



## A Mittenful of News

February, 2012

### Are you ready for National Sweater Day on Thursday, February 9?

World Wildlife Fund calls on Canadians to turn down the heat (by 3 degrees C) and show how simple changes in behaviour can have a positive impact on our planet.

[www.sweaterday.ca](http://www.sweaterday.ca)

**SO KNITTERS ...WEAR A SWEATER AND MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

### February 16 is our 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary!!!

- To show our appreciation, we'll be doubling your "Mitten Money" (loyalty points) from Thursday, Feb. 16 to Saturday, Feb. 18.
- Spend \$20 or more and get a free Little Red Mitten needle gauge. The gauge includes 1.5 - 19.0 mm sizes with a 5 inch/12.5 cm ruler – a wonderful tool!
- Spend \$10 or more and get one of Joan's Little Red Mitten patterns - free!

### Winter Sale!

Since variety is the spice of life, we've put several items on clearance to make room for some exciting new yarns. We hope you'll enjoy these discounts:

**40% OFF** - Diamond Luxury Superwash Aran (100% Fine Merino)

**40% OFF** - Sirdar Balmoral DK (Alpaca & Silk)

**40% OFF** - Lido 100% cotton (sportweight /DK)

**40% OFF** - Zara Extrafine Merino (Filatura di Crosa) in both DK and Aran weights

**40% OFF** - Louisa Harding Merletto and Fauve

**40% OFF** - Diamond Fine Merino Superwash Boucle

**40% OFF** - Viking Sportsragg DK Superwash (100% wool)

**50% OFF** - La Lana del Deserto ...with real Camel (a sportweight yarn)

**50% OFF** - Chan Chan (super bulky, 96% wool with a cotton binder)

**50% OFF** - Clover and Bryspun Circulars, and Pony Pearl Straight Needles

**\* \* \* I was a nice girl before I started all this knitting. \* \* \***

### In the Shop:

- Check out our new in-store TV screen / monitor which will let you know about classes, sales, groups and other 'happenings' at the shop.
- A new supply of Zippy Pins has arrived with lots of new and silly sayings! Pin one on and put a smile on someone's face!
- **Just in!!!** - The brand new Addi Lace Clicks Interchangeable Circulars. This new design comes with standard length tips and 24, 32 and 40-inch cables – all in a fun and fabulous pink case!

- Have you seen our new Cloud Cotton aran weight by Estelle? It's perfect for a quick baby knit!
- There's a bright new supply of Frillseeker for more ruffly fun!
- Remember ...if you can't make it to the shop, we are always happy to mail out exactly what you need. Just call the shop at 519-207-2880.

**\* \* \* Don't blame me. The sock monkey did it! \* \* \***

**Our Sit and Knit Groups** meet on Wednesday afternoons, between 1:00 and 5:00 pm, and Friday evenings, after 6:00 pm, for conversation, camaraderie ...and of course, some inspiring knitting time. Come on out - we'd love to see you!

Our next **Spinning Circle** will be held Sat., Mar. 1, from 1:30 to 4 pm. Please call to register ...but remember that drop-ins are always welcome!

**\* \* \* A bad day knitting is better than a good day at work! \* \* \***

For more news and views, visit our blog at [littleredmitten.blogspot.com](http://littleredmitten.blogspot.com).

## Upcoming Classes - February & March 2012

Please note that our classes are held upstairs.  
Ongoing Classes: February Lady Sweater and Socks

### **Crocheted Block of the Month Club** with Sharon Durston

*Thursdays, from 6:30 to 8:30 pm - February 23, March 22, April 26 and May 24*

After the huge success of our learn to crochet class, we are embarking on an advanced class. Learn cables, raised, textured and fancy stitches and create a crocheted sampler afghan one block at a time. Sign up and work your way through a wonderful finished product that will WOW your family and friends! Classes will be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month. Yarn must be purchased at Little Red Mitten and wound into balls, if necessary, prior to the first class.

*Pre-requisite: knowledge of single, double and half double crochet stitches, increasing and decreasing. Cost: \$60 for all 4 classes or \$20 per 2-hour class.*

### **Learn to Weave on a Rigid Heddle Loom** with Linda Elkins

*Saturdays, Feb. 18 and 25 - 1:00 to 4:00 pm*

In this 6-hour class, learn basic weaving terms, how to set up your loom, and weave a scarf. We will discuss various yarns, finishing, embellishment techniques and how to apply them to a wide range of projects. (Some rigid heddle looms will be available to rent.) Cost: \$60

### **Knitting Basics**

*Thursdays, March 1, 8 and 15 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm*

This 6-hour class is for absolute beginners or returning knitters who want to learn or review how to knit, purl, cast on and cast off. As time allows, we will discuss how to fix simple mistakes, recognize incorrect stitch mount, know which way to go when picking

up your knitting, create different fabrics using knit and purl ...and more. There will be several choices of projects that you may work on over the three weeks but those supplies will be extra.

Your cost of \$45.00 includes three classes, needles, yarn and handouts.

### **Fixing Mistakes ...and Other Tips and Tricks**

*Saturday, March 3 from 10:00 to noon*

Learn to read your knitting, recognize mistakes, try several time-saving fixes and practise an ounce of prevention. Please bring worsted weight yarn, 4.50 or 5.00 mm needles, a 4.50 mm or 5.00 mm crochet hook and a darning needle. Please pick up your homework assignment when you pay for the class. Cost: \$25

### **Sock-in-a-Day**

*Monday, March 5 from 10:00 to 12:00 and 1:00 to 4:00 pm*

Here's a fun opportunity for a quick, one-day sock class. We'll work from the cuff to the toes on a mini-sock and learn a circular join, knitting on 5 dpns, the heel flap, heel turn, picking up sts, gusset decreases, toe decreases and Kitchener stitch /grafting. We'll be using worsted weight wool and 3.25 or 3.5 mm needles. If you'd also like to get started on a "real" sock, you'll need a set of five 2.0 to 2.5 mm double pointed needles.

This 5 hour class will put you on the road to some wonderful summer knitting projects.

Cost: \$35 (Sock Science pattern included)

### **Felt Clogs**

*Saturday, March 10, from 9:30 am to 12:30 pm*

This 3-hour class will guide you through the popular Fiber Trends Felt Clogs pattern.

We'll discuss the felting process which turns your huge floppy creations into comfy-cozy, long-lasting footwear. But be careful - everyone will be asking you to make them a pair!!! ...and they make great gifts! Cost:\$15

### **Basics and Beyond**

*Saturdays, March 10, 17 and 24 from 1:30 to 3:30 pm*

Pre-requisite: must be comfortable with knit and purl.

This six-hour class will include a brief review of knit and purl, several cast on methods, casting off in pattern, adding new yarn, weaving in ends, several increases and decreases, understanding simple lace and cables, fixing mistakes, stitch mount, understanding knit fabrics, discussion of fibres, tension, pattern reading, using double points and circulars, seaming, I-cord ...and more as time allows.

Your cost of \$45.00 includes 3 two-hour classes, yarn, knitting needles, and handouts.

### **Knit a Top-Down Shawl from the Talbot Shawl Series**

*Wednesday, March 14 from 10:00 to noon*

Here's your chance to start one of Joan's Talbot Series shawls with some useful tips and tricks. Learn the tab cast on technique, understand 4 variations of yarn overs and how they work to shape your shawl, use your markers efficiently, practice a picot cast off, a k2tog cast off and a p2tog cast off, create a ruffle, and keep track using the row count sheets. Please bring extra yarn and needles to practice the cast offs.

Cost:\$24 (now including the 3-pattern series)

**Baby Surprise Jacket**

*Saturdays, March 17 and 24 from 10:00 am to noon*

This adorable baby sweater is done in garter stitch and was designed by Elizabeth Zimmermann in 1968. The updated 12-page pattern offers child and adult sizing, a collar and a hood. If you'd like to work through this project with some guidance and helpful tips and ideas, join us for this two week class. Cost: \$20 + pattern @ \$12 = \$32

**An Introduction to Ravelry**

*Mon., March 19 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm*

Ravelry is like "Facebook" for knitters and crocheters. With well over a million members, there's inspiration and information galore! We'll help you become a member, if you aren't already, and learn to make the best use of your time. Find that elusive pattern you've been looking for, get the stats on your favourite new yarn, and start keeping track of all your projects. You'll wonder how you survived without it!

Cost: \$5.00

**Baby Sweater on Two Needles (aka The February Baby Sweater)**

*Thursdays, March 29 and April 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm*

This adorable baby sweater was designed by Elizabeth Zimmermann, and is one of the fabulous projects in the book, Knitter's Almanac. It is worked top-down in garter stitch with an easy and beautiful lace pattern for the body and sleeves. You must bring or purchase a copy of Knitter's Almanac (\$11.95) in order to receive Joan's pattern notes for the class. Cost: \$20

**Introduction to Lace**

*Saturday, March 31 from 10:00 am to noon **and** 1:00 to 3:00 pm*

Pre-requisite: must be very comfortable with knitting and purling.

In this 4-hour class, we will practise a variety of yarn overs and decreases, learn to read "knitter's code" and charts, and experiment with lifelines, reading your knitting and fixing mistakes. You might choose to start one of Joan's Talbot Series Shawls in a fingering / sock weight yarn, start another pattern of your choice, or work on a doll-sized shawl in a heavier yarn to discover the geometry of shawl construction. We'll also learn about fibres, tools and blocking. Be part of the lace knitting craze! Cost: \$30

Individual Knitting Instruction: \$20 per hour

Call Little Red Mitten (519-207-2880) to discuss this with Joan and reserve your time.

Individual Spinning or Weaving Instruction: \$25 per hour

Instruction could be for a rigid heddle, a 4-harness, an inkle loom, a spindle or a wheel.

Call Little Red Mitten (519-207-2880) to discuss this and arrange a time.

**Class Policies:**

Please phone or visit the store to reserve your space. Class sizes are limited. Minimum class size may apply. Payment at time of booking is requested. If you cancel prior to the start of the class, we will issue a store credit. Yarn must be purchased at Little Red Mitten for posted class costs to apply. An additional fee of \$10 per class will apply if you purchased your yarn elsewhere.

Little Red Mitten  
86 Talbot Street (across from Jumbo)  
St. Thomas, Ontario N5P 1A5  
blog: littleredmitten.blogspot.com

519-207-2880  
email: info@littleredmitten.ca  
website: www.littleredmitten.ca