



Preserving, promoting, and developing Wellington North's unique cultural resources to build a vibrant community and a prosperous economy.

CULTURAL MOMENT FOR MARCH 7TH IS A CONTINUATION OF THE FEBRUARY 22ND CULTURAL MOMENT CELEBRATING SPINNING WHEELS IN THE PAST AND NOW

SPINNING FIBRE

As with any hobby or craft, nothing seems simple, as there are always so many facets to explore and enjoy. It's the same with spinning. Many decisions to make – starting with the end product. What are you planning on making? That decided, what type of fibre do you need? Blended or not? How thin or thick – how many plies will that be? What colour? A fleece from any animal will need to be cleaned. A hand-spinner will look for a fleece that is as clean as possible. When washing, the staples should not be agitated in order to avoid felting.



The staples can be spun from the actual staple, but most spinners either comb or card the staples, using hand carders or a drum carder, to separate the fibres. It's at this point, that more than one fibre is blended if desired. The advantage is that it can enhance strength or durability to the yarn by blending shorter and longer fibres. Or it can reduce the cost by combining expensive fibres with less costly ones, such as Merino wool with Corriedale wool. The carded fibre is then known as a roving which is ready to spin.



The rovings' are then spun onto bobbins. If the yarn required is for a heavy sweater, then the single ply on each of the 2 or 3 bobbins will then be plied together to create a 2-ply or 3-ply yarn. When plying, the spinning wheel is turned in the opposite direction from when it was spun, in order to create and hold the twist. Whether the yarn is spun smoothly or bumpy for designer yarn, depends on the project for which it will be used. The yarn then is wound into skeins. And

can be dyed by either using natural plants, chemicals, or even Kool-Aid makes wonderfully bright colours. When cooking with red cabbage, you would think it would make a great dye when looking at your purple fingers, but that dye is transient and not permanent in wool.



Now the wool is ready for any project for which it was intended. This toque is made from the fleece of 2 sheep with their natural colourings. It was spun as 3-ply yarn, is very warm, and has been used since 1993. The combination hood and scarf were created from roving which had been dyed before it was spun. The 2-ply yarn is warm, soft, and still durable since it was spun in 1994.



Submitted by Penny Renken Wellington North Cultural Roundtable; pictures of products made by local spinning group
 Toque: Natural colour of wool in toque
 Hood with scarf: Pre-dyed before spinning