

REMEMBRANCE DAY



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8 Pages

Branch 120 Royal Canadian Legion president Jack Harrison admires the quilt before it is placed in the display cabinet at the Georgetown Branch of the Halton Hills Public Library.

Photo by Ted Brown



First World War quilt returns ... almost 100 years later

By **TED BROWN**
Staff Writer

The year was 1915.

Like the rest of the British Commonwealth, Canada was at war, as countless soldiers were shipped overseas to fight the enemy on the trenched battlefields of Europe.

Back home in Georgetown, various groups were thinking of ways to support those who had signed up and marched off to that faraway war in Europe.

The Georgetown Women's Institute (WI) decided to create a quilt for those soldiers who had been wounded and were recuperating in hospital in England.

The quilters would never have guessed that nearly 100 years later their labour of love would find its way home.

With war already raging for a year, the WI decided to 'sell' space on the quilt, charging everyone 10 cents per name, to have their name embroidered on the quilt.

In an excerpt from *The Georgetown Herald's* July 28, 1915 issue, (ironically

published one year to the day after war had been declared in Europe), the notice went out to the WI members, asking for help with the quilt.

The excerpt read:

'Would all interested in the autograph quilt for the Women's Institute hasten to secure names that all may be worked and returned by the first week in Sept. to give time to complete for exhibition at the fall fair. We would suggest that there be many family, business, and professional groups, anyone at a distance to have their address attached. Names will be repeated as often as ten cents is paid. The quilt is to be sent away to the Canadian Hospital in England and the remainder of the money used by the Institute to secure comforts for the soldiers.'

Obviously, the quilt was completed by September, as it was displayed at the Esqueping Agricultural Society Fall Fair (now Georgetown Agricultural Society) October 6-7, 1915, before being sent overseas.

The finished quilt features 355 names. At 10 cents per name, it raised \$35.50 in 1915, which would be equivalent to raising \$717.57 in 2013 dollars.

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Please take time this November 11th to remember the sacrifice of those that died defending our country. We owe these heroes our deepest thanks and gratitude.

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We

REMEMBER

Lest we *forget*

United Way
Halton Hills

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