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Mar W.I. members display their handiwork.

## Mar WI recycles 'new' material into Christmas gifts

By Lindsay Eaglesham  
Staff reporter

Mar Women's Institute member Marion Clark had kind of a fairy godmother idea — how to turn Cinderella patches into handsome garments.

She discovered that Chris Enk, owner of Lion's Sportswear Mfg.

in Lion's Head, regularly discarded unwanted scrap-ends of material, mostly soft 'sports' fleece.

Chris agreed to give her the remnants (ten large plastic bags full) and Marion, along with WI president Colleen Knowles, fired up interest among the Institute's 20 members in a mammoth sewing bee.

About three months and quite a few thousand stitches later the women celebrated the completion of their charitable project at a recent WI meeting at the Mar Community Centre on Hwy. 6.

The result of the work is "approximately 45 sweatshirts for kids, and 25 lapquilts for seniors," Marion said.

The plan is to give the sweatshirts to the local Salvation Army for distribution to needy children in the community. The lapquilts, about four feet square, each designed with a unique, colorful patchwork, will be handed out as gifts to the oldfolk at Gateway Haven over Christmas.

Colleen said "some of the women worked on them at home, and we used shared patterns." As well, there were regular sewing

get-togethers at the Hall. Marion, added Colleen, is one of the real creative wizards in the group.

The only thing needed in addition to the material (apart from thread) was ribbing for the necks and cuffs of the sweatshirts, Marion said. Chris and Gabriele Enk kindly offered to supply those needed items for free.

The sweatshirts are made in sizes 3 to 10. The women made a variety of colorful designs for them as well, including crew neck and turtle neck cuts. The finish and style is very professional looking.

Marion said the group hopes to "spread a little Christmas cheer." The first idea was to send the items overseas, but cost of shipping, they discovered, was prohibitive.

"Besides, we decided there was as much need in this area."

The women agreed the project was a double benefit. It helped in the recycling effort, too. "It bothered me thinking about that material going to the dump," said Marion.

Colleen added that the work was an enjoyable "communal effort," reflecting the WI motto of charitable service — For Home And Country.



SOME of OUR  
ACTIVITIES  
PROJECTS