

Embroiderers' Association
of Canada, Inc.
("EAC")



Member's
Handbook

Dear EAC Member

We are pleased to present the Member's Handbook which describes the services available to you as a member of EAC. Please keep it on hand for reference.

EAC Board of Directors

EAC Mission Statement

To preserve the traditional techniques and promote new challenges in the art of embroidery through education and networking.

EAC Purpose

All members should endeavour to fulfill the following purpose: To encourage and promote the practice and knowledge of the art of embroidery in all its forms; to have a fellowship of persons who enjoy needlework and wish to learn and share their knowledge; and thereby to work towards maintaining higher standards of design, colour and workmanship.

EAC History

The idea for a national Embroiderers' Association began with a small group of dedicated embroiderers who met in Winnipeg, in the studio of Leonida Leatherdale. Letters were sent to needlework groups and guilds across Canada. The first formal organizational meeting was held September 27, 1973. With the aid of competent legal advice, bylaws were drafted and approved by the federal government and in November of 1974, the *Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Incorporated* officially came into existence. Head office was in Winnipeg, Manitoba – the geographic centre of Canada – where, it was felt, EAC would grow to the east and to the west.

The first EAC chapter was the Winnipeg Embroiderers Guild, who sponsored the first two Seminars with participants from across Canada and the United States. Annual Seminars were held at various Canadian locales thereafter and EAC began to gain members and chapters. Currently, EAC has 47 chapters in Canada and Bermuda and more than 2,000 members in Canada and around the world.

EAC is an active member of the International Council of Needlework Associations.

EAC Board

The *Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Inc.* is administered by a Board of Directors elected by EAC members. Each officer and director has one vote at EAC Board Meetings. The Board of Directors may appoint other persons to attend Board Meetings as advisors, who have no vote. Chapter Presidents or representatives are invited to attend the EAC Board Meeting preceding Seminar as observers without voice or vote. The Board of Directors also holds a semi-annual meeting in the fall. Special Board Meetings may be held with due notice to all Board Members.

The EAC Board works to develop and maintain services for members. Feel free to contact them at any time with your ideas and concerns. A complete listing is provided in every issue of *Embroidery Canada* and on the EAC website.

A Nominating Committee is appointed to nominate members to serve on the Board of Directors. The Board invites all EAC members to consider filling a two-year term. Contact the Past President/ Nominating Committee Chair for more information.

EAC Membership

Membership in the *Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Inc.* commences upon the receipt of fees by the EAC Membership Director. Yearly membership may commence on August 1st, November 1st, February 1st or May 1st.

Renewals must be received before these dates each year. Members may use all EAC services for the duration of their membership. To assure continuous receipt of *Embroidery Canada*, memberships must be renewed before the expiry date.

All Chapter Members must pay EAC fees as well as chapter fees. EAC fees collected by chapters must be forwarded to the EAC Membership Director promptly so they may be recorded before the next EAC renewal date. An EAC member pays EAC fees only once per year, but may belong to more than one chapter as a Dual Member by paying each chapter's fees.

Members may join EAC without the benefits of belonging to a chapter. They are recorded as Atlantic Central or Prairie Pacific National members and have access to all EAC services.

Please forward any address changes to the Membership Director as soon as possible in order to keep the mailing list up to date.

Youth Embroiderers

The purpose of *Youth Embroiderers* is to foster an interest and develop skills in the art of embroidery among the youth of Canada. Youth embroiderers' membership was established in 1991 for youth aged 9 to 17 years. Youth may join EAC as an individual National member or as a chapter member. Annual dues for youth embroiderers are \$15 per year payable to the EAC Youth Director. International youth embroiderer memberships are also available, as well as adult subscriptions to the newsletter "Youth Embroiderers' News."

The Youth Embroiderers' Director coordinates this program, edits the newsletter, prepares a page for each issue of *Embroidery Canada*, provides information for those wishing to form Youth Embroiderers' groups, is a resource for current groups, administers the Eleanor Thomas Youth Bursary and is the registrar for the Youth Embroiderer Group correspondence courses.

Members receive a membership card, members' folder, quarterly Newsletters, the opportunity to apply for the Eleanor Thomas Youth Bursary, to participate in the EAC Members' Exhibition held at the annual Seminar and take correspondence courses developed especially for youth.

Youth Embroiderers' Chapters may be formed under the sponsorship of an EAC chapter that would act as a guide and resource for the youth embroiderers.

Forming a Chapter

Ten or more people interested in forming an embroiderers' group may consider becoming an EAC Chapter. For guidelines on how to form a chapter, an application form for Chapter Membership and further information, contact the EAC Vice President.

EAC will provide a resource person to contact groups wishing to charter a chapter. Funds are available to assist with organizational costs. EAC has a set of promotional slides which show what EAC is and does. Each Chapter President also receives a Chapter President's Resource Manual which is filled with information about EAC along with projects and program ideas.

Chapters near you may provide opportunities for workshops, lectures and exhibits. Consult the chapter listing in *Embroidery Canada*.

Regional meetings are held for Chapter Presidents annually where chapters exchange information and ideas. EAC may assist Chapter Presidents to attend this meeting. The Regional Representative on the EAC Board is elected within each region.

Leonida Leatherdale Needle Arts Library

The purpose of the Leonida Leatherdale Needle Arts Library is to provide and maintain a collection of printed and audio-visual resource materials which will support the general membership of the organization in furthering their personal growth in many fields of embroidery.

Resource materials are continually being gathered and catalogued for the use of members. Reference books, slides and videos on various techniques of stitchery, exhibits, private collections, members' work, as well as teaching videos are available.

Donations of books, slides or videos are welcome. Members and Chapters are encouraged to submit slides and videos with commentaries, which would be of interest to the general membership. If you are aware of slides or videos on embroidery that you believe EAC would be interested in obtaining, please advise the Librarian, so they may be considered for the collection.

Current library lists are available from the Chapter President's Resource Manual and from the EAC Librarian. Books and audio-visual materials may be borrowed by members for one month or chapters may borrow up to 20 books for a two-month period. Postage one way will be paid by EAC.

Study Binders

The expertise of some EAC members is shared through the use of study binders found in the Leonida Leatherdale Needle Arts Library. These binders are an asset to the EAC correspondence courses. The binders are comprehensive studies of special aspects of embroidery. They explore the history, the fibres and fabrics used and the stitches with variations.

Embroidery Canada

Embroidery Canada is the magazine published by the Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Inc. four times a year. It is available to all members during the term of their membership. Members are invited to submit original embroidery-related articles to the Editor. An honorarium is provided for published articles of over 750 words. Photos of chapter activities and individual embroidery works may also be published.

Notify the Membership Director, who prepares the mailing list, of any address changes or non-receipt of issues.

Advertisements are welcome for individual issues and there is a discount for four consecutive issues. Advertising rates are published in each issue. For further information, please contact the Advertising Manager.

EAC Heritage Collection

The EAC Heritage Collection was established to ensure that artifacts, textiles and other items related to embroidery, of historic or contemporary value to EAC, are accessioned, stored and maintained in accordance with the highest standards. These items may be used as a resource for education, research and/or exhibit.

Loans of articles from the Heritage Collection may be made to EAC Chapters and members upon request and at the discretion of the Heritage Collection Committee. A slide presentation of items in the collection is available from the Leonida Leatherdale Needle Arts Library.

Donations of articles to the EAC Heritage Collection become the unconditional property of EAC. All known history of the gift, including previous ownership, when and where purchased, inherited or stitched, techniques used, threads and fabrics, artist and personal history and any other pertinent information available should accompany the donation. Monetary donations to EAC may also be allocated to the Heritage Collection.

Correspondence Courses

Correspondence courses are offered in a variety of techniques at basic, intermediate and advanced levels. These courses are in-depth studies involving stitching, diagramming, researching history of techniques, design and colour. They are composed of six to eight lessons to be completed over a period of 12 to 15 months with each lesson taking 25-35 hours to complete. Students work independently on one lesson at a time with an EAC Counsellor assisting by critiquing each lesson. A certificate and pin are awarded upon the completion of the course. A Teacher Certificate Course is available with three years for completion. Students must meet stated prerequisites to enroll for this course.

Correspondence courses are also offered in a variety of techniques for specific projects. Each course is made up of six lessons on one project requiring approximately 35 hours to be completed in a 12-week period. These courses may be taken by one or more stitchers who may encourage and assist one another to learn the techniques. The project is critiqued and a certificate is awarded upon completion.

For information about the courses offered, check the EAC website, issues of *Embroidery Canada* or request information from the Registrar.

Annual Seminar

EAC sponsors an annual Seminar for its members. This is an opportunity to learn from nationally and internationally recognized embroidery instructors, meet other members, attend the Annual General Meeting and view the EAC Members' Exhibition. Each year, this Seminar is held in a different area of Canada. Seminar brochures are published in the August/September issue of *Embroidery Canada*. Further information is available on the EAC website or from the Seminar Liaison.

