

Quilts of Valour - Canada

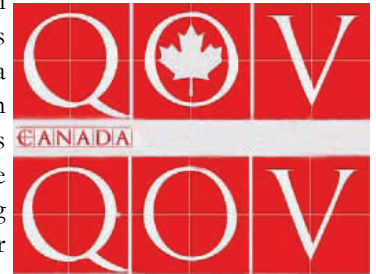
Issue 2
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Our Mission

to ensure that our wounded 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.

Since our last newsletter, the Canadian Quilters Magazine published their Spring 2009 newsletter and our information about Quilts of Valour - Canada. I will be sending them updates from time to time. It was quite interesting to see what a difference a few months makes. The article was written back in October, and as it hits our mail boxes so much information has changed! One thing that we weren't able to include was all the quilting connections across the country - including Mary Ewing in Ontario! Mary's participation and her work to gather connections for quilters across the country will make it easier for her and I to direct quilts that are ready. Fantastic support Mary!



As our Edmonton world has quickly thawed and the snow vanished, the tulips here are poking through the ground with renewed life. I am thankful once again for all those soldiers who make my world safe and keep our country free to enjoy our differences and our shared goals. I also wish to express my condolences to the families and friends of the soldiers we have lost these past months.



On a recent road trip to Vancouver area, Lezley and Deb met up! Debby had picked up some donated cotton and cotton blend fabric from Shirley Sinclair. It was great to meet our newsletter editor and maker of hand quilted quilts in person! Thanks Deb for taking the SkyTrain and meeting with me! The fabrics will go on to Grande Prairie with Orla for Janet's retreat weekend!



<< Debby with donated fabric from Shirley

Debby & Lezley >>



I also had a chance to meet up with Carolyn at the Abbotsford Quilt Show that weekend! Carolyn has contacted her local quilt shop, and has received some Trendtex fabric - the "Greetings from Canada" print (Trendtex code 37500-21) at the quilt shop cost. You may be able to do the same through your local quilt shop. The weekend was a combination of a group gathering and a family gathering, so I am glad the ladies were able to meet even for a short visit!

Lezley



News from Eastern Canada:

In January we held our 2nd quilting bee, which was a great success, around 30 ladies were present. Five finished quilts were donated that day and 25 quilt kits were signed out. Approximately 15 tops from the first bee were handed in. Our 3rd bee will be held on May 2/09 at the Orleans United Church at 1111 Orleans Blvd, Ottawa. For more info contact Mary at 613-446-1600.



My sister, Joanne Arthurs, and I did a QoV presentation in St. George at the Women's Institute. They were very interested and keen to get involved and an article was published in their local papers (article shown on page 3).

We are going to be at the Burlington quilt show, which is being held at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington, ON on April 24, 25, and 26. Betty Mahar, Liz Seamens, Mary Pender, and I will be present to answer any questions concerning QoV. We will also be involved in the May 8, 9, 10 quilt show in Ottawa. As well, the Trenton quilt show will have a display of Quilts of Valour in June.

I delivered 10 quilts last week to Valcartier and plan to deliver more to CFB Petawawa in the near future. A huge shipment of quilts was received at CFB Trenton.

Mary Ewing, Quilts of Valour - Eastern Canada Coordinator



I have been in touch with many of the lower mainland quilt guilds to spread the word about QoV to the many quilters in BC. They were very receptive to the information and a short submission was put in some guild newsletters to let the members know about the program and how to get involved. Already some groups of ladies in the Boundary Bay quilt guild have started a couple of quilts and hope to be finished by the middle or end of summer. My own guild's quilt show is in October. I am planning to enter a Quilt of Valour in the show with copies of the brochure to hand out to anyone interested.

As Lezley mentioned already, I got to meet her in person this month ... it's always really cool to put a face to a name, we had a good time talking and getting to know each other a little better.

Debby Mosher (BC Mainland)



In March a sewing group at St. James' Anglican Church in Port aux Basques, Newfoundland heard about QoV via a newspaper clipping emailed to one of them from a friend. The ladies decided to get together to make some quilts for the soldiers themselves. An article about it was featured in The Gulf News on March 2/09 and can be found at: <http://www.gulfnews.ca/index.cfm?sid=227363&sc=342>



On April 21, Orla arrived in Edmonton from northern Alberta (Berwyn) and took the box of fabric Lezley collected from Debby and a poly batting to the Grand Prairie group who is planning a quilt retreat weekend. Looking forward to hearing more about the weekend - with photos too!!



<< Orla with the box of donated fabric

Orla & Lezley >>



Excerpt from the local paper in St. George, ON regarding Joanne and Mary's QoV presentation at the Women's Institute:

Hear ye Hear ye !!!

Quilts of Valour Eastern Coordinator Mary Ewing and her assistant Joanne Arthurs arrived in St. George Monday night with a message.

Mary and Joanne traveled from Rockland and Perth Ontario, amidst our spring snow storm, to bring us information on Quilts of Valour Canada the role they play and how you can become part of this Canada wide outreach to wounded soldiers and their families.

Margaret McCall, a Brantford resident, contacted QoV representatives and has made a very generous donation of materials to be used in the making of Quilts. Mrs. McCall says she just wants to help, and help she has. Any material that the quilters are unable to use will be forwarded to a group of men and women making various items for our troops, track pants, cast covers, and the like.

Mary had accepted an invitation from the St. George Women's Institute to present information at their year end meeting. Mary educated all present on the history and values of this organization. Lezley [Zwaal] from Alberta founded this organization in 2006. QoV is just now becoming more visible in the Eastern part of Canada thanks to volunteers and women like Mary Ewing. Joyce Monkhouse of St. George donated three quilt tops and material during the meeting. It is people like Joyce and donations like these that make QoV a vital organization. Mary talked about the many ways you can aide, even if you don't sew.

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 605 sponsored an information night from 8 pm - 10 pm in the main room of the legion. Ladies Auxiliary provided tea coffee and sweets. Elizabeth Langdon of St. George and Susan Crockett RCL 605 Ladies Auxiliary presented Mary Ewing with thread and embroidery floss from WW2 and 1904., a symbol of how Canadian men and women at home have been sewing for the troops. It was a very moving exchange as the senior participants handed over the thread to the present day sewer.

Quilts of Valour quilts are given to injured Canadian forces members upon their return home to Canada. They are HUGS from Canadians to show their appreciation for the sacrifices the members and their families face.

If you would like more information or would like a QoV representative to contact you please feel free to contact Mary Ewing (Eastern Canadian Coordinator).



Joanne & Mary



Elizabeth Langdon and Susan Crockett presenting



Presentation of the spool of thread



Spool of thread



Re: Nusso Textiles

Those of you who check in on the Yahoo website from time to time are already aware that Sam Nusso of Nusso Textiles Ltd in Ontario is selling his pure white 100% high loft bonded polyester to our quilters at his Craft and Quilt Batting rates plus shipping. He waives the minimum order for us. He sent a sample to both Mary and I and we have determined that if you wish to use polyester, this is a good quality. We both have forms we can leave with you for ordering if you wish.

Please contact either Mary Ewing (marybarry54@sympatico.ca) or Lezley Zwaal (QoV@AutomatedQuill.com) for order forms or more information.

Quality and Workmanship

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the quilters who have made quilts over the past 3 years for our injured soldiers. We have heard back from a few, and heard back from the people delivering the quilts. The quilts are all truly appreciated by the soldiers as they are often overcome with your generosity. The quilts have been described as a hug from a grateful nation. These soldiers have lost limbs, suffered severe internal injuries and trauma. They have been in a situation that none of us can even comprehend as we go about our daily lives in safety with our families close by.

That is something to keep in mind when we make our quilts. Please select 100% high quality cotton and ensure the sewing is going to stand up to repeated washings, tuggings and huggings. The tension should be even between the top and bobbin threads, and use quarter inch seam allowances (not scant) when piecing your quilt. If a seam opens the soldier receiving the quilt cannot fix it. Cut off any loose threads as non-quilters will pull them out and maybe even the seam too! We ask that you wash your quilts to remove perfume and cigarette fumes.

When making a quilt aim for a quilt that you would like yourself to be presented with. These are for our troops and we wish to honour them with our very best quilts made by extraordinary quilters. I think we can challenge all quilters to make the best of the best and eliminate lumpy quilting seams, open seams and poor quality fabric. Our finished product needs to be as lovingly made for our soldiers as quilts we would make for our sons and daughters weddings and other occasions. We want **Quilts of Valour - Canada** to become "Heritage Quilts" in the families of our injured soldiers, so let's put our best sewing skills to the task and wow our soldiers. If you make a quilt that will stand up to numerous washings you have achieved the standard that I am sure we are all aiming for.

Aim high, and aim higher taking in all our pointers to ensure your quilt is among the coolest on the base. Make a quilt that you would be more than honoured to be presented with and you have made a quilt worthy to be presented to a wounded Canadian soldier. Fantastic and wonderful workmanship is our goal so let's get to it and give these brave soldiers a "HUG FROM A GRATEFUL NATION".

Thanks for your continued support.
Lezley Zwaal

The paperwork has gone to Revenue Canada to request charitable status along with the application for becoming a registered not-for-profit society. This will allow us to hold our raffles and receive financial donations and give out the charitable receipts for such donations.

What I would like you to consider is whether you would like to be on board as a director in the organization. If there is anyone who would like to represent their province or territory, if there is someone who will be interested in being treasurer, someone to keep track of our membership, website updates, please let me know! As we grow we will evolve, positions will change, but that is ok! We are making it happen.

Lezley



Our group is growing daily, including quilters from one coast to the other. As we have questions for QoV or have a quilt ready for presentation we ask that you contact one of these people listed below. Many of the personnel at the resource centres and support centres are very busy with their normal duties and may not even be aware of the details of QoV. They cannot answer your questions. Please check the following list for a contact person in your province:

Lezley Zwaal, Founder, Quilts of Valour - Canada — Sask, AB, BC QoV@AutomatedQuill.com

Mary Ewing, Eastern Canadian Coordinator — Manitoba eastward. marybarry54@sympatico.ca

Within those boundaries:

Sandy Carlike — Alberta South. quiltbuddy38@yahoo.ca

Debby Mosher — BC mainland. scrappyblue@gmail.com

Liz Seamans — Manitoba, west Ontario. ebeth0@rogers.com

Betty Mahar — PEI, Nfld/Labrador. peimom17@hotmail.com

Johanne Bennings — Nova Scotia. nsquilts@gmail.com

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

Newsletter Editor: Debby Mosher, scrappyblue@gmail.com