



Our Tribute



Quilts of Valour – Canada Society Mission

To ensure that 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.

President's Message

It's November already! Where has the year gone? I'm sure most of us are looking forward to turning the page on the calendar to 2021. A new year can't come soon enough.

As a child, November was always a busy month in my life. My father, like for many of you, was a career soldier and fiercely proud of his service to our country. My siblings and I learned from an early age about the sacrifices our Canadian military have made around the world, and the price many of them paid. We learned that freedom wasn't free! We were taught that we owe our military a great debt for our freedoms, and that we must always honour our veterans for their sacrifice, not just on Remembrance Day.

Honouring veterans is done in many ways. We hold vigils at cenotaphs, we march in parades, and we present them with medals. Our mission at Quilts of Valour - Canada Society is to honour our ill and injured military members and veterans for their service and sacrifice. We do it through the presentation of our quilts. Our quilters stitch their love and gratitude into each of the quilts they make, and we present them with the hope that the quilts will provide comfort and support to the recipient.

The need for our quilts is significant and the number of eligible recipients waiting to receive theirs is long. To date, we have presented 15,636 quilts. That could not have happened without your generous support. For that I say thank you.

While Remembrance Day ceremonies will be different this year, I encourage you to watch a virtual ceremony, observe a minute of silence, wear your poppy with pride and say "I will Remember them."



Linda Gerein, QOVC™ President
president@quiltssofvalour.ca

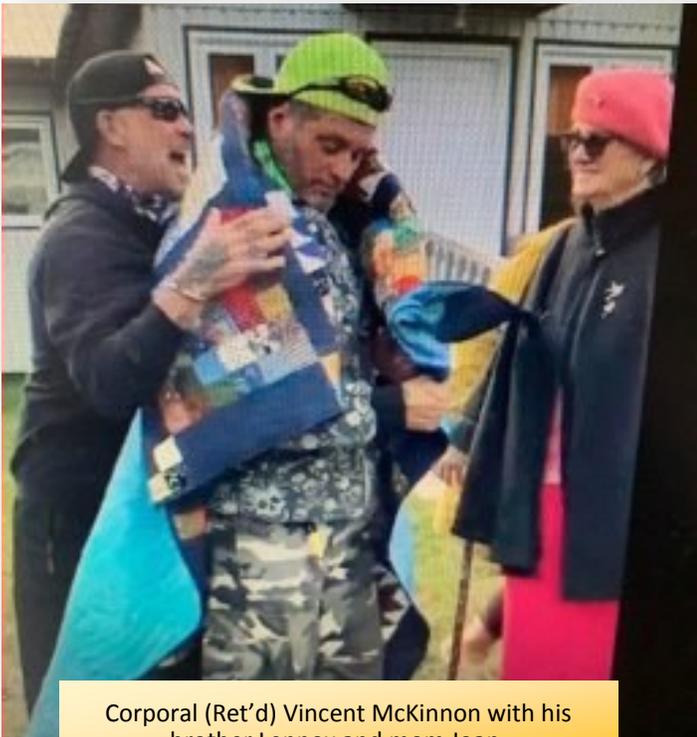
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Ottawa, ON

Submitted by Nancy Arbogast. QOVV Rep in Ottawa, Ontario.

Camilla Gallibois and her husband, Mike Brajak, received their Quilts of Valour™ in January, 2020. Immediately afterwards, Camilla started identifying people who were eligible for quilts, including her childhood friend, Vincent McKinnon.



Corporal (Ret'd) Vincent McKinnon with his brother Lennox and mom Joan.

This quilt presentation took a little more planning and problem-solving than most of our presentations; that made it a little more special.

The challenge was that Mr. McKinnon lives in St Augustin, Quebec. There are no roads to get there! It is more than 1000 km from Quebec City, across the strait from the northern tip of Newfoundland.



Camilla and I started planning the quilt presentation, and originally we

were going to ask a detachment of the Canadian Rangers who regularly visit the area on patrols to do the presentation on our behalf. Then it turned out that a family member was traveling home in June. So, I packaged the quilt with a letter to the presenter to explain how presentations typically work, and a letter to Mr. McKinnon explaining the quilt and thanking him for his service. Unfortunately, Mr. McKinnon's mother had a health issue and had to be medically evacuated, and no one wanted to proceed without her present.

Finally, the presentation took place on Thursday, Sept 24th.

I am told that it was an emotional day for everyone, and Mr. McKinnon is very grateful for his quilt.

In Sept, I received a nomination for a retired Navy veteran, Chris MacGillivray.

Although he retired in 2010, he continues to travel with the military to accompany his wife, Warrant Officer Alana MacGillivray.



Their current posting is in Lagos, Nigeria, and with travel restrictions in place, there was no way they were coming back to Ottawa any time soon.

Since travel restrictions also prevented me from going to them (drat!), I packaged the quilt -- a Hug Block quilt stitched by caring Canadian Quilters across the country -- and a letter describing what it represented. I shipped it through diplomatic mail and Mr. MacGillivray received his quilt on Oct 1st.

It seems a little exotic to engage in such a long-distance presentation, but quilts will go a long way to find their forever homes.

Founder's Corner

Submitted by Lezley Zwaal. QOVC Founder.

Cindy Postnikoff, our QOVC rep for the East and West Kootenay regions, and I had a chance to meet in Kimberley, BC, in October. We had great discussions about how things are going in her region - a very large one in the middle of the Rockies!!!

It was wonderful to meet another of the many representatives who are so committed to ensuring our Canadian military and veterans receive a Quilt of Valour. By the way, she also ensures the American veterans retired here also receive a quilt - with the US Quilt of Valor label!

She is very busy in the community spearheading the new 'Kimberley Veteran Memorial Park', and organizing a virtual Remembrance Day ceremony this year. She also facilitates 'Military Ames' group meetings for veterans; this includes veterans from WWII and Vietnam Veterans - yes, there are Canadians who served in Vietnam. The 'Military Ames' group provides, among other things, a community of camaraderie for veterans. The group is a safe place for veterans to get together - with no rank in the room.

She is a veteran and quilt recipient and is a very busy presenter. Cindy has a team of several quilters

helping her out - no easy feat given the distance challenges of her large region.

The weather cooperated on our meeting day and we had lunch in the outdoor

plaza - with a delightful mountain view!!!



Thank you to Mary Ewing for her term as President. We have seen great growth in our society during her tenure. Notably, we have increased membership and representatives, and we have implemented improvements to our organizational procedures.

Mary, you can sit back now and enjoy being the one who gives sage advice to anyone who asks, and you can enjoy having time to do more quilting.

Welcome to the Past Presidents' Club!!!

Also, congratulations to our new president, Linda Gerein. We all look forward to supporting Linda in her new role as QOVC President.

As 2020 innocently began with many plans for our quilt guilds, retreats, and quilt days, we were poised to hit our goal set by Past President, Mary Ewing. Our aim? 20,000 quilts presented by the end of 2020.

When the pandemic hit and social gatherings stopped, it appeared to put our goal in jeopardy. Well quilters, we have not given up, and we are still on-track for achieving our goal!! As this article is being written, our dashboard is noting 15629 quilts presented to-date. It appears a few reps have yet to update their counts for October. So technically, we have three months yet to be counted, and we have at least 32 representatives across Canada who are actively presenting quilts.

We need 4371 more quilts presented to veterans to reach our goal! We have 92 days to go from Oct 1 thru end of Dec! There are lots of quilts being shared on facebook (*a gentle reminder to our representatives, please record your count of presentations*). As I write this, our records indicate 2591 quilts are ready and waiting to be presented, and another 2015 tops are awaiting quilting. This means the quilts are there! So how can we reach our goal?? A little math here...4371 to reach the goal; 92 days to reach the goal = 48 quilts per day. With Remembrance Day coming, there will be even more quilts being presented.

20,000 Quilts - WE CAN DO IT !!!!!

Hug Blocks

Submitted by Pamela Holmes, QOVC Hug Blocks Distributor

Hello All Sewers!

FYI - We have 60 completed Hug Blocks in our inventory as of today, and they are all from one province.

To be able to send out quilt top packages with 30 blocks from all across Canada, we need more. I have been told it is very, very special to receive a quilt and see all the villages, towns, and/or cities where the blocks were sewn.

As many of you are aware, we would like you to use the Northcott fabric line as they are such great corporate sponsors!!! Also, it helps to ensure that the blocks will coordinate well.

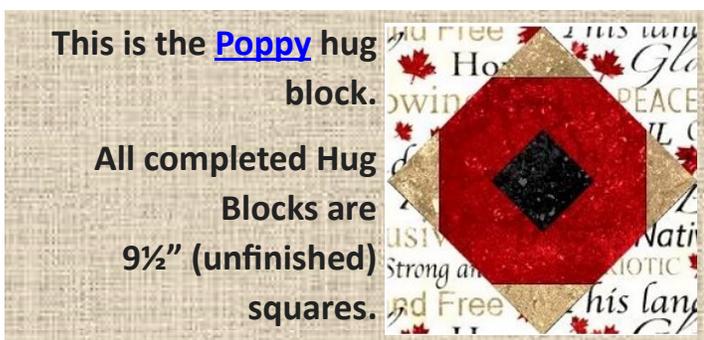
On the QOVC website there are many [free Hug Block patterns](#) you can download.

The pandemic has had an unprecedented impact on all our lives, bringing with it change and stress. That being said, you can all help make a positive difference for our veterans by sending in a few Hug Blocks from each province.

Please send them to me at this address:

Pamela Holmes, Hug Blocks Distributor
7419-187 Street NW
Edmonton Alberta, T5T 5W4

Thanks and Stay Safe!



New Hug Block patterns are coming soon!

QOVC Patterns

Our pattern book [From Across the Nation](#) celebrates our 10th anniversary (2019) and can be purchased online (\$10, +\$2.50 shipping).

<https://www.quiltsofvalour.ca/hug-blocks>



We also have other patterns for sale. Here are the latest patterns from our guest quilt designers:



This pattern is entitled:

Thank You for Your Service

By Brenda Davidson Payer

This pattern is entitled: **Beads and Baubles**

By Elaine Theriault



This pattern is entitled:

Strong and Free

By Paul Léger



This pattern is entitled: **Pathways**

By Daphne Greig



These patterns are \$10 each plus \$2.50 shipping.

<https://www.quiltsofvalour.ca/online-store>

To date, 39 patterns from our guest designers have been ordered. Thank you so much for supporting this QOVC fundraising initiative. Be sure to send in photos of your completed quilts!

Send photos to : newsletter@quiltsofvalour.ca

Medicine Hat, AB

Submitted by Pam Robertson Rivet. QOVC rep in Medicine Hat, Alberta.

New patterns are in the mail and I can't wait to dive in! These patterns have been written by Canadian designers, and are both a fundraiser and inspiration for quilters. Which one did you decide to start with? <https://www.quiltsofvalour.ca/online-store>

We can't do anything without our generous volunteers and donors, including local businesses, makers, and shakers that I'd like to acknowledge for being real troopers.

Longarm businesses that have been helping the Medicine Hat region include [Sew Much Fun Longarming](#) (Medicine Hat), [Donna Sheppard Designs](#) (Redcliff), and [Daria Taylor](#) (Edmonton). Their work has been supplemented by the longarm talents of [Jackie Lee](#) and [Josephine Malley](#), and finished by the steadfast binding/labelling stitching provided by [Linda Penner](#). If anyone else in our area wants to help, just let me know!

[Quilting Creations & Fabric](#) is a small locally owned quilt store who ordered in a stunning military related quilt panel (see below), and then custom cut all kinds of fabric for me. I'm very grateful, and happy to support local businesses, and this team really knows what they are doing.

Fabric Panel purchased at Quilting Creations & Fabric



[Mook Fabrics](#) has been a stellar resource for us all. They were the first business to set up curbside pick up (they never closed, but changed how they did business), and they were kind and patient about fielding my calls as we dealt with material and resource shortages. They really have gone above and beyond and I cannot say enough good things about them, plus they have an incredible supply of fabrics they have maintained throughout.

We have quilters who've stayed busy and worked on projects despite isolating, working, travelling, looking after loved ones, and more. Big thanks to [Karen Finley](#), [Gail Capnerhurst-Fraser](#), [Sherrill and the Sewl Sisters](#), and all of you who keep your machinery humming while you create for Quilts of Valour.

Did you know there is a Janome 3160QOVC that's travelling across the country with our founder, in an RV? It's true! I had a wonderful time meeting with Lezley Zwaal and Karen Finley recently. We sat outside Lezley's RV and talked quilts, technique, and our mutual overarching passion for QOVC. If you'd like to get your very own branded Janome (it's also a fundraiser for QOVC) just reach out!

Thanks to all of you who continue to lead the charge in making sure our veterans have quilts to comfort them.

Whether you are quilting, fundraising, organizing, or helping in your own quiet way in the background, we cannot do it without you.

Welcome to the team! Central Alberta

Submitted by Nicole Langlois. QOVC rep in Central Alberta.

As a new representative for QOVC, the last couple of months have been a whirlwind!

I stepped in as a veteran to make some presentations just as Covid was throwing the brakes on things. After an opportunity to speak at length with Pam Robertson Rivet in Medicine Hat, and Linda Gerein, QOVC President, I volunteered to become an area representative!

I'm getting to know the reps throughout Alberta, and presenting quilts as I visit veterans, donors, and helpers (with precautions, natch).

Thanks to everyone for helping me get on board, and to our volunteers and donators who are making such an impact.



This is me, Nicole, getting my very own Quilt of Valour in 2019. It was presented to me by Al Cameron.

Sgt (Ret'd) Leslie Manchur, wrapped in her QOV in Olds, AB.

Nominate a Veteran for a QOV

Submitted by Denise Wenzel. QOVC rep for Quinte, Belleville, and Trenton.

If you've been to one of my quilt presentations, you would have heard me speak these words. They are shared with you below, as they are especially poignant as we prepare for Remembrance Day on November 11th.

Quilt Presentation Ceremony

First of all let me personally thank you for your service.

On behalf of the many volunteers that make up Quilts of Valour. I would like to present you with a gift to show our appreciation.

We recognize the hard work and dedication of our military members; and we also recognize the sacrifices made by your families. This was not an easy path you chose, but we will always be grateful that you chose to serve your Country.

Your quilt has an official Quilt of Valour label to remind you that this quilt was handmade with love, respect and gratitude for your sacrifice to Canada.

May the hugs stitched into this quilt give you comfort, strength and love.

Quilts of Valour - Canada Society has the mission to ensure that we recognize our veterans for their service and commitment to our country.

To nominate a veteran for a Quilt of Valour, simply go to our website and complete the online form.

<https://www.quiltsofvalour.ca/request-a-quilt>

Trenton, ON

Submitted by Denise Wenzel. QOVC rep for Quinte, Belleville, and Trenton.

Last year, my husband and I moved to Trenton and I was invited to join the local QOVC group. The group had been started by Jan Easton, and through her efforts, a wonderful group was formed.

Six months ago, Jan trusted me with her group to take over the job of QOVC representative. Our Trenton/Belleville group is very prolific, we have up to 30 wonderful sewers who meet at the 8 Wing Chapel, and several generous quilters who work from home to produce beautiful quilt tops by the dozens. Without all their dedication and generosity, we would not exist.

Finding kind and generous longarmers to do the quilting can be difficult, but here in Trenton we have a secret weapon; meet Amie Cote.

Our Amie longarms 10 to 12 quilts a month for us, and this has allowed our group to provide completed quilts to other groups who are not blessed with their



Amie Cote

own Amie. She joined our group five years ago and has produced her fair share of quilt tops too, but before long she heard the siren song of the longarm, and it was there that Amie let her inner artist out to play.

Amie retired from the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) four years ago, and has dedicated much of her time and a great deal of effort into Quilts of Valour, we recognize the hours she puts in and realize how fortunate we are to have her taking such good care of us. We are blessed to be able to meet at 8 Wing

Chapel in Trenton and be surrounded by CAF members; a reminder of why we volunteer for QOVC.

Along with the lovely Amie, we have two other members who have dedicated themselves to keeping our group running smoothly and ensuring no quilt sits on the shelf for long. Amie's best friend Sharon is a wonderful quilter who dedicates her time at the Chapel binding our quilts, each one has her signature flange binding and is sewn to perfection. Another wonderful volunteer is Yvette Chilcott who has taken on the responsibility to add labels to our quilts and to help anyone who is in need of assistance, as she is a long time sewing teacher who is always happy to help the newbies.

I asked a couple of ladies from our group to share their thoughts:

"Amie, she is the stitches that hold us all together"

"What makes our group so amazing is the dedication of our long-arm quilter Amie, our quilt binder Sharon, and our labeler, Yvette"

"Amie makes us all look good with her beautiful quilting!"

"I have been blessed, honoured, and proud to have worked with my best friend Amie for almost 20 years now. Her dedication to her craft, the extreme mastery of her quilting skills, blows me away"

We recognize the efforts of all, but without Amie we would be drowning in a mountain of quilt tops!



Quilted by Amie Cote

Mississauga, ON

Submitted by Virginia Rothwell. QOVC rep for Mississauga, Brampton, and Greater Toronto Area.

I have three pieces of GREAT news for everyone.

1) RECENTLY, LIEUTENANT-COLONEL (RET'D) ZENON Myshkevich of the Denison Transition Centre (Downsview/Toronto) came to my home to pick up 30, yes THIRTY, finished quilts to distribute to participants of rehab programs through his office.



Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret'd) Zenon Myshkevich of the Denison Transition Centre, collecting 30 Quilts of Valour.

Thank you so much for your incredible support. Our ill and injured Canadian Armed Forces members have told us that these quilts provide them with much needed support. The quilts are comforting to people who are experiencing personal hardship. In my view, your team is the best.

Hope to see you again soon under better circumstances

Zenon Myshkevich
Services Manager / Transition Centre
Toronto
Department of National Defence /
Government of Canada

2) THE STREETSVILLE LEGION (MISSISSAUGA, ON) has re-opened, and we were able to resume our "sew days". The first one was Thursday, September 24th, with six participants, socially distanced. We were assured that government standards for safety and sanitizing have, and will be followed. The attendees were very happy to see each other and were very productive.

3) THE STREETSVILLE LEGION HAS DONATED \$5,000 to Quilts of Valour - Canada Society. This, plus a \$5,000 donation in 2019 from the Legion in Cooksville (Mississauga), plus sales of hug block kits at quilt guilds and 'Quilts at the Creek', means that our group (ON16) has managed to collect approximately \$11,000 for QOVC. These large donations are thanks to Shirley Hoad and Lil Budden for their in-person publicity presentations to these Legions and various quilt guilds. THANK YOU, Shirley and Lil. Thanks also to those who helped sell hug block kits and promote QOVC at 'Quilts at the Creek'.

- We do good work.

Master Warrant Officer (Ret'd) Bruno Turcotte was surprised with his very own Quilt of Valour at the 2nd Annual Veterans

Motorcycle Rally

on September 12th

that was held in

Pembroke and

Petawawa, ON.



Submitted by Amy Taylor, QOVC Rep in Petawawa.

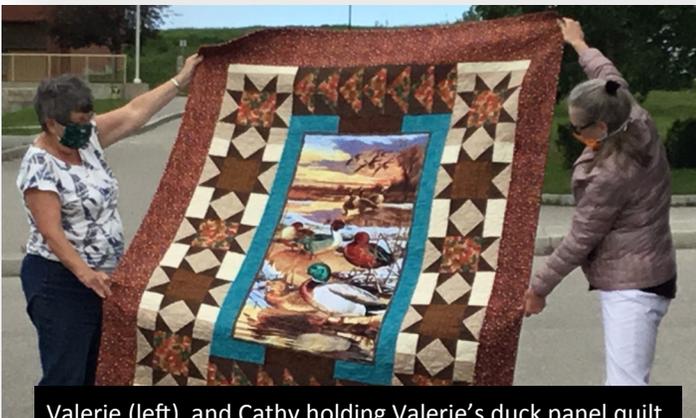
Calgary and Cochrane

Submitted by Lana Butcher. QOVC Rep in Calgary, Alberta.

When I think of who I'd like to thank that supports our Calgary and Southern Alberta group, our amazing group of quilters first comes to mind.

Thank you to the ladies who join us for our sew days and at quilt shows and presentations, and whatever else we need help with. But we also have a few gents that have contributed to our group too with sewing, quilting, and support at quilt shows, and loading/unloading for our presentations.

The beautiful quilts that we are given to wrap our veterans in warm hugs never cease to amaze me. We have also been supported with donations of fabrics from quilters looking to downsize and from a few collections from estates.



Valerie (left) and Cathy holding Valerie's duck panel quilt. The duck panel was from the donation bin.

[Along Came Quilting](#) in Calgary has been there for us with their classroom and anything else we might need since 2012, when Sandy Carlile started our first sew days. Their staff is always very helpful and fun to be around. We also appreciate their online store. Their curbside service has been amazing.

We also have enjoyed the support of [Addie's Creative Fabric](#) in Cochrane, Alberta. Our partnership started with the support Janet gave to us. The classroom, the friendly and helpful staff, and

discounts on fabrics for our QOVC projects all helped to create many quilts. It has always been a fun atmosphere to have sew days at Addie's. We now have Virginia, as the new owner, continuing to support QOVC. We look forward to when we can sew together once again.

One of our treasured supporters is [Rob Beresford](#), our [Trend Tex](#) fabric rep. Rob and his team are very knowledgeable and supportive. Rob has been very generous in sharing his samples and fabrics with us. We look forward to working with him and seeing his progress towards his maple leaf quilt for a QOVC recipient. Check out this Trend Tex [free pattern link for the 'Path to My True North' quilt.](#)

Path to My True North
Design by Sue Jensen



Valerie's circle quilt.

Since 2018, we have been able to create significantly more quilts with the fundraising support of [Colonel \(Ret'd\) Charles Hamel](#). We have been invited to present quilts at the Colonel Belcher Residence where the veterans there served in WWII and the Korean War. We have also been invited to present quilts at the Military Family Resource Centre (MFRC) retreats for veterans, and at the Military Museum. Charles has also introduced us to a few other veterans groups that have been very helpful with quilt presentations.

We also have a number of long arm quilters that we wouldn't be able to do without. These are the quilters that help turn our

Nancy's Poppies.



continued
Calgary and Cochrane

quilt tops into beautiful quilts. We have a number of quilters that help us regularly:

Martha Karau, Sandy Carlile, Janet Madeyski of Patches & Threads, the Calgary Longarm Quilters, Fran Stromberg; Darcie Gellner, Louella & Wayne, Karin King, Jenn Blakeborough of Mountain View Quilter, Allison Spence of Meadow Rose Quilting, Chinook Country Quilt Shop in High River, Maple Leaf Quilting in Cochrane, Susan Mercier at Hippie Mama Quilts in Okotoks, Janina Bobyk, Diana Protz, Rhonda Saunders, and the ladies who do their own quilting and give us totally finished quilts.

A few live out of town and make the trek to meet us.



Terry's Interlocking Blues.

The Cochrane Legion has also been very supportive of what we do. They have offered their main room for our monthly 'Show and Tell' meetings.

We have grown from the days when Sandy was one of only a few reps for QOVC. Our group continues to expand as we receive support from quilters and long arm quilters; it takes a team to be able to reach out to the veterans in our area.

Joanne used blue blocks that had been donated by the Caza family, and she added coordinating snail trail blocks.



Purples from the donation bin, made by Susan.

It is our honour to be able to present these beautiful quilts that wrap our veterans in warm hugs.



This quilt was made by Kay.

royalquilts.com



Royal Quilts .com

Canada's Quilt Store

\$5.99 Flat Rate Shipping
within Canada

10% Discount for All QOV Members*

Plus

5% of all Sales will be
donated back to QOV**!

Use Code:

QOVMem2I

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*Discount will only be applied to Website online Sales

**5% of Sales will be before taxes and only to ONLINE Sales

continued
Ottawa, ON

Submitted by Nancy Arbogast. QOVC Rep in Ottawa, Ontario.

When everyone went into lockdown in March, many people were completely thrown for a loop; it was difficult losing physical contact with parents or children as we tried to stay safe by staying at home.

Quilters, however, recognized that their civic duty demanded that they retreat to their quilt rooms to toil away with fabric and thread.

A quilter in Ottawa, Brigid Whitnal, took it one step further. She shared her fabric stash with her mother, and together but separately, they worked to create one of [Border Creek Station's](#) stashbuster quilts.



One quilt became two, became four, all lovingly stitched by Doris Desjardin and quilted by her daughter Brigid. All four of these Mother/Daughter Stashbuster quilts were donated to Quilts of Valour – Canada Society, and will be finding their forever homes very soon.



South Vancouver Island, BC

Submitted by Lynn Carroll. QOVC Rep for southern Vancouver Island, BC

We have a lot of sensible seniors here, so my inventory of quilts is drying up, but Covid cases are few. 😊

I have, however, been very busy with quilt presentations; I presented six quilts recently in Victoria, all in the same day.

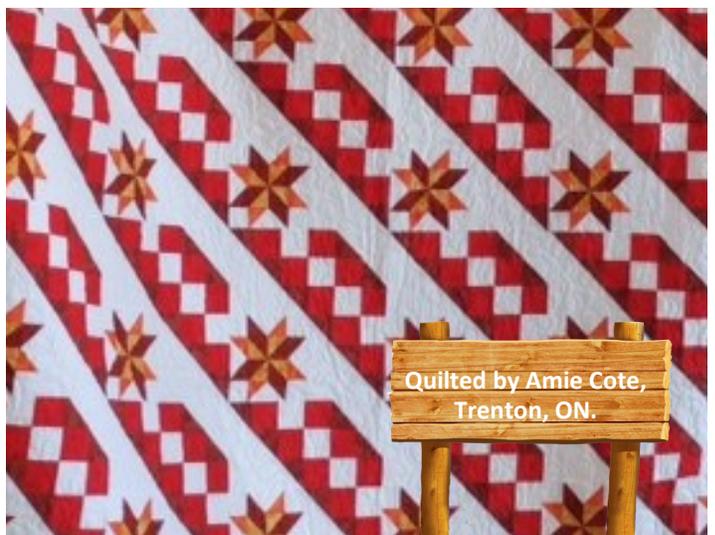
Let's give a huge thanks to my Longarming Ladies who have shared with us so much of their time and talents:

Barb Dickie of Barbara Dickie Quilting in Nanaimo, BC.

Bernadine Libreiro of Cardinal Quilting in Sooke, BC.

Jacquelyn Jacobi of SewCreative in Colwood, Victoria, BC.

I would also like to thank my friend, Barb Mix of Mill Bay, for sewing masks with the Canadiana Theme Fabric for me to use during my Presentations. 🧐



More Quilts and Thank You's

Submitted by Laverne Phills, QOVC Rep. Sarnia, ON.

ON6 had been holding back on presenting quilts to veterans during the Covid-19 protocols. Once protocols were loosened, we started to present quilts again, and I needed to find packaging for delivering the quilts.

The [Stitcharie](#), a local quilt shop in Petrolia, ON, donated a dozen clear plastic tee-shirt bags (XL) for this purpose. We are very grateful to Laurie and her



staff for their support of Quilts of Valour - Canada Society. I now can fold the quilt, and put on a bow that matches the quilt, or, use red and white ribbon from my "stash".



2021 NEWSLETTER Schedule

Issue#30 Feb/21
20,000 quilts in 2020 - and look ahead to 2021

Issue #31 May/21
Readying for Quilt Canada

Issue#32 Aug/21
Our Incredible Volunteers

Submitted by Pamela Holmes, Hug Block Distributor.

A big shout-out and thank you to [Quincy's Quilting Shop](#) in Leduc, Alberta (just 15 minutes from the Edmonton International Airport).

For years, they have been providing fabric to not-for-profit organizations and recently I have been lucky to have three quilts longarmed by them in their monthly draw. In August, they longarmed all day for 40 not-for-profit organizations!!! All gratis!!!

They have a beautiful store staffed with fun helpful people and a huge range of materials, if you are in the area it is well worth a visit to their store. Check out their website for more information about shopping options (ie. online, curbside, in-store, etc.).



Little Macki



Quilted by Amie Cote, Trenton, ON



Janet Dudek (L) and Sue Ross with their tartan appliqued quilt.



These two quilts were longarmed by Quincy's Quilting Shop in Leduc, AB.

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www.quiltsofvalour.ca

Regional Representatives are needed in Owen Sound, Goderich, and Niagara Falls, Ontario.

A Regional Coordinator is needed for Team 4 in Southwestern Ontario.

An individual with Graphic Artist skills is required to design a template for QOV certificates and recognition awards.

If you are interested in putting your name forward for any of these volunteer positions, please contact Don Oliphant at brenda-don.oliphant@quiltsofvalour.ca

Thank You!

Executive

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