

Community

TALES OF COLOUR AND VARIETY FROM THE FARM NEIGHBOURHOOD OF ONTARIO

Page 16 / July 2001

Niagara Farmers' Monthly

www.niagarafarmers.com

Millennium quilt exhibit visits North Pelham

By Maribeth Fitts

With hours and hours of handiwork involved, the quilts are carefully packed and unpacked (using special gloves of course!) every few weeks as they make their way across Canada. The Presbyterian Church of Canada's Millennium Quilts are on a road trip and First Presbyterian Church in North Pelham was fortunate to be one of the stops on the tour last month for the exhibit.

According to Reverend Mary Whitson, the quilts were made by the members of Presbyterian churches all across Canada and were designed to incorporate one or all of three themes: the 125th anniversary of the national Presbyterian church in Canada; the 2000 millennium; or the church's Jubilee

initiative. She says that the idea of the quilt exhibit was a great means of linking the past with the present and celebrating these three events.



The exhibit consists of forty-three quilts and is a mix of old and new quilts. They are all sizes and shapes and colours. Some are machine quilted, some made by hand only and some are a combination of techniques. With contributors

from right across Canada, church members that participated put their own interpretation on the project. For example, at a church in Elmira, Ontario, the quilt pieces were put together by the men and the quilting was done by the women of the congregation. In Alberta, quilt blocks were pieced by individual churches and then combined for the finished quilt.

After seeing the completed quilts all together, the national Presbyterian Church administrators decided to send the display on tour for members across the country to enjoy. Whitson immediately put in a request for the North Pelham church to be one of the tour stops. The quilts were shown at private viewings as well as public events over the second week of June.