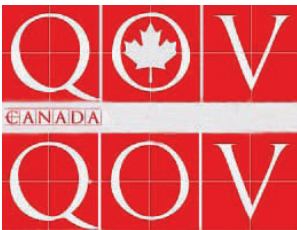


Quilts of Valour - Canada

Issue 4
December 2009



Our Mission

to ensure that our injured 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.

Quilts to Landstuhl

This fall Canada's Chaplain General's office requested some of our quilts be sent to Landstuhl Germany so that our injured soldiers can come home with a Canadian quilt of comfort! Our quilters in Ontario had the opportunity to speak directly to Colonel Lawrence MacIsaac, Director Chaplaincy Service and Principal Chaplain Roman Catholic who attended their quilting bee. Close to 50 quilters were gathered to make quilts in Orleans in September and the colonel was able to view first hand the volunteers donating their time and fabrics and making our quilted hugs for our injured soldiers. An article was printed in Canadian Army news bulletin and a video was prepared. Please check out the site and view the quilters of all ages working so hard!

<http://www.army.forces.gc.ca/land-terre/news-nouvelles/story-reportage-eng.asp?id=3862>

Since then, we have arranged to have quilts sent on an as needed basis to the hospital in Landstuhl Germany. Our injured soldiers are coming home wrapped in our quilted hugs! Our coordinator for that is Jane Leblanc in Ottawa and she will be letting our quilting contacts know if there is another surge of requests. We have sent 14 quilts to date. A very BIG THANK YOU to Jane for making a fantastic connection for us! And a very big thank you and super hug to the quilters who spent their day quilting. Quilts of Valour - Canada will ensure those quilts are delivered to our bases and to our soldiers. Thank you to the Chaplain General's office for their support in reaching our soldiers so they can come home wrapped in our hugs. It is one more way we can reach out to our very brave men and women to say "Thank You" for looking out for our country.

Lez



Mending Soldiers' Spirits by Joni Pitzel

A group of ladies from the Alder Flats, Buck Lake, and Winfield Alberta areas have been busy working on a special project. The ladies call themselves *Mending Soldiers' Spirits*. Their only goal is to build quilts of comfort or *Quilts of Valour* for injured Canadian soldiers.

The ladies began work November 11, 2008, and thanks to the huge efforts of Sandra Glenn and her fellow quilters, the ladies proudly presented Chaplain Laurelle Callaghan with 37 *quilts of valour* on November 24, 2009.

Many of the ladies have a military connection while others simply believe an injured soldier should have a quilt of comfort to help get through the difficult times.

One of the ladies from *Mending Soldiers' Spirits* is 82 year old Barb McLeod. Barb was a war bride and when asked about the idea simply said, "It's about time someone did this". Barb made 4 quilts, an amazing task especially for someone who has been left partially paralyzed from a stroke.





The presentation of the quilts to Chaplain Laurelle Callaghan was overwhelming for all. Crp. Ryan Crawford who accompanied Chaplain Laurelle Callaghan for the presentation was himself a Quilt of Valour recipient after having been injured. The work continues for the ladies of *Mending Soldiers' Spirits*. During the presentation work bee ladies were cutting, sewing, and pinning quilts. Even the Chaplain lent a hand with the pinning.

After the presentation, the ladies served a potluck lunch and quilting stories were shared. Everyone was in tears after fellow quilter Del Caskey had told her *quilt of valour* story. <editor note: We'll have more on that story next time!> The fun began when it came to loading the car. Thank goodness the Chaplain left her 'smart car' at home!



A word from our Founder

Quilters for QoV have been keeping busy as I see quilts going to the bases in batches of 20 and 30!! Quilts from Newfoundland through Vancouver Island are being delivered to our bases - it has been wonderful to see our quilters across the whole country making quilts being delivered to our soldiers recovering across the country. Quilts of Valour - Canada does not have chapters or local executives. We are not "regional" - but truly nation-wide, regardless of what seems to get printed in the various articles I read about QoV. Quilter contacts have been established across the country to help share the gathering and distribution of quilts. They have been established to make it easier for quilters to connect locally. Soldiers are deployed out of Alberta, Ontario or Quebec. Our soldiers' homes are coast to coast. If they are injured they do not necessarily recover in a hospital close to "home". Your quilt and financial donations are appreciated by soldiers across the whole country and it may very well happen that your quilt made in Newfoundland will go to a soldier from Manitoba recovering in British Columbia. Alternately, your Newfoundland soldier may be recovering in Alberta and receives a quilt made by a quilter in Moosimin, Saskatchewan!




I'm traveling to Vancouver Island in December to visit my parents. While there I will be picking up a quilt made by a retired RCAF pilot who has been quilting since 2006. I look forward to giving him a VERY special hug and will deliver his quilt to our base in Edmonton.

Be sure to check out our website www.quiltsofvalour.ca as it has been updated this fall. More updates will be forthcoming as more photos are edited. The photos provide lots of ideas for quilt designs and quilt labels!

Donations: There have been a few inquiries about the donations to Quilts of Valour and getting tax receipts. If the donation is made to Quilts of Valour, it should be sent to head office. A charitable receipt will be issued and the income is reported to Revenue Canada. We also must report our expenses too, and our prime function of QoV is shipping your quilts. We are establishing contacts to assist quilt delivery with minimal expense and I truly appreciate that! Should a donor request their funds are to support a quilting group, it is preferred they fund that group directly. However, we can direct a portion of the donation back to the quilters on request when the quilting supply receipts are forwarded to head office.

Please remember though, without funds, we cannot print and deliver the tax receipt your donors want.

 To all the wonderful quilters who are giving so much of their time and quilt materials for our brave soldiers, have a very special holiday season with your loved ones close at hand. For our families who have members spending the holiday season supporting and defending our country overseas, a very special hug to you. And to our soldiers - a very special thank you. Because of you I am able to wish you all a very Merry Christmas - in whatever language, religion or manner you spend it!



Alberta

On a recent shop hop along the Yellowhead Hwy (Edmonton to Mundare), Lezley chatted with Valerie, owner of The Chicken Coop quilt shop in Mundare. As Quilts of Valour was explained, Valerie said - "I have something for you!" and brought out this quilt to give to an injured soldier. She had just finished quilting it and knew it was meant for someone special.

Newfoundland - Linda Temple

Linda recently had the opportunity to visit with 83-year-old Mary Genge-Bowers (right) to talk about Quilts of Valour and look at all the quilts she has made over the years. Mary had taken a bulletin home from church in the spring with information about QoV in it and couldn't put it out of her mind. She shares our great passion for the Armed Forces who are serving in the military today and this led her to make the Trip Around the World quilt shown here to demonstrate her (and our) honour to serve and comfort them in our unique way through a craft we all love. When Linda visited her, Mary was busy re-upholstering a lazy-boy recliner! What an inspiration Mary is!



Linda also spent her fall vacation in western Canada, visiting fabric stores in Alberta and BC. Lezley and Linda were able to share a quick visit in Edmonton, and then Linda continued on her holiday finding great fabric deals she took home to share with her quilting friends in Cormack.



Red Rally Presentatioin in P.E.I. - Betty Mahar

I was invited today (Nov 6) to present the first QoV quilt at the Red Rally in Charlottetown, PEI. I was honored to say the least to present a quilt donated by the Anglican Church Quilters of New London, PEI to Cpl Tyler Coady. The quilt was the first to be presented in PEI and Tyler was our first local to have been injured in Afghanistan. Tyler was very lucky and his act prevented many of his comrades from danger. Tyler is a hero in my books and is very honored to receive our quilt. Many thanks to all involved in QoV. Your hard work and generosity was seen today in a young man whose life was changed serving his country. Thank You All!

We are awaiting the return home of another injured and his quilt will be presented to him in Dec. when he returns home for Christmas. There are more to be presented and I am honored to be a part of this. Many thanks to the Military liaison for including me in these presentations.

QoV makes memories for the injured, their families, and for our quilters and people like myself who have the honor bestowed upon us to pass on HUGS from Canadians giving thanks to our men and women.

Today's rally was very fitting as it was the Rally of Remembrance. I will post pics as they become available as my camera failed me. Betty Mahar, PEI



Ontario - Anita McKeigan

Anita lives in the small hamlet of Maberly, ON. She has been making quilts for our injured soldiers since January 2007 before she had even heard of Quilts of Valour - Canada and was quilt happy to find the group through Padre Costen.

Anita retired from the Canadian Forces in 1992 and during her career and training Peace Keeping duties were the main mission. Times changed and since the first soldier was injured she felt she had to do something to say Thank You and let them know that their commitment to service is appreciated. Lap quilts were her way of doing this and to date she has made 50. She has enjoyed doing this and has kept a picture log of each quilt that she has forwarded since starting, a few of which are shown here.



British Columbia - Debby Gray

I had a bit of a problem getting donated quilts from Vancouver Island to the mainland, the only ways were by mail or if someone happened to be coming over at some time, both of which were not ideal. So in November I approached [Helijet](#) and [Harbour Air](#) to see if they would be interested in donating some cargo space to us for the transport of donated quilts once in a while. BOTH of them immediately agreed to help us out. I have since received a package of quilts from Victoria via Helijet. It all went smoothly and efficiently - it's very exciting to be able to use this method to get the quilts over here. A big thanks to both companies for their generosity. Anyone on Vancouver Island wishing to use this service please contact me directly for correct address/delivery procedures at scrappyblue@gmail.com.

A letter from a soldier's dad ... (names have been edited out)

I would like to thank you for making the lovely quilt. I have it here in New West while my son is living in Lancaster Park, north of Edmonton. We have a few things here until he knows what is happening next.

(My son) was badly injured while he was in a Leopard tank, if he had of been in anything less he would have been killed by the blast. After the acute medical care in Edmonton he came here for a couple of months before he was well enough to start physio, that was enjoyable. Despite the physical damage he is as lovely a person he has always been. He doesn't complain about pain and stove every day to et better and be able to do more, and he did.

He is recovering rapidly, he is able to walk and is in physio every weekday. He lives, works and does his physio on base. The military has been very accommodating and are oriented to (his) current and future needs. I am impressed.

(He) wants to get as good as he can get as soon as possible so that he can get back to his tanks and back to Afghanistan. I don't know if that will happen, he is still quite damaged and he will never be as able as he was before so he is going to have a long way to go before he is in the field. If he does it, it will be because of his attitude.

My father was also badly injured in a tank during WW2. His injuries were very much like (my son's). Today everything is better so I know (he) is lucky to be alive and to be getting care as good as the care he is getting right now.

Again, thank you very much.

Editor's note: As quilters, that is the Thank You that we appreciate too - knowing we have been able to comfort a soldier (and his family) with our quilted hug.



Please check the following list for a contact person in your province:

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