

BLANKETS FOR CANADA SOCIETY INC.

The JOINER



OUR NEWSLETTER!

Newsletters can serve many purposes within an organization:

- To provide consistent information to members, volunteers and agencies with whom we work
- To 'market' the organization to interested members of the public and to the wider 'community' in general
- To build on the organization's 'identity'
- To announce and to celebrate our successes

It is our hope that this newsletter will accomplish all of these things, and more!

Launched as part of our TEN YEAR ANNIVERSARY initiatives, we hope to publish this newsletter every other month from now on ... and so, of course, we need YOUR help!

Tell us what's going on in your community or chapter; tell us about your successes and lessons learned from the 'not-so' successes.

Send pictures, send wish lists ... anything that you think other Blankets volunteers might like to hear or read about.

IN THIS ISSUE:

- Our newsletter!
- Volunteers—our lifeblood
- Your Board of Directors
- Seasons Greetings
- Chapter News
- Looking Back

TO CONTACT THE EDITOR:

Marilyn G
editor@coveservices.net
(250)388-6466

VOLUNTEERS – OUR LIFE BLOOD

Qualicum Beach Celebrates a Volunteer's Landmark Birthday



Marian Jones (centre) with her daughter Sheila Ellison (l) and Qualicum chapter leader Elaine Reynaud.

If your chapter has a volunteer you'd like to see featured — or if you'd like to volunteer — please contact the editor, or email gn.simpson@shaw.ca

The Qualicum Beach (Vancouver Island) chapter has had a lot to celebrate for the past few years, as they churn out blankets by the dozens, but the most special celebration came when they honored a long-time volunteer, Marian Jones, on her 100th birthday!

Marian says she intends to keep joining squares for a long time yet, but chapter leader Elaine is moving over to make room for a new leader in the New Year. I'm sure we'll hear much more from this busy, active chapter!



THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS



Your board of directors has never been able to meet this formally — we 'meet' online, and our regular business meetings are held via email. One of our dreams is to meet — face-to-face — during our 10th anniversary year!

PRESIDENT:

Gwennie Simpson, Sherwood Park, AB
gn.simpson@shaw.ca

VICE-PRESIDENT:

Marilyn Guille, Victoria, BC
mguille@telus.net

TREASURER:

Rose Keiller, Edmonton, AB
keiller7@telus.net

SECRETARY:

Judith Tomlinson, Edmonton, AB
jutom@shaw.ca

DIRECTORS:

Debbie Williams, Toronto, ON
debbiew1473@yahoo.com

Rosemarie Buchanan, Pt Alberni, BC
rosemarie.buchanan@gmail.com

Shelley Schuett, Toronto, ON
s.schuett@sympatico.ca

FOUNDER/PAST PRESIDENT:

Nancy Panting, Lethbridge, AB
nj44p@shaw.ca

FROM ALL OF US ... TO ALL OF YOU!

**ALL THE VERY BEST
OF THE SEASON
FROM ALL OF US
ON THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
OF BLANKETS FOR CANADA
TO ALL OF YOU —
AND THANK YOU
FOR A WONDERFUL YEAR!**

If any of you have any ideas for ways we can celebrate our 10th anniversary in 2008, or places to get funding to celebrate it, please contact V-Pres. Marilyn G, editor@coveservices.net, or call her at (250)388-6466.

CHAPTER NEWS



LETHBRIDGE, AB. Winter is trying to come to Alberta and the need for blankets is more than double this year in Lethbridge from last year. I am sure that we can say that for all of Alberta.

Lethbridge received some drapes and bedspreads from a local hotel when they remodeled, so we will be cutting these to the proper size and then sewing them in to 48 x 64" blankets. We welcome two new sewers and a new quilter to our group as well as some new people to make squares. We keep them all busy.

Carol J, one of our main quilters, left for Arizona with a 5th-wheeler full of scraps of material and two sewing machines for the winter. She will have a load of blankets to bring back or at least tops to finish when she gets home in the spring. We will miss

her here this winter. But right now she writes and tells us that it is 90 F there and laughs when it is lightly snowing here. Vida B is our other main quilter and she and her daughter, Val, are getting set to get snowed in as they live close to the mountains. They just sent 71 blankets to help Calgary out and are busy making more.

Mickey has been busy sewing labels on blankets as well as quilting. And Bev, our new quilter, also sews squares together when she is tired of working at the sewing machine. Mrudula and Gisele, two of our main sewers, do from 3 to 4 blankets a week. We love them dearly and keep them busy. Jean, Sharon, Marie and Jorica keep the inventory in order and count the squares in bundles of 48 to give out.

Peggy opens each Thursday from 10 to noon for people to drop off blankets, squares, yarn and material as well as join in the Stitch n Chat. Margarrite is there to help her and fills in when she is not able to be there.

We have a wonderful base team of workers here at home office and many people knitting and crocheting. The city just did a homeless count and tell us we have about 168 on the streets, but they say that the count is closer to 800 as we have many families

that are living 2 to 3 or more families in one apartment, and we have a 0% vacancy rate. Many of the university and college students have doubled up also.

*Submitted by Nancy ,
Lethbridge*

WINDSOR, ONT. This group got started about June of this year, and has already been featured in the local media! Michaels is involved, and I've got 2-4 volunteers on my contact list. Check out the article and photos here...
<http://tiny.cc/BWmCw>

Submitted by Sandy, Windsor

VICTORIA BC. I have two really active volunteers and in addition to attending the Michael's (Craft Store) joining parties this year, we often meet on Thursday afternoons for joining.

Mary and Maggie and I (and other occasional volunteers, including members of the local Knitter's Guild) have put together and distributed about 20 blankets this year — most of the squares were dropped off 'anonymously' at Michael's, and there sure are a lot of knitters and crocheters 'out there!' Our recipient agencies include the local homeless shelters, an alternative housing project, and the Native Friendship Centre.

Submitted by Marilyn, Victoria

TORONTO, ON. On Wed. Oct. 17th, Bev held a "Blanket Bee" at her house in the North York area of Toronto. Chris taught us a new way to join granny squares which Bev is using to put together squares that she found at Value Village. Judy joined squares that she crocheted over the summer.

Another "Blanket Bee" is scheduled for November, and we'll report on it possibly in the next newsletter. !

"We have a wonderful base team of workers here at home office and many people knitting and crocheting."

~ Nancy P ~



Mary, JoAnn, Gail and Maggie at a Victoria, BC Michaels Craft Store 'joining party' in November.

Looking Back... Submitted by Nancy Panting, B4C Co-founder

I don't know if you know it or not but today — Nov 20th — is Blankets real birthday, it is the date on our Charter. We are 9 years old and heading into our 10th year.

Our first Birthday was a big one that people heard all over the mall in Lethbridge. We had the Mayor and people filled the room and the walk way in front of our space. Store owners near us brought in chairs and benches for the older ladies to sit down. We had volunteers and supporters and friends that came for this special first birthday. The Mall put Happy 1st Birthday to Blankets on their rolling sign for the day.

The Mayor was given the privilege of wishing all a Happy First Birthday and presenting them with their Charity Number. The roar and claps that went up brought the rest of the store owners to see what was going on. It was a long awaited day and everyone was so proud of that number. The Mayor was speechless as he told them of groups he had worked with that had been waiting a couple of years for their number — and we got ours in 6 weeks. He told all that they were a special group to get this number so fast. He really couldn't believe it! (There had been months of work before it was sent, so it came through fast). I had two copies made of the

charter and refused to look at it. I dropped one copy off at the Mayor's office and told him he could have the real one the day of the party. Stu (editor's note: Nancy's late husband and Blankets co-founder) looked at a copy to be sure that all was correct on it. I didn't look at it but kept it well hidden and told no one we had it until the day of the party when I put it in a frame. No one believed we would get it so it was a total surprise when the Mayor announced it. Needless to say my stomach was doing flip flops. We had all the press in town there to record this moment. And, yes, we made the news that night — on two channels (that is all we have here)! The radio station played Happy Birthday to us on it's station.

We had a cake donated by Safeway and coffee donated by Grandma Lees — both mall stores and McDonalds supplied juice and cups.

I can hardly wait to see what we do for our 10th Birthday. It is still my hope for a face to face Board Meeting so we can celebrate together. **WE CAN DO IT TOO!!**

As I sit here early the morning of the 20th I have to think back on the past 9 years. WOW! My heart overflows (as well as my eyes) with pride in all of our people and what they have

done. We have had great Boards in the past, but nothing like what we have today. So looking where we have been only shows me that we will go farther and help yet so many more people know that someone cares. The need grows each day in all of our areas, and we open new areas all the time.

This afternoon I will be talking about Blankets to a group of people and tonight I will go to a Women's show and do more advertising and pass out a lot more cards. We are well known here and this is the 'women in small business' show. It is a big deal in this town and will be very crowded.

Thank you for letting me share this special day with you. We celebrate in October as it works out better. It is the month for giving thanks in Canada, it is the start of winter and Nov 20th is just too close to Christmas, plus some of us celebrate our birthday with Blankets in October. (One way to be sure you have a party...)

God Bless you each as we move forward!

Warmly yours
Nancy J
Lethbridge AB



*B4C's founder,
Nancy J' Panting*

BLANKETS FOR CANADA
SOCIETY INC.

**Warming Canadians
... one square at a time.**



How to reach us:

BLANKETS FOR CANADA SOCIETY INC.

Registered Charity # 877170225RR0001

HEAD OFFICE:

"Blankets for Canada Society Inc."
210A — 12A St North, Suite 217
Lethbridge, Alberta
T1H 2J1

We're on the web !
<http://www.blankets4canada.ca>

EMAIL: office@blankets4canada.ca