

You have two hands. One to help yourself, the second to help others

Seasonal Newsletter

BLANKETS FOR CANADA

WINTER EDITION 2024



Season's Greetings to all

NANCY PANTING TURNS 80!

On October the 30th Lethbridge Group celebrated our founder, past president, Nancy Panting's 80th Birthday. I was fortunate to be able to drive to Lethbridge to celebrate with Nancy and the Lethbridge Blankets Group. They did an awesome job and put on an amazing Birthday Party for Nancy. There were guests from Blankets, Nancy's Church Group, and many community friends. Nancy is an amazing lady and looked radiant in her black dress. Coffee/Tea and Cake was served and Nancy was the recipient of a few yarn bouquets and as you can see a generous supply of yarn. With the way Nancy crochets blankets it will be interesting to see how long all that yarn lasts. Myself I have known Nancy for 30 years becoming neighbors and sharing many laughs and times together. Nancy is one of the most generous I know out there, and being able to spend this milestone with her and all the wonderful folks in Lethbridge meant a lot to me. Cheers to many more Nancy.



Blankets Questions - Tips – Facts - or Fiction????

Membership - \$20.00 for a year. We need to keep our membership up in order to keep our Non-Profit Charitable Status. The **Blankets Membership form** shown below for your review plus you can access the form at this link https://blankets4canada.ca/images/BFC_PDFs/BFC_Membershipform.pdf and print it for your submission. You get a tax receipt along with Membership Card & 8 Business cards. You can also submit tax receipts for yarn/fabric/sewing supplies purchased to make blankets for those in need of Warmth & Shelter. This helps Blankets out as you get the Tax Receipt and Blankets submits a GST Rebate 2 times a year, so we get the GST back which helps us with our expenses.



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MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION/RENEWAL

MEMBERSHIP IS NOT MANDATORY BUT ENCOURAGED
MEMBERSHIP NEEDED TO RECEIVE TAX FOR RECEIPTS SUBMITTED

You can become a member if you choose. It is open to all.

Membership is to be renewed by January 1st each year.

FULL MEMBERSHIP - \$20.00 (receiptable)
(payable to Blankets for Canada Society Inc.)

Interac e-Transfer payments can be done by clicking this link:
<https://blankets4canada.ca/our-memberships-donations-ettransfer>

Membership allows the member full rights to vote in the Annual General Meeting.
You will receive a **Membership Card**

A tax receipt will be issued for all donations of \$10.00
or more and will be very much appreciated.

NAME:
ADDRESS:
.....
TELEPHONE: FAX:
EMAIL ADDRESS:
DONATION: MEMBERSHIP FEE:
AMOUNT ENCLOSED: YEAR:

If our mail strike continues you can use **Interac e-transfer** to send your \$20.00 membership to Anna at <https://blankets4canada.ca/our-memberships-donations-ettransfer>, that way you have a paper trail. Your Membership and Business Cards will be processed and wait to get mailed once the strike is over. Your tax receipt will be emailed to you then as well. Blankets survives on donations of fabric, yarn, blankets, cash and the generosity of our Blankets Members & Volunteers. Unfortunately we do not have the budget to purchase these items, but if you buy and are a member you can get a tax receipt. With your business card if you are out and about and talk about blankets it is so easy to get donations. People are always purging and getting rid of these items, and we can repurpose them and create our amazing blankets that we always see on FB.

Meet your Board - More about.....



More information about Nancy from Nancy.

You have and will see me referred to as Nancy J. And you may wonder why. Well it's because back when blankets started and those first years, our Vice President was from Ontario and her name was Nancy and throughout the years we have had several other board members with the name Nancy. That way we knew who was who.... I've also been given the title as "Blankets's Moma" one year by the ladies to keep us Nancy's straight. I was born in the USA and moved here almost forty years ago and married a wonderfellow named Stuart , who has spent the last 19 years in heaven. My mother taught me to crochet as a child and all I wanted to make was a Pot holder with a Rose in the center of it. In about 1970 I saw a granny square blanket that I fell in love with but did not feel I could afford and I decided this is silly, I could make my own. So I spent \$10 and took a class to learn how to read a pattern. The first thing I learned was the lady that was teaching the class didn't know how to make a starting loop. She taught me to read a pattern. I didn't go back for the second class, only to later learn that I didn't even read the pattern correctly. But since then, thanks to people in Blankets for Canada, I've learned how to make a proper Granny Square. These days I'm handicapped and housebound most of the time, so I crochet for Blankets for Canada as I have for the past 26 years and I LOVE to crochet. My husband was a knitter. I am a lay minister with the Community of Christ Church and such have served in different positions. I love bright happy colors to work with, and I am not to be turned loose in a yarn shop with a credit card during a sale. The rest is history ~ Founder of Blankets for Canada and President for most of those 26years.

We love you Nancy.

Let's get to know our Groups

We have a number of groups across Canada, and I would like to introduce a few in each Newsletter. Last newsletter we met the oldest and the newest, now for our West Coast Groups.

Nanaimo Group

We have 2 groups on the island that have been active for many, many years. First the Nanaimo group was established in 2002, That year they made 25 blankets and the total in the 22 years is over 7000. That is amazing. The group work independently from their homes, currently have 7 volunteers who regularly make squares, assemble them into blankets or make whole blankets. An unknown number of others drop off squares or finished blankets in a box at Michaels. They also get yarn dropped off anonymously.

The blankets are delivered to various organizations that work with the homeless and others in need of warmth. So far Nanaimo has distributed 118 Blankets this year. Way to go Nanaimo.

Victoria Group

The Victoria Group has been around for a number of years and currently have had the pleasure of meeting at the Commonwealth Pool Recreation Centre and have become part of the Drop-In Social Knitting for Seniors' program. On a weekly basis they have between 12 – 20 crocheter's and knitters. The Rec Centre is very accommodating and likes to promote what they do. So far this year Victoria has distributed 92 Blankets. That is amazing to hear. Way to go Victoria!



Well with another year almost coming to a close, we have approached winter one way or another in Canada, and with winter comes flu/cold season. Not to mention the virus of COVID that raise it's ugly head when least expected and will be around forever I do believe. Each and every one of you give tirelessly to Blankets and from what I have seen of the stats we are giving more and more because unfortunately the need is growing more and more. I know the generosity of our Members/Volunteers has always been one of Nancy's most heartwarming things to see and she has always been so proud of everyone throughout the years. That theory has definitely been passed on to me and I am proud to see what each group does in their area, works tirelessly to help those in need of warmth and shelter and to see our stats increase throughout the year. Give yourselves a pat on the back. That being said, remember, please remember to take care of yourself first. Without you and your health, you cannot move forward to help those in need. You Come First. If you are feeling under the weather, give yourself time to heal, do what you need for the health of you and your family. That way you will have the energy to help those in need.

JOINT HELP

We are all at an age where the body starts to betray us. For myself in May I was diagnosed with Degenerative Osteoarthritis, needless to say I was shocked, oh yes, I had aches and pains over the years, blamed it on doing too much, gaining a few pounds, lifting more than I should have, life and living, but to have a diagnosis like that, what the heck. Explained the 4 to 6 Extra Tylenols, but had to get through the day. A woman's work is never done. I was introduced to this cream, and WOW, it works, don't need Tylenol, don't have the pain, does it work, I think so. Is it a placebo, I don't care it works. If you have aches, pains, arthritis, might be worth checking out. It is processed in Kelowna, BC, and you can get it on line for around \$30.00. After applying for a month or so, I don't need it every day. A godsend is all I can say.



Also a lady in our Edmonton Group has been using LACTIGO and has had great relief from it.

LACTIGO has Carnosine: a naturally occurring dipeptide (made in your body) composed of beta-alanine & histidine, offering several potential health benefits. It helps with sore muscles, sore joints, arthritis and muscle recovery. She also swears about this cream and I can email you a brochure if you are interested.

We are a very busy group, and we need to take care of ourselves first and foremost. All the information we can get is great and helpful.

STATS

Our stats are so important for so many reasons. First and foremost we need to keep our stats and records in order to keep our Charitable Non-Profit Society Status. It is important for each group to keep stats, we do have forms for that. A form to get signed when blankets are delivered to an agency. Also a form to fill out at the end of each month, or cluster of months to be sent into our Statistician, Cheryl Knight, I can send you her email address if you don't have it. Also it is great to see how the numbers add up as a group. Right now as of the end of October, and I know we do not have everyone's stats, we have over 2400 Blankets distributed across Canada. Please, please get those stats into Cheryl so that in the New Year we can see what all our members/volunteers have done across Canada for those in need of warmth and shelter.

A message from your President

It has been another year full of love and giving mixed with stress, budgets and life. I know that you are all busy with your day to day life, but it fills my heart to hear the stories of how our members/volunteers give so generously with their time and talents to make blankets for those in need of warmth and shelter. As we approach the holiday season, give yourself some time to reflect on the past year and how you have made a difference in someone's life with the blankets you have created. You are making a difference in so many lives and myself along with the rest of the Board are so proud of you and your dedication to Blankets. Wishing you all a Very Merry Christmas Health and Happiness and may you all be blessed in the New Year



*Sincerely
Anna Bayne*

Thanks for Reading