



The Bodtker Quilt

The patchwork that defines us

This year, as we celebrate our company's 35th year in business, we continue to connect our beautiful quilt together laying the foundation for our business for the next 35 years by promoting and nurturing our entrepreneurial spirit.

When Nils Bodtker, CEO and founder of the Bodtker Group got his first glimpse of the Suttles & Seawinds "Canada Map" quilt over two decades ago, it quickly became the inspiration for his business vision.

What has now come to be known as "The Bodtker Quilt" seemed to epitomize the way Nils saw his business; a beautiful piece of art reminding us of our unified connection across the country.

There are now more than 20 original, handmade Bodtker quilts at all of our divisions across Canada.

The Original Quilt

Originally designed by Vicki Lynn Bardon of Suttles & Seawinds in Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia and presented to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II while on an official visit to Canada, the quilt symbolizes a patchwork of the cultures and ethnicities that form the foundation of Canada.

The Symbols

Each province and territory is shown with its own unique and defining symbols incorporated into the quilt.

British Columbia

- A sailing ship signifies world trade
- High tea at the Empress Hotel in Victoria
- Flowers in Butchart Gardens on Vancouver Island
- The totem pole: symbol of our indigenous peoples of the Pacific Northwest
- Steamwhistle clock of Vancouver's Gastown district
- The maple leaf symbolizes the arrival of new Canadians
- Holly: grown in British Columbia and sold across Canada at Christmastime
- Whistler Resort where skiers pursue Olympic glory
- Tapestry mountain range represents The Rocky Mountains
- Grapes from the wine growing regions in British Columbia
- Wooden barrel in the Okanagan Valley — a Great Western Containers location



The patchwork of cultures and ethnicities form the foundation which we call Canada.

Alberta

- The log cabin typifies how the west was settled
- Oil derricks gushing black gold
- Wild horses enjoying freedom
- Teepees: the homes of plains aboriginal people
- Calgary: barrels (oil, plastic and wood) for the Bodtke Group's head office

Saskatchewan

- Grain elevators
- Sunshine
- RCMP musical ride from the RCMP Depot in Regina
- Sunflowers and grain elevator on a prairie farm

Manitoba

- A floral embellished cottage representing Ukrainian settlers
- A Royal Winnipeg Ballet dancer with an appliquéd crown on her skirt

Ontario

- The Canada Goose
- The Trans-Canada highway runs past a cluster of little homes
- Hockey: our national sport
- Carpenter's gothic-style homes commonly seen in Ontario
- Grapes representing the wine region of Niagara
- Toronto's CN Tower, with a backdrop of skyscrapers
- Ottawa: our Nation's Capitol
- Wild ducks over the Great Lakes

Québec

- Fleurs-de-lis express the vibrant spirit of les Québécois
- A brass musical instrument represents Montréal's Jazz Festival
- Our Jos. LeBel division is represented by a wooden barrel
- The Bonhomme: a symbol of the joie de vivre of Carnaval in Québec City
- A snow goose rises above the St-Lawrence River
- A habitant home echoes our European roots
- The igloo: symbol of our Inuit people of northern Québec

New Brunswick

- One of the many famous covered wooden bridges in then province
- Fiddleheads: a culinary treat from the Saint John river valley

Prince Edward Island

- The famous house of Anne of Green Gables

Nova Scotia

- A “Quilts Handmade” sign represents Mahone Bay, home of Suttles & Seawinds with a calico sailboat offshore in the pattern which started the company in 1973
- The Old Town Clock of Halifax
- Lively celtic fiddle music of Cape Breton Island

Newfoundland & Labrador

- Small ships connect the outports
- The majestic Canadian Moose
- The Rooms: a contemporary art gallery in St. John’s that echoes the shape of two coastal fishing shacks

The Atlantic Ocean

- The compass rose
- A sailing yacht
- Codfish and the Grand Banks fishing industry
- Canada’s victorious sailing schooner depicted on our dime — The Bluenose
- North American lobster

Yukon, Northwest Territories & Nunavut

- A deer symbolizes northern wildlife
- The polar bear is a reminder of our need to care for the environment and its creatures
- Inukshuk: the Inuit culture of the north
- The main fabric of Nunavut represents a stylized bird by Cape Dorset’s most famous artist, Kenojuak
- The Canadian beaver
- The land of the midnight sun

And finally, the TransCanada Highway uniting the country while scattered multi-coloured maple leaves, the patriotic symbol of Canada, represent the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation which keeps all our ideas, personalities and cultures alive and accessible making us feel connected. ❖