

Comfort Quilts and Community Outreach Quilts

Are you considering making a community quilt?

At the September Guild meeting we launched this year's Block of the Month programme. This year we will be encouraging members to make traditional blocks with twists and turns creating new blocks. If you don't have any specific plan for these new blocks, we encourage you to consider donating them to the Guild's community quilts programmes. Our guild makes Comfort quilts as well as Community Outreach quilts. We asked the convenors questions regarding their projects, and hopefully their answers will guide you in making projects for them.

Participating in this Question & Answer session were Nancy Boon, Bonnie Christopher, Joan Raynor, Jane Thatcher and Lois MacPherson.

Comfort Quilts

When the comfort quilt ladies responded to our questions they replied:

Our goal is to produce a beautiful, usually, hand-quilted symbol of support and comfort for a guild member during their time of loss. These quilts, like the outreach quilts, carry our guild label and should reflect our best work.

Accurate cutting, sewing and pressing during construction are essential. It is important that when the quilt is going to be hand quilted that it be carefully constructed and that seams are pressed flat and not crossed over. Pressing during construction cannot be stressed enough.

If the maker of the quilt top has fabric for the backing and binding, it is most welcome. If not, the Community Outreach committee generously have given us batting and backing as needed.

Currently, we have some finished quilts with others waiting to be hand quilted. Hopefully we will be able to resume in 2022. We would welcome one or two visually attractive, well-constructed tops, approximately 54"x 68" (large lap size) made from good quality 100% cotton fabric.

If you have any questions, or interested in volunteering for this committee the contact person is Bonnie Christopher or any of the committee members as listed.

Community Outreach Quilts

Community Outreach Quilt committee concentrates its efforts for worthy charitable causes in Wellington County. They advised us that recently most of their quilts are used for end-of-life patients at Guelph General or Groves Memorial Hospital. The recommended width of a quilt is 45" to 54" and length 58" to 64". A large lap size.

When asked about fabric they responded, Please, use good quality 100% cotton. Avoid using polyester, or a blend of polyester and cotton. If you happen to have blocks made from your grandma's aprons, perhaps their sentimental value is best made into a personal item for you, and not for our Community Outreach projects. Also, seasonal fabric, such as Christmas or

Halloween are not preferred as we want our quilts to comfort the recipients at all times of the year.

Like the Comfort quilts, the Community Outreach quilts need to be made with care and reflect our best work. Please use scant 1/4" seams, pressed accurately with a hot iron, and pressed so that the seams nest nicely. Also please cut off all obvious hanging threads.

Long arm quilters need to have the back and batting larger than the front when they are putting the layers onto the long arm machine. We measure the top and then make sure the backing and batting is 6 inches larger in width and length.

After quilts have been quilted, several generous members donate their time to do the binding. They may not feel that they can make a quilt, but this is a way they can help their community by doing this task. Their efforts are much appreciated.

The question was asked about making a child's quilt. The response was, The Pregnancy Centre of Fergus sometimes requests a baby quilt for a client, and at Christmas we often provide quilts to the Childrens' Foundation of Guelph and Wellington, so yes, we do accept your donations of children's/baby quilts even though not as many are donated.

Other questions for the Community Outreach Committee can be directed to the names listed. Nancy Boon is the contact person if you are interested in assisting them.