

Quilts of Valour - Canada Society

Issue 1
February 2009



Our Mission

to ensure that our wounded Canadian soldiers are recognized for their bravery and commitment of their true patriotism to our country. We give this support through the presentation of quilts of comfort made for our military service people.

A little history ...

Quilts of Valour - Canada is an endeavour to make and deliver quilts for injured military personnel on their return to Canada. In early 2006, after three soldiers were seriously injured in a suicide bomb attack in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Lezley Zwaal contacted a quilting military support program in the U.S. She was connected with a quilter, Diane, in Calgary who had quilts ready to be delivered. Diane was pleased to be able to direct them to our own soldiers. Lezley added one of her own and was able to meet two of the three soldiers and give them their quilts. Several more quilts were given to the Military Family Support group at the Edmonton Garrison.



Meeting these young men who have given so much for our country made such an impact on Lezley that she could not stop with that first set of quilts. With the help of several local women - including the spouse of one of the soldiers who received a quilt in 2006, we are pleased to be in the process of creating a new Canadian-wide not-for-profit society. Very soon we will be a formal entity. But we have not waited on those formalities. Word has spread, quilters have come forward and as of August 2008 we have been able to deliver close to 300 quilts to our armed forces members. We have recently connected with the military volunteers at various DCSM Detachments across the country and are establishing a network to get the quilts out in a timely fashion to those who need them.

Quilts of Valour - Canada has an active [yahoo group](#), as well as one in [facebook](#). ... just log on and join and pass along the word ... more members is always a good thing and it's a great way to share our QoV experiences, information, and pictures!

(Just remember to include the "u" in Valour when doing a search for us!



We have been featured in various news articles around the country, including this recent feature in the Shilo Stag when 54 quilts were delivered ...check it out at www.cfcommunitygateway.com/en/Shilo/docs/pg%204.pdf .

Be sure to check the Canadian Quilters Association newsletter (www.canadianquilter.com/) for a feature on QoV-Canada this spring.

Our group is growing daily, including quilters from one coast to the other. Please check the following list for a contact person in your province:

Lezley Zwaal—Sask, AB, BC QoV@AutomatedQuill.com

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Within those boundaries:

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Johanne Bennings—Nova Scotia. nsquilts@gmail.com

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

Below are some more pictures of some of our quilters, their quilts, and some deserving recipients.



Quilts can be made by individuals or groups or guilds. There is no limit to the number of quilts, no specific pattern or size. A preferred minimum size for Quilts of Valour is 50" x 60"; the maximum is twin sized, usually 72" x 96". They should be large enough to provide comfort, but small enough for the long arm quilter volunteers to schedule in between their customers' quilts if you are not quilting it yourself.

Plan a Canadiana theme! We have seen many maple leaf quilts and they are stunning! The red/white or traditional looking patterns always work but are not a must. Think moose, mountains, Maritimes, maple leaves, inukshuk and prairies. Make the quilts traditional or not! Details can be found at <http://www.automatedquill.com/QoV.htm>.

Our society is not about the politics, it's about the PEOPLE.

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