

# THE BARN RAISING PROJECT

Presented by the  
Huron Branch of the Ontario Hooking Craft Guild  
in collaboration with the Simcoe County Museum





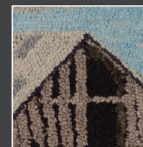




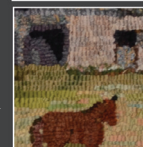
**Laurie Woolner**  
Cayuga, Ontario  
*The Barns That Were*



**Luise Bishop**  
Barrie, Ontario  
*Rural Landscape*



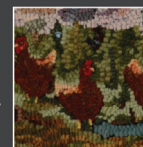
**Helen Wuerth**  
Port Elgin, Ontario  
*Hillview Farm, Turnbull Family*



**Sheila Klugescheid**  
Stayner, Ontario  
*The Barns of My Youth*



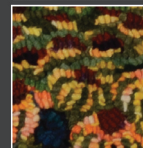
**Lorna Atkins**  
Gilford, Ontario  
*The Grain Bag by the Barn Door*



**Diana Dove**  
Victoria, British Columbia  
*Barn in Thorah*



**Joan Harris**  
Burlington, Ontario  
*The Barn on Highway Six*







## Developing the Barn Raising Project

Since learning to rug hook in 2002, I have been intrigued by some wonderful hooked rug exhibitions around a theme, such as Linda Rae Coughlin's THE ART OF PLAYING CARDS and Bruce County Museum's MEMORIES OF MY MOTHER.

Then in the Spring 2011 issue of A Needle Pulling Thread I viewed photos of the GRAIN ELEVATOR PROJECT by the Heritage Rug Hookers of Saskatoon. I immediately thought "wow, someone should do that about barns in Ontario".

The huge barns to me are a massive symbol of relentless hard work spanning years to clear land and build upon it, of storing the harvest to feed our families, and in coping with adversity and severe climate by being used to overwinter animals. Most importantly, barns are a symbol of community, for it is impossible to build a massive barn without the help of your neighbours. What we think of as our "community" has undergone change over the last century. It is no longer necessarily our physical neighbours but a patchwork of the communities that we choose to live in, including our rug hooking community.

It was to this community that I turned in the summer of 2011, and with the support of our local branch, the Huronia Guild, Sheila Klugescheid, Linda Wilson and I launched the BARN RAISING PROJECT. Marie Hine joined us and has been a large part of our work behind the scenes for the last year.

What better way to acknowledge and pay tribute to these barns than to launch a Canada-wide call to rug hookers for entries around the theme of the rural barn? We have been thrilled with the response, with 68 entries from British Columbia all the way across to Newfoundland. 40 of these entries have been chosen to represent The Barn Raising Project, a collection of rugs truly made from the heart, by people who share our love of history.

*Marie Turner*





## Simcoe County Museum

The Barn Raising Project originated from the efforts of Linda Wilson, Marie Turner, and Sheila Klugescheid, members of the Huronia Branch of the Ontario Hooking Craft Guild. Their inspiration, dedication and hard work have made this exciting project possible.

On behalf of the Simcoe County Museum, I offer congratulations to Linda Wilson, Marie Turner and Sheila Klugescheid for bringing this wonderful project to life, and to all of the rug hookers who submitted an entry to this project.

The forty rugs that comprise The Barn Raising Project travelling exhibit illustrate the beauty of our rural landscapes across Canada, and share the stories of how these buildings have had an impact on the artists.

*Kelley Swift Jones*

Museum Curator

Photographer: Matt Black

Guest Curators: Marie Hine and Lynda Whiston





## Judges

**Wendie Scott-Davis** from Parry Sound, ON

**Margaret Miller** from Richmond Hill, ON

**Paul Shaw** from Stayner, ON

## Sponsors of Awards

**Ruth Cotton Memorial Award  
for Fine Cut Hooking**

*Sponsored by her family*

**Wide Cut Award**

*Sponsored by the Huronia Branch of the  
Ontario Hooking Craft Guild*

**Theme Award**

*Sponsored by the Simcoe County Museum*

**Luise Bishop Award -Best Pictorial**

*Sponsored by the Orillia Sunshine Hookers*

**Gwen Robertson Memorial Award  
for Best Depiction of Rural Lifestyle**

*Sponsored by her friends in the Georgetown  
Rug Hooking Guild*

**Suzanne and Hugh Conrod Award for  
the project that Best Exemplifies Heritage  
Presentation**

*Sponsored by the Ontario Supporters of the  
Hooked Rug Museum of North America*

**Avant Barn Award for the Most Artistic  
Interpretation**

*Sponsored by Room to Breathe Organizing and  
Rahfish.com*

**Historical Significance Award**

*Sponsored by Lorna Atkins*

**Judges' Choice Award**

*Sponsored by Joyce Jones, Dianne Algera and  
Shirley Lyons*



### Carol Abernethy

Calgary, Alberta

#### ***Cargill Farm and Sauble Cottage***

My rug showcases two homes that belonged to my parents: the farm located on the corner of the road into Cargill from the Walkerton to Paisley highway, and my parent's cottage located on the water between Southampton and Sauble Beach. I chose autumn as the season for my scene as the colours obtained in an Ontario landscape are more varied than in Alberta. I will be able to look at this rug and remember the reds of an Ontario fall. These three buildings are full of wonderful memories of family life in the rural and cottage country of Ontario.



## **Dianne Algera**

Port Hope, Ontario

### ***The Old Tobacco Kiln – Memories of Uncle Alf***

*Judges' Choice Award*

My great uncle and aunt, Alf and Olive Brooks, owned and operated a tobacco farm in the Garden Hill, Ontario area up until the mid-sixties. As a girl, my parents would take me and my siblings for occasional visits. I decided to hook a tobacco kiln in remembrance of my experiences on their farm. These visits were especially memorable as I lived in a nearby town and was totally unfamiliar with country living. This particular tobacco kiln is located in Kendal, Ontario and is one of several on the property that are no longer in use and in an obvious state of disrepair.





### Lorna Atkins

Gilford, Ontario

#### ***The Grain Bag by the Barn Door***

This barn has a large, dark door leading to the stalls for the cows. As children visiting, we were told to eat a few kernels from the grain bag by the door. This barn housed cows but the Jersey cow was favoured for its placid nature and creamy milk. Chickens were kept as a reliable, small money maker. The stone and cement wall was common of southern Ontario barns. The farmer, always thrifty, has placed part of a door against the wall. A barn was central to the farm.



## Diane Audia

Orillia, Ontario

### *Grandpa's Farm*

This rug was inspired by a 1950s aerial photograph of the farm of my grandparents, Harvie and Susanna Edwards, at Brechin, Ontario. Harvie's parents had originally homesteaded there in a small log house that was later replaced by the brick house. Following a fire, this barn was raised in the 1930s. Both Harvie and his daughter Doris (Edwards) Graham were raised on this farm where he carried on mixed farming, using horses with the implements, wagon, stone boat etc. My sister and I have wonderful memories of days at the farm helping with Grandma's garden, farm chores and of course delicious meals.





## **Luise Bishop**

Barrie, Ontario

### ***Rural Landscape***

Over her rug hooking career Luise has produced many exceptional pictorials, portraits and fine shaded rugs. When the Barn Raising Project was announced, Luise was the first in our branch to get her project on backing. In fact, Luise had two projects finished before the rest of us had started.





**Joan Boswell**

Richmond Hill, Ontario

***Ottawa Valley Barn***

A photo that I took a number of years ago in the Ottawa Valley of Ontario inspired the creation of this rug. I have painted many barns and find them interesting and attractive.



## Cheryl Bridger

Calgary, Alberta

### ***Coming Home***

Now we so often see that the trees and hedgerows planted to provide shelter and shade for the farmyard are all that remains. The barns and outbuildings have long since disappeared from our landscape. We are going to miss those iconic barns: the visual symbols, not of our homes, but of an entire way of life.



## Beate Deforge

Creemore, Ontario

### *Up in Smoke* 2013

Sheds called kilns were once used for drying tobacco leaves and were a common sight in the southwestern Ontario landscape. However, with the decline of the use of tobacco, these kilns are no longer needed and are slowly falling apart.





## **Diana Dove**

Victoria, British Columbia

### ***Barn in Thorah***

This is on the 3rd concession of Thorah near village of Beaverton. My husband and I bought the farm in 1987 and sold it in 1992. This barn was built in the '60s and added to in the '90s. The older section, built of wood, has turned weather beaten grey, but the newer section is metal. The small white building is the chicken coop. The barn has housed many kinds of animals, including pigs, cows, horses, rabbits and sheep. The hay and grain for feeding the animals was stored in the loft. The hooked picture of the barn is an evening sky when all animals have been fed and put to bed and we are walking back to the house.



## Ruth Emerson

Grimsby, Ontario

### *The Smith Family Fruit Barn*

I chose to hook a 1920 Grimsby fruit barn. It has the typical style that is found in the Niagara Region. The Smith families were one of the first families growing fruit in the 1800's. This barn was actually recycled from an old mill. I had a great childhood on our own fruit farm and I could depend upon picking fruit, from the age of eight, for extra pocket money. Later, working on other fruit farms, I remember using the fruit barn to shelter from the rain, receive instructions for the day, or receive our weekly pay. Most of the remaining barns have been turned into garages, homes, or sadly just left to rot.





### **Donna Evans**

Binbrook, Ontario

#### ***Reverence for the Bell Barn***

*Suzanne and Hugh Conrod Award  
for the project that Best Exemplifies Heritage Presentation*

Thomas Bell, his wife Mary Robson, and nine children came to Upper Canada from Northumberland, England in 1832. They landed in the Bay of Hamilton and proceeded south into Glanford Township, where Thomas acquired a tract of land covered by forest. He cleared the land and built a homestead. Future generations had homes and farms near the homestead. When George Bell, my husband's grandfather, moved from his farm on Miles Road to Binbrook in 1950, the Bell families had shared in Glanford's history for well over one hundred years.





## Isabel Fair

Massey, Ontario

### Lee Valley Barn

#### *Historical Significance Award*

This barn is 85 years old and is located on the Lee Valley road near Massey, Ontario in the township of Sables-Spanish Rivers. The barn is shabby, but the farmer keeps a few cows and has calves every year so it is still being used for its original intent.





## Val Galvin

Chemainus, British Columbia  
***The Holman Barn***

Built in 1910, this barn first housed horses that were used for the game of POLO played in fields behind the barn. In 1939, the farm was bought by Dolf Holman. The Holman Family raised Jersey cows. It was a welcome sight when travelling the backroads of the Cowichan Valley. The present owners are J and Lori Pollock. Sadly, this old landmark has now been replaced. After many years of service, safety became an issue.



## Jan Hague

Regina, Saskatchewan

### ***Brassey Barn in Indian Head Saskatchewan***

The Brassey horse barn was on the Sunbeam Farm, which was established under the sponsorship of Lord Brassey, a man of wide interests and the money to indulge them. The barn was built in the early 1890s and Lord Brassey died in 1918. This barn is the only recognizable remnant of his bold and compassionate Canadian ventures. Originally the barn had three copulas; one has blown off and its stalls are now removed to store grain in the barn. The rain really brings out the beautiful colours in the stones and the walls, at a half meter thick, still stand strong and straight. The newest owner has promised not to demolish this beautiful old heritage building.





## Joan Harris

Burlington, Ontario

### *The Barn on Highway Six*

The barn on highway six has been a local landmark for over a hundred years. The fields are now planted by the Bogle family. The sunflowers are a spectacular sight as cars line up along the highway for photos and the joy of walking among the blooms. Our family has purchased sunflower seeds for about fifty years from the Bogles to feed our large assortment of winter birds. When the Barn Project came around, of course I knew what I would do: the lovely old barn. The Bogles were very helpful and allowed me to walk among the sunflowers breathing in the scent. We take guests up to see the spectacular display. What a joy to behold!



## Cheri Hempseed

Orillia, Ontario

### *Preserving the Memory*

The research for this barn project was as much fun as the planning out and actual hooking. Who can resist driving around the back roads of Ontario, snapping photographs of wonderful old barns? I have depicted six of my favourites – three that were still much in working order and three not so lucky ones that had seen better days. I loved all the buildings equally. They all had their own special charm. I just hope all of them don't fall into disrepair so that in the future, our children's children can feel their magic. Ghosts of a passing era? I hope not!





## Marie Hine

Barrie, Ontario

### **Bossie's Barn**

Bossie's Barn is a story of my husband's childhood spent with his grandparents in Cantic, Quebec, a rural community on the Richelieu River. The barn was owned by a local French Canadian businessman, Wilfred Laramie. Photographs and my husband's memories depicted the details of Bossie's Barn with activities revolving around it. Cantic is populated mostly by English speaking people. "FOR WOOD SALE" was Wilfred's English translation from the French language. "OH WE HATE TO SEE YOU GO" was sung by Nan and Gramps as visitors left, but could be applied to the disappearance of rural barns.



## Donna Ireland

Meaford, Ontario

### *The Madill's Farm*

The view out of the kitchen window of the family's home in Kleinburg featured Chapman's Farm in the valley down the hill. I always loved that view. It was hard to believe I couldn't find a photo of it. I drove with my camera, iphone and ipad everywhere and took many photos of barns. Some were outstanding, but I didn't want to make another red barn. On Highway 6 in Southern Grey County, I saw this farm which was almost in silhouette when I took the photo. It was surreal and I loved the colours. It is the inspiration for my entry I call Madill's Farm.





## **Trish Johnson**

Toronto, Ontario

### ***Barn Lust***

*Ruth Cotton Memorial Award*

This old dairy barn in Prince Edward County, my daughter lusts for. Laura and her family planted hazelnut trees here for the future, as well as heirloom tomatoes, potatoes, zucchini, and garlic. There were already apples and grapes and a view of distant Lake Ontario. Born and raised in Toronto, Laura started her own company, [cubitsorganic.com](http://cubitsorganic.com), which sells rare and heirloom seeds; thus her desire for a place in the country. It is reminiscent of the old TV show *Green Acres*: "Farm livin' is the life for me. This rug is really just the beginning of a story of a place that I hope becomes important to my family's history.



## Sara Judith

Nelson, British Columbia

### ***Barn at Lawless Ranch, Anarchist Pass, BC***

*Judges' Choice Award*

I have passed this barn, and the small yellow farmhouse nearby, countless times on trips between my home and the coast of British Columbia. In winter, in the dry boundary country, the golden bunchgrass pokes through the thin cover of snow and the ponderosa pines sweep up the hills to clear blue skies. It represents what farming life once was in the interior of British Columbia: a scene of the rugged environment, wide open spaces, and boundless opportunity that is the essence of the lure of the "west." Now the barn is starting to fall apart, but it is still in use.

Hooked with recycled wool and hand dyed new wool punched with wool, mohair, cotton and synthetic yarns.





## Karen Kaiser

Belleville, Ontario

### ***Man maketh, Nature taketh***

*Theme Award for best depiction of the loss of traditional barn*

The memories of the past remain present in the minds of the custodians of the land as grey images.

.....memories of competition with nature....  
thankless work!

Manmade structures and objects sink slowly  
back to the earth.  
nature consumes all....  
and flourishes.

Man-0 Nature-1 (won)



## Sheila Klugescheid

Stayner, Ontario

### ***The Barns of My Youth***

*Luise Bishop Award -Best Pictorial*

*Gwen Robertson Memorial Award  
for Best Depiction of Rural Lifestyle*

I was born a farm girl and have always loved anything country, especially old barns. I was never the typical kid; I would rather cuddle a farm animal than play with other kids. Now, all these years later, I still have a passion for barns, sheep and rabbits. This rug depicts the three barns from my childhood and the sheep farm that my husband Udo and I worked at. The frame represents our future barn over looking the past. Hopefully by the next year we will have a farm of our own, with an old barn on it of course.





### **Debbie Link**

Fisherville, Ontario

### **Mount Olivet Lilac Ridge**

This quaint little barn sits behind a lovely old stone wall surrounded by many lilac bushes. We pass this spot weekly on our way to worship at the nearby country church. It draws my mind back to the "OLD DAYS" of no hydro, television or computers. Imagine instead horses, wagons, lanterns and pie socials.



**Elizabeth Martel**

Orillia, Ontario

***Abandoned***

*Wide Cut Award for best wide cut presentation*

This is hooked from a picture taken of a deserted barn just north of Orillia, Ontario. I was moved by the contrast of the decaying building and the beauty of nature's elements which are beginning to reclaim it.

"Look, look: a May-mess,  
like on orchard boughs!  
Look! March bloom,  
like on mewled-with-yellow  
sallows!  
These are indeed the barn"  
-Gerard Manley Hopkins





## **Gail Mueller**

Orillia, Ontario

### ***Barnyard Sculpture***

I had no idea there were so many different styles, shapes and colours of barns and silos until I started researching this project through photographing and sketching. Of course, many barns are in disrepair or gone with only the silos standing. Amazingly, many old beautiful barns are being used. I decided to keep my piece simple but in 3-D to challenge myself. I enjoyed the whole process of this project.



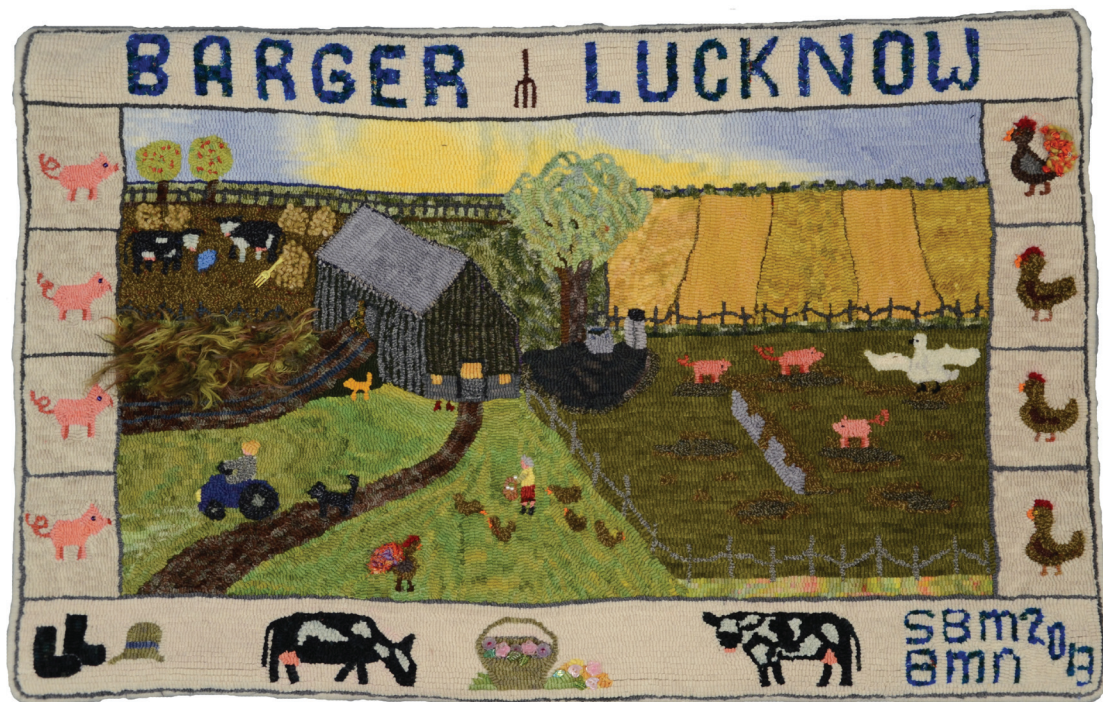
## Jayne Nevins

Ajax, Ontario

### *Lake Ridge Barn*

I was born and raised as a Toronto city girl and always dreamed of living on a farm. The barns fascinated me as I wondered what exciting things were inside. I could smell the hay in my imagination. When I moved to Ajax, I discovered my dream barn on Lake Ridge Drive in Durham Region and it is one of my favourite things to look for as I drive up the road to head north to cottage country. I decided this would be the barn for this project. I moved a big tree that was hiding the entrance to the barn to the side so that its front could be seen.





## Barb Nonnewitz

Aurora, Ontario

### *Early to Rise at the Barger Barn*

My grandparents and great grandparents farmed this land near Lucknow since 1919 with cows, pigs, hens and always barn cats and a herding dog roaming around. Mom remembers being chased by the nasty Gander Goose and Ranty Rooster as a child. I was so proud to help out at the barn or in the kitchen with Grandma. She pickled and baked, and Grandpa was on his tractor in his straw hat. I have combined my memories from our frequent visits. Today the barn no longer exists. I used a Hamilton family tartan for the family name and town and I have included my initials and my mom's as this is a shared project hooked with much love.



**Lynn Palmer**

South River, Newfoundland

***Ern Greene's Barn,***

***Tilting, Fogo Island, NL***

Since I began hooking in 2001, I have always been interested in hooking the "built heritage" of our province. Traditionally, agriculture, while not an industry in Newfoundland, was very important to rural residents. Most families kept a cow, a horse, a few sheep and chickens. In addition, root crops were grown to supplement the primarily fish diet. Barns often served multi purposes and in fact, today are used to house ATVs and snowmobiles rather than farm implements, hay and the animals. This barn, complete with the sheep on the hills, is a prime example of the original purpose and implies the transition that has taken place.





## Shirley Rumbles

Binbrook, Ontario

### **Evening Milking**

My husband, nicknamed "Ace", always dreamt of owning his own farm. We moved to our first farm in 1966. The children joined the 4-H Dairy Calf Club and when their calves were ready to be shown at the fall fairs, they needed a herd name. Our family chose "Ace's Dream Jerseys." In 1972, we moved to a larger farm in Binbrook with our small herd of purebred Jersey cattle. The whole family took part in painting and mounting the letters for the sign for our barn. Shortly after the sign was up, a neighbor took a picture of the sign in the evening while we were doing chores. It was a guide for my entry "Evening Milking."



## Brenda Sharpe

Southampton, Ontario

### *Christieview Farm*

Christieview was first settled in the 1830s on the Old Dundas and Waterloo Road. Today, to the north it looks over the Christie Lake Conservation Area, and to the south Christie's Corners. The 40x60 foot bank barn was built in 1910. Downstairs it originally had standing stalls for 8 horses and stanchions for cattle, along with various pens. Upstairs was built with a double drive floor with two areas to store grain and lofts for hay. It had large, hand-hewn beams pegged together to support the roof. The current owner, my cousin, has a passion for Clydesdale horses, carriage driving and chickens.





## **Mary Stinson**

Midland, Ontario

### ***The Burning Octagonal Barn***

When I was a little girl, Dad dreamed of building an octagonal barn, but the dream was not realized. When this project was presented, I thought of that dream and decided to hook a picture of an octagonal barn. Many barns burn down so the spontaneous fire happened to this barn. My grandfather Stephen Rose (1843-1924) had a small barn. It fell down recently and the owner graciously assisted me to dig out some boards to make the frame.



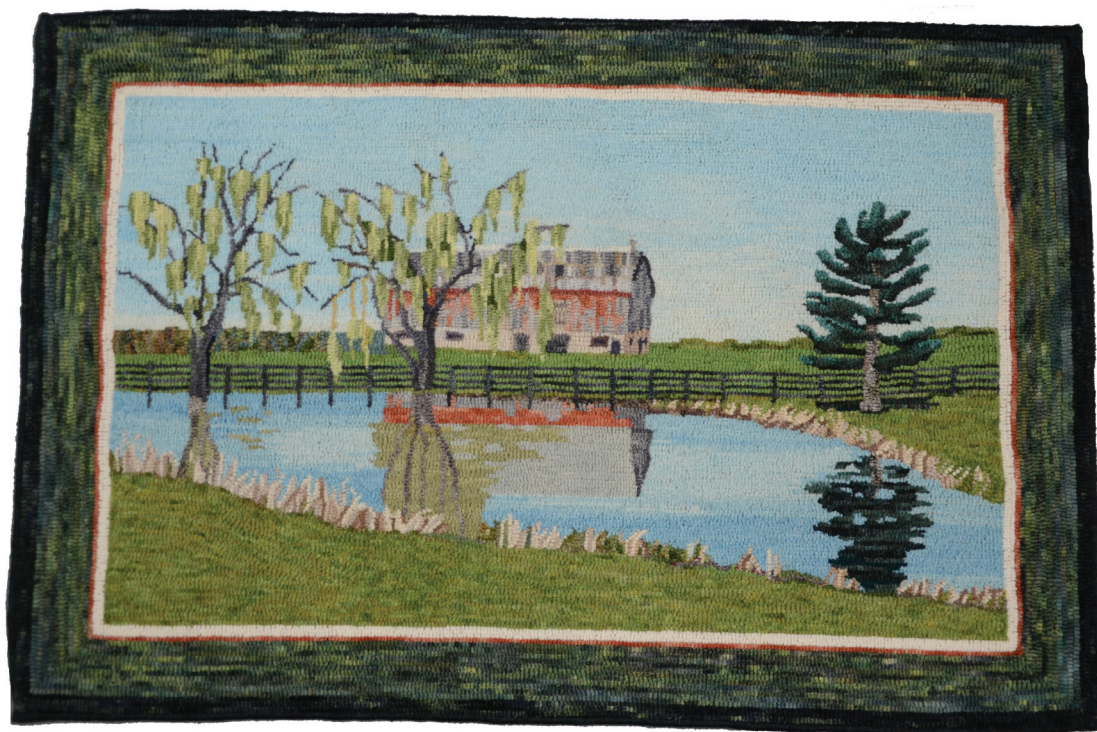
## Grace Tanfara

Ajax, Ontario

### *Our Farm*

My childhood home was a farm on Rossland Road in Whitby. The barn in the winter months was surprisingly warm from the heat of all the animals. In the spring it was cool when the cattle were finally let loose after new grass started. They would kick up their heels with joy to be outside after long winter months. The pigs rolled in the mud and the chickens pecked busily in the grass looking for grubs. During summer, it was warm working in the mow as we filled the loft with square bales of hay and the dusty granary hopped with grasshoppers. Today the barn, house and most of the buildings are gone and the land will soon be put into family homes.





**Vivien Thompson**  
Scarborough, Ontario  
***Schomberg Barn in Spring***

This rug was hooked from a photo of a barn scene just outside Schomberg. I grew up in the country and have always loved looking at barns and playing inside them as a child. I come from a background of farmers in Ireland and that lifestyle has been a part of my growing up as well as hearing stories from family and learning about life on the farm. I took many photos of barns as I drove around the countryside and this was my favourite.



## Marie Turner

Barrie, Ontario

### *Rural Cathedral*

This rug was inspired by standing inside a mostly empty barn with the light streaming in the decorative ventilation holes high in the end wall. This image completely captures my feeling of awe and reverence when standing in these barns, which to me are a symbol of the community that helped raise these barns and of the relentless hard work of the pioneers who sought out a new life in Canada. In addition, they tell of the bounty of the Canadian harvest and of the need to put that harvest by in order to survive the long Canadian winter.





## Joy Wheatley

Cayuga, Ontario

### *Spring Chores*

On December 12, 1979, my husband and I purchased our farm where over the years we have cared for many animals and raised 4 children. The main barn was built in 1919 by the previous owners. The lumber for the beams and boards were cut from the bush. Doing chores was often a family affair and there was always lots of excitement with the birth of a calf, foal or piglets. My husband still makes twice daily treks to look after the remaining residents of our family barn.



## Colleen Wike

Chemainus, British Columbia

### **Hayloft Dreaming**

*Judges' Choice Award*

The barn that I love was built in 1858 by my grandmother's grandfather, Noah Reesor, on what is now Steeles Avenue in Metropolitan Toronto. It was a great hip roofed bank barn. The upper storey interior soared. It was silent, safe and infused with dust motes flickering through the sunny cracks between the boards. I spent timeless afternoons there with cooing pigeons and little cats. It was my world and I was completely engaged. Although destroyed by fire recently, the barn lives on in me, renewed through the working of this mat.







## **Mary Wiles**

Orillia, Ontario

### ***Walker's Barn***

*Avant Barn Award for the Most  
Artistic Interpretation*

Walker's Barn is on a hill in Horseshoe Valley and on a grey day the roofs of the barn seem to blend into the sky. I travel this road often on my way to visit my daughter and granddaughter and my eye is always drawn to this barn.



**Linda Wilson**

Coldwater, Ontario

***Barn Swallows***

As a child growing up in rural Ontario, it was common to view Barn Swallows flying around the barnyard, nesting in the stable and lining hydro lines. On sunny days I was entertained watching the flashes of iridescent blue as the swallows swooped by. My project focuses on the Barn Swallow which has been designated a threatened species. The reduced number of working barns, modern farming practices, and loss of food sources has contributed to their decline. This is an example of how the loss of the traditional bank barn has impacted on the survival of a species.







### **Laurie Woolner**

Cayuga, Ontario

#### ***The Barns That Were***

These barns, near Cayuga on Concession 1 Road South, were on the farm that my husband grew up on. Dairy farmers, his family raised Holstein cows and some pigs. Once his parents had passed away, we were using the barns for storage. There was an electrical fire on August 14th, 2007 that burnt everything to the ground; only the cement, a few timbers and hardware from the old doors remained. All we have now are a few memories, so I have tried to capture the exquisiteness of these barns in my hooked piece.







## Helen Wuerth

Port Elgin, Ontario

**Hillview Farm,**

**Turnbull Family Farm**

My grandparents, Sarah (Doud) and Andrew Turnbull, came to this farm as newlyweds in June 1876. Located at Lots 4 & 5 Concession 7 North Dumfries, Waterloo County, this is where I spent my childhood. I had a wonderful time playing in the hayloft and granaries. I had a pet pig, Daisy June; a calf, Mary; a rooster, Hoppity Kick; and a dog, Nippy. I can only guess the age of the barn, but I am guessing from genealogical data that the barn was built about 1880.











Simcoe County Museum, 1151 Highway 26, Minesing Ontario L0L 1Y2  
705-728-3721 • [museum@simcoe.ca](mailto:museum@simcoe.ca) • [museum.simcoe.ca](http://museum.simcoe.ca)

