

## **Welcome to Anna's 1st column - It's the name game!**

WELCOME TO . . . well what does one name a column? I first thought of "Quilters Conundrum" but that might infer that quilters always have puzzling questions or problems, when quilting is simply cutting up perfectly good fabric, sewing it back together and adding a layer of batting and a layer of fabric for the back. Simple, right? Not!

Since I listen to CBC a lot while in my studio, my second choice was "Quilter's Quirks and Quarks" [Sorry Bob, but I am a MacDonald too!] because most of us have some lovely little peculiarities, mannerisms or traits, and a "quark" is a set of elementary particles [pieces of fabric] that bind together [read here: stitched and quilted] in various combinations [well there are just not enough days in a lifetime to make every quilt pattern imagined!] to form a . . . [quilt!]

I pondered on this challenge of finding a name for my new column while I washed the dishes. A third name popped into my head. It had been used by another quilter as the name of her shop, but the shop has been closed for a few years. So being the polite person I am, I called my friend and found out they still use the name and it's registered to them. Would definitely run into some problems there . . .

Perhaps I'll take a break to tell you a little about myself and maybe my brain will conjure up a name by the end of the next page.

I have lived in the beautiful town of Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia for the past 40 years with my British hubby whom I met on a blind date in Halifax. We have raised our six children to adulthood without any major injuries or run-ins with the law.

Empty-nesting is not a dirty word - we enjoy being able to travel on the spur of the moment, with no need to find sitters or wonder if a party is going to happen while away; the grocery budget has dropped significantly and we only do laundry twice a week! We certainly eat out more and there's always a car for each of us when needed. They, in turn, are all in loving relationships, paying their own bills, and have given us twenty-five adorable grandchildren and one handsome great-grandson.

This column will focus a lot on what I do as a quilter. It's been part of my life for about thirty-five years, At times I ventured into rug-hooking, embroidery, tole painting, knitting, crocheting, needlepoint, etc. but I always came back to quilting. So I figured I ought to stay with it and become the best I could be [I'm still working on that!].

There was very little back in the early '70s to help a quilter get started, one or two books, no "how to" shows on television, no quilters guild in the area and I didn't know anyone who quilted, so I was basically self-taught. Much of that was trial and error, but I persevered. Craft shows, commissions and sales, and the opportunity to teach followed.

Over the years I taught many quilting workshops across Canada, designed my own patterns, created a visual quilt and slide show which I'm very pleased with, and now receive invitations to teach or to show at quilt shows and conferences in Canada and the USA.

So here I am today, having been invited by Jodie to participate in her new venture with elder-zone - what a great idea! We go back a long way - but that's a story for a later column. I'll sign off for now and hope you'll tune in for upcoming editions.

About that name . . . I think we'll use Anna Quilts - simple and straightforward. What do you think?

*'Til next time, Anna M Davison*

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