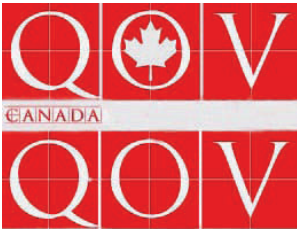


Quilts of Valour - Canada

Issue 7
December 2010



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.

Meet Your Representative.....

This month QoV - Canada is pleased to introduce you to Betty Mahar, our Prince Edward Island representative.

Betty was born in Brantford, Ontario. She married a man from Prince Edward Island, where they later moved with their three children. She is now the proud grandmother of five. She has a daughter currently in Holland College in P.E.I. She is married and has two children. Betty's son lives in Ontario with his son.

Her youngest daughter was in cadets when she was young, then joined the military. She later married Mary Ewing's son (Mary is the QoV Eastern co-ordinator). She is now a Major posted in Winnipeg with her husband and two children.

This year Betty participated in the WR3 Run (Wear Red Road Races) for the first time!



Quilts of Valour always tries to stress that we, as an organization, do not make the quilts. We collect and distribute them as needed. Betty is a perfect example of that, as she is not a quilter herself yet. It was through Mary that Betty came to be involved with Quilts of Valour. She has since collected and distributed 34 quilts to the local MFRC. She gets them blessed during mass at her local Catholic church. She actually presented the first PEI quilt of valour to Tyler Coady in November 2009.

Betty says "I enjoy my affiliation with QoV and I am proof that you don't have to quilt to be a help to QoV!"



Joanne Harris - a quilter of 35 years from Southamton, ON sent this in ...

This past summer I finished my first Quilt of Valour and sent it off to my local contact person. Was it a great experience? Why did I do it? What were the stumbling blocks? What helped me complete the task? Would I do it again?

Was it a great experience?

The answer to that question would be a definite yes and a tiny no. Yes it made me feel a little less helpless when I see on the news another of our Canadian soldiers has been killed and countless more have been injured. I can now say that in my own small way I have done something tangible to try to help. My personal tiny “no” is that, as is normal for me, I worried that my craftsmanship would not hit the mark or that no-one would like my design. The design worry was alleviated by using a pattern I found in a magazine that appealed to me. I changed the colors and some of the sizes but otherwise it stayed the same.

Why did I do it?

I suspect that like many other Canadians I am saddened by the news of a death of one of our soldiers and I have wondered just how many more wounded we do not hear about. Making a Quilt of Valour start to finish, helped me feel a little less helpless as I watch those news stories continue.

What were the stumbling blocks?

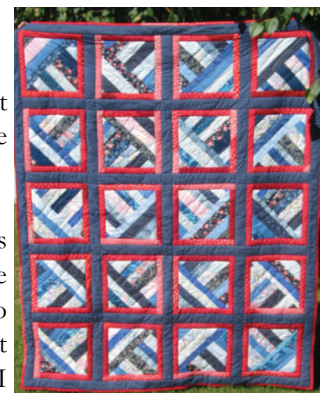
There were a few stumbling blocks along the way. None of them overwhelming but stopping points did exist. I am not quite a Luddite but I am not on Facebook as are the other members of the group. I wondered if a scrap quilt style would be acceptable. I would have liked a professional looking label rather than the homemade label I attached. I quilt on my 50 year old domestic sewing machine. A Long Arm quilter would have made the quilt look that much better when it was complete.

What helped me complete the task?

I joined the Quilts of Valour Yahoo group to gain encouragement from other like minded individuals. The Quilts of Valour website at <http://www.QuiltsOfValour.ca> has all the specifications posted. You will find the answers to many of the questions you would have as you start to make your own first QoV Canada.

Would I do it again?

In a nutshell, yes I would be happy to make another QoV. You need to make a quilt of specified dimensions (between 50” x 60” and 72” and 96”), using high quality fabric and in most cases a quilt that would appeal to a male. I would like to step out of my colour box for the next one but will wait and see what inspires me. I would also like to recruit a group of like-minded friends to join me next time.



A group of treadle and hand crank sewing machine owners are working on the maple leaf block pattern using their non-electric machines! Lezley belongs to a quilting bee within the Edmonton & District Quilts’ Guild - the Edmonton Treadlers and Cranks! Their plan to have the quilt (or maybe two!) ready to display at the bi-annual quilt show next June in Edmonton. A couple of the quilters have mastered the art of free motion quilting on their treadles! So the entire quilt will be able to be machine quilted on the antique machines!



Forever Maple Leaf

Fabric Requirements

Red A	2 1/2m
(includes outer border and binding)	
Red B	1m
Red C	1m
Red White	1m
Blue White	1m
Quilted Walls	4.5m of 12" wide
(3.5m Brown + Green)	
Binding	1.75m
Backing	4.5m

Forever Maple Leaf

60" x 84"

Quilts of Valour Canada receives a donation with every pattern purchased.

Wanda's Designs
www.wandasdesigns.ca
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Pattern Designer support ...

Look for this pattern in your local quilt store - and if it's not carried, encourage your local quilt store to bring it in! [Wanda](#), a pattern designer in Ontario has designed this pattern just for Quilts of Valour - Canada and is donating a portion of sales to QoV. Another idea for a quilted hug for our injured service members.

Vancouver, BC - Debby Gray

The weekend of November 5, 6, and 7 Quilts of Valour was invited to participate in a series of concerts put on by the Band of the Fifteenth Field Regiment entitled "With Glowing Hearts". It featured a variety of music and some light-hearted humour among the band itself. All funds raised by the concert series went to supporting serving soldiers, military families and veterans in BC. We handed out many QoV brochures over the weekend and have hopefully generated some more interest around the area.



One of the quilts displayed at the concerts is shown here on the left with the ladies that made it, a group of seniors at Harrison Landing in Langley. Shirley Tempest, mother of bandleader Jim Tempest, is among them.



In the past month or so I have received quilts from quilters all over the province; from groups in 100 Mile House, Boundary Bay, Seymour Quilters Guild, Langley, Vancouver Island as well as many individual quilters. I'd like to thank all the generous quilters who have donated their time and energy to this great cause and I look forward to hearing from them again in the new year. The picture to the left is a quilt received from the Boundary Bay quilters, just one of nine they brought that day.

I'm also very excited to report that we now have a regular contact on Vancouver Island for the quilters there to connect with. Marilyn Fuller and Judi McCallum have generously offered their time to help us out. This will be a huge help in collecting quilts and communicating with the Island quilters. Their contact information is on the last page of the newsletter for anyone needing it. Thanks ladies!



A letter from a soldier ...

To Whom it May Concern,

I have been one of the very fortunate to receive one of your beautiful quilts and was completely shocked and humbled by your generosity. It is ironic actually, my wife is in the process of getting into quilting, she has been taking some courses through the quilting shop here in Yellowknife so I really do know how much time and effort goes into each quilt.

I will hold on to this quilt for a very long time, each time I cuddle with my daughter or wife using this I will remember that there are people out there who give thanks for the things we've done.

My thanks goes out to all those who worked on this quilt.

Thank you very much.

Dave

There are some great new songs and videos created and performed by Canadian artists to support our soldiers.

You can see one at <http://www.theprovince.com/news/we-salute-our-heroes/index.html> ... click on "Music Video".

Another can be found at <http://www.youtube.com/user/OurCanadianHeroes#p/a/f/0/PHjgn1EUxj8>.



From our founder ...

May the warm glow of the cozy fireplaces and Christmas tree lights add to the warm hearts of quilters across this country who are supporting our injured service men and women. My thanks to all of you as you give your quilting time and fabrics making special quilted hugs for our soldiers. All the best this holiday season, and wishing you all a very good New Year.

 *Lezley*

Quilts of Valour – Canada Receives Donations from The Kiwanis Club of Ottawa

Last year, Denise Turner a volunteer quilter who regularly participates in quilting bees in Ottawa was telling François Cronier that she was helping to sew quilt tops for injured soldiers in Afghanistan. François, a member of the Kiwanis Club in Ottawa, felt that the club would be able to assist our group by sponsoring some quilts.

As a result of this conversation Jane Leblanc was invited to make a presentation to the club membership at a luncheon that was held at the Chateau Laurier in Ottawa. The presentation was very well received and as a result the Kiwanis Club sponsored six quilts. The money received was used by our group to purchase much needed materials to complete more quilts for QOV.



Subsequently, our group was asked to make a quilt for the club to auction at one of their fundraising events with the proceeds going to Quilts of Valour - Canada. The quilt was lovingly pieced by Joan Ramsay-Burn, quilted by Karine Chapleau of Karine's Quilting Touch and presented to the Club at Remembrance Day ceremonies by Jane Leblanc and Martine Genest. Through the Club's efforts our quilt was auctioned off for \$500.00.

To recognize François fundraising efforts we invited him to our Quilting Bee in February 2010 and surprised him with a Certificate of Appreciation. He was very touched and honoured that we had included him in our small celebration at the beginning of the day.



From left to right, Col. McLean (Chaplain General's office), Jane Leblanc, Melanie McGillivray, François Cronier and Garth Hampson.

We are very thankful for the support of The Kiwanis Club of Ottawa -- their generous donations have enabled us to continue making quilts for the injured.

Karine, Martine and Jane



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.