



What is a barn quilt trail?

Suzi Paron, author of “Barn Quilts and the American Quilt Trail Movement” offers this definition...

“You know that quilts are made up of squares? Well a barn quilt is a replica of one of those squares, painted on plywood, usually eight-by-eight feet, and hung on a building for passersby to see. Most of them are mounted on barns, so they are called barn quilts. There are thousands of them all over the country.” There are now barn quilt trails in 47 states....”

Since Suzi’s book was written, barn quilt trails have been developed in seven provinces: British Columbia, Alberta, Manitoba, Ontario, Prince Edward Island, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick!

The Arborg and District Multicultural Heritage Village was the first barn quilt on the ***Interlake Barn Quilt Trail*** and many other businesses, quilters, and art lovers expressed interest in this community project which we hope will bring additional tourism to the Interlake. Along with tourism, of course, comes an economic benefit as people stop for meals, hotels, and other area attractions. We began the Barn Quilt Trail in 2015 with 4 quilts and now have over 50 this year.

Barn quilts are fun and easy to do! Our barn quilts are made on 1/2” Crezon Plycore, primed with two coats of an exterior latex paint. A pattern is then lightly drawn on the board in pencil and each area to be painted is outlined with painter’s tape. Two coats (sometimes more depending on colour) of exterior latex paint are then applied. A sealant can be used to help

protect the piece from the elements. The paint is allowed to dry and then the barn quilt is displayed outside in a highly visible location.

We offer this thought from another quote from Suzi's book, made by Maxine Groves whose daughter Donna Sue initiated the development of the first barn quilt trail in the US in Adams County, Ohio in 2001.

“I hope that we would be able to preserve those stories, about those that built the barns and the family farm stories and the quilts... Preserving those stories will help us to know where we came from and who we came from. We can reflect on the strength - the energy and focus and dedication and hardship - all of those things that our foremothers and forefathers did so we could be where we are today. We need to remember those stories. That's our DNA; maybe our larger community DNA connects us all together just like a quilt.”

If you are interested in creating a barn quilt and becoming part of the Interlake Barn Quilt Trail movement, or if you would just like more information about barn quilts, please contact us.

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[Visit Manitoba Barn Quilts & More](#)

We hope to see a barn (shed, garage, business, outbuilding) quilt on YOUR property soon!

