

And It Fell Off The Back of The Stove...

At least this is what is happening to my quilting. I put it on the back burner but let me tell you it fell off the back end of the stove and is fighting for space with the dust bunnies. I have over the past ten years been involved with a variety of quilt guilds in a variety of positions - everything from president to quilt show convener. I have also managed to get involved with Ontario Quilting Connections. Not only do I work full time, I am also involved in my children's activities as well as the day to day events of life. I really love being involved but I have noticed that it really has affected my quilting.

So as an executive of a guild or just a very busy individual, how can we get back to the art we love - quilting? Over the past few years I have managed to arrange a couple of days of holidays just for me. In order to actually get some quilting done, I have found that I must plan well in advance (something I do well for others) and no matter what, I set aside these personal days just for quilting. During this time I will start, finish or just plan a quilt. I try and get things going that are in different stages of piecing, appliqueing or quilting - if I have a piece that portable I will work on it while waiting for my boys to finish whatever it is they are doing.

Some different ways of spending those hard to find quilt days are:

1. Set up a day with a teacher for a small group to learn something you wish to learn (such as machine quilting)
2. Participate in an all day workshop that a shop or a guild is hosting.
3. Plan to attend a quilting retreat - such as the OQC retreat at Geneva Park.
Spending time with quilters helps our creative juices flow and when you go to a retreat like Geneva Park everything else is done for you.
4. Take a road trip to a major quilt show (this can be a one day event or if it works out well - a brief respite from all responsibilities for a few days)
5. Take a mental health day and stay at home and work on that project you want to.
6. Call a quilting friend, get together and quilt for a day or maybe just an hour.
7. If you only have an hour or so, plan your next project, start pulling your fabrics together and if possible cut out a block so that you can make it on your lunches.

It is extremely easy to say that I do not have time to quilt but it is equally easy to arrange time for myself. Remember you do this for other members of your guild or your family, so do it for yourself.

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