2025 SEPTEMBER

OTTAWA GUILD OF POTTERS

Fired Up!

Monthly Newsletter

Next Meeting: September 9, 2025
Time: 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm
Location: Hintonburg Community Centre
1064 Wellington Street West, Ottawa

President's Message

Happy September! Welcome back!

Hold on to your hats Potters, the upcoming year at the OGP is going to be jam-packed. Wait until you hear the lineup.

I would like to take a moment to introduce our newest OGP executive members. Stephanie Bailey is our new Vice President. Christine Chesser is our new Treasurer. Come and meet these talented ladies at the Tuesday night meeting. Welcome new members.

Summer went by at the speed of light! My son and his family from Australia spent a month with us. It was wonderful. As a result, no pottery for me. I can't remember the last time I've had nails like this. That being said, your OGP Executive did not take the summer off. The Communications committee co-chairs Nancy Riggs and Lisa Butler have worked all summer long on the OGP's new website. We hope to launch soon. Wait till you see it!

Carmen Gervais and her Activities & Programs Committee have a full year of outstanding workshop presenters (Five!!!!!) planned, as well as hands-on events at our OGP general meetings.

We have some great news about our Holiday Sale at Lansdowne Park in December to share.

September General Meeting on Tuesday, September 9th at the Hintonburg Community Centre. The doors open at 6:00 pm. Meeting to start promptly at 6:30. "What I did on my Summer Vacation Pottery Edition" starts at 7:30.

Can't wait to hear what folks learned, from where, and from who this summer. See you Tuesday!

by Liz Fournier

Membership Committee Report

Welcome to the new members who joined in June, July & August.
The total of paid members is now 146.

Mary Janet McKay
Daphna Lewinshtein
Jamie Collins
Shiqing Duan
Ethan Adelaide

by Carol Holmes-Kerr

Activities & Programs

We have an exciting year coming up, with workshops, presentations, hands-on activities, and a clay festival!

We're starting with a big bang this year, with workshops in both September and October. We are also going to be partnering with LOAM Clay Studio to hold many of our workshops. LOAM has fantastic facilities for both wheel and hand-building workshops and we're really excited to be working with them!

UPCOMING MEETING ACTIVITY

September 9: Residencies, Retreats, and Intensive Workshops

Ever wondered if that amazing-looking pottery retreat that popped up in your social media feed is worth it? We've lined up some guild experts who've gone on both local and international experiences, and they're going to share their insights with you! Bring your coffee mug and notebook, this is going to be an engaging chat!

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS

September 20 & 21: Kiefer Floreal, "Throwing Large"

Kiefer Floreal is returning by popular demand. This will be a refresher course for some previous participants – many have already signed up – and a great one-day experience for anyone interested in learning new techniques to centre and pull large amounts of clay.

Kiefer is an inspirational and talented Canadian potter who may be familiar from his participation in the Great Canadian Pottery Throw Down, where he made it to the finals! Kiefer is known for his love of spending time with people and talking pottery. He has the impressive ability to work intensely while carrying on a conversation, and he provides a really fun experience for participants.

- One-day workshop, however you can sign up for both days if there are openings
- Fee: $225/day
- Maximum of 10 participants per day
- Registration is open to members of the Ottawa Guild of Potters as well as LOAM Clay Studio members.

There are still a few spots open, and here's how you can sign up:

- To register, send an email to activity@ottawaguildofpotters.ca indicating your interest.
- If there are still openings, you will be asked to e-transfer the fee, after which your registration will be complete.
- Instructions on how to prepare for the workshop will be sent to all registered participants when we get closer to the date.

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Activities & Programs *(....continued)*

October 18 & 19: Chandler Swain "Figurative Clay and Sgraffito"
(Registration not yet open, however, it will be announced on the GuildForum when it's launched.)

Join noted ceramic and visual artist Chandler Swain for an exciting workshop in both figurative clay work and sgraffito, a dynamic surface decoration practice in which the artist "scratches away" slip to reveal the contrasting clay body beneath.

This will be a hands-on workshop, focusing primarily on issues, techniques, and ideas for sculptural work on the first day and on sgraffito approaches for surface decoration on the second day.

This is an opportunity to extend your creative practice, wherever you're starting from. While this will be a hand-building workshop, people who are primarily wheel users will find inspiration for 3-dimensional surface decoration.

Participants will leave with new ideas and approaches for making three-dimensional figures and for practicing the visual opportunities of monochromic carving.

See Chandler's website for examples of her work: www.chandlerswain.ca

- Two-day workshop
- Maximum 10 participants
- Cost is $325 per person
- Open to all skill/experience levels
- This is a hand-building workshop, and we will not be using wheels
- Firing is not included; however, participants can bring home what they make
- Registration: information on how to register will be coming shortly

I'm very interested in your ongoing feedback and ideas – you can reach me at activity@ottawaguildofpotters.ca.

by Carmen Gervais

Exhibitions Committee

Thank you to everyone who submitted to the Celebrating Clay Spotlight Exhibition! We're excited to announce October's exhibition will be Echoes of Blossoms, work by Wendy He. Stay tuned to see the exhibition open on October 1st

The next Pot Talk will be held as the activity during October's Membership meeting. Pot Talks are an opportunity to share your work or projects and receive constructive feedback from peers. If you have work you'd like to show, please email exhibitions@ottawaguildofpotters.ca, and we'll make sure to reserve you time to speak.

by Joanna Richardson

Follow us on social media: **Instagram @ottawapotters**
Facebook @ottawaguildofpotters

Welcome September!
Now that summer is drawing to a close, the Comms team will be ramping up our social media communications to keep you informed of upcoming meetings, workshops, and events.

We didn't take the summer off
While we were quiet on our socials over the summer, we were hard at work. With the hiring of a new Web Master, Bernadette Lapierre, we were working flat out on a new website for our Guild. We worked with Committee Chairs and every piece of content was evaluated, considered and edited. The structure of the website was revised, with consideration to purpose and responsiveness. There are some exciting new changes, and we hope to be able to reveal them to all of you shortly!

Nancy Riggs, Lisa Butler

Sale Committee

Hello Potters, I hope you have had a restful and creative summer.

I would like to welcome our newest Sale Committee member, Sue-Ann Blakely. She is a returning member to the Sale Committee. Sue-Ann was the Sale Chair a few years back and brings with her a deep knowledge of all aspects of running the Sale.

Amazing news from Lansdowne Park. Renovations on the Aberdeen Pavillion have been delayed yet again. That is good news for us at the moment. It means the OGP Holiday Sale 2025 at the Horticulture Building will run as it has in the past Friday to Sunday, December 12 to 14, 2025. I have requested extended hours on Saturday evening December 13th until 8 pm on our booking request. Many Sale participants thought it was a good idea to extend the Saturday evening hours to capitalize on the extra foot traffic that the Lansdowne Christmas Night Market provides.

The Holiday Sale online application will be out in October. I will send out a Guild Forum message when the application is ready.

by Liz Fournier