

# THE CANADIAN GOURDER



*Winter - 2023*



Pinterest

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

*December 2023*

Happy New Year Fellow Gourders,

2024, how quickly the years pass. I was reading a fictional story, and to explain how quickly time passes, it pointed out that for a 10-year-old, each year was 1/10th of their life. For a 70-year-old person, each year is 1/70th of their life. No wonder time flies if you look at it that way!

In 2023 we had more new members for the Canadian Gourd Society sign up to get the newsletters than in recent years. It is great to hear about gourders from across the country. The more, new members we get the greater the opportunity to be able to match people up who live in the same area. Fingers crossed we may get new gourd patches start up, it only takes 2 people to be a patch. Encourage anyone you know who likes to try new things to look at gourds and join the CGS.

Do you have a membership with the American Gourd Society? They put out a gourd magazine four times a year, and it always has good ideas and interviews. Take a look at their website online: [americangourdsociety.com](http://americangourdsociety.com). It costs \$35 US which is about \$49 CA and is a great investment. You can also choose to get the magazine by pdf which is much cheaper.

I have my plans all in place for flying down to Arizona for the Wurtz Gourd Festival, planes booked for there and back, car rented, room booked with my friend in Casa Grande. I told myself all year that I will take one class at Wurtz in 2024. I doubt you will be surprised that I have signed up for three classes! Most years there are a lot of half day classes, this year they are mainly full day classes. That leaves me one full day for shopping in the largest fairground building, I hope I have the energy for 4 busy days. I will post photos of what I make in the classes in the next CGS Newsletter.

I am looking forward to the next week at home. I have a few gourds that are not yet finished, and I should (maybe) get them done. I hope the new year is good to you, that you find lots of time to gourd, and maybe you can find a gourd partner to work with.

Yours in Gourding,  
Barbara

# ANNOUNCEMENTS



## MEMBERSHIP.....

A warm welcome to our newest members: Daemon Rowanchilde (Maple Leaf, ON); Vanessa Burnstick (Chilliwack, BC); Walter Brownrigg (Venosta, QC); and Christine Drabick (St. Thomas, ON).

Just a reminder that if any of your personal information (address, phone number, email address) has changed, please let us know. *Thank you.*

Over the past year there have been many new members added to the CGS list. Several are living in the same geographic area. If anyone is interested in starting a gourd group (*patch*) in your province/area, contact us. Perhaps, with individual permission, we can pass on contact information to you and, who knows, a *patch* may grow.

If you wish to communicate via *snail-mail* the address can be found at the end of this newsletter. Alternately a message can be left by Phone: 705-775-1797 or at [canadiangourders@gmail.com](mailto:canadiangourders@gmail.com). Information/questions regarding the CGS newsletter can be sent to [sashadow1019@gmail.com](mailto:sashadow1019@gmail.com).

If you are in the area on a Monday, drop in and visit. Gourd workshops are posted on Kawartha Gourders Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders](http://www.facebook.com/kawartha.gourders)), and on the ACP website ([www.acp35.wildapricot.org](http://www.acp35.wildapricot.org)).

## CGS WEBSITE....

Don't forget to check out the CGS website. It no longer requires a username or password to see all of its features. Check out the growing tips, health and safety when working with gourds, tutorials and more. If you have a website or gallery, send the web address to [canadiangourders@gmail.com](mailto:canadiangourders@gmail.com) for consideration to have it advertised on the website, ([www.canadiangourdsociety.ca](http://www.canadiangourdsociety.ca)). In addition, if any member would like to see his/her gourd creations in the website gallery, email Sharron with a large picture for forwarding to the webmaster.

## ON-LINE ARTISANS MARKET PETERBOROUGH....

Check out the Artisans Centre Peterborough online gift shop which has a number of Kawartha Gourders members' gourd art for sale. In addition to gourd art, there are wood-turned items, pottery, weaving and other ACP member articles. To access the gift shop, go to the ACP website at [www.artisanscentre.ca](http://www.artisanscentre.ca).



## GOURDS FOR SALE....

If you are interested in buying gourds contact Barbara Bellchambers ([bellcham75@gmail.com](mailto:bellcham75@gmail.com)), and let her know what you need/want. The Kawartha Gourders recently purchased a large number of gourds. They are all sizes and there is an abundance of ornament sized gourds. Bought from an Ontario gourder/grower who is no longer able to use them, many of them have not been cleaned. If the Kawartha Gourders have what you need, she will arrange the delivery with you.



Please rescue my fellow gourds  
& give them a good home!





# PATCH REPORT

## KAWARTHA GOURDERS



The Kawartha Gourders have had a varied time over the past three months. Our Artisanity sale in November had only three regular gourders participating and sales were not as good as previous years. Several members have been *under-the-weather* with covid, flu and other debilitating bugs. In spite of sporadic attendance on Mondays, we managed to have a long-time CGS gourder, Debby, visit for a day; conduct a few workshops; see the return of Lois, who hibernated during covid, but finally returned to put her artistic flair back into gourds; have a fun and funny holiday party (sadly missing Dorothy who has fought many bugs this fall). We celebrated two birthdays – a 75<sup>th</sup> and 71<sup>st</sup> – with lots of wonderful, gooey chocolate cake. All of this while creating textures, thunder drums and many Christmas ornaments. Hopefully 2024 will bring a few Kawartha gourders, who have not been back for awhile, out on a Monday. The continuing comradery, friendly joking and helpful suggestions are a regular part of the day.





# INDIVIDUAL SALES & WORKSHOPS



**DOROTHY'S FALL "ARTISANS'  
CHRISTMAS TOUR IN THE  
COUNTRY"**



**JULIE-ANNE'S "BURNT LEAF  
GOURD" SALE**

many hours of prep work involved before the art starts. I find that there is no way I can charge what they are really worth."

**JULIE-ANNE'S "GREAT CREATE"  
WORKSHOP**

"Here are photos of a fun time with the Great Create, where I helped some ladies work on a small gourd pot. We used Alcohol Ink on the exterior and then did a braided rim. This was the first time any of them had worked on a gourd and so were very interested in the project. I have been asked to lead a workshop in 2024 for more people to experience this type of art. The Great Create is held Tuesday mornings in the Art Room at our Leisure Center in Estevan, SK, where everyone brings what they are working on and enjoys fellowship and some time to work on their projects. We have knitters, crocheters, painters, card makers, colourers, rug hookers, pottery just to name a few. It is drop in and everyone is welcome."





## CREATIVE EXPERIMENTATION

*"My name is Daemon and I am new to the community. I have been carving pumpkins in a slightly alternate manner now for 4 consecutive years.*

*Carving pumpkins got me researching ways to increase my work time and that led me to gourd carving.*

*This has been my labour of love for the past 3 yrs. working with small gourds. I took a challenge for myself to find a way to preserve the small pumpkin like gourds and keep the orange color which I have perfected rather well. I get about 60 % success with a handful of them cracking or rotting."*



*Look for two more of Daemon's  
pumpkin carvings in the Member  
Gallery Section!*

Daemon Rowanchilde  
*'Beautiful finished pumpkin project'*



# WORKSHOPS:



## Completed Workshops

Beginner Pyrography



Textured Design on a Gourd



Thunder Drum



## Upcoming Gourd Workshops

Beginner Gourd Art



Laced Rim on Gourd



Asian Inspired Gourd



Filigree Technique



*Beginner gourding classes are taught bi-monthly.*

**For workshop information, dates and times, log onto the ACP website  
([www.acp35.wildapricot.org](http://www.acp35.wildapricot.org)).**

## QUESTION:

### What price should I put on my gourds?

There is no one right answer to this question. Each individual has his/her own system. Some of the thoughts, ideas and questions that the writer got when asking others are:

How badly do you need to sell? *(If you need to sell, price for the market you are selling to.)*

How much time did you take to create it? *(Regardless of the amount of time you spend, unless you are a famed, well-known artist you are not likely to make anything close to what your time is worth.)*

How much did it cost you to make it? *(Price at least what the material cost was. Then add to that cost, an amount you can live with.)*

Do you really want to sell this particular gourd or are you debating if you should keep it? *(Everyone has a personal favourite piece of work. If not really sure you want to sell, price high (...what you would be okay receiving...) and if it doesn't sell, then when you are ready and sure you can give it up, reduce the price.*

Finally, if you are selling in a show with other like gourders, check out their prices. *Don't undersell yourself.* Try to be objective about the quality and excellence of your work, and price it accordingly. In the end it is entirely a personal decision.





## INSTRUCTIONS FOR MAKING A TIGHT-FITTING LID

*By JANET BISSET*

Supplies: Gourd - Cleaned (for this project a cannonball was used that would take a 3 ½" hole saw)  
Hole Saw with a 3 ½ "sawblade  
Piece of Wood (for this project, ¼" thick balsam, 3¾" in diameter with round corners)  
Piece of Cork – 3½" round– ⅛" to ¼" thick, depending on thickness of gourd  
Paint/Stain (your choice)  
Paint (in an accent colour to gourd colour)  
Glue  
Knob/Pull (optional)

1. Using the hole saw, cut a 3 ½ "round where you want the lid of your container to be on the gourd.
2. Clean the gourd, inside and out, until it is smooth. Clean the lid as well.
3. Paint/stain inside, out and lid to your preference.
4. Paint the wood to accent the colour of the gourd.
5. Glue the cork to the underside of the wood round and then glue the gourd lid to the top side of the wood round.
6. Sand the edges of the cork until it fits into the gourd opening with just a light tug but not too tight or loose.
7. Attach a knob or pull to the lid if desired.



- \*\*If using an irregular shaped gourd with a hole that is cut with a jigsaw:**
- Turn gourd upside down; trace the hole edge on a wood piece that is at least ¼ "bigger.
  - Draw a line ¼ "wider than the traced hole edge and cut it out on the wider line. Round the corners.
  - Do the same with the cork but cut it the size of the hole. Round the corners.
  - Follow the above instructions from #2.

## GALLERY



## Sharon Devine



### *"Barn Board Porch Leaner"*

**Anne Carling**



**Lorraine Longpré**



**Sharon Devine**



## Anne Carling



### *"Engraved Gourd Ornaments"*

**Anne Carling**



## Dorothy Hawkins



## Sharron Anstey



**Dorothy Hawkins**  
"Okra Santa"





Sharon Devine



Lois Shaw

"Okra Santa"



Lorraine Longpré



Patti Blackburn



Sharon Devine



Sharon Devine



Sharon Devine



Sharon Devine



Barbara Bellchambers

"Okra Santa"





Anne Carling  
"Okra Santa"



"Painted Wooden Ornaments" Anne Carling



Michelle Adams  
"Okra Santa"



Julie-Anne Wallewin  
"Flowers & background in alcohol  
ink with pine needle coiled rim"



Dorothy Hawkins  
"Mini chain designs"



Dorothy Hawkins



James Miranda



Sharron Anstey  
"Okra Santa"



Patti Blackburn



Patti Blackburn  
"Okra Santa"





Lois Shaw

"Thunder Drum"



Lydia Rousell-Graham

"...my gourd giraffe. It is 20 inches high. I had a good laugh working on it."



Barb Powell



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Daemon Rowanchilde

"Flax, is a homegrown gourd, coloured with Alcohol Ink and the rim is Flax straw from our field. One night during harvest, when I took supper out to the guys, there was a bit of flax along the edge of the field. I cut it off and brought it home. I soaked it in a glycerine solution for a few days to keep the stems supple and used it to coil the rim. It is truly a Saskatchewan gourd."



Sharron Anstey



Sharron Anstey

Hot wax Tree of Life – "Life is a gift! Live each day as if it was your last."



Michelle Adams "Thunder Drum"





Barb Powell



Dorothy Hawkins



Barb Powell



Daemon Rowanchilde



Sharon Devine



Michelle Adams

*"Thunder Drum"*



Julie-Anne Wallewin

*"Dyed with Alcohol Ink"*



Julie-Anne Wallewin



Dorothy Hawkins

*"Ornament"*





**Julie-Anne Wallewin**



*"I created this gourd many years ago and the wood burning was starting to fade and I never really liked the opening. Above is a transformation".*



**Sharon Devine**



**Julie-Anne Wallewin**

*"Dyed with Alcohol Ink and I have embedded gold and pearl beads for a bit of embellishment."*

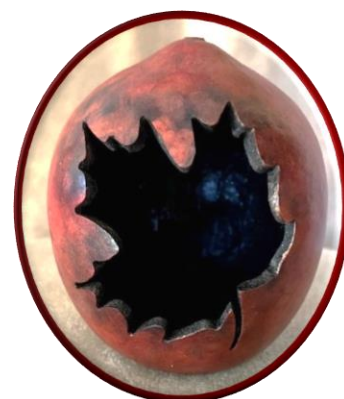


*"Wood burned with Transparent Acrylics (unfinished)"*

**Barb Powell**



**Sharron Anstey**  
"Thunder Drum"  
Canteen Gourd



**Julie-Anne Wallewin**

*"Everyone loves our Maple Leaf."*



*"Wood burned with Acrylic Paint (unfinished)"*

**Barb Powell**

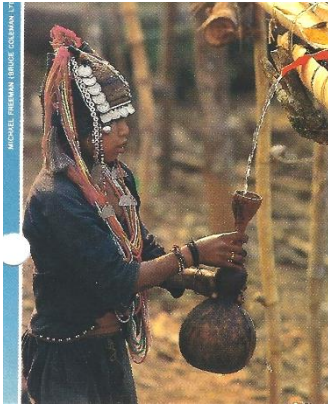


**Sharron Anstey**

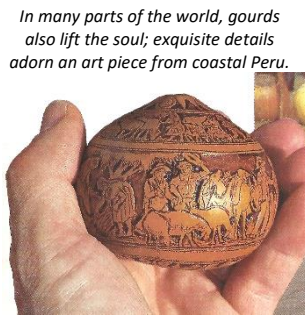
*"Textured Design)"*



# GOURDS AT WORK



Drawing water from an aqueduct in her village, a tribal girl in Thailand fills a vessel from a gourd. Jugs and other containers are made from the versatile fruits in many countries.

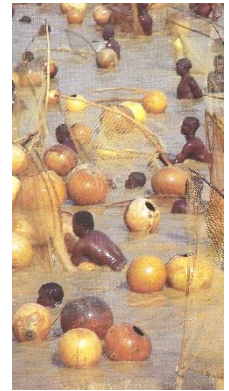


In many parts of the world, gourds also lift the soul; exquisite details adorn an art piece from coastal Peru.

A storyteller in Senegal uses a gourd decorated with cowrie shells to tell the future.



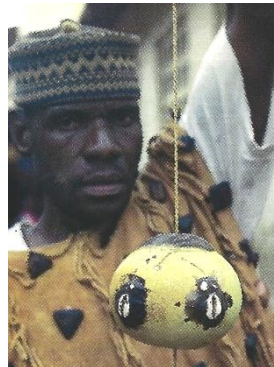
Throughout West Africa, women carry food and other loads to market in gourd "calabashes" balanced on their heads.



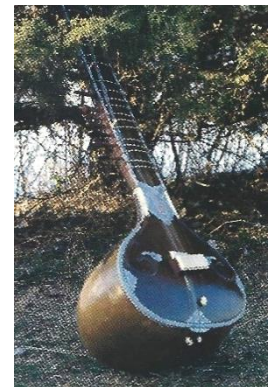
To land Nile perch, fishermen in northwestern Nigeria use gourds to float nets.



The soft, powdery sand in villages along the north coast of Peru offers a perfect locale for wheelbarrows with fat, lightweight gourd wheels.



To fashion calabash pipes, the British have long imported special African gourds.



Craftsmen in south Asia build stringed sitars using gourds as sound resonators.

Gourds like this antique wine or water container from the south of France have been used in Europe for centuries.



In Peru and elsewhere along the Amazon, Indians carve gourds into ceremonial masks. The teeth are made from bone or horn, with feathers completing the decoration.

Source: Conniff, Richard; "How the World Puts Gourds to Work"; International Wildlife Magazine, May – June 1987: Photographs by Raymond Konan

Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Newsletter and to everyone who reads it. Keep sending those photos and any gourd-related experiences for the next newsletter.



**HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND A HEALTHY 2024**

**STAY SAFE!**

**KEEP ON GOURDING!**



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