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Sewing Ladies of Walkerton Create Quilted Desk Sculpture for School Daze

There is really nothing slow about the SLOW group, the Sewing Ladies of Walkerton. It's a group of ladies on the go who take time to enjoy each other's company every other week. Several women in the group work with children at libraries, one works in social services, another helps manage people's investments, one is in banking, another retired from Media General, and one is an audiologist. What they have in common is a love of sewing and needlework, watching movies, laughing and being involved in their local community.

The group began meeting to sew in 1976 during the nation's Bicentennial. Several members of the group have connections to the old Marriott School – the very reason for the School Daze Project – the renovation of the old school building into a community/cultural arts center. Page Owen MacLemore attended Marriott as did Bette Albert whose mother, Caroline Jones, taught at the school.

Page MacLemore shared that “Dawn Shank figured out how many blocks and sizes we would need to make a quilted desk sculpture. We decided to use a purple and gold color scheme and made blocks that represented the Marriott Royals. Blocks include: schoolhouse, ruler, apple, tree of knowledge, geometry, several crown patterns, a baseball and basketball - all representing aspects of the old school. Lucy Baker appliquéd a picture of the school for the front block. Bette Albert made a cloth book that is attached to the purple velour desktop. Ann Mitchell, Dawn Shank and Audrey Mitchell made several blocks. Dawn Shank stated that “Dr. Lori Gardner let us raid her stash of fabric treasures. It turned out whimsical and charming, just like the SLOW group that made it.”

The SLOW desk has been exhibited at the Essex Country Library and will be auctioned off at the School Daze Gala on March 28th. School Daze is a fundraiser for KQCD and the Marriott School Restoration Project. Old desks from the Marriott School have been transformed into pieces of public art. Themes for the desk sculptures include a wide range from school related to quilting to aviation to river and wildlife. Sponsors include: Ball Lumber, Country Courier, Design Printing, Inc., Eastern Virginia Bankshares, International Training, Inc., Scott's Store, West Point Glass, West Point Pharmacy and the Women's Club of King and Queen. Business sponsorships, at several levels, are available in support of the public art project. If you are interested in becoming a sponsor for the School Daze Public Art Project please contact KQCD. The Marriott School Restoration Project is the planned renovation of the Marriott School into a community/cultural arts center for residents of King and Queen County and the Middle Peninsula.

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KQCD is pleased to announce that the School Daze Gala Auction will take place on March 28, 2009. Ticket information and the location for the event will be announced soon. The event's theme is "Come as you Were". Dress like you did in high school! Costume is optional. Tickets include admittance to the event, participation in the desk sculpture auction, hors d'ouvres, and one complimentary drink ticket.

If you would like more information or would like to participate in or volunteer with the School Daze Public Art Project, please contact the KQCD office at 804-769-9656 or email schooldaze@kqcd.org. A volunteer meeting is planned for February 11th at 7 pm at the KQCD office in Walkerton. Plan to attend the meeting if you would like to learn more information about volunteering for the event. For more information about KQCD and the Marriott School Restoration Project, please visit www.kqcd.org.

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