



Quilts of Valour - Canada Society

Quilts of Valour - Canada Society Mission

To ensure our 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.

10,647 Quilts of Valour™ Presented

Winter 2018



President's Message

The calendar says 2018 and I find it hard to believe that 2017 is over. It was a very busy year for Quilts of Valour. Our goal of presenting 10,000 quilts by 2018 was surpassed, As of December 31, 10,441 quilts were presented to ill and injured Canadian military members past and present. What should our next goal be? 20,000 quilts distributed by 2020? Please let me know what you think of this goal, is it achievable?

Quilts of Valour continues to grow and succeed because of the wonderful determined volunteers who give from their hearts, their time, talents and resources. Quilts of Valour has well over 175 members and 55 area representatives and a vast number of quilters across

Canada who support our mission. Thank you. I hope you are staying warm during our cold Canadian winter. Over the next few freezing months I imagine numerous quilts are being designed, pieced and made, ready to be presented to our ill and injured military members past and present. Thank you for all you do for the men and women who gave and continue to give selflessly, so we can enjoy the freedom we have today. Remember, you do make a difference.



Joyce Jennings Receives a quilt
at Legioncrest Apartments in Orillia
Quilt WR17--027 presented to Joyce Jennings (left) who lives at Legioncrest Apartments in Orillia. She was deeply moved and said the quilt was perfect for her. Janet Clarke (on her right) hand quilted the quilt and did the binding. Alice Dowswell. (third from left) supplied the backing Peter Devalaire, Orillia Legion. Top made by Joan Donner and Nancy Phillips—absent.



Blair Meadows St Mark's Anglican church in Qualicum Beach, BC

Blair Meadows on Sun 17 Apr 2017 at St Mark's Anglican church in Qualicum Beach, BC received his QOVC quilt to a very loud applause from the congregation. In the photos are (left to right) The Reverend Susan Hayward-Brown, (Rector of St Mark's), Blair Meadows (quilt recipient), and Sandy Morter, (quilter). And in front is Blair's therapy dog, Farrah.. Sandy writes This was a wonderful experience of all of us!

Ottawa's Bee Success

This fall's Quilting Bee (October 28) had 46 volunteers working on quilts. We received four completed quilts, eight donated tops, thirteen quilt kits returned as tops and two quilt kits returned as finished quilts. At the Bee, 11 quilts received their finishing binding and labels, ready for assignment! In the fundraising department, the silent auction, garage sale, hug blocks, and cash donations brought in a grand total of \$531.65 which will help to provide quilt fabrics and batting. The fun (work) continues, as there were 38 quilt kits signed out for piecing and eight quilt sets signed out for quilting. Thank you to everyone that participated!

Grateful Receptient

Dear Mary

Long overdue, but pse know how grateful I am for the gift of my Quilt. It lives in my office, wraps me and comforts me for lovely naps as it is often too far for me to drive home for supper during those many days I have commitments at the church in the evening. It also soothes me when my anxiety kicks in from time to time I sometimes call it my therapy quilt.

The Quilts are an amazing example I think of the depth of appreciation Canadians have for the work of my fellow mates in uniform. The rigors of bureaucracy and service life continue to take its toll on our members despite the official propaganda to the contrary. The Quilts remind those in power Canadians will hold them to account if they do not do right by those serving.

I cherish this honour in this quilt above all the other actions honouring my service.

CQA Quilt Canada

Are you going to Quilt Canada? May 31 – June 2nd 2018? Quilts of Valour will be there! You will meet amazing people from all over Canada in the booth. Drop by and say hello and if you have time and can help in the booth for an hour or two please email Mary at mary.ewing@quiltsvalour.ca.



QOV Booth Quilt Canada 2017

**Mrs. Bobbins of Northcott Fabrics
with L-R: Ann-Louise Masek, Joanne
Arthurs, Robbie Chapman, Cheryl
Dvernichuk, (Vice President, QOV),
Mary Ewing, (President, QOV)**

Story and photos by Olivia Timm

Second World War veteran George Swoffer, of Picton, received a warm ‘hug from the nation’ on a snowy Friday afternoon as sisters Sue Jensen and Sandra Abrames made a surprise visit to present a ‘Quilt of Valour’.

At 97, Swoffer is one of a handful of veterans left from the Hastings and Prince Edward regiment. Everyone in the room was dazzled by his memories – and his humour – as he shared a few stories from time spent serving his country in Sicily.



“I went over young and innocent, and I came back innocent,” he said, bringing laughter from his guests.

The visit came out of a discussion between Larry Shoebridge, member of Hastings and Prince Edward County Regimental Association, and Jensen, who both attended the funeral of a Hasty P veteran this summer. Jensen asked Shoebridge if he knew her father Sgt. Bill Morris, who also fought in the Second World War.

Shoebridge didn’t know him, but thought that if anyone did, it would be his good friend George

Swoffer.

“He’s just like having an encyclopedia,” he chuckled.

Swoffer regaled Shoebridge with stories about Morris. Upon learning about Swoffer’s connection with her dad, Jensen shared photographs with him then contacted Shoebridge about honouring Swoffer with a Quilt of Valour.

Jensen and Abrames both said they didn’t know a lot about what really happened because their father hardly spoke about the war. Swoffer recalled a time that Morris was injured due to a wound to the head, and said he saved his life that day.

As he listened to the many stories shared during the visit, Shoebridge said he couldn’t have thought of anyone more deserving of the quilt than Swoffer.

“Well, Bill, you never thought you’d warm me up,” Swoffer laughed as Jensen unfolded the quilt and gently placed it over Swoffer and explained what it symbolizes.

“We make and donate quilts to wounded current military members and veterans of all of the wars, so I made this quilt and I wanted it to go to somebody that was with the Hasty P’s ... We wanted you to have this quilt,” Jensen said.

Jensen volunteers for the Quilts of Valour organization in Ottawa, which provides donated quilts to injured or traumatized Canadian Forces members, recent veterans and to veterans of the Second World War, Korea, Bosnia, Rwanda and the Gulf War. Quilts of Valour relies on a team of volunteers from across the nation to fulfill its mission.

Swoffer lives in Picton with his daughter Sandra, who smiled when she saw the hand-crafted quilt draped over her father.

The Quilts of Valour are called “hugs from across the nation,” and for George Swoffer, it was a warm reminder that others continue to honour the sacrifices of soldiers.

Quilts presented recently on the West Coast, NL.

They were extremely proud and very honored to have received their quilts, it really meant a lot to them and their families. Thank you and your group for all of your support. Take care, Have a great day.

Eli Rowsell

Services Manager/Services Coordinator, Integrated Personnel Support Center (IPSC) Gander
Department of National Defence/Government of Canada



**A Kid In The Candy Store
by Robbie Chapman Ottawa**

It was June 2017 at the International Centre in Toronto ON and I was surrounded by everything quilt! Everywhere my eyes went there were quilts, tools, sewing machines, teachers, fabric, long-arm quilt machines, and best of all...quilters! New quilters, seasoned quilters, tall quilters, short quilters, some of them I knew, some of them I didn't...some I was about to meet. But just like me, they all came through the doors of Quilt Canada 2017 with smiles on their faces and excitement in their eyes...like they were "kids in a candy store"!

For the second year in a row, Toronto was home to Quilt Canada 2017 hosted by The Canadian Quilter's Association. Quilts of Valour were invited to be part of the excitement of the 4-day event. It was a busy 4 days!

Armed with quilts, Hug Blocks, and brochures our group of QOV volunteers met some of the most generous people Canada has to offer. It seemed like we were constantly busy talking with quilters as stories were exchanged, and what wonderful stories! It was not uncommon to have a quilt recipient or a friend/family member of a recipient, talk about the joy of receiving a quilt and the feelings of peace as they were covered by such a tangible piece of Canada and her people. The stories made us laugh...they made us cry. It is at times like this, that I am so proud and honoured to be not only a quilter, but to be part of such an organization.

Quilt Canada 2018 will be heading west to the Convention Centre West Building in beautiful Vancouver BC 30 May-2 June. I encourage all of the western QoV quilters and representatives to take this opportunity to be a part of the experience. The days can be long, but they fly by. You will be exhausted, but it is a wonderful exhaustion. Your face will hurt from smiling and laughing all day but laughter is good for the soul. Contact our president, Mary Ewing and tell her you want to be part of fun. Come for 1/2 a day, come for a full day....just come and share the joy! You will not regret it.



The quilt blocks were made by several members of the Elgin Nimble Thimbles Quilt Guild of St Thomas, Ontario Lorinda (LIN) Farquhar, assembled the quilt & it was quilted by Diane Russo member of the ENT guild. (absent from photo)

Pictured L-R Lorinda (LIN) Farquhar Jean Roberts from London England (a surprise visitor to Quilt Canada) Mary Lynn Busch, Robbie Chapman and Mary Ewing.

How to Submit A Newsletter Article

I am sure many of you have wonderful QOV experiences and antecotes to share! Here are a few tips for submitting articles to the Newsletter Editor

Photographs: Please ensure you have permission from everyone in the photograph before you submit it. Also ensure that the names of the people in the photograph are in order I realize this sounds obvious, but you would be surprised!

Articles: these can be experiences you have had with QOV i.e. making new friends at the Bee, or presenting a quilt or the reason why you are a QOV volunteer, just to name a few.

Articles may be edited to accomodate size and space within the newsletter, however, the utmost care will be taken to ensure the intergity of the article remains.

Submissions by email to jill.dewar@quilts ofvalour.ca