



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

Summer is now in full swing, having taken forever to get here, well at least in the Annapolis Valley, Nova Scotia.

It has taken almost a month to get my feet back on the ground after the excitement of Quilt Canada, the Canadian Quilters Association (CQA) quilt show in Ottawa which was held this past June. From the set-up to the take-down, the enthusiasm from the CQA volunteers, the venders, quilters and the Quilts of Valour - Canada Society (QOVC™) representatives was more than words can express.

The log cabin blocks initiative has been a huge success!

At the end of the show, 3056 blocks, 101 tops and 56 finished quilts were collected, along with 280 blocks sewn by our special guest quilters which included Quilt of Valour™ recipients and their children.

The success of our booth would not have been possible without the gracious support of CQA. The booth was 30 feet which allowed us to set up three Elna sewing machines and two tables to hold the hug blocks and patterns. A special thank you to Tracy Russell from WhirlsnSwirls American Professional Quilting Systems (APQS). Tracy assembled a longarm machine in our booth and the

real fun began. Quilters spent three days quilting donated tops and by the end of the show, 15 tops had been quilted. Thank you to the longarm quilters, to name a few Kim Mullens, Suzanne Gauthier and our very own Brenda Oliphant (QOVC™ rep for Chatham, Ontario).

Thank you to all who helped to make 2019 at Quilt Canada so very positive: Janome for the use of the three Elna sewing machine, Cotton Mill threads, three Dog Threads, fabrics from Northcott for the log cabin blocks, Cador Textiles for the batting and backing, Hamils for backing fabric.

Quilt of Valour™ presentations took place each day and each day the audience grew. This was the first

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...President's message

time that quilts have been presented at Quilt Canada and I expect this will become a tradition that will continue for years to come.

Quilts of Valour™ were presented to 11 deserving military members, past and present. On Saturday, three brothers and two of their spouses were presented Quilts of Valour™ for their service. Over 100 years of service was on stage that day. They received a standing ovation which touched the hearts of everyone in the room.

After the quilt presentation, CQA President Heather Black invited Quilts of Valour - Canada Society to Edmonton 2020 for the next Quilt Canada show.

Over 3000 log cabin blocks were collected at Quilt Canada.

Now I'm sure you are wondering who is putting all those log cabin blocks together.

It was so inspiring; quilters would come up to the QOVC™ booth and volunteer to take a set of blocks and return the finished quilt to their local representative. So don't be surprised if you receive a call asking if you would mind quilting a top or two was picked up in Ottawa at Quilt Canada.

Everything came together like clockwork.

'Many hands make light work' - *I love that saying.*

So if you want to get involved we still have tops that need to be quilted and quilts that need to be bound. Please contact your local representative and I'm sure she can keep you busy.

On behalf of Quilts of Valour - Canada Society, I would like to thank *everyone* who sat at their machines and sewed a block, a top, or a quilt for our injured military members.

Canada has amazing and generous quilters. Thank You!

Stay tuned for more exciting news for what Quilts of Valour™ has in store for Quilt Canada 2020.

Mary Ewing, QOVC™ President
mary.ewing@quiltsofvalour.ca

Pattern book Launch

The 2019 QOVC™ hug Block Pattern Booklet was revealed at the QOVC™ booth during the Canadian Quilters' Association quilt show in Ottawa, Ontario, this past June. The booklet sells for \$10 and all proceeds go to Quilts of Valour - Canada Society. The quilt finishes at 68" x 68" and was made using the new line of Northcott OH



Lynne Mersereau, Rep for North Bay, Ontario.

CANADA 7 fabrics. QOVC™ founder, Lezley Zwaal, designed the blocks and authored the booklet. As well as instructions for building the blocks and the quilt, there are quilting definitions and tips, block and finishing techniques, and a few words from Quilts of Valour™ recipients. Contact your QOVC™ rep to get this booklet.



From Across the Nation

A 10th Anniversary Hug Blocks Quilt



68" X 68" Finished

Minor corrections have been noted and can be viewed on the QOVC™ website. Contact your rep for any assistance.
<https://www.quiltsofvalour.ca/hug-block-info.html>

Walpole Island, ON

Thank you to journalist David Gough of 'The Courier Press' for allowing us to reprint his photo and article. See the full article in the June 10th, 2019 edition of The Courier Press at www.wallaceburgcourierpress.com/news/local-news/walpole-island-vet-honoured-with-quilt



Walpole Island's Donald Isaac looks at a quilt he was presented by Quilts of Valour - Canada Society during a ceremony held on Walpole Island on June 5th, as fellow veterans Erin Thomas and Albert Whiteye look on.

The last remaining Second World War veteran on Walpole Island, 93-year-old Donald Isaac, was overcome with emotion when he was presented with a quilt by the Quilts of Valour™ organization, during a ceremony at Walpole Island's St. John the Baptist Anglican Church on June 5th, 2019.

Donald Isaac was given a handmade quilt to acknowledge his heroic contributions in the Canadian Armed Forces, where he served in combat in a number of European countries. Donald later came back to Walpole Island to raise his family and served as chief of Walpole Island.

Laverne Phills, the Quilts of Valour™ representative from Sarnia, said the quilt presented to Donald Isaac is the 14th Quilt of Valour™ presented by the Sarnia organization.

She said it was fitting that Donald Isaac was honoured on what was the 75th anniversary of D-Day.

Submitted by Pat More

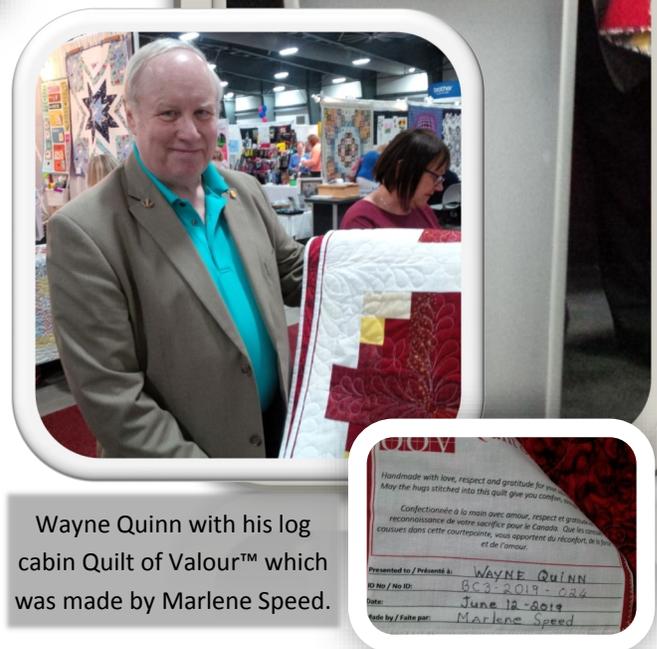
Ottawa, ON

For the first time at the Canadian Quilters' Association quilt show, there were Quilts of Valour™ presentations held in the lecture hall.

The public was encouraged to attend to experience first hand how Quilts of Valour - Canada Society honours our Canadian veterans.



Dino Luberti received his Quilt of Valour™ from Mary Ewing, QOVC™ President.



Wayne Quinn with his log cabin Quilt of Valour™ which was made by Marlene Speed.

Labels for US Quilts of Valor.

Contact Robbie Chapman.

For more information about Quilts of Valor Foundation (QOVF), go to <https://www.qovf.org/>



San Antonio, TX



Steve Connauton (L) was presented his Quilt of Valour™ at a ceremony hosted by QOVF in the USA.

Steve Connauton's military career spans 25 years; he was a warrant officer upon retirement.

Steve served with Lord Strathcona's Horse (Royal Canadians) at Canadian Forces Base (CFB) Calgary and CFB Edmonton for most of his career. He was also posted to CFB Suffield and to CFB Gagetown at the Armour School.

Steve has completed six Operational Tours during his career, two to Afghanistan and four to Bosnia and the former Yugoslavia, as well as completing several domestic operations including the Manitoba floods, Quebec ice storm, and the BC fires.

What a pleasure to send our Quilt of Valour™ to Barb Steers for Steve to be honoured in a USQOVF ceremony organized by Barb Steers.

Isn't it grand that we have help from QOVF (US counterparts) for our QOVCTM presentations!!

Submitted by Connie Mitchelmore, Rep for Canadian Snowbirds.

Honouring USA veterans

I would like to make Quilts of Valour™ for my very dear friends Paul and Sandy, who are husband and wife. Paul served in the Canadian Armed Forces and Sandy served in the US Navy. Making a Quilt of Valour™ for Paul is easy, but making one for Sandy is not so simple. It is important for me to honour her service to her country, but I can't do that with a Canadian Quilt of Valour™.

QOVCTM President, Mary Ewing, has come to my rescue!

She suggested I go ahead and make a stars and stripes quilt, and since we cannot use one of our Canadian QOVCTM labels, not to worry, she would take care of it for me.

Quilts of Valor Foundation (the USA counterpart to QOVCTM) do things a little differently. For instance, there are no numbers on the individual quilts, instead the quilt maker must register the quilt on the national website themselves and they must buy the label. (Seems to me that QOVCTM quilt makers are very spoiled here in Canada!)

I am happy to report that we now have a small supply of labels for US Quilts of Valor. If you are making and presenting a quilt for one of our American friends, please contact me and I will send you a US label.

robbie.chapman@quiltsofvalour.ca

We have all witnessed the impact a Quilt of Valour™ makes on the recipient.....imagine the joy for American veterans living in Canada receiving a US Quilt of Valor in Canada!

I am looking forward to making Sandy an "American" quilt...red, white and blue with a little maple leaf in the bottom corner, and Paul a Canadian quilt with a little star in the bottom corner—honouring both countries.

It will be a privilege to honour two military members for their service to their respective countries and our way of life.

Robbie Chapman, Ottawa, Ontario Group Leader.

Aurora, ON

Submitted by Naomi Babineau, QOVC™ rep for Aurora, Ontario .

I joined Quilts of Valour™ as a regional representative in January 2018. I first learned about Quilts of Valour™ a number of years ago when they presented to my Guild, the Region of York Quilters Guild.

I was so impressed by these passionate quilters that I joined the organization, Quilts of Valour - Canada Society as a member, and now I hold the position of representative for Aurora and the surrounding areas.

It's my job to initiate and coordinate efforts that encourage quilters to participate, and it's my job to present Quilts of Valour™ to deserving Canadian Forces members and veterans.

I just love our mission's goals of recognizing the service that so many Canadians have given, especially those who have been injured in their commitment to our country.

It had been a long time since Quilts of Valour™ made a presentation at our Guild so I decided to re-introduce the quest in hopes of gaining interest and support. I challenged our Guild to complete one Quilt of Valour™ in our first year.

Well, I am so happy to report that we actually made 7 quilts in our first year and now Quilts of Valour™ is a regular monthly segment in our Guild meetings!

Each month members purchase Hug Blocks or bring in completed Log Cabin Challenge blocks! We have members who donate their time to sew blocks together for quilt tops and we even have a member who has agreed to longarm one quilt a month for us!

In addition to presenting the program at our Guild, I have also presented at two other Guilds who have also generously supported us. The East Lake Simcoe Quilters Guild donated four full size quilts and many completed Log Cabin Challenge Blocks! The Durham Trillium Guild donated one completed quilt and 115 completed Log Cabin blocks! They also have a member who is longarming our quilts.

At the Durham Guild, we met retired Master Corporal Debbie Kent who spoke about receiving a Quilt of Valour™ herself a few years ago.

She brought the crowd to tears when she explained how receiving a Quilt of Valour™ changed her life by steering her away from depression. She spoke of colleagues who were given hope specifically because of this gesture of receiving a Quilt of Valour™. She said that quilters see it as something nice to do for someone, but for Quilt of Valour™ recipients, it can be life saving!

We truly thank Debbie Kent for her 33 years of service.

I have learned that there are so many wonderful quilters in Canada who give of their time and money without question because they have a skill they want to share to make someone feel better. I thank my partner in crime, Linda Wigmore, who supports me in every way no matter the time of day, piecing, quilting, cutting, and standing beside me during presentations.

In this first year, I have presented 11 Quilts of Valour™ to deserving men and women. It is always a humbling and heart-warming experience. In May, I presented a Quilt of Valour™ to Bill Carbray who was a technician with the Navy serving on submarines.

He told me he was humbled to receive his Quilt of Valour™. He was humbled, yet Bill had survived a flood and a fire on



Naomi Babineau with Bill Carbray.

board the submarines he was serving on. One can only imagine the impact of that experience!

In June, I presented nine Quilts of Valour™ at the Toronto Police Chief's Ceremonial Unit's annual Mess Dinner. It was an evening to honour the 75th anniversary of D-Day and to honour the Toronto Police officers who had joined the Canadian Armed Forces and served and died on that day.

(Continued from page 5)

Quilt of Valour™ presentation during Toronto Police Chief's Ceremonial Unit's Annual Mess Dinner



The nine members of the Military who received Quilts of Valour™ that night and who have also been Police Officers had served in: Cyprus, the Gulf War and Desert Storm, Kuwait, East Africa, Afghanistan, Egypt, Iran, Gulf of Oman, Arabian Gulf, Bosnia, Borneo, Yugoslavia and Germany.

I was so honoured to join the Police Chief in wrapping these men and one woman in their Quilts of Valour™!

In July, I presented a Quilt of Valour™ to 98 year old Veteran Fred Barnard who served on D-Day.



(L to R) Naomi Babineau, Fred Barnard, and Linda Wigmore.

He arrived on Juno Beach in the first wave and saw his own brother shot and killed right in front of him. He says the last thing he said to his brother while he patted him on the back when arriving was, "Give 'em hell Don!" and that was the last time he saw him alive.

When I joined Quilts of Valour™ I knew I wanted to honour our Canadian Armed forces.

My Father served in WWII as did my Father-in-law but I couldn't have guessed that the people we

honour would teach me so much about sacrifice and what it takes to be a hero. It is me who is humbled and honoured by them. Thank you to all who serve.

Naomi Babineau, Aurora, Ontario Rep.

More from your President

To QOVC™ Reps : When presenting the log cabin quilts (red and white colour combination), please include 2 colour catchers with usage instructions. These can be placed in an envelope or baggie and pinned to the quilt.

What is a colour catcher? They are small sheets that are designed to prevent white and light colours from staining red (or other dark colour). Red and dark colours can sometimes run in the first wash.

Attention all QOVC™ members!

We need your idea for a 10½" (unfinished) block that is built using 2½" strips of red and cream fabrics.

This block will replace the log cabin "light in the window" initiative and this block will be collected at 2020 Quilt Canada in Edmonton, AB.

Send in your idea to Mary Ewing.
mary.ewing@quiltsofvalour.ca

Thanks so much for all your help!

Founder's Corner

Submitted by Lezley Zwaal, QOVC™ Founder.

In 2010, I approached Northcott Fabrics to consider designing a line of Canadianna fabric that could be used in QOVC™ quilts.

They agreed and fabric was designed and reached store shelves in June, 2012.

Northcott continues to support QOVC™ with new fabrics each year and provide us promotional item too!

The Hug Blocks program came from an idea of Ontario quilter Bill Bartlett and Northcott. They approached us with the concept of quilt blocks using the 'Oh Canada' fabric line. Hug blocks would be collected from multiple locations and made into a quilt which results in "quilted hugs from across the nation".

Ontario quilters Mary Ewing (QOVC™ President) and Jan Easton (Belleville, Ontario rep) sold patterns and fabric to make a block at quilt shows in their area; this led to me designing specific block patterns each year since 2014 for fundraising efforts.

Over 5,000 hug blocks have been collected coast to coast to coast and have been re-distributed to quilting groups across the country and made into many quilts.

We continue to receive many unique blocks too!

We have received beautiful photos of quilts made by local bees and guilds using the Hug Blocks.

Inspired by requests for layout ideas, plus the society's 10th Anniversary as a formal society, quilt pattern ideas using the new 2019 Hug Blocks were shared with the board and others, and a pattern was chosen.

This led to the booklet now available for \$10 (plus



shipping if needed), all funds going to QOVC™, our only cost being the professional printing.

Check with your area representative, QOVC™ displays at quilt shows, or on our website.

www.quiltsofvalour.ca

Lezley Zwaal, QOVC™ Founder

**HELP
WANTED**

**2020 Hug Blocks
Pattern Designer**

QOVC™ Founder, Lezley Zwaal, is looking for a creative person who is willing to work in partnership with her on the Hug Blocks for 2020. This person would later lead the hug block project in 2021.

Skills needed include word processing and a knack for describing patterns such that it would be clear to beginner quilters.

Computer knowledge in the following software would be helpful:

Electric Quilt 8 (EQ8):

- Uploading existing block patterns.
- Creating new patterns.
- Modifying patterns.
- Exporting patterns for documents.
- Downloading fabrics from websites.

Microsoft Word:

- Using extended Design & Layout functions.
- Working with existing patterns.
- Formatting text & patterns together.
- Adding pictures.
- Creating .pdf versions.
- Creating black/grey/white versions of pattern.
- Dissecting sections of the block for instructions.

Google Chrome:

- Uploading pattern instructions & photos.

Contact Lezley Zwaal for more information.

Email: lezley.zwaal@quiltsofvalour.ca

or HugBlocks@quiltsofvalour.ca

Phone: 780-983-3210



WWII Red Cross Quilts

Does this quilt label look familiar?



Joanna Dermenjian is working on her thesis project to uncover information about the tens of thousands of Red Cross quilts which were sent over to the United Kingdom during World War II. These quilts were made by Canadian women all across Canada and are identifiable by a Red Cross badge stitched

on the back. Sometimes the badge includes the city or town name.

Joanna is a master's student at Queens University in Kingston, Ontario, in the department of Cultural Studies. She partnered with QOVC™ at Quilt Canada in Ottawa this past June to help spread information about these quilts and her campaign to learn more from those who have one, or know of one being made, or have any association with one.

Please contact Joanna by phoning 613.532.7171 or email joanna.dermenjian@queensu.ca.

Learn more about WWII Red Cross quilts.

1. Halifax Women's History Society.
<http://halifaxwomenshistory.ca/canadian-comfort-quilts>
2. National Film Board film (10min) entitled "Home Front", dated 1940. (*jump ahead to 8:30 if time is limited.*) https://www.nfb.ca/film/home_front/
3. National Film Board film (10min) entitled "To the Ladies", dated 1946. (*jump ahead to 5:30.*)
https://www.nfb.ca/film/to_the_ladies/
4. Canadian Red Cross commissioned film (11½min) entitled "There, Too, Go I", dated 1941. (*jump ahead to 5:30 to see the Queen Mother express her gratitude for these quilts and other aid from Canada*)

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=2&v=NqXtMoZ-i3U

General Appreciation

Congratulations Mary Ewing, QOVC™ president, and Robbie Chapman, QOVC™ Ottawa Group Leader, on receiving your Veterans Affairs Canada (VAC) Challenge coin from General (Ret'd) Walt Natynczyk, Deputy Minister of Veteran Affairs, in recognition of your work .



General (Ret'd) Walt Natynczyk visited the QOVC™ booth at the Canadian Quilter's Association quilt show in Ottawa this past June to present the coin to Mary Ewing and Robbie Chapman. Unfortunately

Robbie Chapman was not present at the booth at the time of his visit.



Robbie Chapman with her VAC Challenge coin.



CQA Quilt Show Quilt Canada in Ottawa

Log cabin donations steadily came in to the QOVC™ booth during the Canadian Quilter's Association quilt show in Ottawa this past June.

Our thanks goes out to quilter's and quilt guilds for generously donating finished quilts, quilt tops, and loose Log Cabin blocks and hug blocks.

Final donation tally for the 4 day event:

Finished quilts	56
Quilt tops	101
Loose blocks	3056



Sewing Station at QOVC™ booth. 280 Blocks were made at the show.

Charlene Clifford (L) with 'Where Friends Gather' quilt guild in Dalhousie, New Brunswick, was busy sewing log cabin blocks with **Suzanne Gauthier (Mid)** from Earlton, Ontario, and **Debra Peterson**, from Orleans, Ontario.

Suzanne is owner of 'The Quilting Barn' quilt shop in Earlton and is an accomplished longarmer. In fact, she volunteered her time to quilt a Quilt of Valour™ during the show at the QOVC™ machine which was on loan from American Professional Quilting Systems (APQS).

Debra is a 10yr volunteer with QOVC™ and shared that the QOVC™ brochure includes one of her quilts. She sent us a photo of the quilt she recently made for her husband who retired from the military.



What a clever way to use panel pieces!



Sue Peters from Coe Hill, Ontario, brought in 2 quilt tops and loose blocks. An interesting star shape emerges with Sue's selection of fabric in this 'Frayed Sawtooth Star' pieced quilt block.

Note the tally board Sue is holding. This was Day#2 of the 4-day show. The board was continuously updated.



Nancy White-Ouellette brought in 18 loose blocks that she sewed with help from her husband **Marc**, who did the cutting. Nancy and Marc added words to their blocks. Each block is different, shown here are 'Inspire' and 'Valorous'.



Tracy Russell of APQS at the QOVC™ booth. 15 quilts were quilted at the show.

Thank you **Tracy Russell (L)** and American Professional Quilting Systems (APQS) for loaning your longarm machine to QOVC™.

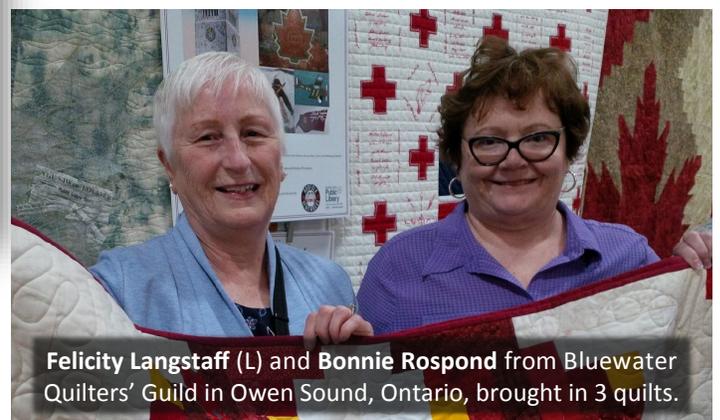
There was no shortage of quilt tops available to quilt, and many people were taking advantage of this impromptu demonstration on how to load a quilt onto the machine!



Donna Cormier, founder of the 'North Star quilt guild' in Bathurst, New Brunswick, brought in this completed quilt made by her friend **Debbie Smith**.



Lynne Wilkinson (L) and **Sharree Eid** are with Niagara Heritage Quilters located in St-Catherine's, Ontario. They brought in 2 quilt tops and 60 loose blocks.



Felicity Langstaff (L) and **Bonnie Rospond** from Bluewater Quilters' Guild in Owen Sound, Ontario, brought in 3 quilts.

...more from CQA
Quilt Canada in Ottawa



Lori O'Brien (L) and Pam Voisine from Grand Falls, New Brunswick, brought in one quilt top and one finished quilt. In the photo is Pam's finished quilt (Ta Da!).

Our thanks to **Reed McNeely** (L) with The Grace Company Canada, and **Renae Leblanc** from Ottawa Sewing Centre who quilted a Quilt of Valour™ during the quilt show at the demo machine which was set-up at their booth.



Also our thanks is extended to **Adrienne Gallagher** from Bernina, and Baby Lock reps **Michelle and Leonard Smith** from Hamilton Sewing and **Jeanne Campeau**, Regional Sales Manager, for reserving a longarm machine at your booths for quilting Quilts of Valour™ during the show.



← **Debbie Bristol** volunteers with QOVC™ and has presented over 600 quilts in Petawawa, Ontario. Debbie is also a recipient of a Quilt of Valour™. She is new to sewing... looks like she had some fun with it!

Brenda Millar brought in over 200 loose blocks and with that, brought our loose blocks total over 2000 on Day#2.

Quite a milestone! These blocks were from the Blue Mountain guild in Port Moody, BC, and the Grouse Mountain Day Quilters guild in North Vancouver, BC.



(from L to R) **Christine Clarkson**, with Nimble Fingers Sew Group at Vegreville, Alberta, Alliance Church; **Lynn Carroll**, South Vancouver Island QOVC™ representative; and **Lynda Anderson**, Courtice, Ontario.



(from L to R) **Joanna Dermenjian**, Queen's University Master's Student; **Susan Sullivan**, Bowmanville, Ontario, QOVC™ volunteer for 5 yrs; **Mary Ewing**, QOVC™ president; and **Nancy Arbogast**, Ottawa and Area QOVC™ rep.



Joyce Marcuccio from Pembroke, Ontario, seen here with her quilt top.

THANKS ALL for your donations at the QOVC™ booth. In these pages is but a small sampling of all the wonderful people who thought to make a block and make a difference!

Manitoba

Three Quilts of Valour™ were presented to WWII veterans on June 2nd at the Canadian Legion in Lac du Bonnet, Manitoba.

June 2nd was Decoration Day which is a very special day for the legion in Lac du Bonnet. We were invited to participate and I was honoured to place a wreath during the ceremony on behalf of QOVC™.

There was a parade and lunch, and the highlight of the day was the presentation of Quilts of Valour™ to three WWII veterans. They were so pleased and honoured to be recognized for their service and they loved their quilts.



(front L to R) Joan Arseniuk, Walter Jansson and George Hampshire.

(back L to R) Bonnie Warszycki and Edith Taylor (Manitoba rep).

During the month of June, I was pleased to present five quilts to veterans and continue to organize presentations as names are brought forward.

The group here in Manitoba also make Quilts of Valour™ for our bases in Winnipeg and Shilo. We have a very good relationship with the local Transition Office.

....lastly from CQA Quilt Canada in Ottawa

Gaye Haggie, QOVC™

Treasurer, and her mother Aileen brought a cake decorated with 'QOVC' to a potluck Celebration Dinner.



Above (from L to R) **Lynne**

Mersereau, Rep for North Bay,

Ontario; **Mary Ewing**, QOVC™ President; **Linda Gerein**, Regional

Coordinator for Yukon, BC and Alberta; **Robbie Chapman**,

Ottawa and Area Group Leader.

QOVC would like to extend our thanks to the following sponsors and contributors:

Northcott Fabrics

Cotton Mills Threadworks

Cador Textiles

Canadian Quilters' Association

3 dogs quilting

Janome Canada (*they loaned us some machines during the show and they also quilted for us!*)

We are very fortunate to have support from quilt groups in the area, including Riverside Quilters who have donated over 100 quilts to us to date. As well, we have many individual quilters who make our job so much easier. It seems a long time ago since we made those first quilts in 2006!

Submitted by Edith Taylor, Manitoba Representative



Display of quilts donated to QOVC™ by Riverside Quilters in Manitoba.

Medicine Hat, AB

Thank you to journalist Mo Cranker of 'Medicine Hat News' for allowing us to reprint his photo and article. See the full article in the April 27th, 2019 edition of Medicine Hat News at medicinehatnews.com/news/local-news/2019/04/27/hatter-proud-to-bring-quilt-of-valour-chapter-to-medicine-hat/



Quilts of Valour™ Medicine Hat Representative Pam Robertson works on a quilt. Pam Robertson recently moved to Medicine Hat with her husband and is looking for volunteers to join the group.

Pam Robertson and her husband both have served in the military.

"I ran into Quilts of Valour™ years ago while in Edmonton and they really stuck with me," said Pam Robertson. "My husband retired from the military and got a job at CFB Suffield so I joined Quilts of Valour - Canada Society in January to bring this to Medicine Hat."

"Quilts of Valour - Canada Society is 10 years old and does really amazing work."

Pam says she is looking for quilters of all skill levels to get involved with the group.

"If you can sew a straight line, you can help us out with quilting," she said. "People can sign up on our website to sew or they can reach out to me and we can meet for coffee to set something up."

"We're always looking for more people."

Pam says she is in the process of planning events where she will have volunteers come with their sewing machines so the group can work on projects together.

Submitted by Pam
Robertson

Here's what the team has
accomplished so far.

On May 4, I hosted a big kickoff for Quilts of Valour™ in Medicine Hat.

There were 15 passionate quilters who attended, with a range of experience in sewing, quilting, binding, and two additional members who don't sew but want to help out in whatever way they can.

One of the members, Karen, has been making hug blocks for several years and was excited to see a team forming in the area. Linda had already finished an entire log cabin quilt top, from the time news had started spreading about the group a few weeks prior.

These are humbling and inspiring volunteers!

Our first goal was to have eight quilts finished and ready by the end of summer - but they have all done much more than that.

So far, we have awarded quilts to veterans at cadet annual inspections which was a moving and powerful message for the cadets as well as their parents and dignitaries who were there.

We have also presented to veterans in private homes and even at a wedding.

This week is our tenth Quilt of Valour™ presentation, and there is a waiting list of veterans and serving members in the immediate area.

This kind of momentum could not have happened without all the support of the wider Quilts of Valour™ team, a keen interest by local sewers, and the interest from Mo Cranker, our local news reporter. I can't wait to see what the upcoming year looks like!



(L to R) Scott Schall, Pam Robertson, Paul Keating, and Dave Coward.

Sarnia, ON

Submitted by Laverne Phills, Rep for Sarnia, Ontario.

The Sarnia group answered the request from our QOVC™ president for quilts to be sent to the Transition Centre in Gagetown, New Brunswick.

Altogether 10 quilts were sent from Sarnia.

I would like to thank Don and Brenda Oliphant (Regional Reps,) who helped with coordinating the shipment.

(right) This quilt showing fall colours was made by Greta Ayers from donated fabric from Kathi Attwood. Jack Stewart quilted it and added "Canadiana" designs.



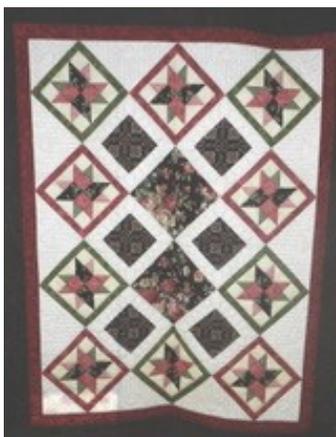
(left) This quilt was made by friends Carol Allen, Barb Stevens, and Gloria Martell. Jack Stewart quilted it and added "Welcome" signs to each of the doors.



(right) This quilt was assembled and pieced by Val Johnson. It was quilted by Carol Cote. Maple Leaves and Standing Tall Maple Leaves of various colours and fabric designs were incorporated.



(right) This quilt was assembled by Colleen Hudson from a kit that had been donated. The beautiful star patterns with the colour co-ordinating borders on point look so good. Jack Stewart quilted it and made it look even more awesome.



(Left) This quilt was assembled by Tonie Ambrose and Pat More. It was quilted by Jack Stewart. Please note the many "Hug Blocks" from across Canada.



(right) This quilt was made by sisters Jan Matthews and Cheryl McDonald. Cheryl did a great job quilting the panel of poppies and side row of friendship stars.



(left) This quilt was assembled by Val Johnson from blocks received from her international quilting group "Quilters Who Care". Carol Cote quilted it with a maple leaf motif. It is made with red and white fabric in an Irish chain.

(right) This quilt was pieced and assembled by Lynne White and Pat Preudhomme. Jack Stewart had fun adding totem pole motifs to the quilt. The pattern is in the 'shadow box' picture design. Lynne and Pat also made a pillow case to go with it!



This quilt was assembled by Nora Boyd and quilted by Jack Stewart. There are Canadian cities and a quilted message "Canada thanks you for your service and dedication"



(above) This beautiful woven colours quilt was made by Pat Preudhomme and quilted by Laverne Phills. It has "Canadiana" symbols in the large white areas and maple leaf and poppy designs in the green border.

Edmonton, AB

I would like to thank the following volunteers for their amazing support:

Sandii Easthope - longarm quilter

Kathy Smith - Onoway

Lois Miller - Sherwood Park

The Edmonton and District Quilting Guild (EDQG)

Stitches & Rippers - Barrhead

And a special thank you to Michelle Grabon in memory of her mother Gloria Grabas

Submitted by Christine Orr, Rep for Edmonton and area.

Target 5K\$ Sept-Nov

Submitted by Gaye Haggie, QOVC Treasurer.

Celebrate our 10th Anniversary as a Registered Charity by supporting Quilts of Valour - Canada Society to meet our goal of 20,000 Quilts of Valour™ by 2020.

Fellow QOVC™ Members and Supporters, please join us in the first annual QOVC™ Donation Drive this fall. It will be running from 1 September to 30 November 2019, and it is our goal to raise \$5,000 in donations during that time.

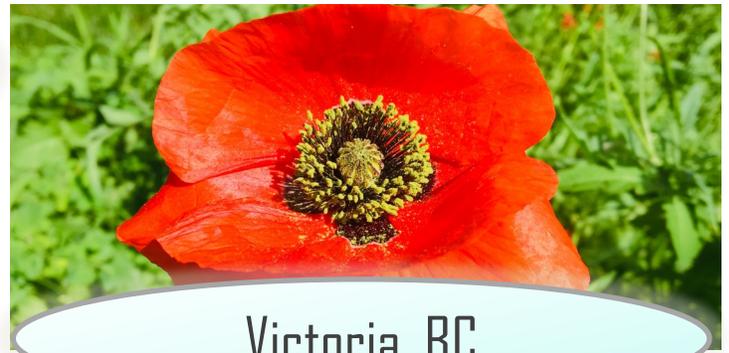
Donation solicitation sample letters and thank you letters are being drafted and will be provided to each Region mid to late August.

Donation results will be broken down weekly by Region and posted regularly on our internal website.

Funds raised will be used to provide the additional backing and batting required to meet our goal of 20,000 Quilts of Valour™ in 2020. Please help us to ensure that injured Canadian Forces members are recognized for their service and commitment to our country through the presentation of quilts to comfort our past and present Canadian Forces members.

For further information or to share your own ideas/support on this initiative, please contact QOVC™ Treasurer: gaye.haggie@quiltsvalour.ca.

Thank you for all you do!



Victoria, BC

I would like to thank the Westshore Quilt Guild in Victoria and the Crofton Quilters in Crofton for their terrific support in making Tenth Anniversary Log Cabin quilts, tops and blocks.

Their Sew Days were a lot of fun and every stitch is appreciated.



(above) Group picture of the Crofton Quilters.

(below) Quilts made by the Westshore Quilters Guild.



I attended Quilt Canada Ottawa in June and had a fantastic time meeting other Reps and Quilters from across the country.

Our QOVC™ Booth was a constant beehive of activity with donations and support being overwhelming. It was wonderful to represent Vancouver Island and be a part of the experience, especially with the enthusiastic Soldiers sewing "the Block" and the daily presentations of quilts.



Submitted by Lynn Carroll, Rep for Victoria and area.

Your Inbox Thank you Notes

In April, I presented quilts to veterans from two different conflicts. Mr. Earl Kennedy, a WWII veteran and Mr. Martin (Jay) Frechette, an Afghanistan veteran. Even though both men were affected by what they had experienced, their visible appreciation of the Quilts of Valour™ presented was palatable.

I want to share the wonderful thank-you letter I received.

Submitted by Bonnie Frappier, St.Hubert, Québec rep.

Sainte-Anne-de-Bellevue, Quebec

To the Ladies of the Quilts of Valour™,

This letter is directed toward the warm and caring ladies across Canada who were instrumental in the development of the beautiful quilt I received. The Quilt of Valour™, identification number QC3-19-15, was constructed with immense care and attention which I proudly adorn my bed with. I would like apologize for the delay in addressing my thoughts about this wonderful quilt you hard working women have created for me. The manner in which each of the diamonds were constructed tells an intricate story. The perimeter of each diamond contained a portion of the Canadian flag which was ingenious in that it reflected both the ladies concerns for veterans and the proud Canadian flag for which we fought for. Your quilts are truly a form of art that bring tremendous joy and delight to its recipients.

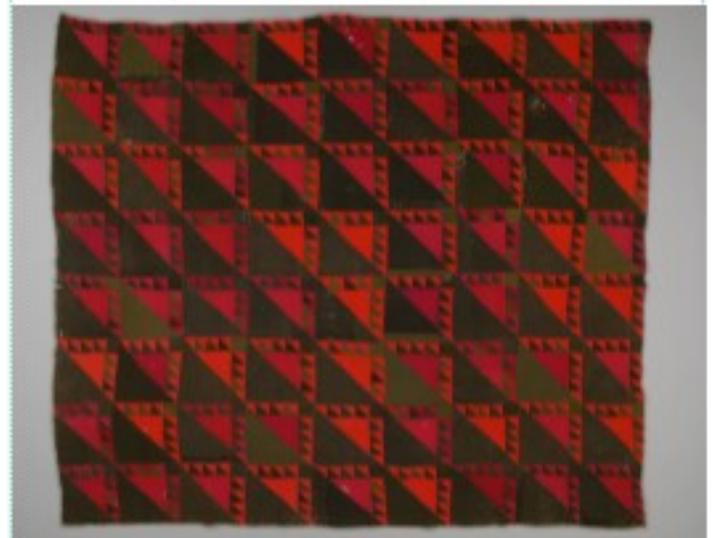
The veterans, including myself, are most appreciative of the efforts and care that were put into making these quilts. Your mission to recognize veterans across Canada has been well received here at Sainte-Anne's and we wish you good fortune in your future endeavors.

Again, please accept my congratulations on a job well done and I look forward to seeing your work in the future. You have my support and appreciation.

Kindest regards,

Earl Kennedy

Textile Museum Our Heritage



Historic 'Delectable Mountains' quilt (circa 1880 - 1900) from Central Canada. Photo courtesy of the Textile Museum of Canada. (ID T90.0061) www.textilemuseum.ca

Red and Black wool were used to make this historic quilt. The quilting is done in black thread in concentric lines forming 'fans'. (How bold!)

The blocks finish at 9" square and have been arranged in the traditional manner with all blocks placed in the same direction.

Thank you very much to the Textile Museum for allowing us to share a photo of this beautiful quilt.



(above) Bonnie Frappier with Mr. Martin (Jay) Frechette.

(right) Bonnie Frappier with Earl Kennedy.

Your Inbox...continued

Thank you Notes

Three brothers and two of their wives were presented with Quilts of Valour™ at the Canadian Quilters' Association quilt show this past June. The family has, combined, over 100 years of service in the military.

Before and after the presentation, the recipients and their children all took the time to stitch some blocks and chat with the quilters at the QOVCM™ booth.

Submitted by Nancy Arbogast, Ottawa, Ontario Rep.



Ottawa, Ontario.

Thank you Nancy for involving my brothers and I and our two wives into the QOV world. It was amazing and I wish I could express the emotions that were running through us all and what the event meant to us, it is just too much to put into words. When the crowd stood up and gave us the applause they did, it was overwhelming. What the Quilts of Valour - Canada Society does is truly remarkable and meeting some of the members on Saturday really brought home the amount of time, effort and passion that goes into making a quilt that will undoubtedly provide a soldier with a lot of peace and comfort. My family as well as myself will cherish not only the moments and the quilts but the everlasting memories that we get to keep and reflect on from time to time when we need a little light to make our way out of the darkness. The entire day was absolutely priceless and the whole family could not stop talking about what had just transpired, we owe it all to you and the Quilt of Valour - Canada Society, god bless you all.

*Chief Warrant Officer / Adjutant-Chef P.P.
(Paul) Flowers, CD*



(from L to R) MWO Harvey Flowers, MWO Rodney Flowers, CWO Paul Flowers and Nancy Arbogast, Rep for Ottawa, Ontario.

Brenda Hulan, Nova Scotia QOVCM™ Representative with Harvey Flowers.



The Flower family: (from L to R) Laurie, Harvey, Rodney, Paul, and Brigitte.

2019/20 NEWSLETTER Schedule

Issue#25 Nov/19
The Remembrance Day edition

Issue#26 Feb/20
Look ahead to 2020 events

Issue#27 May/20
Marvelous Quilts!

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We are currently seeking candidates for the following open position.

Fund raising Coordinator

Duties:

- Attending board and executive meetings
- organizing and coordinating fund raising campaigns once approved by the board
- supporting regional representatives with all information and documents for the fundraising campaign



Cascading Blocks



Friendship 4 Patch



Western Star



Maple Leaf Too



New Waterwheel



Poppy