

PROFILE by Leslie Marquis



PRINCE EDWARD ISLAND BLOCK

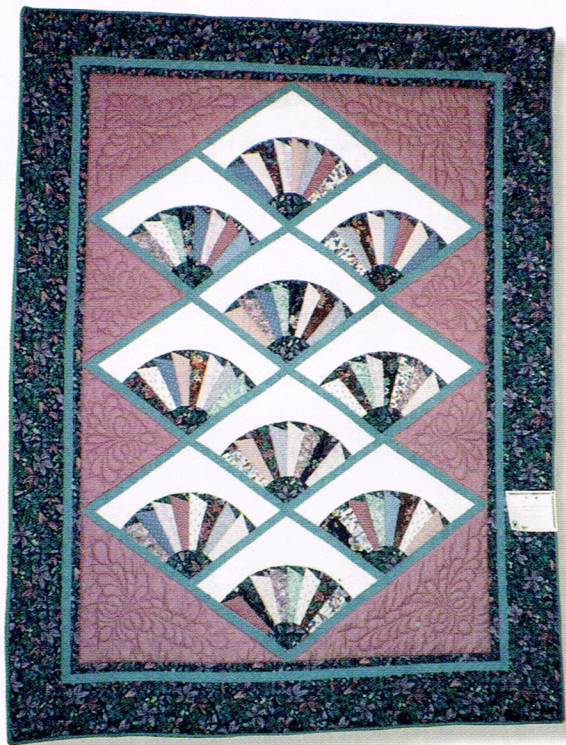
# Margaret Poirier Gaudet

Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island

Margaret, who considers herself a very traditional quilter, is an adept needlewoman. Having learned to knit and sew at the age of five, it wasn't long before she was turning out all her own clothing, as well as formal ball gowns for graduations and bridal parties. Margaret had played with the idea of quilt making as a young mother with two small children, but had resorted instead to knitted and crocheted wraps and afghans.

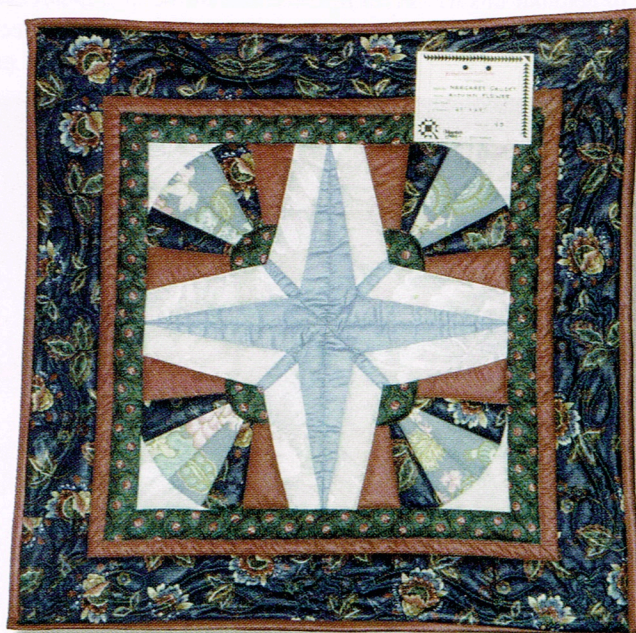
Having spent a lifetime in turning out both career and casual clothing, she was already a compulsive fabric stasher when the grand prize quilt in a local exhibition called out to her. The quilt was 'Country Bride', made by no other than Master Quilter Lorna Wheatly. From that quilt on, there was no turning back. Margaret makes quilts just for the sheer pleasure of cutting up fabric and sewing it together again. She is a strong believer in supporting your local quilt shop—which is a legitimate reason for an ever-growing fabric collection. Although her favorite technique is hand appliqué, she finds as much enjoyment in the many pieced quilts and wall hangings created on her favorite machine, the Featherweight 221.

Margaret does all her hand quilting with the use of a large floor stand oval hoop. Because there are never enough hours in any

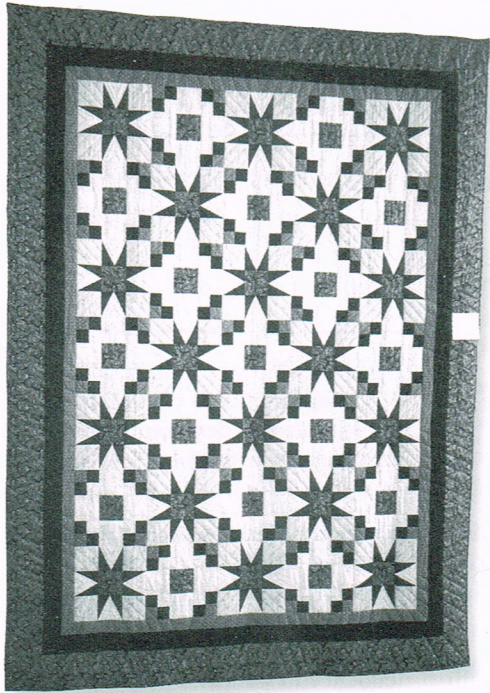


VICTORIAN FAN

STARFLOWER





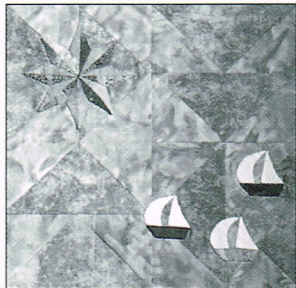


WINTER ON PEI

quilters day, she occasionally gets help with some of the quilting.

Since taking up quilting ten years ago, Margaret has been instrumental in helping to organize the KINDRED SPIRITS QUILT GUILD, the first quilt guild on PEI. She has served on the executive in various capacities including treasurer, president and membership chairperson. Margaret also belongs to *Quilt Talk*, a mini group of quilting friends who meet monthly for the enjoyment of each other's company and to indulge in their so-called addiction.

When time permits, Margaret likes nothing better than meeting with other quilters for the latest version of quilt talk and inspiration. She has also been successful in developing and teaching various workshops to quilting groups throughout PEI. Going back to school on a full time basis and embarking on a career change four years ago, although enjoyable, has left Margaret with little precious time to pursue this activity for the time being. She does, however, look forward to the day when commitments are not so hectic.



We present the ninth block in our series of Millennium Blocks.

## Island Breezes

by Margaret Poirier Gaudet

I have named my block "Island Breezes". The background of the block is a pieced variation of the oddfellows block, which is made up of flying geese units. I have constructed the block background using only two fabrics of tone on tone, softly muted light to medium blues with low contrast. This is meant to represent the sea and sky as it completely surrounds Prince Edward Island.

I have appliquéd three small sailboats one for each county of PEI. On a warm summer evening with a gentle breeze these little boats are a familiar sight along the bays and inlets off the coast of PEI, for many it is a peaceful reprieve from a day spent in the much faster lane (even on PEI it can get pretty hectic). Many an avid sailor has sailed around PEI in just a few days.

The star appliquéd on the top left of the block shines bright and is forever a guiding light for my two children who make their homes in Western Canada. May it also be a beacon for anyone else who has ever been away from the island whether by choice or otherwise and has longed for the small province which we so dearly call home.

### Method:

#### Background

Construct the background block first, which should measure 12½ inches when finished. Cut 8 "B" patches 3½" x 6½" of fabric # 1, and 16 "A" patches 3½" x 3½" of fabric # 2. (Your choice as to which # you assign to your fabric.) The block uses

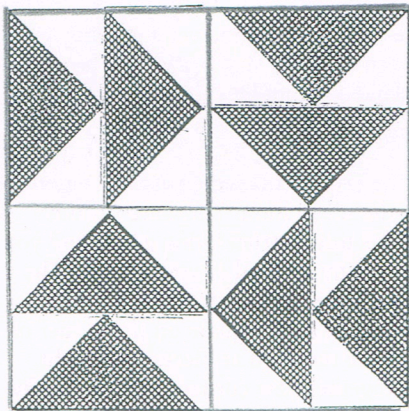
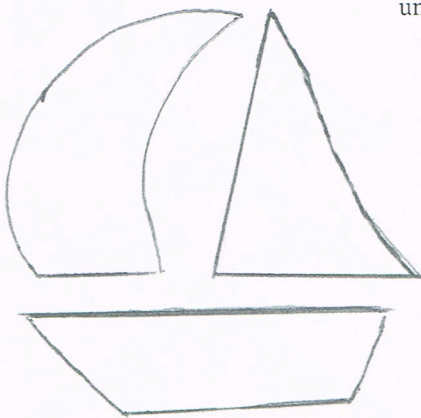
8 flying geese units which are set together as in the illustration. There are various methods to construct flying geese, and you may use any method of your choice. The method I used to construct each unit was to place one small square on the corner of one of the rectangular pieces with right sides together, sew corner to corner on the



3½" patch, trim seam and press, repeat for the other side of the unit. Sew units together in sets of 2, each set should now measure 6½" square. Referring to diagram, sew 4 squares together to form a background block which should measure 12½" square.

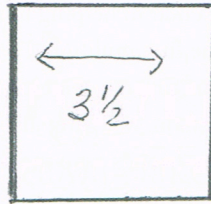
**Sailboats**

The small sailboats were appliquéd using the freezer paper method. Cut a freezer paper pattern for each of the shapes. (To make sure all the boats are going in the right direction, don't forget to reverse the pattern when cutting the shapes.) I sewed scraps of white for the sails and colourful scraps for the boats. Fuse the freezer paper template to the wrong side of fabric and cut out leaving a scant ¼ inch margin around each shape, for ease and speed in appliqué I baste under all seam allowances before applying to background block. Determine where each sailboat will be placed on the block,



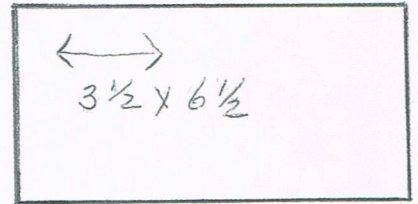
Background pattern.

"A"



Background blocks.

"B"



pin securely in place and appliquéd in place using thread matching to the piece which you are appliquéeing.

**Star**

The star is constructed of 8 points, with each point split in two sections. Choose 2 appropriate star fabrics. Cut a 1 inch x 24 inch strip from each fabric, with right sides facing, sew the two strips together, using ¼ inch seam exactly in the centre. Leave sufficient space between points, cut out leaving a ¼ inch margin around each patch. Finger press and baste the seam allowances under.

Using the English Paper piecing method, stitch the points together in units of two. (With right sides

together, whip stitch along one side—beginning at outside edge sewing towards centre.) Sew four points together in like manner. Sew two units of four to complete the star.

Appliqué the star in place using matching thread. I find that by appliquéeing each point separately and working on opposite points, the star stays relatively flat and doesn't have a tendency to wander.

At this time I would like to extend a thank you to the Canadian Quilters' Association for allowing me to participate in this project. May the New Millennium bring happiness and lots of extra quilting time to each and every one of you.

Boat and Star are actual size.

