

Quilt turning featured at Shopaganza

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SUBMITTED PHOTO Westmount Church hopes members of the public will warm up to a quilt turning during Shopaganza Nov. 7

An attraction of a unique nature -- quilt turning -- will be part of the Nov. 7 Shopaganza at Westmount Church.

When it comes to defining a quilt turning, there are several avenues of thought of what it means. One is it was a social outlet for women in days past who, when they got together, would spread their quilts in layers on a bed.

"Each woman would then take her turn telling her story, of where she got her fabric, her pattern and any challenges she had during the making of the quilt," said Linda Jordan, event coordinator.

Thus, the term "bed turning" or "quilt turning" came into use.

Another explanation notes it as a social event in that a lady would invite several guests over and serve sweet tea and cookies, then show off the quilts she had made by layering several of them on a bed.

"Others describe a bed turning as a way of introducing quilters and non-quilters to the beauty of quilts in an interesting and different way," Jordan said.

Whatever the explanation, bed turnings are an interesting way to relate the history and provenance of individual quilts as well as the more general quilting methods and movements.

The quilts being shown at Shopaganza, which will run from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m., have been made by Jeanne Wallace, a member of the Orillia Quilt Guild. Each quilt will be displayed on a table, then turned back one at a time.

Jordan encourages people to come out to see these beautiful works of art and to hear the stories of the making of each quilt.

Shopaganza is a twice-yearly event at Westmount Church, featuring a number of vendors. There will be everything from seasons, syrups and sweets to home accents, primitive signs, home decor, jar candles and frames. With the holiday season not far away, the event will also include candles and gifts, leggings, woodworking, handmade quilts, Christmas decorations, needlepoint and more.

The showcase of the event will be the quilt turning.

"Every quilt has a story," Jordan noted.