



Spring 2014

It's here at last! Spring! A season of hope, a time for new growth and for fresh ideas. In that spirit, we share our latest *Quilt of Belonging* venture with you. This newsletter marks the start of our new membership program—a plan to keep our *Quilt* volunteers, supporters and friends connected, informed and involved.

It took a huge team effort involving years of dedication to make the *Quilt* dream a reality. Everyone was needed. Working together, we developed a deep sense of connection and purpose. Together, we celebrated the *Quilt* launch at the Canadian Museum of Civilization in April, 2005 and began the *Quilt* tour. With 33 exhibitions and 1.4 million visitors thus far, our success has far surpassed our initial dreams, making our efforts so worthwhile.

Now, after nearly a decade of touring for the *Quilt*, our lives have changed and so have the demands of the *Quilt*. Our current challenge is to maintain our connections, for times may change but the *Quilt's* purposes remain the same. Become a member to stay informed, continue the *Quilt* dream and formalize our membership for forthcoming legislation for non-profits.

We still need you in the *Quilt* family! And the world, especially our youth, still needs the *Quilt's* messages — that we share a common humanity and that **there is still a place for all.**

Sincerely yours,

Malcolm Robertson

Chair of the Board of Directors

ON TOUR

From Michigan to Manitoulin

2014

Quilt of Belonging has a varied tour schedule this year. The first exhibit, is close to home at Cornwall's NAV Conference Centre. The weekend of May 23- 24, history and culture enthusiasts and professionals from across Ontario will gather for the Ontario Heritage Conference.

In August, it's across the border to Grand Rapids, Michigan, a beautiful city that loves the arts. There, the *Quilt* will be the special feature for the American Quilter's Society Quilt Week 2014, August 20-23. Esther Bryan, the *Quilt's* originator, along with volunteers, will be on-hand to meet visitors, answer questions, tell stories and enjoy the festivities. This show, to be held at the DeVos Place Convention Centre, promises to be packed with lots of interesting things to see and do for all.

A lovely fall exhibition is planned for the unique Debajehmujig Creation Centre, on Manitoulin Island, September 13-17. The exhibit is hosted in conjunction with the Island Quilter's Guild, Hawberry Quilt Show 2014. This picturesque area of Ontario is a hidden jewel. What a perfect opportunity for a fall road adventure.

May 23-24 Ontario Heritage Conference
NAV Canada Conference Centre
Cornwall, Ontario

Aug. 20-23 American Quilter's Society
AQS Quilt Week 2014
DeVos Place Convention Centre
Grand Rapids, Michigan

Sept. 13-17 Debajehmujig Creation Centre
Manitoulin Island

THANK YOU TO TWO VALUABLE BOARD MEMBERS

Two dedicated, longstanding members of *Quilt of Belonging's* Board of Directors have recently retired from the board after years of service and we are going to miss them tremendously.



Rick Marvell, a retired HBC executive, has been invaluable by providing his business expertise. Rick is an optimist with an entrepreneurial spirit. He was instrumental in procuring funding for the printing of the *Quilt* book. For this, Rick drove Esther to Hudson Bay's head office in Toronto and personally made the right introductions. It was a full day's journey, a great success and a wonderful example of the Rick savoir faire.

George Baker, a retired engineer and Computer Applications Specialist from Air Canada and Bombardier, had so many 'hats' when working for the *Quilt* it is hard to know where to begin. He has served as board secretary, database expert, and tour volunteer, setting up and taking down the Quilt and acting as guide for numerous *Quilt* exhibitions. He is shown here on tour with the *Quilt* in the high Arctic community of Kuujjuak, being blessed by his Inuit host. George has blessed all of us with his big heart and willingness to serve.



NEW EDUCATION RESOURCES

Last year with funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation the *Quilt* developed this new education initiative. The kits provide teachers with lesson-ready materials in relation to ***Quilt of Belonging*** to teach students the timeless message, "A Place for All".

Included are a wealth of materials to

- * foster a sense of **belonging, acceptance**
- * celebrate **diversity, multiculturalism**
- * encourage **inclusion**
- * discover **world cultures & First Peoples**



VOLUNTEER CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

Kathleen Alguire is celebrating her hundredth birthday. This shy volunteer is pictured stitching details on a quilt block. An expert needlewoman, especially known for her fine quilting, she faithfully drove to Williamstown each week until well into her nineties to work on making the *Quilt*. Kathleen has quietly served others whether in her family, her church or her community all her life. We are thankful for the generous spirit of this remarkable woman. Happy Birthday, Kathleen, from all of us.



FAN TALES



Trudging through snow and ice, clutching an old bag, **Fern Falardeau**, visited the office one blustery March day. The feisty 89-year old Canadian Air Force vet introduced himself, then from his sack, removed a weathered copy of the *Quilt of Belonging* book." He challenged us "Do you know what's on page 221?" We were dumbfounded. " **That's our story, it's the Wendat page.**" he whooped with great pride. "I want all my relatives to know this." And so began the journey of a large stack of French and English books, bound for this First Nation family spread across North America, from Wendake to California.

Betty Dimperio recently shared her *Quilt* experience with us. Several years ago she had travelled 14 hours from her Pennsylvania home to Toronto with her daughter to see the *Quilt*. When the border guard asked her where they were going, she told him to see a quilt. The incredulous guard said? "All this way to see a quilt?" he said. "Ah!" replied Betty, "not just any quilt". He smiled and waved them through. Betty emotionally recounted that when she finally saw the Quilt, "It was the most moving experience of my life. It took me days to settle down."

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

Become a *Quilt* member today

Members receive:

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

Annual fee: Single \$15 Family \$25 Corporate \$100

Mail the form provided in the enclosed envelope, or

Call 613-347-2381, or

On-line at www.quiltofbelonging.ca

BECOME A VOLUNTEER: Make a Difference

The heart and backbone of *Quilt of Belonging* has always been its committed volunteers. Now, as the project continues to reach out, we really need your help, particularly in the following areas.

- Handsewing the Touchable Blocks for the education kits
- Maintaining the database
- Membership organization
- Social media communication
- Marketing & Publicity
- Website updates