



Quilters take up needles to help FORCE

By Dianne Cornish

Flamborough Review

When Sue Restivo attended a public meeting five months ago to join neighbours in the fight against a proposed quarry on 11th Concession Rd. E., she wondered how she could help. But the answer soon came to her.

“I left that meeting saying, ‘What can I do; I’m 70 years old,’ she said. “Then, I thought, ‘I can cook and sew.’ And that’s when I came up with the idea of making a quilt.”

Restivo said she wouldn’t have undertaken the project without the backing of “a famous quilter” in the area, Eleanor Scholey. She got not only Scholey’s support but also the help of others, including members of the nearby Mountsberg Women’s Institute (W.I.).

Besides Scholey and Restivo, others in the quilting bee were Audrey Galloway, Mary McLean, Stella Zimmerman, Evelyn Page and Florence Peer. Also assisting with the project were Mary Chapman, Pam Poole and Katie Ellis.

The result, after 70 hours of work, was a queen-sized quilt of soft greens, mauves and pinks. It is being offered as first prize in a raffle that will raise money for FORCE (Friends of Rural Communities and the Environment), a community committee that is fighting the proposed quarry.

Committee members have estimated that the cost of taking the fight through all the necessary channels will exceed \$100,000 a year. The money is needed to pay for lawyers and environmental

experts who will help gather information to challenge the findings of the quarry's proponent, Lowndes Holding Inc. To help even more with the fundraising, Restivo sat down and fashioned a baby's quilt all on her own. It will be offered as third prize in the upcoming draw. Second prize is a Shaw Festival package.

Tickets sell for \$2 each or three for \$5. They've been on sale since early October and "sales have been going well," Restivo reported. Tickets are available from any FORCE member, she added. The draw is scheduled for the evening of December 1. It'll be held in the Lawson Park clubhouse, the site of the first FORCE community meeting in June, as well as the quilting bees that resulted in the main raffle prize.

Jean Rivers, one of many area residents working as a community outreach volunteer for FORCE, is the lead organizer of the raffle and its ticket sales.

The quilting project is just one of several tasks being undertaken by volunteers to assist the community effort of FORCE.

Volunteers also help with flyer drops, data management, technical research, and door-to-door canvassing of businesses and homes near the proposed quarry site. Others are planning and undertaking community events to raise funds for the cause.

"The silver lining of these kinds of community challenges is how the community draws together, how we meet new and wonderful people and how we reconnect with good friends," Jan Whitelaw, another community outreach volunteer, observed. News of the proposed aggregate operation has "galvanized the communities of Mountsberg, Carlisle, Freelon, Campbellville, Kilbride and rural Milton into action," she added.

Cutlines

Audrey Galloway (left) and Sue Restivo, residents of 11th Concession Road East, work on a queen-sized quilt which will be raffled off to raise money to help fund the fight against a quarry being proposed in their rural Flamborough neighbourhood.