



Lynne Porter's Quilt Block – Peterborough, Ontario

When I made my block I had never known anyone who was forced to attend an Indian residential school. I did not think about it much until I saw the survivor quilts. When I saw the three Truth and Reconciliation Quilts put together by Alice Olsen Williams and then read the stories that went with the blocks, I was shocked, This happened in Canada! I know so little about the history of our country. And there are so many people alive today who suffered through that system or who were raised by a relative who suffered there. We need to acknowledge this terrible wrong that happened in our country. I don't know how we can right the wrong but we can at least acknowledge that it happened and accept our part of the responsibility. Maybe this will begin to heal the terrible divide between the aboriginal and non-aboriginal people in Canada.

In my block I have tried to express my hope that all of us who live on this land are able to move out of the dark tunnel of despair into a world of bright skies and green, new life. The flower under the tree is my way of honouring the many children who died in the residential schools and were never able to return to their families.

I have certainly benefited more than I have contributed through my participation in the Kawartha Truth and Reconciliation Support Group. Our group gives me hope for a better future for all in Canada.