

Victoria's Quilts Canada

Comforting People with Cancer

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Annual Report

January 1 – December 31, 2014

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Message from the Founder

The year 2014 was a year of change, both personally and with Victoria's Quilts Canada. As you read through the reports, you will notice both small and large changes as our organization continues to grow. With any change, there are growing pains, but we are weathering them with grace and dignity.

We opened some new Branches and retired others, but we continue to meet our objective of providing comfort to those dealing with cancer through our quilts that provide both physical and spiritual support. The National Office is now well established in its new home at Heartwood House, and I have recently become the liaison between Heartwood House and Victoria's Quilts Canada.

Part of the reason that Victoria's Quilts Canada had to find a new location was because we sold our home and moved into an apartment. Let me tell you, downsizing, like growing older, is not for wimps. It took a while for our hearts to hear what our head was saying, but now that the move is behind us, we are extremely happy with our decision. Let it snow, and we don't have to worry about digging out. If we have a problem, we just call the super!

The first Gayle Madely Memorial Quilt-a-thon was held in March of this year. Gayle had received a quilt from Victoria's Quilts Canada and found great comfort from it, both physical and spiritual. Her husband, Steve, a well-known radio personality, had supported Victoria's Quilts Canada for many years by participating in our annual radio-thon, hosted by Rabbi Bulka. Following Gayle's passing, we asked Steve if he would allow us to hold a quilt-a-thon in her memory; he was very touched by the idea and fully supported it. Rabbi Bulka stepped in and offered the use of Congregation Machzikei Hadas, which was immediately accepted. The event took place on March 30, 2014 and was a great success. Despite the winter storm that day, about 75 participants turned up and generated more than 100 quilts. Steve and Rabbi Bulka both attended for portions of the day and could not get over the wonderfully friendly atmosphere and the pure joy that those in attendance felt doing their work. Another event is planned for 2015 in the same location.

I hope that I will have more opportunities to meet with our volunteers, both locally and across the country. We plan to travel more, and I can't think of any better places to go than to visit our Branches. I know you are probably tired of hearing this, but it can never be said too often: THANK YOU...

- to our wonderful hardworking Board of Directors who work tirelessly to ensure we maintain the highest standards in all the legal requirements of a non-profit/charitable organization
- to all who have taken on leadership roles such as Administration, Finance, Record Keeping – or giving our stash and equipment a home
- to all who have taken on leadership within the Branches
- to all who make the quilts, pack the quilts and deliver the quilts.

Each one of you is an integral part of what we do, and we all know that this work is very important. It's much needed in our communities from coast to coast to coast.

We often hear news reports telling us that there has been a new breakthrough in cancer research, and we always hope that this will be the one. We also know that there is not going to be just one solution, so until that happens, we will continue to do what we do – provide quilts.

God bless and hugs!

Betty Giffin
Founder

Mission Statement

The mission of Victoria's Quilts Canada is to provide handmade quilts to people with cancer in Canada. By providing these quilts, we hope to bring physical comfort to those dealing with cancer, as well as spiritual comfort in knowing they are not alone in their struggle.

Quilt Delivery Statistics

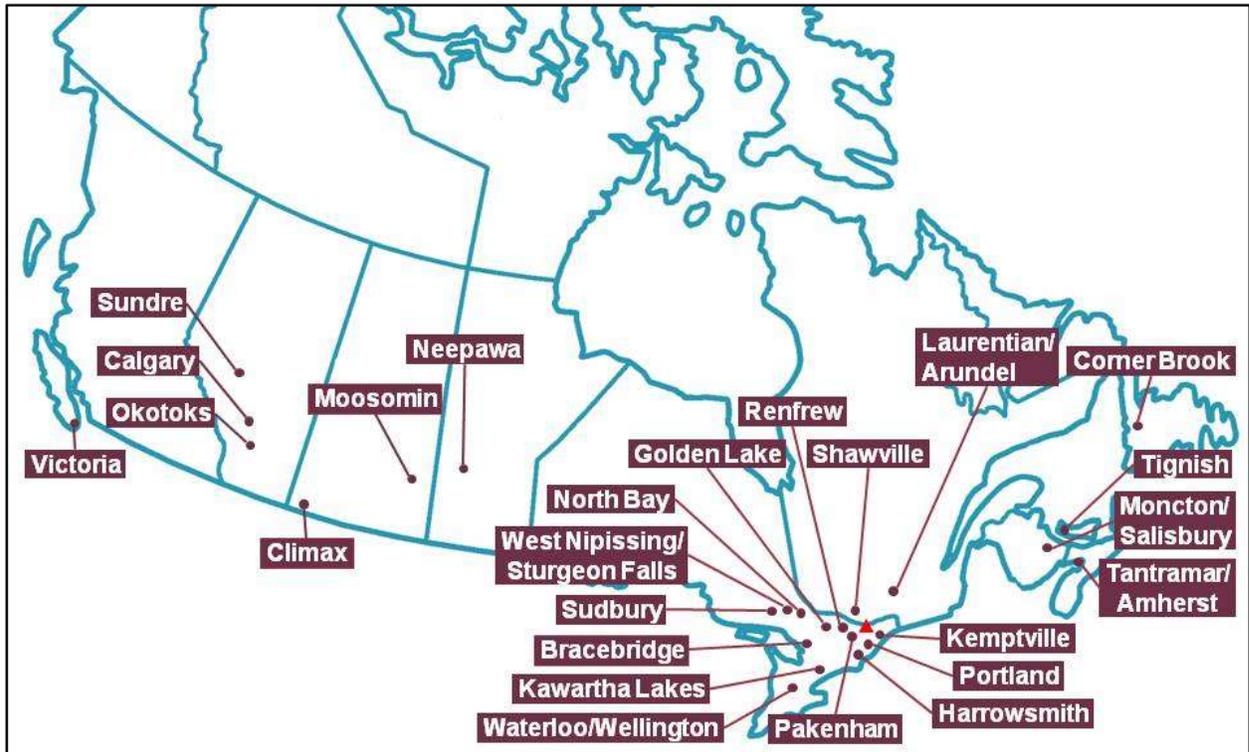


1999	-	16
2000	-	36
2001	-	458
2002	-	694
2003	-	930
2004	-	1,149
2005	-	1,604
2006	-	2,392
2007	-	2,724
2008	-	3,294
2009	-	3,760
2010	-	4,175
2011	-	4,910
2012	-	5,571
2013	-	5,827
2014	-	5,213

Total to December 31, 2014 — 41,430

40,000th quilt sent to an individual in New Brunswick in September 2014

VQC Branches Across Canada



Alberta

Alberta
Calgary
Okotoks
Sundre

British Columbia

Victoria

Manitoba

Neepawa

New Brunswick

Moncton/Salisbury

Newfoundland & Labrador

Corner Brook

Nova Scotia

Tantramar/Amherst

Ontario

Bracebridge
Golden Lake
Harrowsmith
Kawartha Lakes
Kemptville
North Bay
Pakenham
Portland
Renfrew
Sudbury
Waterloo/Wellington
West Nipissing/Sturgeon Falls

Prince Edward Island

Tignish

Quebec

Laurentian/Arundel
Shawville

Saskatchewan

Climax
Moosomin

Board of Directors

Marlene Cox

Marlene joined Victoria's Quilts Canada in the fall of 2012 after retiring from teaching. She first heard about Victoria's Quilts Canada after receiving a quilt while undergoing treatment for breast cancer in 2010. This quilt, which had been requested by her United Church Women's group, encompassed all the support and caring she had received from friends, family, and community. Marlene joined the Board of Directors in May 2013 and is the National Friends Groups Coordinator.

Blanche Dunn

Blanche has been with Victoria's Quilts Canada almost since the beginning. Her duties as the Coordinator of Friends groups for National Office for so many years allowed her the opportunity to get to know many of our volunteers personally. She continues to be the "Keeper of the Stash" and never gets tired of seeing the variety of wonderful fabrics our quilters continue to donate. She has been a member of the Board of Directors since starting with Victoria's Quilts Canada. Her two years' experience as the Vice-president involved helping Betty in a variety of capacities. Blanche became the new President in April of 2008.

Joan Foster-Jones

Joan was introduced to Victoria's Quilts Canada in the fall of 2008 by one of the members of her church quilting group. In December 2012, that friend convinced her to take over as Secretary of the Board after retiring from the position of church bookkeeper. In her working life, Joan was a Kindergarten teacher and school choir director. In her "spare" time, she has sung in a variety of choirs and has designed and sewn costumes for Orpheus. This spring she worked on the costumes for the student opera at the University of Ottawa. She became the Branch Coordinator in June of 2014 after serving 1½ years as Secretary of the Board.

Michelle Gagnon

Michelle signed up with Victoria's Quilts Canada in April 2014 after hearing about and participating in the 2014 Quiltathon. She had recently retired from a 30-year career as a federal government communications officer and was looking for a way to use her skills in a volunteer capacity and to get back to her first passion, working with fibre and fabric. She became a member of the Board of Directors in May 2014 and is the Communications Director.

Shirley Gay

Shirley joined Victoria's Quilts Canada (VQC) as a member of the Stittsville Friends Group in September 2012. She retired as Clinical Director at the Ottawa Hospital in March 2012, having worked 43 years as a Registered Nurse. She had first-hand experience in the value and comfort of a VQC quilt, as she was diagnosed with breast cancer in December of 2012. Her "blanket" went to every treatment with her providing her comfort and support. She was elected to the Board of Directors in May 2014 and is the Secretary to the Board of Directors.

Martine Genest

Martine began working with Victoria's Quilts Canada in 2013 after retiring from a 35-year career in the federal public service in various administrative and procurement positions. Martine is the Donations Officer for VQC as well as the backup for the quilt packing team and mailing labels. She joined the Board of Directors in 2014 and is the National Treasurer.

Judy Lancaster

Judy began working with Victoria's Quilts Canada in June 2012 after a 20-year career in teaching. She always been active in the community with a variety of non-profit organizations and with her husband, operated a pick-your-own strawberry farm for 25 years. She served as Treasurer in 2013 but stepped down recently to take over the duties of bookkeeper for VQC.

Kathy Yach

Kathy began working with Victoria's Quilts Canada in 2005 following her retirement as Director of City View Centre for Child and Family Services. She has been involved in a number of non-profit organizations over the years and brings with her a wealth of knowledge. She was a Trustee with the Ottawa Board of Education for 13 years and Chair for 2 years. She is currently Vice-President and, as Fundraising Coordinator, successfully coordinates our fashion shows, manages our very successful quilt raffles, and provides valuable insight into the fundraising process.

How We Work

Quilt Creation

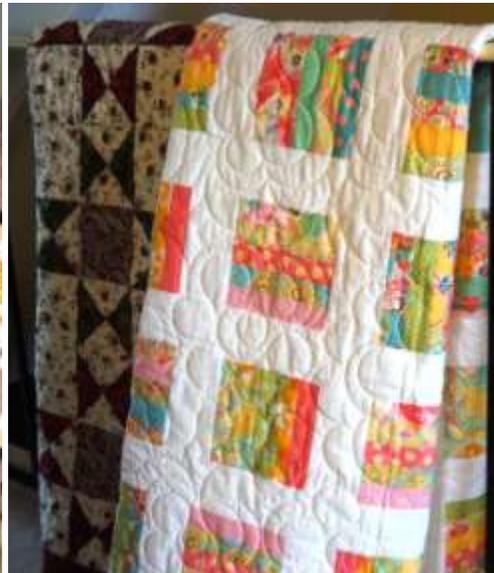
- Groups – known as Friends of Victoria's Quilts Canada – meet to create quilts in a team similar to the “quilting bees” of the past.
- Individual quilters – work independently and donate blocks, quilt tops, or completed quilts.
- Quilt Guilds – make quilts as a group or individual project.
- Quilt-a-thons – are held annually by many of the branches; participants are invited to spend the day making quilts, sharing knowledge, and having a good time together.
- Quilt 'til U Wilt Days – are held as needed when we have a shortage of quilts but extra tops on hand.

Quilt Distribution

- Quilts are distributed to anyone in Canada who is coping with cancer. It does not matter what stage of the disease they are currently experiencing. When possible, these quilts are delivered personally by one of our wonderful volunteers. Otherwise, they are mailed.

Community Support

- Our organization is run by dedicated volunteers who freely give of their time and talents.
- Businesses within the community help us by donating or discounting their products and services to help us do our work.
- We receive grants from a variety of sources.
- Our Branches receive donations from community groups.



Reports

President

With 2014 coming to a close, I look back at all that has happened. This year has been a year of completion for so many tasks started by the National Office.

Our new financial standards, which were set in place for the Branches and the National Office, are now completed. We have received very positive comments from many of the Branches and feel the new process is working well for all.

I am very proud and confident with the work that has been accomplished by our Board of Directors. Their dedication and hard work this past year needs to be commended, and we have finally had some time to tackle many of the things that were on our wish list over the years.

Our website has needed a makeover for many years. Michelle Gagnon, our new Communications Director, is bringing it up to 2014 standards. It is a tremendous amount of work, but it is also very exciting to see the changes happen. The new sections, changes in colours, revised text and new content reminds me of a cocoon and a butterfly. We will have a dedicated area for the Branches, giving you an opportunity to post all of your wonderful ideas to share with other groups within our organization. Our new website will now be available in both official languages as well, something that has been long overdue.

Our financial team, Martine Genest and Judy Lancaster, have taken our financial books from a work in progress to a finished product. Setting up new programs and fine-tuning the format for sending out reports has taken all of the past year to complete. They are organized, easy to follow, contain a good amount of detail and are now reflecting the full picture of National and Branch finances. We will most likely be audited by the Canada Revenue Agency in the next few years, and I feel confident that VQC will meet this challenge successfully.

Our volunteers here in Ottawa and across Canada have continued to fill our requests with beautiful quilts. And, on September 2, 2014 we sent out our 40,000th quilt – what an accomplishment!

I would like to thank you all for your dedication and enthusiasm for the work you all do. You are what makes this whole dream happen.

God Bless,
Blanche Dunn

Communications

This past year has been a whirlwind of learning for me, having joined Victoria's Quilts Canada in April 2014 and then becoming a Board member a month later. I'd like to thank all of you for your patience, and your help, while I learned the ropes and figured out what its communications needs were.

My top priority in 2014 has been to revamp the VQC website and make it bilingual. It's taken somewhat longer than expected but, after a lot of trials and errors, site development is underway, and the website will be completed and launched by spring 2015. I hope you like it and welcome your feedback. Special thanks go to Marlene Cox (for her photos of last May during her visits to the Friends Groups that now liven up the website), to the Friends Group and Branch coordinators (who chased after required signatures for the photo release forms that needed to be signed), and to Françoise Miller (who oversaw the translation of all that text into French). This new site remains a work in progress and more items/features will be added over the next year.

Other related tasks also completed during this period included registering the domain name victoriasquiltscanada.ca (we already own victoriasquiltscanada.com) to prevent its being co-opted

by others whose aims might conflict with ours. We also set up generic email addresses for various VQC functions to protect the privacy of our volunteers (e.g. quilts@victoriasquiltscanada.com) and replaced betty@victoriasquiltscanada.com with two new general email addresses. Lastly, a secure online site for storing electronic files pertaining to VQC operations was set up to facilitate access by Board members and prevent future loss.

Our profile on CanadaHelps is closely tied with the VQC website and is our preferred option for making donations. The profile was revamped and enhanced late last November, and a campaign was then launched in early December, as part of GivingTuesday, to see if this could increase donations. The exercise, while not entirely successful, was instructive. It will be tried again next year and social media such as Twitter will be used to spread the word more widely; this should result in a greater impact.

The VQC bookmark and In Memory card were revised and reprinted in 2014. A plan for distribution of the In Memory card to funeral homes across the country was prepared and will be implemented in 2015.

It's been a real pleasure to serve as VQC's Communications Director this past year, and have the support of so many dedicated volunteers along the way. I'm looking forward to launching the new website in 2015 so that other communications priorities that had to be put on hold temporarily can be tackled.

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Gagnon
Communications Director

Fundraising

Two thousand and fourteen was a very, very busy year. We held a Fashion Show and Radio-thon, sold craft items and held a Raffle.

On April 26, 2014, a spring Fashion Show was held at City View United Church. Fashions were by "Nygard" in Barrhaven. Members of our organization were the models, we held a silent auction, and dessert was served before the fashion show. It was a great success, thanks to all the volunteers and the donations we received from donors. We raised \$2,526.30

On June 22, 2014, a Sunday night, Rabbi Bulka and Steve Madley hosted our annual Radio-thon on CFRA during which we raised \$15,435.64.

On October 18, 2014 we held the draw for prizes in our annual raffle. The winners were:

1st Prize "Beautiful Blue" — Sue Cherry
2nd Prize "Calendar Quilt" — Irene Lafleche
3rd Prize "Rack" — Adele Leroux
4th Prize "Child's Wall Hanging" — Anne Walsh

We raised \$7737.18 during this event.

Lastly, we received a donation of fabrics from the "Woods" family, which we were able to use to make quilts. We also received craft items that we were able to sell at different events and, as a result, raise \$3,907.15.

I would like to personally thank all the people who helped us find donors and volunteered for all of our fundraising activities.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Yach
Fundraising Chair

Coordinator of Branches

I assumed the role of Branch Coordinator in June of 2014 after serving 1½ years as Secretary of the Board. The first order of business was to familiarize myself with all the files. Since the summer, we have undertaken a major revision of the documents that are associated with the set-up of new Branches and the procedures that we need each established Branch to follow. This process is almost complete.

As I read through the various Annual Reports that have been arriving from the Branches, I am struck by the energy and enthusiasm that quilters all over the country are displaying. We have received many letters of appreciation for the work that we have all done – it is too bad that the need is still so great.

Early in the year we welcomed two new Branches (Tignish and Bracebridge). We hope that they meet with success as they move through the growing pains that inevitably come with new enterprises.

Respectfully submitted,
Joan Foster-Jones
Branch Coordinator

National Friends Groups Coordinator

The nineteen Friends Groups, along with some independent quilters in the Ottawa region, sewed 2,171 quilts in 2014, which was 42% of all the quilts distributed across the country.

National sent out 1,564 by mail and 607 by hand, thanks to the efforts of our Quilt Request/Packing Coordinator, the Quilt Packers, and the Quilt Distribution team. Our Friends Group members worked tirelessly during their monthly, bi-monthly, or weekly meetings in an effort to increase our supply of quilts.

Our members also stepped up to support our local fundraising efforts. For example, the Russell Friends Group, along with Home Hardware and Scotiabank, held a fundraiser in the fall that raised \$4,910.00.

Our Fashion Show last spring was also very successful and well attended. For that continued support, we are so very grateful.

Youth Initiatives Program

Three high schools were involved in the Youth Initiatives program in 2014 when the students tied quilts during their lunch hour. At the end of January, VQC volunteers participated in a one-time quilt-tying session for grade 7 and 8 students in the Ottawa Catholic School Board at their Giving Back Day.

Respectfully submitted,
Marlene Cox
National Friends Groups Coordinator

Treasurer

As I reflect on the past seven months, since assuming the position of Treasurer for the organization, I must say that it has been an exciting, challenging and very busy time for me! Thank you to Judy Lancaster for teaching me the ropes and for her support as we made the transition.

One of my top priorities in the fall of 2014 was to prepare and file the GST/HST rebate with the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for fiscal years 2012 and 2013. As a result, VQC received tax rebates of \$11,054 for 2012 and \$10,144 for 2013, which were subsequently distributed to the Branches and the National office.

We were also very fortunate to retain the services of Mr. Nicholas Ralph, CPA, CA in the fall of 2014. He specializes in not-for-profit corporations and offered to provide his services at a reduced rate. In addition to producing the financial statements for 2014 (see Annex A), I also asked that he review our financial procedures and reports. I am very pleased to report that he found we had done an excellent job to ensure the proper financial controls were in place.

The results for 2014 show a considerable improvement in revenues from donations and fundraising, while expenses are, in total, highly comparable with those for the prior year.

Also attached to this report are two graphs comparing donations received for National and the Branches in 2014 vs. 2013 (see Annex B and C).

We continue to issue tax receipts for donations of \$20 or more in accordance with CRA regulations. The format of the receipt was updated this year to better reflect the image of the organization. We also continue to send to the Branches those donations received by National that are earmarked for them, on a quarterly basis.

As you all know, the National Quilt Program moved to a new location in late December 2013. Previously, our rent had been covered by an anonymous donor. Sadly this was no longer the case after March of 2014. This change resulted in an additional expense of \$6,097 for the National Office.

Review engagements and audits were discussed with our accountant and, after his initial assessment of our finances, he recommended that this was not necessary. I agree, as VQC does not operate with lines of credit or credit cards, does not own any property, and has very few investments as well as no paid employees. A review engagement would cost \$4-5K and an audit \$6-7K. Additionally, VQC was incorporated under the Ontario Corporations Act and the Act's current provisions do not permit review engagements. Until the new Not-for-Profit Corporations Act comes into effect in 2016, our hard-earned donation and fundraising revenues are best spent on making and delivering quilts to people with cancer in Canada.

Further to the item in last year's report about CRA's recommendation that a financial audit be conducted when revenue is greater than \$250K, our accountant confirmed that there was no obligation on our part to do this. VQC, however, does file a Registered Charity Information Return (T3010) with CRA every year.

Looking ahead to 2015

Our accountant will help us set up our financial software to eliminate the need to re-enter receipts into a spreadsheet to calculate the GST/HST rebate for the organization. This will enable us to file with CRA early each year and subsequently issue, in a timely manner, the rebate portion due to each Branch.

With the amount of work involved in managing the organization's financial affairs (National and 25 Branches), we have recruited another volunteer, who has a financial background. This individual will assist in reviewing the monthly financial reports submitted by the Branches and entering their data in our financial software. Training is scheduled to begin in April.

We will also investigate the feasibility of doing electronic fund transfers between National and the Branches when paying out quarterly Branch donations received by National and when issuing GST/HST rebates.

Respectfully submitted,
Martine Genest
National Treasurer

Branches

Calgary

The Calgary Branch was kept very busy in 2014.

Our delivery of quilts reached 302 for 2014, down slightly from the previous year. We continued to extend a helping hand to National by sending quilts outside of our Calgary area to Northern Alberta and those areas not covered by the Branches.

We welcomed a new Treasurer this year and are happy to report that the transition has been very smooth. We are also very grateful to our regular and new longarmers who continue to provide complimentary quilting for our quilts.

Again, we thank Along Came Quilting (www.alongcamequilting.com), who continue to host us in their beautiful, big and bright classroom for our monthly meetings. We are extremely grateful for this space and thank Linda and her staff for continuing to collect and hold fabric donations for us. Our work days are always very productive, and we conduct business meetings during the lunch time to keep the quilters informed and offer them an opportunity for input.

We participated in the Heritage Park Festival of Quilts annual event with a group entry displaying the variety of quilts that we deliver.

Many thanks to the FabricStashers group of quilters, who spent one of their evening meetings making the bags that accompany our quilts.

In September, one of our members conducted a raffle at her workplace and the proceeds were matched 100% by her employer.

The Maunders MacNeil Foundation has extended their donation for another 3 years.

The Calgary Branch continues to run a Facebook® page, now with over 185 followers. This continues to grow as we feature our quilts and work days and a little humour.

We continue to receive donations of all sorts from recipients, friends of recipients and family members..

Respectfully submitted,
Fiona McMillin
Chair, Calgary Branch in Alberta

Harrowsmith

Welcome all Victoria's Quilt's members and our wonderful Directors for another great year. The Harrowsmith Branch, now in our 5th year, continues to grow stronger in spirit and members each year, and I am so proud of these members as they are the Branch.

One of our long-term ladies made a beautiful quilt for our Branch, which we display proudly wherever we can.



Some of the quilts
made in Calgary

Our main fund raiser each year is a raffle for a beautiful quilt. We work hard by attending as many craft shows and fairs to sell tickets for this quilt. This helps us to raise funds to continue our work and provide material for making quilts for cancer patients.

This year, another one of our members donated to the raffle a queen-sized quilt made up of squares from her quilts she had made in the past. You can see this beautiful quilt displayed with the accompanying picture.

Getting together twice a month is so special, as we have become great friends and love our work as well as the social time together. We welcomed two new members into our Branch this year and hope to continue to grow.

Each year at Christmas we get together for lunch and, rather than buy gifts, we donate money to a worthy cause to help others. The great feeling we get by providing quilts to those suffering from cancer and providing love and care to these brave individuals tends to encourage us to pass on to others whenever we can.

I know each and every Branch feels the same, and what a great organization to be a part of, so until next year, quilt on for this wonderful cause.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurie Scala
Chair, Harrowsmith Branch in Ontario

Kawartha Lakes

2014 has been a very successful year for the Kawartha Lakes Branch.

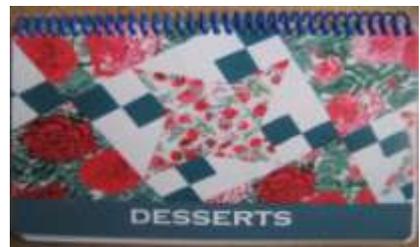
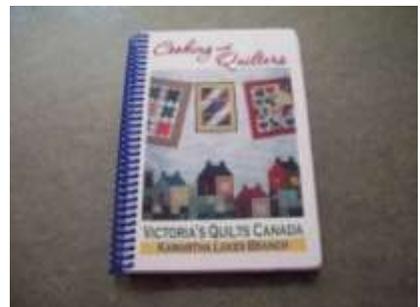
We continue to welcome 25-30 eager sewers each month at our workshop. Batting and backing day sees 8-10 volunteers getting the quilts “sandwiched” for our 2 quilt-machine operators. Several volunteers struggle to keep up to these two very efficient quilters. I commend these two, as well as all the binders.

One hundred and seventy-one quilts were hand-delivered and/or mailed to recipients. Twenty-five finished quilts were delivered to Ottawa to help with their “orders”.

Fund-raising events included a “giant” yard-sale, a raffle of a member-donated quilt, and the production and sale of a cookbook. All of these endeavours were very profitable, with total receipts being over \$4,200.00.

Plans for 2015 include another donated-quilt raffle, a scrap sale at the Lindsay Creative Quilters Guild “Merchant Mall and Boutique”, and our “Lunch Room” at the Bobcaygeon Settler’s Village Show in September. The accompanying pictures show our cookbook, whose cover has quilts that were finished and distributed by our Branch.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Atkinson
Chair, Kawartha Lakes Branch in Ontario



Kemptville

It is hard to believe that another year has gone by and it is time again for the Annual Report.

The Kemptville Branch of Victoria's Quilts Canada (VQC) keeps growing, with 47 members enjoying the making of quilts and the wonderful fellowship that takes place at all of our working bees.

In 2014, the talented members made 157 quilts. In the same year, we delivered 70 quilts in the North Grenville area and beyond, and gave 115 quilts to the National Office to send further afield.

In 2013, our Branch held a very successful quilt raffle, which boosted our coffers so that we could forego any active fundraising initiatives in 2014. However, our Fund Raising Table continues to generate funds on a regular basis. Various members have donated items such as homemade crafts or baking as well as gently used quilting books or patterns to this table. Also, a member may take it upon herself to raffle a bigger item among the members in attendance. Surprisingly, the funds from these small endeavours add up quickly.

We meet the third Saturday of each month, except for July and August, in St. John's United Church Hall in Kemptville under the auspices of the church's Outreach Program. In appreciation of the use of the hall over the years, the members have made Roman blinds for the church hall, donated two new folding tables to the church and, twice a year, have provided tinned meats for the church to use for their community lunches.

During our bees the main task is to sandwich all the quilt tops that have been brought in that day. Two sets of tables are set up so that two quilts can be worked on at the same time. One of our members put together a binder showing quilting ideas for all of our quilt patterns. This has been especially useful for some of our new members. There are a good number of electrical outlets along the walls of the church hall, which allows our members to set up their sewing machines and piece or quilt.

At lunch time we all gather to enjoy fellowship while we eat our bag lunches. At the May and December bees, we hold pot luck lunches where all the ladies show that they are not only talented quilters, but also great cooks! After each meal we hold a quilt show of all the finished quilts that have been brought in that day.

The Kemptville Branch was invited to take part in the 2014 Upper Canada Village Fantastic Fibers and Quilt Show weekend on June 21 and 22. This was a good opportunity for our group to promote the work of VQC. A number of our members took part in staffing our display, and they all agreed that there was a lot of interest in VQC. Our group was very well received by both the public and the organizers of the show.

A defibrillator has been installed in the church where we meet. So, at our September meeting, we arranged to have a registered nurse give a demonstration on its use.

The Kemptville Branch runs smoothly. The executive, which meets four or five times a year, is made up of President, Vice/Fund Raising, Treasurer/Membership, Secretary/Quilt Requests, Quilt Storage and Distribution, and Member-at-Large. Other positions, not on the executive but equally important, are Bee Co-coordinator, Keeper of the Stash, and Keeper of the Bag Kits. However, all the work would not get done if it weren't for our faithful members who cheerfully help where needed.

The Kemptville Branch is now in its 13th year of operation and is pleased to continue our mission of providing handmade quilts to people with cancer.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine MacNaughtan
Secretary/Communications, Kemptville Branch in Ontario

Laurentian

Two thousand and fourteen – the year of generosity and camaraderie for all.

We at Laurentian Branch work very hard to make sure that our volunteers are happy and contented while they work doing our most beautiful quilts. Heather Barnes and Kathy Beaven are the hostesses with the mostest; they provide sweet breads, hot coffee and tea in the morning, and surprise us at noon every work day with a different dessert. They also work for the annual general meeting and, let's not forget, our Christmas luncheon. Both of them know how to please our girls and our guests.

Gloria Staniforth loves to deliver the quilts to patients. She is always welcomed and is able to comfort them. She is also the quilt coordinator and takes pictures of the quilts and names them for posterity. Shirley is the Accounts Receivable and Accounts Payable expert. She is very conscientious, and she is a perfectionist to a tee. Madeline Sawers, our fashion, colour, pattern diva, has the eye of an eagle. The designs she comes out with are astounding.

We as a group produced 91 quilts in 2014 for a grand total of 421 quilts since our humble beginning. Elizabeth, our president, is at the helm of this group. She makes sure that the girls are learning all about quilts – the proper way of cutting, the proper seams, the ironing of pieces, and the sandwiching. She supervises the binding group.

We only meet once a month, but some of our volunteers like to work at home, so kits are provided for them. We also have Joan Evans, who works on bags for the quilts. All in all, we have a productive group, a community that appreciates what we accomplish, and pride in our 40+ VOLUNTEERS.

Respectfully submitted,
Claudette Smith Pilon
Secretary Laurentian Branch in Quebec

Moncton

Here are some highlights of 2014 for the Moncton Branch of Victoria's Quilts Canada.

Over 600 quilts were sent out again this year to cancer patients across New Brunswick.

We had some major changes in the Moncton area: we moved and are now working out of the HumLewSun Lions Hall on Pleasant St. The Lions were kind enough to let us meet there Monday and Wednesday afternoons, at no cost. Our longarm, finished quilts, mailing boxes, delivery bags, bat and flannelette remain at our old location.

We were able to purchase a new frame for the longarm and received a generous donation of \$2,000.00 worth of flannelette from a local Forrester's group.

We continue to fundraise with craft sales, a bus trip, blank greeting cards, and the donations keep coming, so we are ending the year with a healthy bank account!

We manage to have at least 100 quilts made ahead! We are so fortunate to have such a large group of dedicated volunteers.

Respectfully submitted,
Jane Sunderland
Chair, Moncton Branch in New-Brunswick

Moosomin

Here are some of the many quilts made by the ladies of the Moosomin Branch in 2014. By the end of 2014, since becoming a Branch in March of 2013, we have filled 162 requests for quilts for cancer patients. This has been very rewarding.

We are fortunate in Saskatchewan to have another Branch in the western part of the province; we in the Moosomin Branch look after requests in the more eastern part of the province.

A committed group of ladies meet twice a month in a United Church hall to sew tops together and to quilt them on our sewing machines.



We did not have a fundraiser in 2014, as we have been blessed to keep our bank account well in the positive. Our cotton fabric for the tops is donated by many local women, and the only fabric we purchase is the extra-wide cotton flannel for the backings.

It would be wonderful to not have to give out quilts, because that would mean some cures are being found for cancer. However, since the cures have not become common, we are pleased to be able to provide a degree of comfort and warmth to those cancer patients for whom we receive requests.

To the National Office in Ottawa, our hats are off to you for all the volunteer work at the National level. Any question we have is answered promptly, and supplies are sent out in a very timely fashion. Thank you so much for being so committed to Victoria's Quilts Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Sheryl Garrett
Chair, Moosomin Branch in Saskatchewan

Neepawa

After a little over a year in operation, I am amazed to be a part of the wonderful organization, Victoria's Quilts Canada.

With the support of National Office, we provided 38 quilts to people of all ages, including a seven-year-old child... unfortunately, cancer knows no boundaries. One person described her experience when she received her quilt as, "The comfort you get from wrapping yourself in a quilt, that people you don't even know made for you, is something you have to experience to know the feeling." Being part of a few of the quilt deliveries has given me a respect for the cancer patients and their courage. Each one, even the men, have been touched by the gift of a quilt.

We were fortunate to have an artist, Sharon Soroka, paint a banner on fabric for our use. In July, at the Tangled Threads Quilt Guild Show, we had a display of quilts and spoke to a number of people from all over Manitoba to promote Victoria's Quilts Canada.

In September, after submitting an application, we received a grant of \$1,000.00 from the Beautiful Plains Community Foundation. These funds were used to purchase bolts of 108" flannel fabric and 100% cotton batting. We also received a generous donation from the Callandar Family, who raffled a quilt at their family reunion and gave us \$450.00.

In the fall, Lorna Lehn of Country Lane Quilts in Ste. Rose volunteered to quilt quilts for our Branch for \$25.00 a quilt on her longarm machine. She is a generous lady.

We have had an eventful year and look forward to continuing to provide the comfort of a handmade quilt on behalf of Victoria's Quilts Canada to the cancer patients in our area. We appreciate and commend the volunteers of National Office for their support and guidance.

Respectfully submitted,
Daphne Hall
Chair, Neepawa Branch in Manitoba

North Bay

We had a very busy year for the size of the group; we have only 8 members and we meet once a month for the day.

This year we had to find a new location, as the building that we were in went up for sale. At present, we are in my church in a very nice room, but with very little storage, so two of us take a lot home and cart it back and forth.

We delivered 57 quilts this past year with several quilts going to the surrounding communities. We also mailed several quilts.

We do receive some left-over quilt patches and some material from the large quilting group in North Bay, which really does help us. We are also getting some help from two ladies who have longarm quilters; otherwise, we would not be able to keep up. We also take home the quilts that we start, to finish them.

Sew Long from the Happy Quilters in North Bay.

Respectfully submitted,
Jo McCulley
Chair, North Bay Branch in Ontario

Okotoks

Greetings from Southern Alberta.

Here we are in 2015; where did 2014 go? Our Branch distributed 299 quilts in 2014. Our designated area is southern Alberta; however, we provided to various areas throughout Canada. When Manitoba asked for our assistance in 2014, due to the closure of chapters in their province, we were happy to provide them with 102 quilts.

Since the flood, High River has bounced back very quickly. With donations of fabric and tools from various generous people they were very eager to get their quilting circle back into operation and have been producing quilts again. They receive many referrals from the cancer clinic in High River.

The Nanton ladies are an industrious group, and many of their quilts go to patients receiving chemo at the High River Hospital. During the summer, they hosted a garage sale and the proceeds went to Victoria's Quilts Canada. In Nanton, the community hosts a Distinctly Christmas Market and graciously donates a table designated to Victoria's Quilts Canada.

The Okotoks group has moved its meetings to daytime to accommodate the ladies, especially those that travel from the rural district. Every August, Rumples Quilt Skins (a quilt store) hosts a day called the Quilt Stroll, and Victoria's Quilts Canada always participates; this year, we had an overwhelming show of support and interest in our organization.

In October, three of us travelled to a small rural community in Czar, Alberta to participate in their 14th Annual Quilt Show. It was a rewarding experience, with wonderful quilts displayed and many antique

furniture items to support the displays. They had a showing of approximately twenty-four antique sewing machines, which was very interesting – one lady sewed a quilt using a machine with a wheel on the side that was used to operate the machine, no electrical power. She indicated she uses her machine all the time. It was amazing to watch.

I have to mention we have a lady in Turner Valley who, on her own, generated twenty-four quilts last year from start to finish, including free-motion quilting. She is one very dedicated lady, and we truly admire and love her for it. She is our busy bee!

In closing, we are fortunate to have a company in Calgary named M & K Quilting who has volunteered to do longarm quilting for us. They have done over 100 quilts over the last few years, largely quilt tops generated by the High River ladies. The assistance provided by M & K is priceless to us and greatly appreciated.

One of the deepest secrets of life is that all that is really worth doing is what we do for others.

Respectfully submitted,
Fern McKean
Co-chair, Okotoks Branch in Alberta

Shawville

The Shawville Branch of Victoria's Quilts Canada continues to meet monthly, except for July and August, at the United Church, with an average of 18 members present.

In 2014, we gave out 62 quilts for a total of 446 in the 8 years since we started. Each year, we hold a quilt raffle at our local fair. This raffle provides funds for our Branch, as well as spreading the word about Victoria's Quilts Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Elaine Richardson
Chair, Shawville Branch in Quebec

Tantramar

The Branch has a solid core group of 20 members who meet on the 2nd Wed (full day) and the 4th Wed (half day) of each month, from January through December.

We distributed 72 quilts in 2014, which clearly indicates that a good deal of the quilting process is done in the members' homes by truly dedicated ladies.

The Branch's main fundraising activities included 2 luncheons: one with a St. Patrick's Day theme in March, the other with an autumn theme in October during the Nova Scotia Fibre Arts Festival. There was a very supportive turnout for these lunches.

The Branch also had an "in-house" quilt raffle for which tickets were sold during several events from March – December.

Volunteer appreciation is a valuable asset that promotes success in the group. Refreshments are available during the morning, and dessert is always served to go with the workers' brown bag lunch.



Everyone was treated to a Christmas Lunch in December and, before leaving, Santa's helper arrived with small gifts for all. This past year a new "special treat" was added: everyone was invited to spend a "retreat day at the beach". A great time was had by all in attendance at a cottage on the Northumberland Strait.

Our community outreach continues, as we share with others donations of goods that are not appropriate for the VQC quilt-making process.

This past year, Amherst was blessed with a quilt store, which is a plus for our group. Mrs. P's Emporium has not only been supportive but also very generous when meeting the material needs of the group. Just imagine, no more transport fees, all the way from British Columbia.

Thanks to all: volunteers, Head Office, family, friends, community at large & Beth (Mrs.).

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Farrow Sinclair
Chair, Tantramar Branch in Nova Scotia

Tignish

We became a Branch in June, 2014 and delivered our first quilt on July 12, 2014. From June to December 31, 2014 we delivered 46 quilts.

We held a Fundraiser Bingo on August 31, 2014 and made a total of \$1,100.00 We also had a fundraising raffle and made \$540.00. We received donations of \$1,000.00 from the Tignish Credit Union and \$300.00 from the Wellington Credit Union as well as \$1,894.35 in memorial donations and some individual donations.

We received a large donation of material donated from an estate as well as donations of material from material stores and individuals.

We are about 24 members and some of us meet weekly at our sewing club as well as a few times a week at Annemarie's house. We cut quilt kits and members take them home to do the tops for us. We are very fortunate to have 2 ladies who do all the quilting for us.

We are so thankful to each and every one of the hard-working ladies in our group and continue to enjoy what we are doing.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Perry
Treasurer, Tignish Branch in Prince Edward Island

Victoria

We are the Victoria Branch and deliver quilts in the entire province of BC. We are fortunate enough to have quilters, as well as longarm quilters, to machine our quilts in a timely manner, thus enabling us to keep up with the requests of this past year.

We are also fortunate to have a quilt group in Summerland that sends us quilt tops. An employee at Fabricland, who loves making quilt tops, made 60 tops for us and we are madly trying to get them finished and distributed! Recently, a group of 27 women in Langley contacted us who want to make quilt tops for us as well! I fervently believe there are angels in this world (and some of them make quilt tops).

Our Victoria Branch quilting angels continue to make quilts and they just get more and more lovely. I refer to them as Gourmet Quilts: that's how nice they are. We receive many thank you cards from recipients who are so appreciative that they were gifted a quilt: that makes it so much more rewarding.



We are lucky to have so many people donate cotton fabric to us for our quilts. It is from this generosity that we are able to continue to make quilts. The Great Little Box Company in Victoria continues to donate boxes for us to mail quilts! We truly appreciate them!

We were fortunate enough to be approved for another year for the Thrifty Food Store Smile Card Program, where we receive 5% of the amount of groceries our members purchase. This has helped increase our funds.

We held another fundraiser for Purdys chocolates, and two of our terrific volunteers quite ably took this on to bring in more money for our Branch.

Two of our retired Telus employees were kind enough to have their volunteer hours turned into donations to our Branch. We are very lucky to have them as members of our group.

One of our local malls held a fundraiser at Christmas-time for shoppers, and the price of the tickets sold was returned to our Branch.

We have a Friends Group that works out of Parksville (up-island). The leader is Stephanie, and she keeps a group of about 30 women very busy. Parksville initiated an Epicure Fundraiser to help with the expenses of the Branch. Their group fills requests in the Parksville–Nanaimo, BC area, which reduces our postage costs.

The Victoria Quilters' Guild holds a Quilt Show and Sale every two years and has made a significant amount of money with their raffle. As the guild didn't need additional money, the Victoria Branch applied to run the raffle for this show (May 2-4, 2014). Although it involved an awful lot of work and record-keeping, we brought in several thousand dollars that enabled us to purchase fabrics missing from our fabric stash.

We are so thankful to each and every one of the hard-working ladies in our group and the Gourmet Quilts they provide our recipients. In 2014, we gifted 211 quilts for a total of 845 since our establishment in May 2010.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Magel and Elaine Crossley
Co-Chairs, Victoria Branch in British Columbia

Waterloo/Wellington

Waterloo/Wellington had an interesting year.

In June, we had less than three hundred dollars in our bank account. We were broke, so a small team of dedicated fundraisers got working on a number of fundraising events. We sold chocolate bars, had a raffle, had a sale day called come Shop with Us, and produced t-shirts and calendars... whew! It was a lot of work; quilting is more fun. We do have t-shirts still available for sale, and will have a 2016 Calendar available in the fall of 2015. Please contact us if you are interested in purchasing either item.

After all that fundraising, we are pleased to report that we are in good financial shape going into 2015. In November, we were able to catch up on our local initiative to continue supporting the great work National does by returning 10 percent of our donations to National.



Creative Sisters, a local quilt shop, supports our work by donating space once a month, and we have a dedicated group of ladies doing great work there. We meet monthly at a local grocery store's community room on a Saturday for a work day.

We continue to support National by delivering quilts far outside our geographic boundaries. Unfortunately, we are concerned this is not viable long-term. Waterloo continues to promote, encourage and support events in other neighboring cities in the hopes we will find the right people to start a Branch. As well, we struggle in Waterloo to find quilters to quilt the many tops that are donated to our Branch. We have a member enjoying success with quilt-as-you-go projects and, in 2015, we may attempt to use that method more. A special thank you to the Woodstock quilters, and the short-list of quilters in Waterloo, who are helping out in this manner.



The most EXCITING news for our Branch was the donation of space for our stash by Waterloo Mattress (www.waterloomattress.com). What a wonderful space! Claudia has taken over stash management, and is slowly organizing our many full shelves of fabric and everything else.

As we enter our fourth year, we have many systems in place that are working. We are thankful for a healthy quilt cupboard, a lovely place for our stash, new executive members, faithful pin basters, Laura who manages our backing production, Kelly who works with requesters and deliverers... the list goes on.

Our approach is to spread the work far and wide, so if one volunteer is unable for a time to participate or must step back, our work will still continue.

We delivered 205 quilts in 2014 and 70 quilts were outside our geographic area to the west. Only 70 were within our geographic area. We can only expect this number will grow. Despite the challenges, it is all worth it, when we hear the reports from our recipients.

Blessings to each of you for how you volunteer and support this ministry.

Respectfully submitted
Sheila Goldsworthy
Chair, Waterloo/Wellington Branch in Ontario

West Nipissing/Sturgeon Falls

We have had a successful year with respect to monetary donations, as our community has been very supportive. We have helped out our sister Branch (North Bay), as they are a smaller group and cover a large area.

We purchased 3 light-weight Brother sewing machines to leave at the hall where we quilt, as some ladies found it difficult to carry their machines back and forth.

Our group takes an annual road trip in the spring and visits fabric shops and flea markets in search of (what else) — FABRIC.



We continue to enjoy making Christmas placemats for our local Meals on Wheels in December. The donated fabric which we cannot use goes to a lady who makes quilts for the shelters and homeless.

The dedication of our members is quite evident and is key in making this mission a success.

Also, we would like to recognize all the hard work you and your executive do at your level and commend you. We hope to attend the annual meeting again.

Respectfully submitted,
Bonnie Stewart
Co-ordinator, West Nipissing Branch in Ontario

Notes

Annex A - 2014 Financial Statements

Unaudited Financial Statements VICTORIA'S QUILTS CANADA December 31, 2014

**Notice to Reader
Statement of Financial Position
Statement of Changes in Net Assets
Statement of Operations**

NICHOLAS RALPH

Professional Corporation
Chartered Professional Accountant
25 Settler's Ridge Way, Ottawa, Ontario K2J 4V3
613-864-9219
nicholasralph@rogers.com

NOTICE TO READER

To the Board of Directors of Victoria's Quilts Canada:

On the basis of information provided by management, I have compiled the statement of financial position of Victoria's Quilts Canada as at December 31, 2014, and the statement of changes in net assets and the statement of operations and the statement of cash flows for the year then ended.

I have not performed an audit or a review engagement in respect of these financial statements and, accordingly, I express no assurance thereon.

Readers are cautioned that these statements may not be appropriate for their purposes.

Ottawa, Ontario
April 6, 2015


Nicholas Ralph Professional Corporation
Licenced to practise public accounting
by the Chartered Professional Accountants of Ontario

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION

VICTORIA'S QUILTS CANADA

	December 31	
	2014	2013
ASSETS		
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash		
National	\$ 72,391	28,240
Branches	138,581	98,190
	<u>210,972</u>	<u>126,430</u>
Accounts receivable	-	10,330
HST rebate receivable	11,400	17,603
Prepaid expenses	-	1,820
	<u>222,372</u>	<u>156,183</u>
OFFICE FURNITURE & EQUIPMENT (fully depreciated in 2014)	-	108
	<u>\$ 222,372</u>	<u>\$ 156,291</u>
NET ASSETS		
Unrestricted net assets	<u>\$ 222,372</u>	<u>\$ 156,291</u>

APPROVED ON BEHALF OF THE BOARD:

Blanche Quenon Director
Martine Genest Director

UNAUDITED STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS

VICTORIA'S QUILTS CANADA

Year ended December 31

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
Balance, beginning of the year	\$ 156,291	\$ 167,338
Surplus (deficit) for the year	<u>66,081</u>	<u>(11,047)</u>
Balance, end of the year	<u>\$ 222,372</u>	<u>\$ 156,291</u>

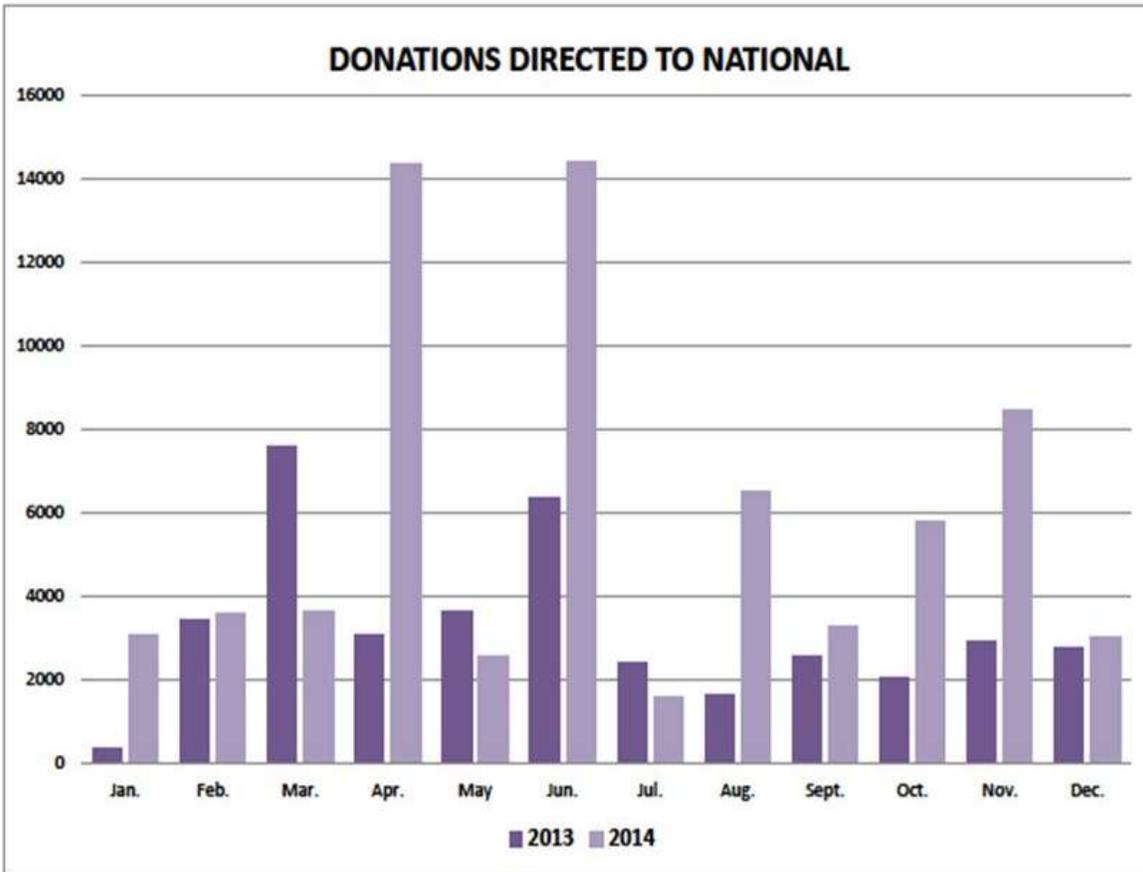
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS

VICTORIA'S QUILTS CANADA

Year ended December 31

	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
REVENUES		
Donations - tax receipted	\$ 119,988	\$ 102,296
Donations - not tax-receipted	56,845	34,037
Donations - from other registered charities	1,844	2,562
	<u>178,677</u>	<u>\$ 138,895</u>
	<u>2014</u>	<u>2013</u>
National	\$ 73,575	\$ 31,646
Branches	105,102	107,249
	<u>178,677</u>	<u>\$ 138,895</u>
Fund-raising	99,151	53,198
HST-GST rebates	14,995	11,139
Miscellaneous	2,215	9,071
	<u>295,038</u>	<u>212,303</u>
EXPENSES		
Quilt manufacturing and delivery	194,930	175,028
Administration and bank charges	21,163	19,326
Fund-raising	9,807	3,307
Professional fees	3,053	17,087
Miscellaneous (including branch closure costs in 2013)	4	8,602
	<u>228,957</u>	<u>223,350</u>
Surplus (deficit) for the year	<u>\$ 66,081</u>	<u>\$ (11,047)</u>

Annex B - 2014 Donations Received For National Only



Annex C - 2014 Donations Received for Branches Only

