other than ribbing is a good idea. Vicuna is the smallest of the camelids measuring only 80cm at the shoulder. Vicuna is a serious luxury yarn, one of the most expensive fibres in the world. I recently priced 1 ounce of vicuna at \$300 US. It stayed in the shop.



Alpaca Flock - [Photo from Getty Stock Images](#)



Musk oxen family near Kangerlussuaq

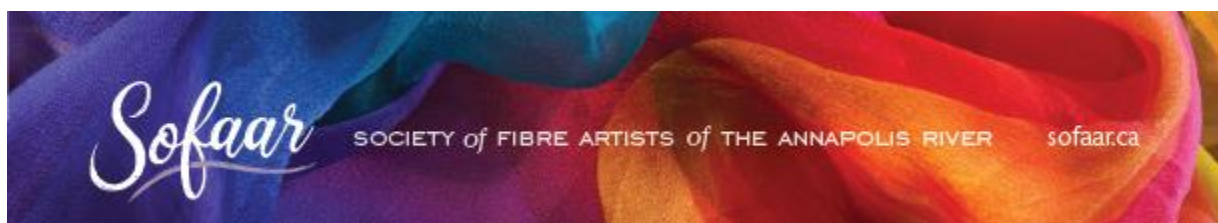
Musk Oxen [Photo from Getty Stock Images](#)

I did once indulge in Qiviut, a yarn made from the undercoat of the musk ox. These beasts of ancient lineage inhabit the arctic and may possibly be the originators of the 'circle the wagons' approach to defense. When threatened they form a circle with the young inside and the fearsome horns outwards. They fend off wolf packs quite successfully with this strategy.

There are many other yarns derived from the animal kingdom, cashmere from goats of the same name, yak from the high plateau of the Himalayas, opossum from the brush tail possum mostly from New Zealand and in one very grand experiment spider silk from the golden orb spider.

Perhaps we can venture to the vegetable yarns in the next issue of *Snippets*.

A huge thank you to Cheryl den Hartog for researching and writing this article!



Challenge Reminder



Don't forget the upcoming SOFAAR challenges! Send us a photo of your work with a few lines describing the piece and how it fits into the challenge category for a "show and tell" in *Snippets*. See the April/May Full issue of *Snippets* for full details. Send photos

and descriptions to gracebutland@eastlink.ca

Challenge #1 - View from My Window

Deadline for photos: June 15; published in June/July *Snippets*.

Challenge #2 -- Colourful Expressions

Deadline for photos: August 15; published in August/September *Snippets*.

Challenge #3 - I Heard It in a Song

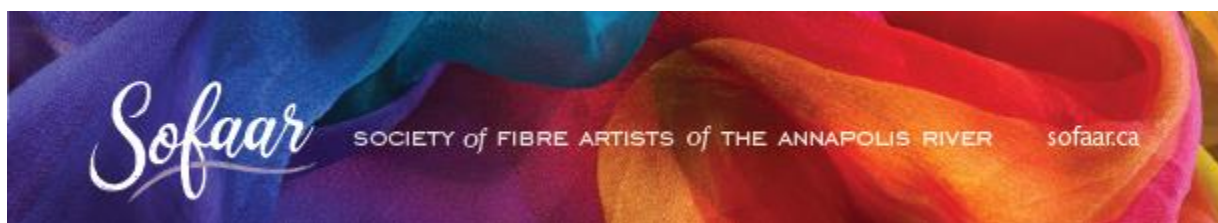
Deadline for photos: September 15; published in September/October *Snippets*.

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Eye Candy

Dutch artist Mirjam Gielen doesn't appear to have a website, but you can Google **Mirjam Gielen Textile Artist** for some incredible images of her embroidery on eco-dyed and natural dyed fabrics.





Sponsors Corner

Many businesses are trying to serve their customers safely and SOFAAR's sponsors are no different. The link to the Facebook pages of each of our sponsors can be found below. Check out their posts for ideas and inspiration in this unsettling time. There are truly some gems on offer.

Bridgetown Variety Store - The store is currently closed. Stay tuned for news at the [V&S Facebook page](#).

Frames on James - The shop is closed at this point. Coral is taking questions. The [Frames Facebook page](#) has the contact details.

Gaspereau Valley Fibres - is taking orders for pickup at the farm. For more details of what is available and how to order see the various posts on the [GVF Facebook page](#).

Printwright Printing Services - Grant is open with reduced hours for printing and pickup. Hours and contact information are available on the [Printwright Facebook page](#).

Wools on the Corner - Through the Window business can be arranged by contacting Caroline. See the [Wools Facebook page](#) for thoughts and reflections.

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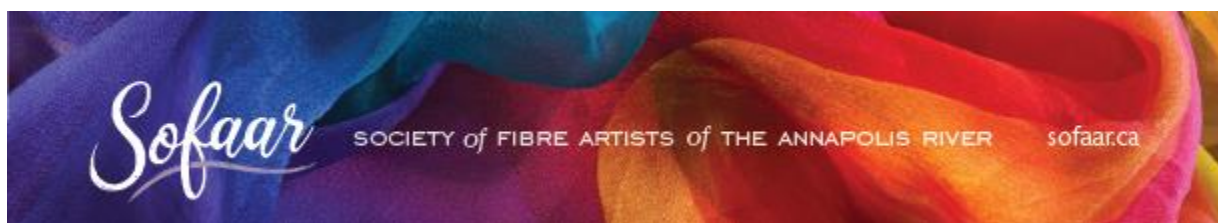
Wow!

Look at this spectacular embroidery!

Argentinian artists Leo Chiachio and Daniel Giannone pose with "Selva Blanca," (White Forest), a triptych that took them three years to complete. In the upper corners are portraits of the artists as costumed monkeys. In the golden chair is their #1 dog, Piolin, now 15 years old.



Photo by Maurice Hewitt 2020



Remember to check the SOFAAR website, www.sofaar.ca, frequently for up-to-date information on all SOFAAR activities. Please like us on Facebook, and please refer to the calendar on the following pages for upcoming events.

A Word About *Snippets*

Snippets will be published monthly during this period of social distancing. Deadline for the next issue is June 15, 2020. Send photos and a brief description of your projects or links to websites you've found interesting to gracebutland@eastlink.ca.

Your SOFAAR Board

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Cathy Malon, Co-Secretary
Rachael Cheechoo, Treasurer
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Barbara Nutley-Hunter

Aprille Janes, Vice President
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SOFAAR's sponsors offer discounts to our members and support our events. Please support them with your business when possible.

Frames on James

9 James Street, Yarmouth
15% discount on framing

Gaspereau Valley Fibres

830 Gaspereau River Road, Gaspereau
10% discount on regularly priced yarn & fibre

Printwright Printing Services

205 Centennial Drive, Bridgetown
20% discount on printing services

V&S - Bridgetown

14 Queen Street, Bridgetown
10% discount on selected items

Wools on the Corner

23 Queen Street, Bridgetown
10% discount on regularly priced merchandise