



Since last October, when Jean and Byron Ostrom delivered our boxes of quilts and blocks to Timmins, we have been following *Quilts for Survivors* (QFS) and watching with great joy as the many quilts that we made are distributed to residential school survivors. Their gratitude is palpable, with so many in disbelief that someone who they do not know would gift them such a meaningful treasure and symbol of support, respect and love. There are over 40,000 residential school survivors alive in Canada.

To date, well over 4,000 quilts have been distributed and volunteers are working hard to fill the backlog of requests. But new requests continue to roll in daily, so Holy Trinity's ACW quilters have once again committed to joining quilters across the continent in supporting this truth and reconciliation effort. We will have a variety of quilts, quilt tops and blocks ready to ship by early October and, if you are a quilter or know someone who is, we welcome your contribution, too. Here is what they are requesting:

- 16" quilt blocks (16.5" unfinished)
- Lap-sized quilt tops (48" x 64")
- 2.5" quilt binding, any colour
- Completed quilts, any size
- Financial donations to offset the cost of materials (thread, backing, batting)
- \$30 medium-sized prepaid Canada Post shipping boxes

*Note:* we are asked not to include travel or school related fabrics or fabrics with a religious theme. More information can be found on their website: [www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca](http://www.quiltsforsurvivors.ca)

If you are not a quilter but would still like to help, maybe you would like to host a fundraiser? Last year, Holy Trinity's ACW raised \$700 through our Coffee Hour free will offerings to help with the cost of shipping quilts to survivors. We would gladly welcome similar efforts from other churches in the Parish, possibly a bake sale or special collection? If you hold a fundraiser, please let me know ([cheesman@bell.net](mailto:cheesman@bell.net)) so that we can coordinate sending all of the proceeds in one package.

Mark **Friday, September 20, 2024** on your calendar to have your contribution dropped off at Aborn House in Pembroke - the office is open Monday thru Friday from 9 am to 12 noon - and remember to include your name on it so that we can share that with QFS. The Parish of the Valley will recognize Truth and Reconciliation Day and all of our donations on Sunday, September 29.

Recently, Vanessa Génier, a member of Missanabie First Nation and the founder of *Quilts for Survivors*, was awarded a meritorious service decoration from Governor General Mary Simon for providing quilts and comfort to residential school survivors. It recognizes exceptional deeds or activities that bring honour to an individual's community or Canada. We are humbled to be able to support her efforts.