

# Quilts of Valour - Canada

Issue 14  
November 2014



## Our Mission

*To ensure 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 in their time of need.*

**Quilts delivered to our injured military service members and veterans:  
5525**

Quilts of Valour - Canada Society  
[www.QuiltsOfValour.ca](http://www.QuiltsOfValour.ca)  
BN 802946699RR0001

For more information please contact:  
[QoV@QuiltsOfValour.ca](mailto:QoV@QuiltsOfValour.ca)

## From our soldiers ...

*I am just emailing this to say a heartfelt thank you. I received a quilt from Debbie Bristol in CFB Petawawa. As a soldier it is very hard to say that there is an issue that you cannot fix yourself but knowing that there is a country of loving people behind you can give someone the courage to take a knee when needed and ask for help and support. I love my quilt very much and it has helped me through some difficult nights and days. It is one of my most prized possessions and I will hold on to it forever. Again from my heart to all of the quilt makers "THANKYOU and god bless."*



Our new Edmonton, AB rep, and past President Lezley Zwaal gave a presentation to a quilting group near Turtleford, SK in October. They are one of several very active groups of quilters in rural SK north of North Battleford. Dianne Brett decided to give her quilt to a local veteran, Jack McMurphy, who is the last surviving soldier from WW2 in that Legion. She presented it to him at the Remembrance Day service. The dedication on the quilt reads as follows:



*These blocks were created by quilters from across Canada to say thank you to the soldiers, past and present. I have put this one together to honour Private Laif Henry Chester Robbestad of the Calgary Highlanders (#L105188).*

*He was born March 31, 1914 in Viscount, Sask and died October 9, 1944 at Capelin, Belgium.*

*He is buried in the Bergen op Zoom Canadian War Cemetery, Holland.*

*He is in the Book of Remembrance of the Second World War on page 428.*

*Robbestad Lake (1961) Lat 55'14"N Lon 102'28"W was named in honour of his sacrifice.*

*Laif was raised on NW36-51-22-W3rd the family farm, west of Turtleford, SK. He was said to be very tall, funny, shy kind of guy, who loved his family dearly and loved to sing. His favourite song was "Bury me under the weeping willow", a popular song of that era.*



## Eastern Canada Coordinator - now our President - Mary Ewing

Ottawa and areas of Ontario have been very active since the last newsletter. In May, QOV had a booth at the Ottawa Quilt show and at that time the Hug in a Mug campaign was introduced. It is the brain child of Jan Easton (Belleville/ON representative) and what a success it has been as a fundraiser! To date, the Ottawa group has received over 400 blocks made from the Northcott *Oh Canada!* line of fabrics. The fabric and pattern are in the mug along with the address to send the finished block. QoV Canada is excited to incorporate the Hug in a Mug into the Quilted Hugs from Across the Nation project, helping to raise funds to support our local quilters with backing and batting to complete quilts. Thank you to everyone who has purchased and made the blocks. In Ottawa area, we are making kits with the blocks, sashing and border fabric, along with a pattern to make a quilt top. If you are interested in helping with the Ottawa group, please contact Mary at [President@QuiltsOfValour.ca](mailto:President@QuiltsOfValour.ca). Blocks are also being exchanged with those collected in western Canada to make up quilt top kits and if you are interested in completing a quilted hug from across the nation please contact Lezley at [Founder@QuiltsOfValour.ca](mailto:Founder@QuiltsOfValour.ca). Several of the representatives are also carrying the Hug in a Mug. See the contact list on our website.



Blocks from the Hug in Mug Campaign



Debra Peterson was honoured to present the quilt that her husband designed and she made to a deserving Captain, at the IPSC in Ottawa. What a surprise is was for him to receive a Quilt of Valour.



The Haliburton Highland Quilt Guild presented 32 lap size Quilts of Valour to WWII and Korean Veterans of RCL branch 129 in June.

Also in June we were very fortunate to have a booth at the CQA in St. Catherine's Ontario. What a wonderful experience. We could not keep up with the demand for the Hug in a Mug. Again Thank you to everyone who purchased one or more. The funds will help our local quilters with batting and backing fabric.



Sean Bruyeva introducing Steven Jovac as he receives his quilt

At the CQA I was honoured to meet Brandy Lynn Maslowski, who, donated her quilt "Glorious and Free" to QoV. It was on display at our booth. Brandy gave QoV permission to present her quilt to the Integrated Personnel Support Centre (IPSC) in Petawawa to hang on their wall for all military to see. Thank you Brandy Lynn [www.brandyllyndesign.com](http://www.brandyllyndesign.com)



November 1, 2014 the Ottawa area QoV held our 12<sup>th</sup> Quilting Bee. What a huge success, over 70 ladies and men attended to sew quilt tops. We were honoured to present 7 quilts to injured military members and veterans. It was a fun filled day of sewing, visiting and hearing about our military and what the quilts mean to them. The Ottawa QoV website will have pictures of the presentations and information about up and coming events in Ottawa. [www.qovottawa.wordpress.com](http://www.qovottawa.wordpress.com)



Brandy Lynn Designs featured QoV in December of 2013. She is supporting Quilts of Valour (among many other quilting programs!) with a pattern donation to anyone who makes a quilt of valour for someone who has served with the Canadian Armed Forces! Send her a picture of your QoV and receive your free pattern — you can check out her blog [here](#).

Thank you so much Brandy Lynn for supporting QoV!

**Alberta South—Sandy Carlile**

On September 26 and 27, we had the pleasure of having an information booth and quilt challenge at the Creative Stitches Show in Calgary. This was the first year in a new venue, Spruce Meadows. Everyone seemed to enjoy the new setting and the show. We had 21 really beautiful quilts in our challenge this year. Many many thanks go to our sponsors and Nori Richens at CanNorth shows for their support and encouragement. Babylock again provided a sewing machine, Sugar Pine provided a kit of fabric with a quilt pattern, and Wonderfil provided a certificate for thread. Our 3 winners were thrilled with their prizes and most appreciative.



winning quilt made by Valorie Lange



Dates are already set for the show in 2015. September 25-26, 2015 at Spruce Meadows once again. So set the dates on your calendars and begin planning a quilt to put in the challenge. Many of those attending the show spent time looking at all the quilts. This year, we also noticed that most of those we visited with had heard of Quilts of Valour. We also talked with quilters who wish to join in with us in providing quilts for our servicemen and women.. All winning quilts were chosen by viewers choice ballot (a difficult choice for many).



2nd place by Ruth Hazlett



On Saturday, Oct. 25, we had an information table at the Dalemead Quilt Guild's quilt show, in Indus, AB - just southeast of Calgary. This is the first time in several years that they were back in the Recreation Centre and the quilts were beautiful. We had quite a few folks stop by our table and ask about Quilts of Valour. Many were interested in perhaps doing a quilt or some Hugs blocks for us. Two longarm quilters also stopped by and introduced themselves. I had 'met' both over the phone as they had volunteered to do some quilting for us. Thank you to them and everyone who stopped by.



3rd place by Sheila Kerr



**Vancouver, BC - Deborah Gray**

So far in 2014 I have received 45 Quilts of Valour donated from the generous quilters of the lower mainland and Greater Vancouver area of BC. 24 of these quilts were made by the Boundary Bay Quilters who have donated 97 quilts to QoV since 2009. At their June meeting this year they were honoured to have Brigadier-General Rob Roy MacKenzie, Deputy Commander of the 3rd Canadian Division as a guest speaker. Having served two tours, he spoke of his time in Afghanistan and about the positive difference Canadian men and women have made to the citizens of Afghanistan and ultimately the world.



Margriet Warren, Debbie Gomersall, Brigadier-General Rob Roy Mackenzie, Shirley Feraruk



Some of the Boundary Bay Quilters involved in making quilts of valour

I'd like to extend a huge thank you to all of the quilters across BC — individuals, groups, and guilds — who have so generously helped make Quilts of Valour such a successful program. I am truly amazed at the talent, work, and love that goes into each and every quilt we receive.

## Edmonton, AB - Lezley Zwaal

We have two new representatives on board!

Welcome Judy MacLeod, our representative in the Dufferin region, north of Toronto. Judy has been quilting for many years and has developed a quilt block pattern for the Hugs from Across the Nation project. She will be re-doing the pattern to fit the new 9" finished block size and we will have it on our website. Those around Orangeville, ON can contact Judy through [ON-Dufferin@QuiltsOfValour.ca](mailto:ON-Dufferin@QuiltsOfValour.ca)

Welcome also Shannon McGilvery, our representative from the North Battleford SK/Lethbridge AB region. She lives in the rural area of Maidstone, SK. She had a busy Remembrance Day as her initial contacts invited her to participate in their remembrance ceremonies. Shannon can be reached through [SK-North@QuiltsOfValour.ca](mailto:SK-North@QuiltsOfValour.ca)

If you've been on our website lately, you will see a lot of welcome changes. The website Lezley put together in 2009 was in need of a total re-do and Albert has done a wonderful spread for us. Welcome aboard Albert – webmaster! Thank you for the rescue! AND a SUPER thank you to Elsie who was able to keep the original website together for the last three years while also going back to university!!! It would have collapsed if she wasn't able to lend a hand! Thank you to the behind the scenes heroes.



Quilts of Valor Foundation (USA) Conference: Travel to Henderson Nevada, in the middle of a hot summer might sound like a crazy thing to do, but Lezley headed to one of two Quilts of Valor Foundation conferences in August this summer. The U.S.QOVF is so large, that they held one conference in the east and one in the west! Lezley finally met her inspiration and mentor in getting QoV – Canada off the ground. Lezley connected with Catherine Roberts, Founder of QOVF when it was still known as Quilts for Soldiers. When she needed quilts for our injured [Canadian soldiers](#) in 2006, she turned to Catherine for support and was connected to a quilter in Calgary who was making quilts for QOVF. After presenting those quilts to our soldiers, talking with Catherine and following her lead, our QoV – Canada came to fruition. With the support of so many across Canada, our QoV is growing. Catherine and Lezley were able to exchange real hugs and share many stories. Both look to the future of their initiatives as they watch the organizations move on to new hands.



*Susan Gordon; Executive Director, QOVF; Wynn Roper, coordinator QoV Australia; Catherine Roberts, Founder, QOVF; Helen Compert, Founder QOV Australia; Marianne Fons, Quilt industry liaison for QOVF; Lezley Zwaal, Founder, QoV – Canada.*



Changes to the Board of Directors for Quilts of Valour – Canada

### **New President: Mary Ewing**

Quilts of Valour – Canada announces Mary Ewing, our former Eastern Canada Coordinator is the new President for the society. Mary has been encouraging and coordinating the making and presentation of quilts from the Ottawa area since 2006. When the society was formalized in 2009, she came on board as Vice President. She has encouraged many quilters to become involved with the honouring of our military and veterans through the presentation of a quilt of comfort.

Other positions are now:

Vice President: Jan Easton, Belleville ON Representative

Secretary: Glen Easton, ON

Treasurer (Interim): Lezley Zwaal, AB

Newsletter: Gina DeLorenzi, ON

Social Media: Deborah Gray, BC

Representative Coordinator: Brenda Hulan, NS

Webmaster: Albert DeLorenzi, ON

Past President, Founder: Lezley Zwaal, AB

Current area representatives are listed on our website: [www.QuiltsOfValour.ca](http://www.QuiltsOfValour.ca)

**For a representative near you, quilt and block information and so much more, please visit our newly updated website at [www.QuiltsOfValour.ca](http://www.QuiltsOfValour.ca).**

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