

QUILTS OF VALOUR - CANADA 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 in their time of need.*

THE FIRST SPECIAL SERVICE FORCE OF CANADA

Article submitted by Don Oliphant, ret. Warrant Officer,
The Essex and Kent Scottish, Chatham, Field of Valour
Dinner, Mar. 5, 2015, highlights from Don's speech:



*Major Mark Douglas CO, Honouree Ralph
Mayville, rep Brenda Oliphant Southwest ON,
Photo credit Spike Bell*

We have been able on short notice to obtain a limited number of quilts, so our presentation tonight will be directed to the World War II veterans present. Veterans, the label on the back of the quilt you will receive has your name and unit printed on it as well as the names of

the talented ladies who quilted it. These quilts are a tangible symbol acknowledging your service to our country. As the quilt is wrapped around your shoulders, think of it as a hug and a Thank You from your grateful nation.

It was by your example and your leadership after you thought your duty was done that our youth has continued to stand up and volunteer to serve and deploy over the last 7 decades. Quilted Hugs continue to be given to servicemen and women from land, sea and air, reserves, rangers and veterans. At Canadian Armed Forces Integrated Personnel Support Centres, our military members are coping with injuries both visible and invisible, injuries that have often taken place while the member was deployed "in theatre". Like these servicemen and women, quilters range in all ages, live in all corners of the nation, some retired military, most with no connection to the military. From all walks of life, the desire is the same, to express their support and gratitude.

MARY EWING - PRESIDENT

In 2006, our oldest son Shane was to be deployed to Afghanistan for a six month tour of duty. As a Navy wife for 31 years, I was accustomed to my husband being gone for long periods of time, but not a son! Looking for something to keep myself busy and wanting to give back to the Canadian Armed Forces, I found a cause. It was surely divine intervention when I turned on the Edmonton news at the same time that Lezley Zwaal happened to be promoting Quilts of Valour Canada. Lezley had recently presented quilts to three injured soldiers, and was being interviewed by CBC. I contacted Lezley and have been involved with the organization ever since.

I would like to thank Lezley for founding Quilts of Valour- Canada and for keeping me busy. Lezley as Founder and Past President, your dedication and support have made our organization what it is today. Big shoes to fill, as the new President.

As President of QOV Canada, I hope to encourage our representatives to continue their great work and further educate the Canadian Armed Forces about QOV. There will be changes but the important mission of QOV will remain the same - presenting quilts to our injured CAF members and Veterans.



*Robbie Chapman, Mary Ewing, Lucienne Rossignol, Lt
(N) Winchester*

MARY'S GOAL - A QUILT IN EVERY IPSC



Robbie Chapman, Mary Ewing, Kim Mullen (quilter), Susan Jensen

A quilt called "Glorious and Free", designed by Brandy Lynn Maslowski was presented to the Ottawa Integrated Personnel Support Centre (IPSC). Lucienne Rossignol, Manager and Lt(N) Winchester accepted the quilt on behalf of the IPSC. The quilt is currently hanging in the IPSC Ottawa conference room for all injured soldiers and CAF members to see.

This is the second "Glorious and Free" quilt to be presented to an IPSC – the first quilt was made by Brandy Lynn and hangs in the entrance of IPSC Petawawa, ON. As QOV President, one of my goals is to see all JPSU/IPSC offices have a "Glorious and Free" quilt hanging in their entrance or conference room. If you would like to help with this endeavour please contact me: president@quiltsofvalour.ca

TWO DETERMINED SURVIVORS MEET ON THE ROAD TO HEALTH

Joanne Harris first met Jeff Virgo at the local gym in Port Elgin, ON in 2008. Joanne was working to improve her fitness level following cancer surgery and treatments. Jeff was working to regain more mobility after a spinal cord injury in a training accident on the Armed Forces base in Alberta. At that time he had been told that he would likely never walk again. Through a lot of physiotherapy and determination Jeff slowly regained his strength and the ability to walk. Wearing leg braces most of the time, Jeff now teaches spin classes at the gym! So it seemed appropriate to present the quilt at the spin studio before class. There were a few hugs and a round of applause and then the spin class carried on.

Jeff says, "I was surprised and caught off guard when I was presented the quilt by Joanne. It truly is an honour and shows the care and respect that the community and the country Canada has for persons who have served."



QUILT HUGS - GIVERS ∞ RECEIVERS



L to R, Carla Lee, Carol Boechler, Debbie Huber, Sherry Nicholaichuk

You never know where the circle of love takes you. People talk about giving back and paying forward. Carla Lee, Carol Boechler, Debbie Huber and Sherry Nicholaichuk, Calgary, AB offered to assemble Hug Mug blocks into a Quilt of Valour. Carla sent Our Tribute this story, "We received a set of blocks from all over Canada. The most exciting part was seeing the beauty and uniqueness of the blocks and where they came from - the prairies, Port Hardy, Halifax, the Northwest Territories. Within a week the quilt was complete. It was beautiful! We sent the quilt directly to a base where it was presented for us. Our quilting and sewing is our way of giving back to our community and country. We are the ones thanking Quilts of Valour."

"One of our sewing group lost her longarm sewing machine last year in the flood. It was replaced for her by Sparrow Studioz in Edmonton. Now we're sewing capes for kids for the Happy Soul Cancer Project." paying forward, helping others

TWO LONGSTANDING FRIENDS AND VETERANS



Cecil Short (RSM 1 Service Battalion retired) and Glenn Vey (Garrison RSM retired), both in St. Albert AB, were presented with quilts. Cecil enlisted at age 17 in Belleville ON with the Hastings and Prince Edward Regiment and shipped out to Italy. He served in Italy and the liberation of Holland and then stayed in the military his whole life, serving again in Korea. There is a room at the Edmonton base dedicated to him – The Cecil Short Standown Room. Cecil and Mary Ewing’s father both served in Italy, both were involved in the liberation of Holland, and both were with the Hastings and Prince Edward detachment! Cecil’s friend CWO Glenn Vey was RSM 1 Service Battalion and in July 2012 was appointed Garrison RSM. He was part of the quilt presentation group for Cecil.

Cecil Short (RSM 1) was comforted with his quilt for only a short while. He passed away on Dec 28, 2014. Lez Zwaal presenting the quilt. Glen Vey second left of Lez.

SUPPORT IN THEIR TIME OF NEED



Kirsti Haaka Chippawa ON and her service dog Patty, with their quilts. Kirsti’s is from Quilts of Valour, and Patty’s is a gift from Niagara ON Rep Gina DeLorenzi.



Symbolizing our wounded Canadian Service Personnel, Charlottetown, PEI quilters appliquéd maple leaves with one uneven edge. L to R Karen Litton, Maureen Garrity, Velda Taylor, Edie Zaken.



Nancy Meville presenting Fred Peeters, WWII vet, with a Quilt of Valour. Photo by Gaven Crites, 100 Mile House Free Press.

DIARY OF A HUG MUGS QUILT

Carole Gold, Peace River AB volunteered to assemble a hug mug quilt when she mailed in the block she had bought at the QOV booth at Creative Stitches. Not only did QOV founder Lez Zwaal package up some blocks for Carole, Lez invited her to dinner and a guild meeting too. Friendship, connections and another quilt! Here are the 3 journal posts in Carole's blog:

"There are 51 blocks in the batch, I've sorted them into 3 colour piles to get to know them and formulate a plan. Each block is unique and it will be fun to work with them!" - "Not sure where this (block) is from, but I like the fussy cut maple leaves. Simple but effective use of fabric in (another) block too. Many different hands made these blocks, so naturally they vary in size." - "My first step was to add fabric and square them up to make them all the same size. The centre blocks feature quite a bit of black, so I framed them with a herringbone print to lighten things up. The next round has been framed in black. I'll figure out borders when I get that far, have to balance all that black!" Thank you Carole for sharing these ideas for finishing the hug blocks into a Hug Across the Nation quilt. Know that it will be treasured by someone for many reasons.



Read more about the Hug Mugs Project on our website. Send us your Hug Mugs photos and articles for Our Tribute. Email newsletter@quiltsofvalour.ca

QUILTS OF VALOUR STRONG ON P.E.I.



Penelope Player, Maureen Garrity, Meghan McCarthy

Penelope Player, a member of Kindred Spirits Quilt Guild sends us a report from Charlottetown. When Penelope and some quilting friends in the guild first heard about Quilts of Valour 7 years ago, they were hooked with the idea that they might make a "soldier quilt". Over a dozen quilts later, they are as united as ever with volunteering, and friendship, two great reasons to have a tea party and potluck lunch. Many of them have connections to Veterans, family members and friends who have served in the Active Force, Regular Forces or Reserves. These quilters hope that the quilts they make physically show that military service is valued and important. Almost as important is including quilters who are shut in at home, and those who prefer to share by doing hand quilting. Every person and every contribution is important in the rich and rewarding experience of creating a Quilt of Valour.

MEET OUR NATIONAL SPONSOR

At a Creative Stitches show in spring 2012, Northcott Studio's Deborah Edwards announced "to the world" the new partnership of Northcott and Quilts of Valour Canada. Northcott's Stonehenge Oh Canada! line of Canadian inspired printed fabric was designed by Linda Ludovico. This fabric has been embraced by quilters across the nation. As a sponsor of QOV, Northcott promotes us through its advertising budget. After consulting with QOV, Northcott created its version of our brochure to promote its fabric and logo.



Contact information on the brochure and on the Northcott website is directed to QOV Canada. Its marketing department has become very involved, at no cost to us. Northcott has provided complementary banners to our area reps for events.

From the beginning, Northcott's support for QOV Canada has been fantastic: the representatives have been excited about the partnership, the designs are popular and distribution is growing among quilt shops. Photo shows Marilyn Fuller, rep Victoria BC, left and Northcott's Deborah Edwards, right at the 2012 Oh Canada! launch.

GROWING MOMENTUM LOCALLY

A major challenge QOV faces is raising awareness of the our mission statement. Area Reps help achieve these goals by initiating and coordinating quilt related activities.

Kindred Spirits Quilt Co. in St. Catharines, ON and Niagara Region rep Gina Delorenzi are developing ways to reach more quilters with the QOV message. Quilt shop owner Michelle Denham and Gina share the belief that a lot can be accomplished when many people work for a good cause.

The easiest and first thing they did was design a signature quilt block. Four maple leaves in one block are the "Kindred Spirits". Michelle's generosity includes providing space and time for sewing sessions, making up small kits that patrons buy to make single blocks and pass them forward for volunteers to assemble and quilt.

Gloria Meyer teaches and is also President of Niagara Heritage Quilters Guild. Quilters, Guilds, Quilt Shops, Volunteers and Area Reps - the QOV chain is growing and word is spreading.



Michelle Denham and Gloria Meyer

THE HORSE LAKE QUILTERS

The Horse Lake Quilters from 100 Mile House, BC distributed 15 Quilts of Valour to local veterans on February 28, 2015 at Royal Canadian Legion Branch No. 260. The presentation raises the count to 20 quilts that have been presented to WW II and Vietnam vets, Peacekeepers, RCMP, Reserve and Regular vets, one WW II nurse and one Afghanistan returnee. The room was packed with supporters. The quilts were labeled with the QOV label and the Horse Lake Quilters label displaying the Canadian flag. A card expressing thanks for their efforts, a pamphlet with the history of the Quilts of Valour and an information sheet with washing instructions were included with each quilt.



All of the recipients were overwhelmed with the quality and intricacy of the gifts. They were very appreciative and pleased to be able to choose their quilt from the ones displayed.

These quilts and many others like them presented across Canada truly honour each veteran for his or her contributions to Canada's freedom.

THE QUILT FRAME - A VIRTUAL BEE

It's Twins!! - Did you notice the happy coincidence of Kindred Spirits quilting group, from the island that produced Green Gables of course, and Kindred Spirits Quilt Co. meeting up in this newsletter? These kindred spirits want to become twins! Do you know of another set of quilting twins within Canada? If so, please contact the newsletter editor with your information and we will announce the twins in the next newsletter. E-mail via the QOV website.

Our Tribute is always collecting photos and short write ups from quilt presentations to our Armed Forces. If you attend a presentation, please consider sending something to the Newsletter so that others may share these precious moments.

Visit the QOV booth at the **Canadian Quilt Association show** in Lethbridge AB, June 4-6, 2015. For information contact Joan Barret, email is listed below.

Website Quilt Block Library - We're requesting designs from your area of the country to build up our Canadian Collection Block Library. The topic could be geographical, historical or natural. Pieced and/or appliqué originality is our goal. Examples are a leaping salmon, a lone pine, perhaps a stockade or campfire. Please send your 9" finished design to Albert, webmaster@quiltsofvalour.ca.

Register Your Quilt - When you or your sewing group make quilts and present them in your local area, please notify the local Rep or register on our website. Registering your quilts will add to the total count for QOV.

Contact your Rep - Do you know of a Quilt Shop, Sewing Circle, or Guild who are actively promoting QOV. Let your rep know about it. Have you seen the new **QOV home page video**. Go take a look.

Send your submissions for Our Tribute to the editor Email: newsletter@quiltsofvalour.ca

QOV BOARD MEMBERS

PRESIDENT - MARY EWING
president@quiltsofvalour.ca

VICE PRESIDENT - JAN EASTON
vp@quiltsofvalour.ca

TREASURER - GAYE HAGGIE
treasurer@quiltsofvalour.ca

SECRETARY - GLEN EASTON
secretary@quiltsofvalour.ca

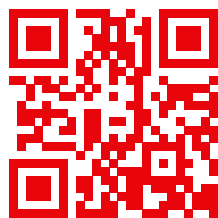
SOCIAL MEDIA - DEBORAH GRAY
social@quiltsofvalour.ca

NEWSLETTER - GINA DELORENZI
newsletter@quiltsofvalour.ca

REPRESENTATIVES - BRENDA HULAN
reps@quiltsofvalour.ca

WEBMASTER - ALBERT DELORENZI
webmaster@quiltsofvalour.ca

FOUNDER - LEZLEY ZWAAL
founder@quiltsofvalour.ca



www.quiltsofvalour.ca

QOV REPRESENTATIVES

ALBERTA

COLD LAKE - LISA DAWSON
ab-coldlake@quiltsofvalour.ca

EDMONTON - LEZLEY ZWAAL
ab-edmonton@quiltsofvalour.ca

LETHBRIDGE - JOAN BARRETT
ab-lethbridge@quiltsofvalour.ca

SOUTH - SANDY CARLILE
ab-south@quiltsofvalour.ca

BRITISH COLUMBIA
FRASER VALLEY - CAROLYN JENNINGS
bc-fraservalley@quiltsofvalour.ca

VANCOUVER - DEBORAH GRAY
bc-vancouver@quiltsofvalour.ca

VANCOUVER IS. - MARILYN FULLER
bc-vancouverisland@quiltsofvalour.ca

MANITOBA - EDITH TAYLOR
mb-region@quiltsofvalour.ca

NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
BONNIE HENDERSON
nt-region@quiltsofvalour.ca

NOVA SCOTIA - BRENDA HULAN
ns-region@quiltsofvalour.ca

NUNAVUT - IQUALUIT
JOHANNA BENNING
nunavut@quiltsofvalour.ca

ONTARIO

BELLEVILLE - JAN EASTON
on-belleville@quiltsofvalour.ca

BORDEN - ELIZABETH SEAMANS
on-borden@quiltsofvalour.ca

DUFFERIN - JUDY MCLEOD
on-dufferin@quiltsofvalour.ca

HAMILTON - ALISON MACDONALD
on-hamilton@quiltsofvalour.ca

NIAGARA - GINA DELORENZI
on-niagara@quiltsofvalour.ca

OTTAWA - KATHLEEN WILLEKES
on-ottawa@quiltsofvalour.ca

SOUTHWEST
BRENDA & DON OLIPHANT
on-southwest@quiltsofvalour.ca

P.E.I. - CHARLENE MCINNS
pe-region@quiltsofvalour.ca

QUEBEC - JULIE POIRIER MATHUR
qc-region@quiltsofvalour.ca

SASKATCHEWAN
NORTH - SHANNON MCGILVARY
sk-north@quiltsofvalour.ca

SNOWBIRDS - PAT BRIGGS
snowbirds@quiltsofvalour.ca