



MORE THAN JUST A YARDAGE SALE 2010

Founded in 1996, **More Than Just a Yardage Sale** is a major fundraising event held by the Volunteers of the Textile Museum of Canada. It occurs each year on the last Friday and Saturday of May. The Sale is located under the arcade outside the front door of the Museum and in tents in the parking lot next to the Museum at 55 Centre Avenue, Toronto. More than 120 helpers make the Sale a success.

The Sale depends on donations from the public. We receive fabric, yarn, trims, notions, household linens, craft supplies, designer patterns and books about textiles. During the winter, volunteers sort and price these donations at our workshop situated at 401 Richmond St. W., Toronto.

What Happens at the Sale

On the Thursday before the Sale, volunteers organize goods at the workroom and load them onto trucks. These jobs require physical stamina but are great fun. The goods are stored in the trucks overnight.

Early Friday morning, tents are erected in the parking lot and volunteers set up the space and display goods. Helpers arriving for the Sale check-in on the mezzanine of the Museum and are directed to their work areas. While all of this is going on, customers line up waiting for the Sale to open.

The Sale opens at 11:00 am and customers pour in. Most helpers work at sales booths assisting customers and refreshing and tidying goods. There are sales booths that sell decorator fabrics; quilting cottons; wool and yarn; yard goods; linings, fur and glitter; notions and trims; household linens; crafts; textile books and scraps. Some helpers top up stock throughout the day. Others act as security assistants or as cashiers. During the Sale, supervisors help to solve problems, answer questions and make sure that the Sale is running smoothly. The atmosphere feels busy and exciting.

- Short breaks are possible for helpers. On the mezzanine, food and drink are available to helpers.
- As each shift ends, helpers sign out and new volunteers check in on the mezzanine of the Museum.
- At 6:00 on Friday evening, items in the arcade are moved to the tent and security guards are employed to look after the site for the night.
- As the Sale ends on Saturday, goods are identified and set aside for approved charities.

Once the Sale is formally closed, the site is cleaned, unsold goods are recycled, the rental company picks up the tents and tables and the last dedicated volunteers go home exhausted and exhilarated.