



The Fa^ct Quarter

Summer 2009

The Fa^ct Quarter is produced by Victoria's Quilts Canada to provide general information about VQC activities for members of VQC and the interested general public. For more information, contact betty@victoriasquiltsCanada.com.

Branch and Friends Groups leaders are asked to share this information with anyone in their groups who may not receive this newsletter by e-mail. And, all recipients are asked to be mindful of whether they really need to print this document. Hug a tree and read this newsletter online!

Annual General Meeting

Victoria's Quilts Canada welcomed close to 75 people to its Annual General Meeting, held on April 18, 2009 in Ottawa. While the AGM is "the" business meeting of the year, it is also an opportunity for our members to reconnect with old colleagues, meet new friends, exchange good ideas, and learn a little more about the business of VQC. Some of the more pertinent discussions are itemized below.

It was interesting to note that about one-third of the attendees came to Ottawa from a number of local branches, including Bolingbroke, Cobden, Cornwall, Kemptville, Laurentian, Pakenham and Portland. As a result, the discussion was a good blend of issues of national and regional focus. In particular, Bolingbroke gave us a 2-minute presentation on their activities over the past while, including practices that have worked well for them.

A new facet of this year's meeting was the sale of Funky Fabrics. These were 1-metre cuts of some of the many bolts of fabric that had been donated to us, which were determined to be unsuitable as focus fabrics in VQC quilts. However, given the brisk business at the FF table, many of these fabrics will find their way into people's personal stashes.

And everyone, of course, enjoyed the refreshments and goodies, especially the cupcakes specially made by Cathy S's daughter!

Thanks to all the attendees for their suggestions and lively participation. And, to the volunteers who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to organize the event.

We look forward to seeing you next year!

Victoria's Quilts Canada

Comforting People with Cancer ~ Réconforter les personnes avec le cancer

Word from the President

*Reprinted from the 2008 Annual Report**

President's Report

As Victoria Quilts Canada heads into our 10th year of operation I would like to thank you as a volunteer for your continued support of our wonderful organization.

Betty's decision last April to step down as the President has allowed her time to experience a variety of new volunteer positions with both VQC and her Church. With her leaving she left a very large pair of shoes to be filled.

This year has been many things for me. With all my past experience, I felt I would have no problem filling those shoes but then life happens and it can be a humbling experience.

The President is involved in all areas of the day-to-day workings of VQC. For me this has involved confronting my shortcomings on the computer; finding the answers to a wide variety of enquiring e-mails and

phone calls; reviewing policies and procedures; setting up the yearly insurance policies; finances; chairing the monthly Board meetings; and so much more.

I could not have met these challenges without the help of our amazing Board of Directors. They have supported me with their time, energy, common sense, laughter and a vast variety of knowledge in so many areas.

The request for quilts continues to rise to a current average of 270 per month in 2008. It amazes me that week after week our wonderful volunteers work together and have met these challenges. Our number of branches has increased in the past year from 18 to 20, and the National Capital Area is home to 20 Friends Groups. Our total volunteer base has now reached 800 individuals.

I am sure that if someone had told Betty and her 12 friends when they met that first evening what would be expected of them in ten years, they would have grabbed their sewing machines and run for the door.

We have been working over the past few years to have many of our documents, gift cards, thank-you notes, brochures, etc. translated, thus allowing us to also meet the needs of our French-speaking neighbours across the country.

I am sure that many of you have noticed that our new volunteer webmaster has been working very hard to update our web site in order to portray VQC as the amazing organization it has become. I believe that Victoria Quilts Canada is heading into a very exciting future and it is wonderful to share this journey with each of you.

Respectfully submitted
Blanche Dunn
President

* An electronic copy of the 2008 Annual Report is available by e-mailing betty@victoriasquiltscanada.com.

Of Interest

Ottawa Quilt-a-Thon 2009

Mark Saturday, October 17, 2009 on your calendar and come join us for our annual Quilt-a-Thon! Meet old colleagues, make new friends, and enjoy the cooperative spirit as we cut, press, and sew our way through many quilts. Last year, we made well over 130 quilts, and this year we're hoping to surpass that number.

The event will be held at the Orleans United Church,

1111 Orleans Boulevard. A nominal fee will help defray the costs of purchasing quilting supplies for the event. Lunch will be provided. A registration form will be posted on our website soon, so do check back to ensure you get your form in early. Places are limited, and will be awarded on a first-come, first-serve basis.



(Quilt Question)

Name 3 quilt blocks inspired by nature.

A:

Name 3 quilt blocks inspired by buildings or structures.

A:

Ottawa Fashion Show 2009

Mark Saturday, October 31, 2009 in your calendars to attend Ottawa's annual Fashion Show, sponsored by Joanne's of Westgate Mall. More details will be posted on the VQC website. Do plan to join us. Previous year's shows have been great events, and this year's show will be sure to please your fashion sense.

Welcome to our New Branches

A number of new branches have been opened over the past year. The new branch in Steinbach, Manitoba, is the first in that province. And three new branches have been opened in Alberta: in Calgary, Drumheller, and Rocky Mountain House.

With more branches being opened in communities across Canada, the number of quilts made and distributed within that community will also increase. And the funds that would have been spent on mailing the quilts



The very productive Calgary Branch

from the National Office or another branch can be redirected into producing more quilts.

The Drumheller branch will be lead by Anne Riley, a quilter, and also the chaplain at the local Drumheller men's



A very popular design used in Calgary

correctional facility, where several men will be sewing quilt tops, fulfilling the mandate for "meaningful recreation". Other group

members include sewers from the town and surrounding area. This collaboration is a win-win solution for all and the men especially are enthusiastic about taking part in this project.

Size of Quilts

What size should we make our quilts? Our team of Packrats at the National Office has seen a great variety of sizes of quilts over the past while. This generally has not been a problem, except when the quilt is getting a little too skimpy.

We follow the principle of “Nose to Toes” – and while we recognize there can be a great variety in this measurement among

Piecing

Antique quilts made by early settlers were made out of necessity. These were often utilitarian, and made from fabrics recycled from other purposes, such as clothing. Pioneer women were skilful in reusing even the smallest pieces of fabric and batting. In keeping with this tradition, we’re asking our Friends’ Groups to save and piece together larger pieces of batting and flannelette. Our branches may wish to adopt the same procedure, as each

The new branch in Rocky Mountain House has barely been started, but they have already made several quilts. The enthusiastic group of seven quilters, under the direction of Florence Bott, will meet

people, we believe an adult quilt needs to be 50” x 70” in order to wrap around a person and keep them warm. A variation of 1 or 2 inches either way is acceptable. A variation of 4 or 5 inches is not. Too small, and the quilt won’t keep the person warm. Too big, and Canada Post won’t accept the mailing box if the sides of the box are bulging.

pieced batting or flannelette saves us about \$10 in production costs. This may not sound like a lot, but the savings can add up quickly. This will help us make and distribute even more quilts.

Now, we’re not talking about itty-bitty slivers. But the next time you have some good-sized slabs of batting or flannelette, remember our frugal ancestors, and spend a bit of time in reducing our wastage.

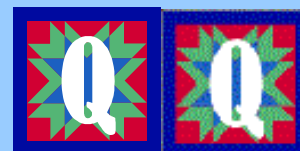
once a month during the summer, and twice a month starting in the fall.

Congratulations, and welcome, to Steinbach, Calgary, Drumheller and Rocky Mountain House branches!

The three sizes of our quilts are:

Adult Quilt: 50” x 70”
Youth Quilt: 48” x 60”
Child’s Quilt: 36” x 48”

We’re also encouraging coordinators to use their judgment in deciding if a quilt is too big or too small. Sometimes, all that’s needed to make the quilt top meet the needed size, is to add or remove a border.



(Quilt Question)

Talk about a crazy quilt!
Unscramble these quilt-related words.

1. pqpliaeu

2. aprep ceginpi

3. wapkthcor

4. tibgatn

5. Iqipstpin

Poster

As a result of a suggestion made last year at the AGM, we have developed a poster to encourage people to volunteer with Victoria's Quilts Canada, either as a sewer/quilter, or in one of the many other positions that needs to be filled.

The poster will be about letter-size, 8 ½" x 11", and

either laminated or printed on heavier paper. It will also have a blank space at the bottom for a tear-off strip with a name and phone number for more information. The poster will be distributed to Branch and Ottawa Friends' Groups coordinators within a few weeks.

We'd like to thank Brehon Trade Ltd. and Milan Printing, both located in Ottawa, for their generous support in the past. Their graphics art work and printing service ensures that Victoria's Quilts Canada can expand its promotional activities.

Video

Video? Really? Yes, Really! thanks to the efforts of Norm Berketa Productions Inc., of Ottawa. Norm has been diligently leading us through the process of producing a video about Victoria's Quilts Canada.

Original plans called for a 2- to 3-minute video, but since we had so much to say, it's now almost 8 minutes long!

Will your branch or group have a booth or table at a local quilt show? Are you

looking for promotional material? You'll soon have a video to that you'll be able to show. Another, very significant, addition to your promotions arsenal!

Of Special Interest to Branches

Division of funds

Following up on a discussion about donations at VQC's Annual General Meeting, the Treasurer has indicated that if she knows that certain funds or donations are being made in honour of someone from a region, the funds will be transferred to that region. If funds are not specifically identified as being for a region, the donation is deposited into HQ's fund.

For donors who are sending cheques in the mail, the regions may wish to remind them (if they know who they are) to indicate that the funds are meant for their region. All that donors need to do is simply make a notation on the back of their cheque. And we've also added a note to that effect on the [Donations](#) page.

And, people who are making a donation online, using Canada Helps, will now be prompted to identify where their funds are to go – either a branch, or Ottawa - National Office.

The Canada Helps website also allows people to dedicate their donation in honour of, or in memory of, an individual. If the Treasurer is aware that this

person is from a particular branch, the funds will also be transferred to that branch. A brief e-mail to the Treasurer to that effect is all that's needed.

You may wish to check out the Canada Helps website for yourself – go to **our** website, at <http://www.victoriasquiltscanada.com>, click on the **Donations** page, click on

the **Canada Helps** icon to go to the **Canada Helps** website, where you will see the list of branches and the National Office.

Website

Our website generated some lively discussion at the Annual General Meeting.

It seems that some people did not recall that last year we had set up our website so that our regions could receive e-mails directly from the public. These e-mail accounts all follow the format branchname@victoriasquiltscanada.com. The branch names are listed on the Volunteer Page. Beside

each branch is a Contact Us button, which links to an e-mail, pre-addressed to that particular branch. These e-mails are automatically forwarded to the regional person whose e-mail address is on file at the National Office.

To help regions distinguish between a) legitimate e-mails created from the website, and b) spam, the legitimate e-mails will from now on carry the subject line:

"From VQC Website".

Shortly after the AGM, Lindsay Branch suggested that the branches also be listed on the Contact Us page, in addition to the Volunteer Page. This would make it easier for the public to directly contact a branch in their community. Thanks, Lindsay Branch, for your suggestion. In fact, our webmaster has been asked to do just that.



Give up on the Quilting Questions? Here are the answers!

Blocks inspired by nature:

Garden Maze, Autumn Leaf, Spider Web, Flying Geese, Ocean Wave, Four Frogs

Blocks inspired by buildings or structures:

Log Cabin, Court House Steps, barn Raising, The Alamo, Attic Window

Word Jumble:

1. Applique 2. Paper Piecing 3. Patchwork 4. Batting 5. Stippling