

Georgetown woman's Canada 150 blanket project brings holiday warmth and cheer

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What started as one Georgetown woman with an idea to give back while at the same time celebrating Canada's 150th year, has grown into something pretty special.

Glen Williams resident Dale Cox first came up with the idea for the Knit Canada 150 Blanket Project in the summer. She and handful of friends who share a love for knitting and crocheting began making seven-by-nine-inch red and white squares with the goal of creating Canada 150-themed blankets for local charities.

"I just woke up one day and wondered what I could do for the 150," said Cox. "I thought about the Georgetown Yarn Shop up on the highway. They've been making blankets to donate

to charities for years."

Betty-Anne Whipp, owner of Georgetown Yarn, loved the idea and the small group set to work with the goal of making 10-12 blankets.

Word began to spread and before long the team of knitters and crocheters numbered in the dozens. At that point, Dale's husband Dave had the idea of upping the goal to 2017 squares as a nod to Canada's 150th year.

The project continued to grow and saw its support extend far beyond the borders of Georgetown after a segment about the charity drive appeared on City-News. The final count saw more than 190 people take part making more than 2,900 squares.

In addition to the blankets, and thanks to a generous donation by one of the participants, the project



Graeme Frisque/Metroland Media

Owner of Georgetown Yarn Betty-Anne Whipp (left) and Dale Cox pose for a picture in front of the very impressive pile of blankets, teddy bears and baby toques soon to be distributed to those in need across the community.

expanded to include teddy bears to be given with the kids' blankets, as well as baby toques.

"(The bears) started out with one of knitters and

crocheters on the Canada 150 blankets found a shop that going out of business. There were a lot of teddy bears there and she bought them all," said Cox, adding

others sent in bears they knitting or crocheted themselves.

"All of the kids will be getting teddy bears and all of the babies will be getting

hats as well," said Whipp, adding one participants made and donated 50 toques on her own.

The project ultimately produced 46 Canada 150-themed blankets in addition to the more than 70 as part of the yarn shop's own annual charity blanket initiative which has been ongoing for the last 20 years. The blankets were given to the Salvation Army, Links2Care and the Halton Women's Place last week to distribute to those in need over the holidays.

With many squares left over, the group plans to produce more red and white blankets next year minus the Canada 150 theme.

"It was way more than I anticipated," said Cox. "We are very, very thankful for everybody involved. It was just amazing and everyone was so enthusiastic."

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