

RIDING THE **RED 150** WAVE!

What a remarkable summer this has been for Quilt of Belonging! On tour for 12 weeks, we estimate the Quilt had about 1.5 million visitors—waves of people of all ages, all colours, all walks of life. Truly the Canada 150 theme, “Canada welcomes the world” was evidenced at the exhibitions. Thousands expressed that the Quilt is the perfect symbol of Canada, a nation that values all peoples. The wave of intense emotions we saw in visitors made this tour memorable. There was awe and wonderment at the beauty, scope and workmanship of the Quilt. It evoked a swell of national pride in Canada.

But there was anxiety too. Recent world events have shown that we must continually strive to protect the caring ideals we cherish. The Quilt reminds us of what we aspire to be as a nation and as a world. Little did we imagine when we began this project in 1998, that almost 20 years later we would repeatedly hear “We need the Quilt now, more than ever in the world.”

With heartfelt thanks to all who took part,

Esther Bryan



The Embassy of the Slovak Republic hosted the Quilt at Ottawa City Hall, opening with a lovely reception. His Worship, Jim Watson, Mayor of Ottawa, the Honourable Michelle Rempel, His Excellency Andrej Droba, Slovak Ambassador, and Esther Bryan cut the ribbon.



Red & white everywhere!

Visitor Comments:

"Stunning coming together of Canada's richest asset-its people."

"Belonging is a definition of being Canadian"



The Quilt “wave” at Ottawa City Hall

Special moments & memories for Quilt in 2017



New Canadians! Mother and daughters proudly show the citizenship certificates they received just a few hours earlier.



July 1st Her First Day in Canada!
This gal is happy to find the block for her land of birth, Venezuela!



June 22- July 10



Weddings
Just married at
OttawaCity
Hall

Ottawa City Hall was the ideal locale for the Quilt in the weeks centered around July 1st, this special year.

Located in the heart of Canada 150 celebrations, Ottawa City Hall prides itself on providing free access for all, 20 hours a day. There were always visitors at the Quilt, marveling at the sheer scope of the Canadian fabric. July 1st crowds were some of the largest we've ever experienced.

The Canadian Ethnocultural Council hosted the Ottawa premier of the Quilt documentary in Ottawa City Hall Council Chambers, June 27th, Canadian Multiculturalism Day!



Quilt of Belonging wines!
Fine Niagara wines for 2017.



Fanfare of fife and drums opens the Hamilton



PEACEBYPIECE: STITCHING TOGETHER CANADIAN STORIES

**The Cotton Factory
July 10 to August 16**

Heart of Ontario, the Hamilton Halton Brant Regional Tourism Association, produced the Hamilton show and they win, hands-down, the prize for the best programming ever!

Every day for 5 weeks visitors could attend a variety of special activities. There were craft & art workshops, concerts, storytelling hours, belly dance and yoga classes, theatre performances, history lectures, to name just some of the choices.

A pop-up store was set up to sell the Quilt books and local crafts and they commissioned the production of Quilt of Belonging wines from Niagara.

A large enthusiastic team of volunteers took turns hosting visitors each day.



Pauline Siva shows her family the Sri Lanka block she stitched pictured in a textbook.

Volunteer knitters collectively knit more than 900 hours to create the "knit bombing" covers for the tall wooden posts in the room.



**CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION
AUG 18 TO SEPT 4 | 2017**

There's no event like the CNE. Throngs of people visit each day. Labour Day weekend is crowded with youth and families having a last outing before school starts. Everywhere, visitors are looking for their own blocks, reading the stories in the Quilt book, taking photos and asking questions. It's a challenging marathon for staff and our volunteers, but it is also a really rewarding place to show the Quilt, for one can meet the **whole world at the EX!**



CNE moments

The young man pictured above, sitting on his skateboard, is totally absorbed reading the Quilt book.

A woman approached Esther and pointed to her teenaged daughter who had been studying the Quilt. With tears streaming down her face, the girl had asked her mom "Is this what heaven will be like?"



Volunteers Make the Difference



OUT OF THE BOX AT OTTAWA CITY HALL

Left to right: Meredith Royds, Jane Rietze, Jim Brownell, Forrest Rietze, Lydia Bryan, Gardner Sage, Mackie Robertson, Gary & Esther Bryan, Sue Robertson



The perfect match!

Meredith Royds & Rosalie Bernier block maker of the "butterfly block" from the Central African Republic.

The amazing success of Quilt of Belonging is a tribute to the many supporters who continue to give of their time, talents and resources. Serving on the board, helping at shows, aiding in the office, curating the Quilt or giving funds, you make it happen.

THANK YOU! THANK YOU!



The Italian connection
On visit from Cremona, Italy, Alessandra helps in Ottawa.



Sabiha Imran, Saudi Arabia block maker, signs a Quilt book while working at the sales table.



Banana bread & scones

Marjorie Blake, Jamaica block maker, treated CNE helpers to her home baked goodies.



Keepers of the Quilt: careful conservation by dedicated volunteers keeps the Quilt in mint condition for touring.

Left to right in photo: Marylyn Baker, Joanne High, Esther Bryan, Helja Thomson, Daphne Howells, Lydia Bryan. Absent from photo: Penny Bateman, Elizabeth Ferguson, Reggie Desrosiers.



More than 20 Quilt volunteers at the CNE

Board members and friends from across Ontario helped at the Quilt exhibit 12-hour shifts. Keen CNE student staff assisted in teams of 2 or 3.