

Quilts of Valour - Canada

Issue 12
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Our Mission

to ensure injured Canadian Forces members are recognized for their service and commitment to our country. We give this support through the presentation of quilts to comfort our past and present Canadian Forces members in their time of need.

www.QuiltsOfValour.ca



Quilts delivered to our injured military service members and veterans:

4137

Hugs From Across the Nation



Introducing the second installment of Northcott fabrics in the Stonehenge - Oh Canada! line. Many quilts are being made with Hugs blocks and it's great to see how they are coming together! This is so exciting! I'm sure the count of hugs blocks that I have barely covers the number of blocks that have been made. Please let me know if you want some blocks from other regions so that the quilts are a "Hug from Across the Nation!". Several guild and groups have sent 20 all the same from their group - so we can share and get all the regions into your quilts!

So far we have received 841 hugs blocks from 53 different quilters and groups from 32 different locations from BC to NL - and even Iqaluit NU! 9 packages of hugs blocks have gone out and 9 quilts have been completed!



Hugs Blocks from Tangletrees Sisters Retreat - Alberta

Every year, several friends who volunteered with Girl Guides have been meeting for a week in the country at a Guide facility in Alberta. This year they invited Lezley to give a small presentation to them. On a beautiful sunny Tuesday, Lezley drove out to the lake community and spent the day enjoying the friendship of fellow quilters. She took along two packages of "Hugs Blocks" to add to the ones made by the group beforehand - and watched as the first quilt took shape.



Three quilts were made by the end of the week - and already have designated veterans to call them theirs. A big thank you to the Sisters Camp quilters, for a wonderful retreat day, and for three wonderful quilted hugs from across the nation.



A warm welcome to our new rep in the Okanagan region who has connected with the quilters in 100 Mile House. They have been providing quilts of valour for many years. A veteran received a quilt "just like the one my wife made me". He no longer has her quilt.



Okanagan Rep Doreen Folk

On April 11, the work of 14 QoV quilters was presented to the University of Alberta to honour a new department in the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine. Program Chair Dir. Ibi Cemak and Acting Provost Martin Ferguson-Pell received the quilt for the new Canadian Military and Veterans' Rehabilitation Research Program. Alberta's Lt. Gov. Donald Ethell and his wife, Her Honour Linda Ethell (a quilter too!) attended as well. The quilt was commissioned by the Faculty and Lezley designed a maple leaf pattern. She then prepared packages of colourful fabrics and sent them and instructions to the far reaches of Canada, and in return received over 650 blocks back. Doris Hill, SK; Jan Easton, ON; Fran Colpitts, AB; Evelyn Dunne, AB; Elaine Morrison, AB; Carolyn Jennings, BC; Janie Worel, BC; Marj O'Hara, AB; Marg McKinnon, AB; Janet Hobbes, AB; Judy MacLeod, ON; Maureen Devich, AB and Lezley all made squares for the quilt. Lezley then proceeded to lay them out on a much too small design wall. Working in sections and with the assistance of local quilters Marj, Ev, Janet and Fran the quilt came together. Local long armer, Kim Caskey quilted the 102" X 96" quilt. *Seasons of the Maple* will soon be hanging in Corbett Hall, at the University of Alberta.



(L to R) His Honour Lt. Gov. Donald Ethell, Fran Colpitts, Her Honour Linda Ethell, Lezley Zwaal, Dr. Ibo Ibolja (Ibi) Cernak, Janie Worel, Elaine Morrison, Marj O'Hara, Ev Dunne, Kim Caskey. Photo Courtesy : Megan Voss



(L to R) Acting Dean Bob Haennel, Her Honour Linda Ethell, Lezley Zwaal, His Honour Lt. Gov. Donald Ethell, Dr. Ibo Ibolja (Ibi) Cernak, Acting Provost Martin Ferguson-Pell. Photo courtesy Megan Voss



Also on April 11, Lt. Gov. Donald Ethell was presented with a Quilt of Valour. His Honour spearheaded the formation of the new program at the University of Alberta, as he is aware firsthand of living with the mental and emotional scars of deployment, even as a peacekeeper. His Honour is a veteran of 14 peace support operations. His military service includes NATO duties in Germany as well as extensive service in Cyprus, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, Egypt, Israel, Central America and the Balkans. He held leadership positions in virtually every major theatre of Canadian peacekeeping, serving on 14 missions, and is one of Canada's most respected military leaders. It was with great honour that Lezley was able to present him a quilt.

Photo: Chryslyn Warn



Photo: Megan Voss

A note from our Founder - Lezley Zwaal

Thank you to all those quilters, representatives and the many supporters of Quilts of Valour who have joined me to honour our military service members and Veterans. Thank you to my family who is, without complaining, my and QoV's biggest support. Without the Canada wide support given, the 4000+ quilts would not be in the hands of those who are comforted by the quilted hug. Because you have all joined me on this crazy "ride" of making, encouraging making and delivering quilts, I was honoured with the Queen Elizabeth II Diamond Jubilee Award Medal. Nominated by Tammy Wheeler, Executive Director, The Royal Canadian Legion, Alberta - NWT Command and the Royal Canadian Legion early in 2013, it wasn't until the April 11 inaugural Lecture for the new department at the University of Alberta that His Honour, Lt. Gov. Donald Ethell was able to present me with the medal. It was a very special day for someone who just likes to quilt and see that those who need the quilted hug receive it.



His Hon.Lt.Gov.Donald Ethell, Lezley Zwaal, Her Hon. Linda Ethell, Tammy Wheeler
Photo: Megan Voss



Honouree and family
Photo: Megan Voss



Photo: Megan Voss



Alberta South - Sandy Carlile

On April 28 I went to a CAV meeting to give out 5 quilts and while there I was invited to have an information table at their Show and Shine on July 15. I wasn't sure what that was, but agreed to be there. What fun! It was a show of very clean and shiny motorcycles. Lana Butcher, one of our group that gets together the first Tuesday of each month at Along Came Quilting to sew quilts of valour was with me. We talked with many folks about Quilts of Valour and what we did. The best part came when several recipients came up and found their quilts in our photo album and proceeded to show the pictures to friends. We were also able to give three quilts to vets in attendance. What an honour. I even won one of the prizes that were drawn for! On June 28 I was presented with 6 quilts from the Friday Friends (a group that gets together each Friday AM at Traditional Pastimes in Calgary). Jill McCaughey is the quilter and chief organizer and the one presenting the quilts to me in the picture here (left)



In May at the Heritage Park Quilt Festival in Calgary I was fortunate enough to get an extra table ... I was there with a number of local guilds and another charity group in a building called Gasoline Alley. They had a pretty steady traffic flow for both of the days and tried to get quilters enthused and informed about Quilts of Valour and the Creative Stitches show to be held there Sept 27 & 28. There will be another quilt challenge this year, sponsored by Babylock. Sugar Pine Quilt Shop and Wonderfil Threads will also each sponsor a prize.



On June 14 and 15, my husband and I were at the Lethbridge Quilt Show held at the Lethbridge College. Another couple, Linda Hurd and Wayne Kollinger were also with us. The folks in charge of the quilt show were so welcoming and made sure we had everything we needed, including a very visible space. We had lots of fun meeting other quilters and giving out information on QoV, the HUGS blocks, and also the Quilt Challenge at the Creative Stitches Show in Calgary on Sept 27 and 28.

A really big surprise came the first morning of the first day when a quilter came up to me and asked, "How can I get more involved in this group?". And so Joan Barrett became our representative in the way south of Alberta. Many quilters who came by the booth said that she had taught them how to quilt. The show was really good with lots of beautiful quilts and great attendance.

Eastern Canada Coordinator - Mary Ewing

Since the beginning of 2013 the Ottawa area has presented 162 quilts to various Canadian Forces Bases in Ontario and individual retired military personnel. The volunteers in this area are very active and have donated well over 200 quilts. Most of these quilts will be presented to WWII veterans who live in retirement homes in the Ottawa area. The standard size for a QOV is 50x70" and these quilts are more lap size and will be greatly appreciated by the WWII veterans.

The Ottawa raffle was a great success, we raised over \$3,000 with this endeavour. First prize winner was Marjorie Hanson and second prize winner was Susan W., both of these ladies donate many quilts to QoV for our injured soldiers. Congratulations to both of you. I would like to thank everyone who purchased a ticket, helped sell tickets, and helped with the ton of paperwork that goes into holding a raffle.



1st prize

2nd prize

The volunteers in the Ottawa area are in the process of making the Remembrance Poppy Quilt which will be donated to QoV for the third and final raffle in the Ottawa area. The tickets will be on sale in late August/early September. This endeavour was suggested to us by the Ottawa IPSC and they will be actively involved with selling the tickets on various bases in Ontario. For more information and where the tickets can be purchased you can contact Mary at marybarry54@sympatico.ca

I, Mary Ewing, will be running/walking the half marathon in the Army Run which is held on September 22, 2013. Please come out to cheer me on. For more information about the army run go to www.amyrun.ca

Vancouver, BC - Deborah Gray

At the April meeting of the Blue Mountain Quilt Guild in Port Coquitlam I did a trunk show and QoV display. I took along some quilts I had on hand to deliver to the base, plus the lovely Northcott poster and info about the Hugs blocks. We had a full house with much interest in the entire QoV program. In May I dropped off 12 quilts to John, my contact at Jericho Base in Vancouver. At this visit he took me around his building, showed me his office, where he keeps the quilts until they are presented to the soldiers, and described the procedure he follows for getting the quilts out. I got to meet the other people in his department and talk to them a bit about QoV. With each new batch of quilts he keeps one hanging in his meeting room so that everyone he meets with can see the great work our quilters have done. They're all incredibly enthusiastic about QoV. Here are a few pictures of the quilts I recently received from the Boundary Bay Quilters ... as usual, beautiful workmanship by everyone.



Nunavut - Johanna Benning

While still in Nova Scotia before heading to Nunavut Johanna met with a quilting friend, Brenda Hulan, who is now our new NS QoV Representative ... here they are doing a literal handover of a QoV banner for Brenda to use in displays. (L-Johanna, R-Brenda)

In May Johanna had the honor to travel to St Catherine's, ON to be a coach for the National Cadet Territorial Marksmanship competition. When they cleared into their accommodations at Brock University she was thrilled to meet up with Capt. Alison McDonald.



. She was one of the organizing staff members and is also our QoV Hamilton, ON rep. They had a wonderful chat in which Johanna mentioned that she had given her last two quilts to our new Yellowknife QoV rep; the next day Alison returned from home with two beautiful quilts for Johanna to take back to Iqaluit with her.

On returning home Johanna got to work on appliquing 50 blocks for the Hugs Across the Nation project. Her blocks will represent Nunavut; are decorated with polar bears, Inukshuks or arctic char!



Here are some more pictures of quilts we have received, including two Hugs quilts made by Don Sparks of Vancouver Island, and 5 quilts from the students from Birch Cliff Heights Public School in Toronto.

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Please contact a representative nearest you!

** We ask that you please put QoV or Quilts of Valour in the subject line of any emails.