



Fall 2015

One Stitch at a Time

Tiny birds peck at the sunflower seeds in the feeder outside my window as I sit and reflect on the past decade with Quilt of Belonging. I am astonished that in just a few hours, these little friends have almost emptied the feeder. How is that possible? One seed at a time.

There is a parallel here to how the Quilt was made. Enormous in scope, the project often seemed unattainable. Yet, it was completed — one small stitch at a time. Each step we made was an act of faith, a belief that with God's help and many willing hands our dream could be realized. Countless hours of research and administration, combined with all those incalculable number of stitches, made the impossible a reality.

Now the physical Quilt is complete. Books, a documentary, and presentations have enriched the exhibitions as it toured these past 10 years. Yet, the journey is not over. Our goal remains the same —to demonstrate that there is a place for all and a way to live together in harmony.

Therefore we continue the work of the Quilt. New requests for exhibitions are coming in. We are developing exciting free, on-line educational programs and expanding our cultural resources. The coming website, with updated technology, will provide easy access globally.

The Quilt's new 'stitches', no longer sewn in thread, have tremendous potential and so we invite you continue the Quilt's journey with us. Thank you for your generous gifts of time, talent, and financial support. We have learned that by working together, one step at a time, the impossible can be achieved.

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads 'Esther Bryan'.

Esther Bryan
Executive Director

"Do your little bit of good where you are; it's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world."

Desmond Tutu

EDUCATION NEAR AND FAR

Lost & Found in Brazil

Laura Fabbrini's friends in Canada had ordered a special gift for her, the new Quilt Education Resource Kit. She waited and waited. Months passed! The parcel was lost or stolen. Frustrated, Laura contacted Esther for help. Sending another kit would be costly and risky, so Esther decided to try e-mailing Laura all the files for the activities that she could. Laura's relief and delight made us realize that our resources really should be adapted and put on-line. Not only that, **they needed be free to truly give everyone access.**



While all teachers inspire – Laura inspires teachers so having effective tools is a must. She had presented a paper on using the Quilt at a 2005 conference in Wales. Her article “Quilting Samba Do Crioulo Doido To Find Cultural Awareness” was published in the International Association of Teachers of English as a Foreign Language GISIG Newsletter.



She describes Quilt of Belonging as “an important source of inspiration and motivation in approaching global issues as well as promoting real communication and ultimately promoting cultural awareness”. The article explains Laura's use of the blocks to encourage discussion and cultural exchange with her own students... one of the Quilt's educational goals.

This summer, Laura presented Quilt of Belonging to the EFL teachers in Rio de Janeiro as a Revitalization course sponsored by the English School Cultura Inglesa. These educators would take the information and inspirations back to their classrooms to share with their 6 to 14 year old students. Over the course of 3 days, Laura and Thais made 6 presentations using laminated copies of the online resources Esther had sent. The presentations were received with “great enthusiasm” and a request for the resources to be available to all of the teachers on the sponsor's website. In Laura's words: “The seed was planted, let's wait for the best to come.”



Children in the Arctic visit the world



There's my block! Cornwall, Ontario



Shilpa Mehta's India block brings pride to her family



Students in Malaysia

**Youth discover
the Quilt !**

At school

At home

In our Quilt books

At Quilt exhibitions

On our website



NEW FEATURES ON WEBSITE

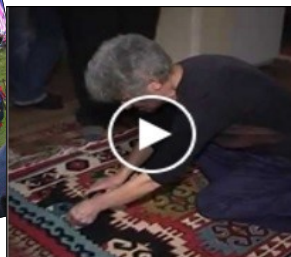


Andréanne Bertrand, the Cultural Research Assistant hired under the Trillium Grant, brings a breadth of experiences and skills to the Quilt as we develop the new website. A former high school teacher who taught in “a very multicultural school”, she has a passion for world culture and history. Her classroom experience is a valuable asset as our on-line education program is developed. Andréanne also holds a degree in translation.

The new website will let you experience each culture!

A **clickable world map** will help you locate each nation and block and connect to **expanded cultural profiles**.

Colourful photographs, exciting videos, interviews will delight and bring each culture to life.



Chiprovski kilimi (the tradition of carpet-making in Chiprovtsi)

UNESCO: Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity - 2014 URL: <http://www.unesco.org/culture/ich/RL/00965>

YOUTUBE.COM

TEAM AT DEBAJ READY TO ROLL!

“Debajehmujig, in Manitoulin Island, is very excited about the collaboration with the team of Quilt of Belonging in Eastern Ontario. Tabitha Peltier, Debajehmujig’s lead female story teller, working with Jamie Oshkawbewisens, Debajehmujig Community Arts Animator and Actor will engage with high-school and elementary school aged children, primarily in the First Nations to create arts education activities that can augment the magnificent Quilt Project.

Together, we hope to provide limitless opportunities for school aged children and youth to become a part of this wonderful national relationship building venture.”

Joahanna Berti, Debajehmujig

A GLIMPSE BACK IN TIME



Little did we know that the young, enthusiastic Member of Parliament who so embraced the Quilt and its messages would, only 6 years later, become Canada’s Prime Minister !

We proudly acknowledge the support of
the Ontario Trillium Foundation & Ontario Power Generation
who make our new website and education projects possible

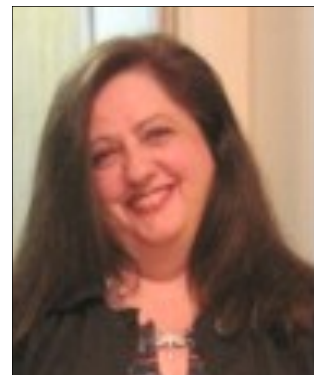
NEW FACES

Marjorie Thorpe

I'm excited! Thanks to Esther Bryan and Quilt of Belonging, I have someplace to volunteer and something worth contributing to. My grandmother was a quilter. I can still remember her gnarled hands and her handiwork still decorates the top of my bed regularly as a testament to her love and her desire to keep us safe and warm.

The Quilt shares some qualities with the ones my Grandmother made. The message of love, family and unity remain the same. Esther has given it a much larger scale... and a sense of community. The volunteers, members, and supporters of this project have created a "family" based on a shared idea. It's a message that resonates with me.

I know I need to give more... to my family, my friends, my community in a meaningful way. As a volunteer, I can put whatever skills I have to use wherever they're needed. I'm looking forward to that... to giving and sharing. It's important, to me, that the message of "a place for all in the fabric of society" continues to be shared—that the walls that separate us be torn down and we learn to rest, comfortably, beneath the same quilt.



MEET THE BOARD



MEREDITH ROYDS has a lengthy background in corporate communications and public relations. She has worked with the Quilt in several capacities: as both communications officer and First Nations coordinator, and as a writer and editor of our exhibition companion book. Meredith has travelled with the Quilt to Yellowknife and Inuvik, Michigan, and Montreal.

"I am very excited about the possibilities of working with the board of directors will bring," says Meredith, "and I look forward to making a positive contribution to the Quilt's future adventures."



ELAINE ROUTLEDGE is currently the board secretary. As a retired federal government senior executive, she brings significant experience in policy and strategy development and communications. Elaine lives in Manotick with her husband, André, and two pampered cats. A passionate gardener and volunteer, she organized the rejuvenation of the Children's Butterfly Garden at the Children's Hospital of Eastern Ontario in 2014.

Elaine, a committed board member, says "The *Quilt* is breathtaking in its beauty and the messages of belonging and a place for all are as relevant today as when the Quilt was first envisioned".

Renew your Annual Membership or become a new *Quilt* member

Members receive:

- Newsletters 2 times a year
- Invitations to the annual AGM with voting privileges at AGM or special members meetings
- 10 % discount for all *Quilt* bookstore purchase

Annual fee for calendar year: Single \$15 Family \$25 Corporate \$100