

# Quilts

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Brought up in Beaver Brook, N.S.  
Has lived on PEI since August 1974  
First in Alberton and now in Summerside.



Quilts have been around for a long-time, providing warmth and beauty to homes.

Quilts come in a variety of patterns, sizes and colours. They are made up of the quilt front, usually machine stitched, a batting (could be cotton, a cotton/poly mix, polyester, wool, and even silk), and a backing. It is then bound, and labelled. Most quilts these days are machine quilted, either by a long-arm quilting machine, or on a domestic sewing machine. Quilts can be mini to king size.

There are many quilt guilds, and quilting groups, across Canada, and a national quilting organization called Canadian Quilters Association (CQA/ACC) which just had their annual gathering in Halifax from June 7-10. Next year, CQA will be in Edmonton in June.

## **Northern Lights Quilt Guild (O'Leary); Greens Shore Quilters (Summerside)**

When I retired from teaching in 2003, I joined the Northern Lights Quilt Guild (NLQG) who meet in O'Leary, PE. They celebrated 25 years this year. After moving to Summerside in 2009, I joined the Summerside group, Greens Shore Quilters (GSQ). Now I balance two quilt groups! There are three other quilt guilds, and a number of small quilting groups across the Island, Quilt guilds generally met once a month for a business meeting followed by quilting time. The NLQG meets on the first Monday of the month for a business meeting followed by sewing time, and on the third Monday for a sewing day. The GSQ group meets to sew every Thursday with a business meeting on the third Thursday. Guilds offer classes, sewing days, and show and tell at meetings. This year, a bus trip to Quilt Canada in Halifax was organized by two Charlottetown quilters.

## **Generous Quilters**

Quilters are a generous group even though sewing machines can be expensive, and many basic supplies are needed in order to quilt – cutting boards, pins, needles, thread, and of course, fabric which keeps rising in price. The merchant mall at Quilt Canada in Halifax was a quilter's delight with all the quilting supplies that were available to look at or purchase. When the quilter's families have all the quilts they want or need, quilters branch out with their generosity. Some quilters sell their quilts or quilted projects such as wall hangings or other quilted works of art or offer classes.

## **Quilters Respond to Local Needs and Disasters**

There are always local groups who can use donated quilts – such as social services who give a quilt to a child or youth going into care. A quilt shop near Digby, NS is collecting quilts to give to fire victims in southern Nova Scotia. So, there are appeals for quilts that happen across Canada for fires, floods, or other disasters. Quilt Canada has guidelines on their website when donating to these special causes.



## **Victoria Quilts Canada (VQC)**

Victoria Quilts has been around for a few years and there is a branch in Tignish, PEI. Victoria Quilts Canada provides homemade quilts to people living with cancer in Canada. (You have to apply on the website.) There are some 1400 volunteers and 24 branches plus the headquarters in Ottawa. Since 1999, and as of April 30, 2023, 95,943 Victoria quilts have been given out across Canada.

For VQC, the quilter makes the quilt top (50" by 70") and the binding which we give to the Tignish group who then finish the quilt with batting and a flannel backing, and the label. They have given out around 800 quilts since they started a few years ago. The Tignish group do some fund-raising and buy batting and the flannel by the bolt. They accept donations of fabric and supplies and make up quilt kits for individuals to make quilt tops. Members from both the NLQG and GSQ have given numerous tops and bindings to the Tignish VQC branch. I have donated numerous quilt tops and binding to Victoria Quilts for the Tignish group to finish.



VQC quilt

### **Quilts of Valour Canada (QOV)**

These quilts provide comfort to ill and injured Canadian Armed Forces members, past and present. Quilters can make the completed quilts, make blocks or quilt tops, or provide long arm quilting and quilt finishing. Their requirements include a minimum finished size of 55" by 70," good quality 100% cotton fabric, cotton or poly/cotton batting, suitable prints with quality workmanship. An official QCV label is required. Both guilds have completed a few COV quilts, some of which have gone to PEI members. The difference with the QOV and VQC is that the QOV have to be finished before they go to be presented. I completed one top which I took to Quilt Canada 2019 in Ottawa, and have made blocks for a couple of other tops that the NLQG and GSQ have made for QOV Canada. To date (June 2023) 21,017 QOV Canada quilts have been presented. They had a booth at Quilt Canada in Halifax. Go to [quiltservalour.ca](http://quiltservalour.ca) for more information.



## Camp Aspen – PEI's First 2SLGBTQIA+ YOUTH SUMMER CAMP

Camp Aspen is meeting in mid-August at Camp Abegweit on PEI. The campers from ages 14-18 will be having a four-day sleep away camp. When the Green Shore Quilters were asked if we could make and donate 30 quilts (at least twin size) for this camp, we sat silently for a bit before we were able to say yes to the request. By the May 18<sup>th</sup> meeting, 25 quilts had been donated, and now there are 30. There is a quilt for each person who will be attending the camp. They will be expected to bring their quilt back next year to have the date stamped on it, and we will make a few quilts for any new campers for 2024. The quilts are all colourful and unique.



## Quilts for Survivors

Quilts for Survivors is a new group. “It is a registered not-for-profit organization that coordinates a nation-wide effort of volunteer quilters that contribute to gifting full-sized quilts to survivors of the Residential School System. It was founded by Vanessa Genier, an Indigenous mother from Missianabie First Nations in Ontario.” One or two quilts from the GSQ have been donated to this group.

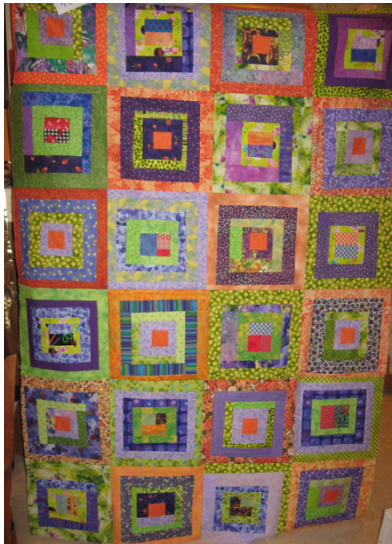
More information can be found by contacting [admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca](mailto:admin@quiltsforsurvivors.ca)



Quilting costs money, but it is fun. Buying quilting products locally helps support small businesses mainly run by women. Quilters are great people to have as part of your circle of friends as they are willing to help you when needed. Quilters provide support not only to people they do not know, and will never meet, but those within the guilds to which they belong.



Charming Fractions



Scrappy Quilt Top



Fraction

Above: These three quilt tops made by Elaine during COVID

