

Many handmade items featured

► Quilts continued from page E1

Janice Harder, the sale organizer and one of 2,000 volunteers, noted there are 225 items in this year's sale, including 150 quilts and an assortment of wall hangings, afghans, wood crafts and other handmade items, some provided by a Mennonite group in the Niagara Peninsula.

There are also buckets of plants and shrubs, children's entertainment plus Mennonite food with an international twist: Russian, Hispanic, Laotian and Swiss.

"It's all been donated," Harder enthused, noting the organization hosts several promotions and dinner events throughout the year, the proceeds from which cover the \$50,000 cost of running the sale. Last year, the sale netted \$247,200 and, in February, the annual heifer sale featured 93 donated heifers which fetched \$183,500 in proceeds.

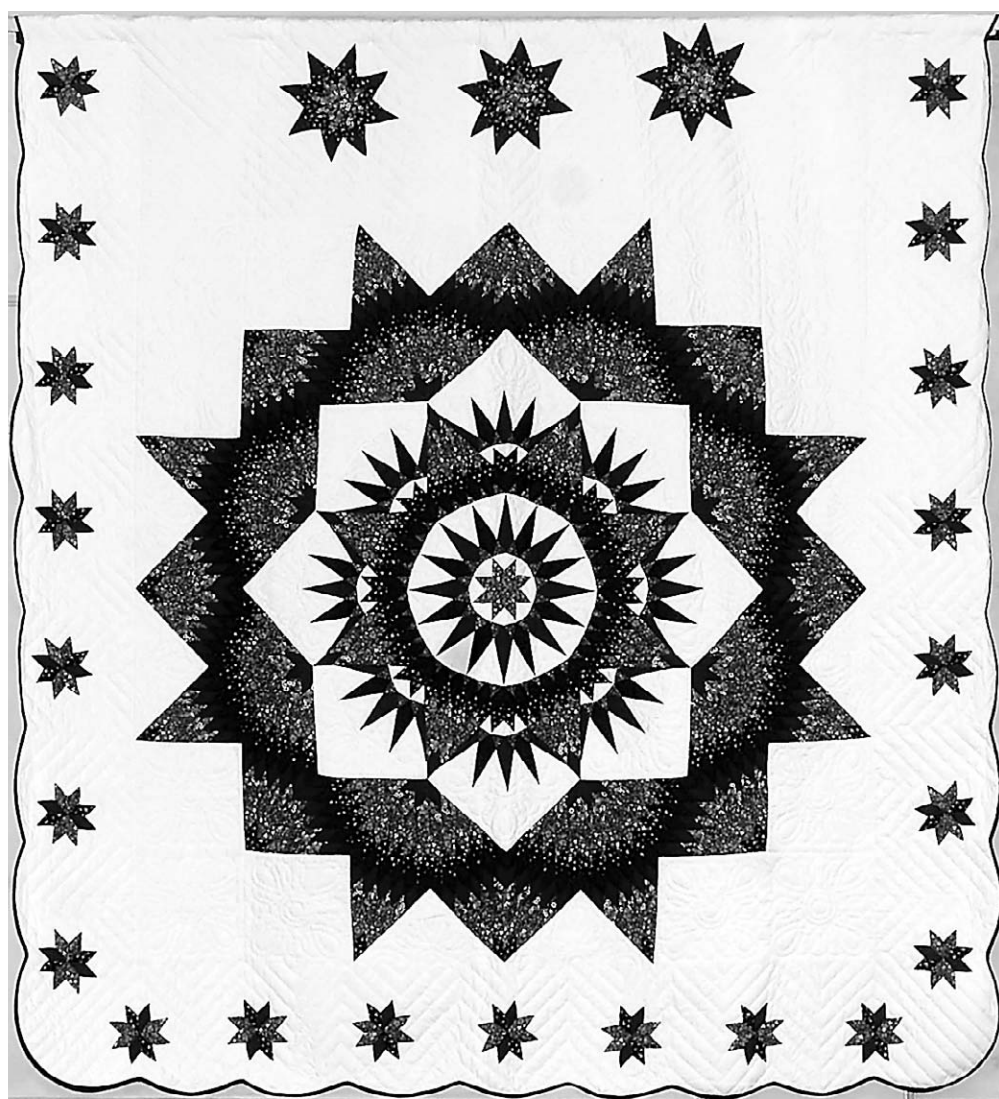
Every year there is a featured quilt, often chosen because there is a story behind its making. This year, *Bed of Roses*, was created by 86-year-old Myrtle Horst of Kitchener, who made the quilt over the span of a year while she recuperated from surgery.

The quilt was made with six different shades of green and pink, adorned with cross-stitching and is one of 15 quilts she has donated over the years. Last year, Horst's donated quilt fetched the highest bid at \$11,000, purchased by her daughter who lives in the U.S.

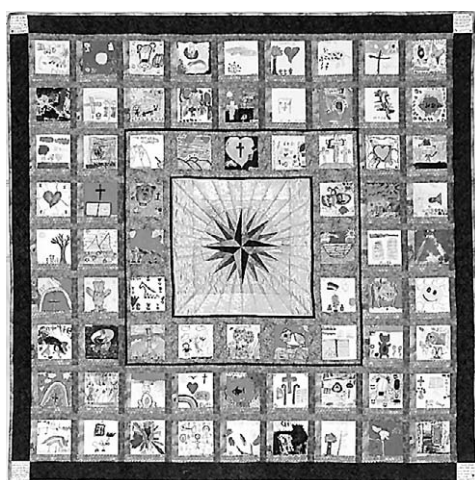
The sale also includes an auction of a vintage tractor restored by a group of local enthusiasts. And for the second year in a row, Heinz Reimer handcrafted a Victorian dollhouse.

New this year is Run for Relief, a two- and five-kilometre fun run and walk which leaves from the grandstand at 8 a.m. on Saturday.

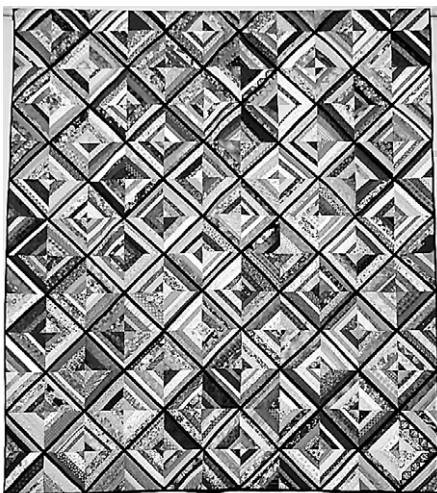
vhill@therecord.com



The *Broken Mariner's Star* quilt was made by an anonymous donor.



God is the Centre of the Universe (left) was made by the Waterloo Mennonite Brethren Sunday School children and the WMB Quilters. *Squared Illusion* (right) was made by the Preston Piecemakers and Preston Fidalias.



PLAN AHEAD FOR QUILTING EVENTS

The Waterloo County Quilt Festival has been resurrected after its near-death experience last fall. Faced with plummeting attendance, a growing debt and loss of its major sponsor, an announcement was made to cancel the festival. This spring, however, a group of former directors and staff banded together and formed a new board.

This year's festival will include quilting shows at the David Durward Centre, May 28 to 31, and the McDougall Cottage, May 27 to 31, in Cambridge and Kitchener's Joseph Schneider Haus, May 24 to 29 (for details, www.stjacobs.com).

The Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery's annual Grand National quilt exhibition celebrates the skill and creativity of quilt-makers across the country with more than 60 works on display until July 6. This year's theme, Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow, challenged quilters to think about the meaning of passing time in their lives. Visit their website www.kwag.on.ca for a full exhibition catalogue. Gallery hours: Monday to Saturday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; Thursday, 10 a.m. to 9 p.m.; Sunday, 1 to 5 p.m. Admission is \$6 per person, \$2 for ages six to 12, \$5 each for groups of 20 or more.

The 13th annual St. Jacobs Quilt Show goes May 27 to 31, Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., and Saturday, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. More than 200 quilts featured in various shows in the village including samplings at the Schoolhouse Theatre, contemporary quilts at the Silo Weavers, quilts of the world at St. Jacobs Mennonite Church, the Church Theatre trunk show, the quilt gallery upstairs at the Mill and a merchant mall, Woolwich Community Centre. Call 1-800-265-3353 for information.

Mount Forest Fireworks Festival Quilt Show goes July 17 to 19 at the Mount Forest Curling Club, 144 Egremont St. S. Thursday and Friday, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m., Saturday, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. More than 300 items, merchant mall, tea room featuring strawberry shortcake. Admission is \$5. Linda Hruska 519-323-3804, phruska@wightman.ca, www.mount-forest.ca.

For a full list of quilting events across Canada, visit www.canadianquilter.com



IS YOUR HEALTH-CARE SYSTEM THERE FOR YOU WHEN YOU NEED IT?

Accessible health care means people getting the right care at the right time in the right setting by the right provider.

Ontario is meeting this goal in many respects. The Ontario Wait Times Strategy, for example, has successfully reduced wait times for cataract surgery (down from 311 to 118 days), knee replacements (from 440 to 253 days), hip replacements (351 to 198 days) and cancer surgeries (81 to 57 days).

But access to other parts of our health-care system still needs improvement:

- **Access to family doctors:** over 60% of Ontarians say they can't get to see their doctor within two days of becoming sick; 42% feel they don't get to spend enough time with their doctor; and 39% say they aren't always told about treatment options and involved in decisions about their treatment.
- **Finding a family doctor:** while over 90% of Ontarians have a family doctor the percentage is lower in some parts of the province and for new immigrants. About 400,000 Ontarians want a doctor, have tried to find one, but can't. Meanwhile, only about 10% of family doctors are taking new patients, down from 40% seven years ago.
- **MRI scans:** despite a near doubling of MRIs, wait times haven't gone down significantly. As the supply of scans goes up, so too does the demand for them.

What can you do?

The Ontario Health Quality Council discusses these important issues and more in their 2008 report, now available at www.ohqc.ca. Please visit our website to learn more.



OHQC 2008 Annual Report



The Ontario Health Quality Council is an independent agency funded by the Government of Ontario through the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care. The Council reports directly to Ontarians on access to publicly funded health services, human resources in health care, consumer and population health status, outcomes of the health system. The Council also has a mandate to support quality improvement in the health-care system.