



# Quilting queens

## Stitching for a noble cause

By Carole Morris-Underhill

Their hands weave back and forth, stitching and tying seemingly unrelated scraps of fabric and yarn together.

The hum of sewing machines fills the Pioneer 73 Club while members buzz about, some threading needles with brightly coloured wool, others snipping stray strings, matching fabric pieces and laying out cotton batting.

Their eyes focus on the task at hand.

The Devon Quilting Club runs a fine-tuned operation as dozens of women work side by side, sharing tips, discussing life's ups and downs, and creating one-of-a-kind masterpieces.

"The appeal to me is that we're providing a service to our community, and other communities," said Sharon McCann, a Devon quilter.

Every Monday morning upward of 30 Devon women come to the club to make quilts for those less fortunate.

Since Thanksgiving, the club has donated about 200 quilted articles – from lap quilts and bedspreads to cushions and baby quilts – to a variety of organizations. Long-term care residents at the Devon General Hospital have reaped the benefits of the beautiful, warm quilts, as have seniors in Edmonton who have

endured elder abuse.

The quilting club has also donated to various groups throughout Devon, Calmar, Warburg, Leduc, and New Sarepta, as well as hospital wings, safe houses, and families who have lost their belongings to fire.

"We like to keep a lot of our quilts local if we can but we're always sharing with outlying areas," said McCann.

The club has also donated quilts to newcomers who arrive in Canada with few belongings.

"There are people who come here from other countries without anything and we provide quilts for their homes for them," said McCann, who said the newcomers usually take the quilts with them when they move from the community.

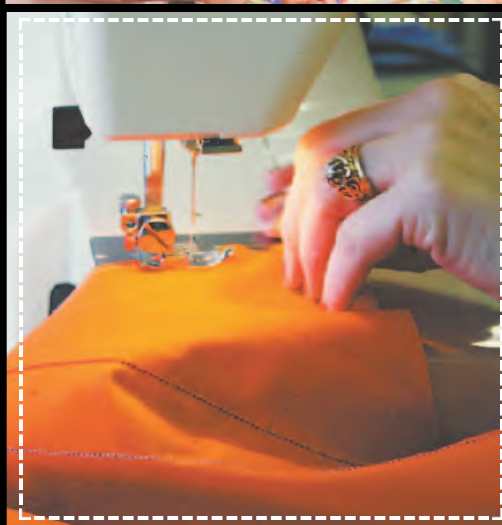
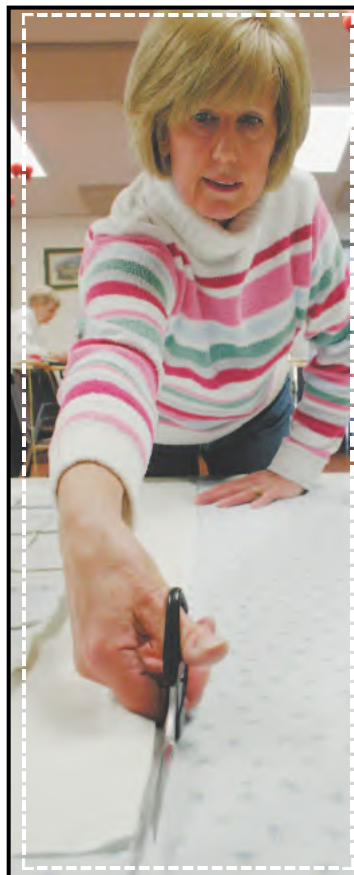
The Devon Quilting Club started in 1992. Although the majority of the founding Devon Quilting Club members aren't still active in the club, the goal has remained the same: help others.

While the need is great, McCann said the women don't feel pressured to produce quilts.

"We're not in a rush to do it. It's not like a deadline where you must do 'X' number per week," said McCann with a chuckle.

Fellow quilter Alice Medicott said quilters combine their passion with charity work.

For some, it's a way to learn new skills. For others, it's therapeutic. For all, it's a chance to get



It takes many hands to make the quilts the Devon Quilting Club donates. Clockwise from bottom left: June Erickson, Iris Holman, Sandy LaChapelle, and Dennie Borys share a common love of quilting as they take on the task of tying quilts together; Valerie Jeffery focuses on cutting the backing of a baby quilt; Stephanie Wasyliw and Honor Archibald work in unison as they tie yellow yarn bows on the quilt.

Photos by Carole Morris-Underhill

out and socialize.

"Because you're so into quilting, it just kind of takes you away from all of the sadness that's happening out there in the world," said McCann. "You come away feeling positive."

Many of the women are so excited by what they're

working on that they take the work home with them.

"It's a great social outing of fellowship and making new friends," said Medicott.

One quilter, who wished to remain anonymous, said the club has done wonders for her health.

## Make a Difference RECYCLE

### Devon Recycle & Transfer Station

The Devon Recycle & Station Centre will be

**CLOSED**  
**February 16**  
**(Family Day)**

Will re-open  
Tuesday, February 17, 2009  
10:00 am - 5:00 pm



## Family Fun Day

**Monday**  
**February 16, 2009**  
**Mike Karbonik Arena**  
**12:00 to 3:00 pm**

- Free Hot Dog Lunch
- Public Skating
- Ball Hockey Game
- Face Painting
- And much more



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# Quilters unite

Continued from page 2

"I was severely depressed and my neighbour got me coming here and that's what helped. Not the medication; it's the company that cured me," she said. "They're just a great support group, as far as I'm concerned."

McCann agreed, saying it's the camaraderie that ties the women together.

"You help one another. If someone is missing, we ask why they're not here. If no one knows, we make it our job to find out why they're not here because we care," said McCann.

Often, members will send goodies and small care packages to their ill comrades.

"We're a caring group," said McCann.

The reason why so many women enjoy the club is its friendly, learning atmosphere. The club welcomes women of all ages and ability, from novice to expert.

"Anybody can come, even young children that say they want to learn how to quilt," said Medicott. "Teenagers can come, young married women... this is the perfect place for them to come."

But for the group to continue producing quality quilts, donations are required.



Medicott said they accept cotton fabric scraps, large cotton pieces, notions, used — but working — sewing machines and financial support.

"This enables us to continue the charity work done by the group," said Medicott.

Donations can be dropped off at the club Monday mornings from 8:30 a.m. to noon.

Residents interested in learning more about the club, or simply wanting to learn a little more about quilting, are encouraged to drop by and meet the quilters.

From left, Iris Holman, Nellie Cooper, Stephanie Wasyliw, June Erickson, Marie Okrainetz, Sandy LaChapelle, Honor Archibald, Valerie Jeffery, Dennie Borys, Sharon McCann, Violet Hillman, Maureen Marcetta, Nina Fedina, Pheobe Pardais, Alice Medicott, and Ethel Madu are some of the women who weave wonders at the Devon Quilting Club.

Photo by Carole Morris-Underhill

## Town of Devon



Phone: 780.987.8300

Fax: 780.987.4778

Email: [information@devon.ca](mailto:information@devon.ca) [www.devon.ca](http://www.devon.ca)

### 3RD ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CHAMPAGNE LUNCHEON

**SUNDAY, MARCH 8  
12:30 - 3:00 P.M.**

Devon Golf and Conference Centre

Tickets \$20.00

• No Minors

- Tickets available at the Devon Municipal Office and the Servus Credit Union
- Event details available on-line at [www.devon.ca](http://www.devon.ca) or call 780.987.8300

### KEYNOTE SPEAKER MASTER CORPORAL PAUL FRANKLIN

He shares the affects of war on a nation, a community, a family and a individual.

**CELEBRATE. EDUCATE.  
BUILD TOGETHER**

## NOMINATE A DEVON WOMAN TODAY!

### Pillar of Peace Award Nominate a Woman You Feel Has Made A Difference

This award is in recognition of a woman, who is committed to building a better community and world by enriching the lives of others through her contributions at home, in the workplace or as a member of the Community. The award will be presented **March 8, 2009** at the IWD 2009 Luncheon.

Nominations available  
on-line at [www.devon.ca](http://www.devon.ca)

**Nomination Deadline: February 20, 2009**

For further details on the  
Devon Pillar of Peace Award please contact:  
Janet Guthrie, Community Events Coordinator  
Phone 780.987.8332 Email [jguthrie@devon.ca](mailto:jguthrie@devon.ca)

## AN INVITATION FOR YOU...

### Town of Devon's 2009 Volunteer Appreciation Event

Volunteers are an integral part of our community-  
we want to celebrate you!

On Wednesday, March 11, 2009, we invite you to join us as we celebrate and appreciate the contributions that you have made to our citizens and our town. This year we would like to invite you to the premier of East of 60 Productions presentation of Hotbed Hotel!

Please plan to attend:

Date: **Wednesday, March 11, 2009**

Time: Doors open at 6:45 p.m.  
Program to begin at 7:15 p.m. sharp

Location: Devon Community Centre

Tickets: **FREE:** but you must register with your volunteer organization. Please send one individual from your group to pick up all of your organizations tickets.

**DEADLINE** for tickets is Friday, February 27, 2009

Please note that this is an **adult only comedy**. Please call Ki at 987-8328 or Kammi at 987-8325 for more information.

## FREE SAND FOR SIDEWALKS!

The Town of Devon Recycle Depot has free sand available to residents while quantities last. The sand is free to be collected from the depot.

**Open Mon, Fri & Sat 10 to 5 and Wed 4 to 7**