



THE RUG HOOKING GUILD OF NOVA SCOTIA

Presents

2026 RUG SCHOOL

May 3 – May 8, 2026

Mount Saint Vincent University, Halifax, NS

Registration online only.

Course preference selection begins

Saturday, January 10, 2026 at 12:30 pm AST

The initial assignment of students to courses will be held before the end of January. Any courses not filled will remain available for selection on a 1st come 1st serve basis.

All payments are in Canadian dollars.

Details on website - www.rhgns.com

Cancellations: A \$50 administration fee will be charged March 1 - 29. No refunds will be given after March 29, 2026.

Rug school reserves the right to cancel classes due to insufficient enrollment.

Tuition: \$350.00; On Your Own: \$225; Room and Board: \$475.00 (includes Sunday dinner and Friday lunch); Meals available for off-campus students at the cafeteria rate.

Please provide the following information at the time of payment, if applicable.

1. Do you require assistance due to mobility issues?
2. Do you have special dietary needs?
3. If you wish to room with a specific student/s, specify the name of the student/s.
4. Is this your first time attending RHGNS rug school?

All those attending RHGNS Rug School in May must follow all the applicable Province of Nova Scotia and Mount St. Vincent health protocols, if any.

For additional information or questions, please contact the following Rug School committee members:

Rug School Chair Linda Alderdice 902-499-5357

lalderdice7@gmail.com

Registrar Debbie Smith 902-766-4494

rhgns.registrar@gmail.com

Rug Display Kathryn Hanson

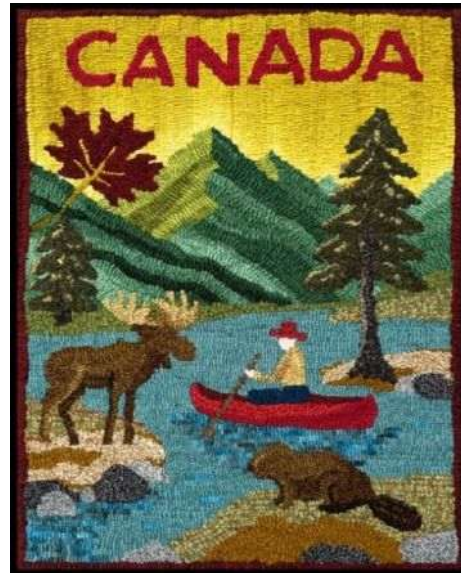
vice-president@rhgns.com

THE COURSES

Hooked on Canadiana

Instructor: Dawn Liu-Smyth, Ontario

Skill Level: Novice to Advanced



Let's celebrate Canada! Join Dawn Liu-Smyth for an immersive rug hooking workshop week celebrating the rich cultural tapestry of Canada. In *Hooked on Canadiana*, students can either work on an existing Canadiana pattern or design their own original rug inspired by iconic Canadian landscapes, wildlife, history, motifs, and folk traditions. Whether you're drawn to the rugged coastlines of the Maritimes, the vast prairies, northern wilderness, or vibrant urban scenes, this workshop will guide you as you turn your vision into a stunning hooked rug.

Suitable for both novice and experienced hookers, participants will explore design principles, colour planning, and technique development. Students will receive personalized instruction in transferring their concepts onto foundation cloth, colour planning, choosing and cutting wool, and mastering hooking techniques. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) will also be introduced and explored as a design tool.

The week will provide a supportive environment for students to push their creative boundaries and connect with others who share a passion for Canadian heritage and fibre art. By the end of the week, each student will leave with a strong start on a meaningful project and the tools to complete it confidently.

**** The instructor will provide students with a list of existing Canadiana patterns and where to purchase them. For students who wish to design their own rugs, the instructor will offer pre-workshop consultations. For those wanting to incorporate artificial intelligence into their design process, the instructor will schedule a bonus zoom workshop session approximately 4 weeks prior to the school.*



Pick Your Project

Guided Creativity with Oxford Punch Needle

Instructor: Robin Whitford, Ontario

Skill Level: Ideal for beginners seeking a fun, welcoming start and for experienced punchers ready to refresh their skills and grow creatively.



Explore your punch needle journey with personalized guidance from Robin. Bring your own project or have a custom kit prepared in advance. Whether you're new to the Oxford Punch Needle or building on your experience, you'll refine your technique, gain confidence, and discover how colour, texture, and design create original work.

Through hands-on work and short creative exercises, you'll explore colour theory, value, and composition in playful, inspiring ways. Leave class feeling supported, energized, and ready to keep creating.

You'll Learn:

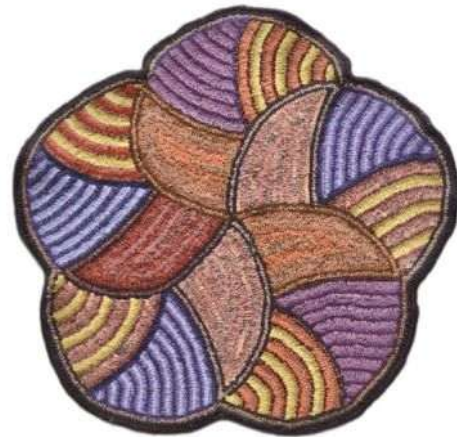
- Personalized project coaching
- Oxford Punch Needle fundamentals and success tips
- How value guides effective colour planning
- Creative exercises to expand artistic vision

Robin will help you select your project or kit before class to ensure a relaxed, creative week.

Beautifully Simple, Playing with Geometrics

Instructor: Tatiana Knodel, Ontario

Skill Level: Beginner to Advanced



This workshop is for those interested in adding a geometric design rug to their collection.

Students will use a mixture of solid and textured wool. Squares 4.5" x 4.5" will be used to design the rug. The students will choose the size of the project and will learn how the direction of hooking and alternating the textured wool with solid wool will change the design of the rug. The size of the wool strips should be #6-cut to achieve the desired look. For those who like the circle shape, the rug can be done as shown in the photo. .

The students can use their own backing and wool. Tatiana will work with students before class on the colour scheme.

As Time Goes By

(Monochromatic with a Striking Twist)

Instructor: Jane Steele, Nova Scotia

Skill Level: Beginner to Advanced



Inspired by the charm and depth of vintage black-and-white photography, *As Time Goes By* focuses on monochromatic rug hooking with a striking twist—an intentional pop of colour to highlight the focal point and bring your piece to life. This colour accent can be anything from an object to the sky or any element you wish to emphasize, creating a captivating and modern contrast.

Participants can choose from approximately 30 pre-designed patterns (25" x 13", \$70 each), or bring their own ideas for a custom-drawn design.

Full kits are available upon request, and the class includes access to a wide selection of wools, fibres, and specialty materials.

Throughout the course, students will learn a range of advanced techniques such as sculpting, chain stitch, bead stitch, reverse hooking, combining cut sizes, and blending wool with other fibres. These methods offer exciting ways to add depth and texture to your work.

Suitable for all skill levels, this workshop is both creatively rewarding and thoroughly enjoyable, offering participants a meaningful project to complete and take home.

Fine Shading (6 values)

Instructor: Shirley Joyce, Nova Scotia

Skill Level: Beginner, Advanced Beginner, and Intermediate



Students will have the choice of two patterns, each with the same flowers but different styles.

In this class you will learn the basics of how to use 6 values of colour for flowers and 3 values for the vase. The leaves will be done using a William Morris style and mock shading. The pussy willows in these two designs are so much fun to hook.

We will start at the beginning, using red dot to transfer your pattern of choice to linen, hooking as stated above and learn 3 methods of finishing your project (whipping, crochet and finishing for a cushion/pillow).

Students will be contacted prior to class to provide additional information and to answer any questions you may have.



Maud Lewis - From Paint to Wool

Instructor: Linda Marchbank,
Prince Edward Island

Skill Level: Intermediate



If you are interested in creating an authentic interpretation of a Maud Lewis image this course will explore your options and support your journey. Discussions will include insights into Maud's creativity through exploring her environment, subject matter, use of colour, painting techniques, and the iconic idiosyncrasies of her work. During the week, a visit to the Art Gallery of Nova Scotia to view her "tiny" home is planned to provide further insight into her working conditions.

Classroom demonstrations of hooking techniques and guided instruction will enhance your skills and aid in translating "paint to wool".

A selection of hand drawn patterns on premium backing will be provided by the instructor. Images will be approximately 50 cm (20 ins) square and require #3, #4, #5 cuts to hook. Although simple in design, the details in the images require intermediate hooking skills and experience.

A full range of coloured wools will be available in the classroom for further project support. If this appeals to you, please join in to create your own treasured "Maud Lewis".

Landscape: Bluenose Patterns S45 & S46

Instructor: Dwight Gallagher, Nova Scotia

Skill Level: Intermediate



Have you ever wanted to hook a landscape mat? Or try a classic NS Bluenose/Garrett pattern? In this class, you can do both!

We'll explore how to hook different landscape features like buildings, trees, shrubs, treelines, water, sky, clouds, and rocks—plus a few extra details to bring your scene to life. You'll learn how to plan colours based on the season, time of day, and lighting effects such as reflections. We'll mainly use a three-value shading method to give your mat depth and dimension.

You'll also learn a bit about the history of the Bluenose/Garrett pattern company. You can view patterns S45 and S46 on the RHGNS website. You may use either Bluenose pattern S45 or S46—or a landscape pattern of your own choice.

Students will be asked to bring their pattern on backing, wool to complete the mat, and their usual hooking tools. I'll bring a selection of "bits and bobs" of materials that you can use for highlights and shadows.

Before class, I'll contact everyone to answer any questions you may have as well as provide an estimate of how much wool you'll need (you may already have it in your stash). Please support the Rug Hooking School's chosen vendor for any additional wool purchases when possible.

Handouts will be provided so you can refer back to what you learned once you're home.

Hooked on Memory

A Rug Only You Could Dream Up

Instructors: Charlene Miller and Debbie Miller
Prince Edward Island

Skill Level: Intermediate



Got a memory that deserves more than a dusty photo album? Join artists Charlene and Debbie Miller for *Hooked on Memory*—a deep-dive into storytelling through loops and lines. This isn't just about drawing what you see—it's about feeling your way into a rug design based on the moments, people, and places tucked into the corners of your heart. Debbie's got a knack for teasing out the memories, colours, sounds, and emotions you didn't even know were hiding in your brain. You will explore the elements of a good design and Charlene will share with you how to leverage digital tools (like AI and palette builders), to translate thoughts, ideas in a pictorial memory that can be translated to a rug design with some key elements of colour planning.

By the end of the week, you'll walk away with a custom-designed rug pattern, hand-drawn on linen, infused with your story, and the confidence to keep exploring your creative voice.

Course Objectives

By the end of this 5-day course, participants will:

- Learn how to translate personal memories and stories into original rug hooking designs—without relying on photographs.
- Gain skills in composition, balance, and storytelling through design elements like shape, line, and colour.
- Understand how to hand-draw a pattern directly onto linen or rug warp with confidence.
- Explore how to use digital tools (AI, palette builders, and more) to support, not replace, their creative process.
- Develop an eye for colour—selecting and building a palette that evokes the memory they want to capture.
- Begin hooking their custom design, applying colour placement and texture techniques that enhance their story.
- Build confidence in their creative process—and leave with a one-of-a-kind rug design infused with personal meaning.

Hooking Realistic Animal Faces

Instructor: Caroline Simpson, New Brunswick

Skill Level: Intermediate to Advanced



Do you have a favourite photo of your pet? Or have you always been drawn to photos of wild animals? This course for intermediate to advanced rug hookers will focus on hooking realistic portraits of animal faces, up close and personal, using photos for reference.

You will need to have a cell phone or iPad with your reference photo saved on it, as we will be zooming in very close to capture all the details of the animal's features. We will use a variety of fibres (both fabrics and yarn), and will explore the basics of design, colour theory, values, textile characteristics, and how to plan a design.

You will learn how to start hooking the design, how to hook eyes, noses, mouths, fur, feathers, and skin. We will discuss how to best finish these pieces for display. You are encouraged to create your own pattern of a favourite animal—I will need to see the image well in advance of the class to ensure that it is suitable for what I am teaching—but for those not so inclined, I will have PDF patterns of a fox, cat, or raccoon for sale. You will be responsible for transferring your chosen pattern onto linen or burlap backing and for supplying your own hooking materials; however, I will have a selection of worms and novelty fibres to share. Most of the hooking will involve fine cuts (#s 2-4), but larger cuts may be used in the background.



Celtic Class

Instructor: Gail Lambert, Nova Scotia

Skill Level: Experienced



Celtic ancestry runs deep in my veins and I know I'm not alone in enjoying this fascinating culture!

My Celtic class looks at the history of colour, the meaning of design and the more modern interpretation of this art.

I have all the Celtic alphabet available and many other designs to choose from, as well as, free patterns in my book, "Hooked On Celtic". I will communicate with students before class regarding patterns and supplies.

Come connect with the ancient Celts and discover how to unravel these complex designs - where to start, the importance of overs and unders, how to park a strip, how to hook a clean circle and crisp points.

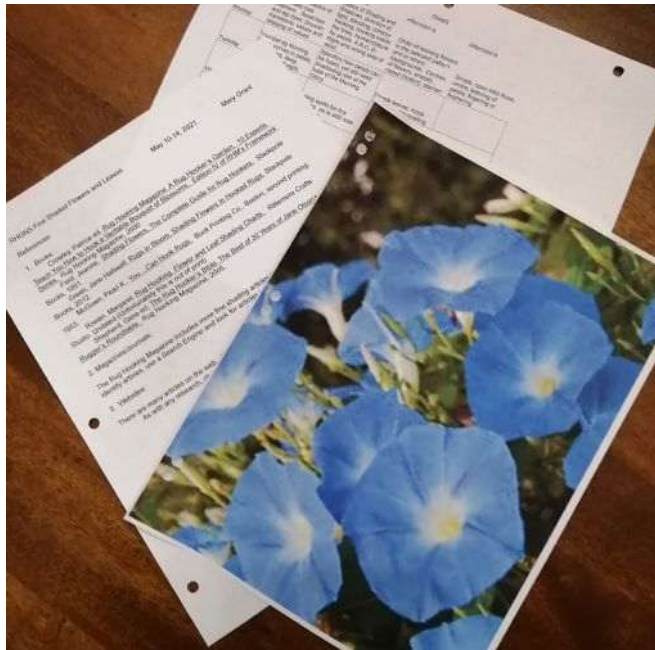
And to ease those tired brains I have a variety of beautiful Celtic music and books to help inspire you.

Create an heirloom that will be enjoyed for years to come!

Teaching Training Course

Instructor: Mary Grant, New Brunswick

Skill Level: Intermediate



Do you see yourself as a rug hooking teacher? Do you make presentations to beginners, other rug hookers or to the general public? This course will help you in any one of these situations. If you would like to become a rug hooking teacher, with the RHGNS Teachers Branch, this is a required course for certification.

Subjects covered in the course are:

Code of Ethics, Copyright Law, Creating a Resume, Preparing a Course Outline and Lesson Plan, Problem Solving in Classroom Situations, Teaching Techniques as they apply to teaching Rug Hooking, and the Use of Visual Aides.

Class discussions will focus on various topics relating to the classroom. Participants will make short presentations on selected topics to their fellow classmates.

Join our Teacher Training Course for a week of supportive learning at Rug School 2026.



On Your Own

No Instructor

All skill levels of rug hooking welcome



Sunset on the Marsh

Pattern by Periwinkle Laine

Hooked by Frieda Perry, Yarmouth, NS

If you didn't see a course that suits your fancy or you couldn't get the one you wanted this year, you don't have to stay home, missing all the fun and camaraderie of rug school. Register for "On Your Own" group.

There is no instructor however, lots of tips and tricks are shared among those who attend. You also will have the opportunity to meet friends (old and new). This is a very enjoyable setting for the week. Several of our rug hookers return to this group year after year.



EXPRESSION OF INTEREST VENDOR

The Rug Hooking Guild of Nova Scotia's Rug School - Mount St. Vincent University Halifax, NS May 3 - 8, 2026

Are you a vendor of rug hooking supplies interested in applying to be our 2026 Rug School Vendor?

If so, please note the following requirements:

- A current member of the RHGNS
- Have a wide variety of supplies for rug hookers
- Have a business number registered with the NS Registry of Joint Stocks or another province
- Available to set up shop on Sunday afternoon, May 3, 2026
 - Open the shop from Monday, May 4 to Thursday, May 7, 2026 inclusive (hours: 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily)
 - Close and remove the shop from the premises Thursday, May 7 after 8 p.m.

If selected, pay a \$400 fee to RHGNS before February 28, 2026

Please complete and submit the "Expression of Interest" form no later than January 16, 2026. The vendor will be selected by February 17, 2026 and all applicants will be notified.

To obtain an "Expression of Interest" form or for more information, please contact Kathryn Hanson, Vice-President, by email: vice-president@rhgns.com

Periwinkle Laine - Where Tradition & Creativity Meet



Discover the best in rug hooking with Periwinkle Laine! Our Atlantic Canada-made rug hooking cutters and unique supplies—hand-drawn patterns, kits, hand-dyed wool, linen, and more—are perfect for all skill levels.

Shop online or visit our monthly hook-in and pop-up shops in Prince Edward Island, creating, and connecting.

Visit our website at www.periwinklelaine.com or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/periwinklelaine. For inquiries, feel free to contact us at our email address, periwinklelaine@gmail.com

Happy hooking!

