

"It's just become the thing to do. For a lot of people, it's a way to get back to their roots, as well as a way to create unique fashions that are affordable."

Men, too, are learning how to knit, and "are wondering why they didn't get into it before now," she added.

Kellaway, president of the Quinte Knitters Guild, started the group to increase awareness of knitting and promote availability of the different kinds of Canadian and Ontario wool.

She's now working with a wool from Demorestville that comes from Corriadale sheep and is all naturally coloured, she said.

She also uses and sells Briggs and Little wool, made in New Brunswick and "which can be difficult to get in this area."

Kellaway said the Internet has proved a vast resource for knitting, and she monitors a newsgroup that includes knitters from all over the world.

"It's a great way to learn different techniques, find patterns that are no longer being produced, or get a hold of a certain type of wool."

It's also a way to help knitters with problems ranging from incorrect patterns to the sometimes complex mathematical equations

that are used to calculate detailed knitting projects.

"I never liked math in high school, but now I see how useful it was to take algebra and geometry. I use them all the time in knitting."

Just last week, Kellaway mailed a package of wool to a woman in Knoxville, Tenn.

"I had some wool that she had been looking for for a long time, and she was thrilled to finally find some. In the same vein, I've been able to find wool that I thought couldn't be found."