

Quilts of Valour Presentation to WWII Veteran Norman Sweeney

Beautifully written by Cait Maloney, presentation coordinator, Quilts of Valour Rideau Lakes (Westport), who presented Norman with his Quilt of Valour on Saturday prior to our Veterans Motorcycle Parade.

"Some of you may have heard that we had a very special presentation last Saturday. The recipient, Norman Sweeney, is a WW2 veteran who served in the Hastings Prince Edward Regiment (the "Hasty P's") and was involved in the liberation of Holland. He was subsequently injured but recovered sufficiently to be posted to Germany until the war ended.

Mr Sweeney's beautiful presentation was arranged by the Honour Our Veterans Banner Program to coincide with Legion Week and the installation of 389 banners. It was also Mr Sweeney's 100th birthday on Sept. 29th.

The ceremony took place on the steps of the Perth Town Hall:

- one of the Perth Councillors, Jim Boldt, presented him with birthday greetings from a variety of dignitaries - from King Charles to the local MLA;
- a longtime family friend, Pat Loftus, read out an excellent summary of Mr. Sweeney's service and life since then;
- I presented a very special quilt (more below);
- representatives of the Hasty P's presented him with a Regimental flag and several other memorabilia;
- we sang "Happy Birthday" and the ceremony closed. (It was followed by a parade of several motorcycles ridden by Veterans.)

About the quilt:

It was made by Marlene Spruyt who is a member of the Lanark Quilters' Guild. She had bought the kit when attending a QoVC conference. She took the completed top to a recent Lanark Guild meeting and asked if anyone knew of a suitable recipient...

Marilyn L, Moira and Donna G were in the audience so the rest, as the cliché goes, is history. One other special fact -Marlene's mother was Dutch and was in Rotterdam when the Canadians liberated it. Last, but by no means least, the quilt is the 1000th presented by our group or that we supplied to another QOV group for presentation.

One last thing: Lilian Sweeney, (Norman's wife) was a quilter for many years and won awards for her work. She examined the quilt and pronounced it beautiful!

What a special day! A great reminder of why we do what we do."

Thank you Cait, and thanks to everyone who attended to make this such a memorable day for Norman and his family.

And this, too, is why we on the Veterans Banner Committee do what we do!

It's all about recognizing and honouring our Veterans! — with Jim Boldt and 2 others.

