

4-H PEI Celebrates Annual Awards Banquet

On Saturday, February 22nd the PEI Provincial 4-H Council was honoured to host more than 160 guests at its Annual Provincial Awards banquet, including The Honourable Dennis King, Premier of Prince Edward Island; Minister of Agriculture and Land, The Honourable Bloyce Thompson; and Leader of the Official Opposition, the Green Party of Prince Edward Island, The Honourable Peter Bevan-Baker.

The afternoon was a celebration and recognition of many landmark achievements of 4-H leaders, members and community supporters from across the province.

Some remarkable achievements of the day were acknowledgments of volunteer leader service. Leader Donna Thompson of the Dunstaffnage-Marshfield 4-H Club received her forty five year leader certificate. Alex Dixon, Key Leader for the 4-H Central Region was also recognized for his forty years of dedication. Both remain active in the program, continuing to support 4-H and the youth in their communities. A total of 38 volunteer leaders received certificates acknowledging their five to forty five years of dedication to the 4-H PEI program.

The Council gave special recognition to Andy Walker, editor of The Island Farmer; in the form of the Friend of 4-H Award. This is awarded to a business, organization or individual who has contributed financial, material or staff support to the provincial level of 4-H. As a journalist, Andy has written countless articles for Provincial, Regional and National publications often focused on the agriculture and fisheries industries. He is a familiar face at agriculture events across the province, often snapping photos of 4-H members. Andy is always quick to share 4-H related photos and articles in monthly issues and each November, The Island Farmer produces and issues that highlight the 4-H program here on PEI in celebration of 4-H Month. Sharing the story of our program and its tremendous leaders, members and our volunteers is incredibly important for the growth as a youth organization and having Andy as a strong supporter is incredibly appreciated.

Another special recognition award of Honourary 4-H Member was given to Gwen Thompson who has served as a leader and volunteer with the Brooklynn-Heatherdale 4-H Club for over 40 years. Over the years Gwen has served as a district president, Provincial Board Representative and Fundraising Committee member. Her true passion lies with preserving the history of the program. Gwen's skills in organizing, reviewing, researching and sorting items at the Provincial office played a vital role in 4-H PEI celebrating its 100th Anniversary in 2018. Gwen worked tirelessly on displays and created many scrapbooks that will hold the treasures of our program for the years to come.

The Heart Club honours significant cumulative donations to the PEI 4-H Trust. For 2019 M&M Resources were welcomed as Silver Heart Club Members for their generous donation to the Centennial Trust Campaign.

Jack Affleck of the Albany Centennial 4-H Club was awarded the Elmer Larsen Memorial – Member Recognition Award. This award serves to honour the “Quiet Champions” of the 4-H program; those members who do not necessarily want to be in the spotlight, but still put 4-H ahead of all other activities, are almost never absent from a club or project meetings and are always enthusiastic to learn.

The Brookville Lime Community Project Award is given to a 4-H club that has excelled in its contribution to the community. First place was awarded to the Wheatley River 4-H Club. The second place prize went to the Lot 16 4-H Club, third place to the Millview-Vernon River 4-H Club and fourth place to the Albany Centennial 4-H Club.

Daniel Naddy of the Millview-Vernon River 4-H Club was the recipient of the Callbecks Home Building Centre Top 4-H Member of the Year Award. With interests in various projects, Daniel has completed all levels of the Woodworking, Sheep, Market Animal and Beef Projects. Excelling in all and eventually filling the role as Junior Leader for the Sheep Project. Leadership comes naturally and he is often looked to for advice from this fellow 4-H members. As a 4-H Member, he serves to better his club ad community through active involvement in Community Service & Agriculture Awareness Activities, always seeing a space to give back!

Anna Doran of the Ellerslie 4-H Club received the Top 4-H Livestock Member of the Year Award, sponsored by David and Jean Tingley. This award recognizes a member who has shown exceptional interest, effort and leadership in both the livestock projects and the 4-H organization.

The Charlie Goodwin Top Horse & Pony Member Award was won by Anna Jesulatis of the Albany Centennial 4-H Club. The winner of this award is selected through an interview and a written quiz of equine knowledge.

Jody Williams of the Ellerslie 4-H Club received the PEI Women in Agriculture Leader Recognition Award but was not able to attend the event. This award recognizes an active leader who has made a significant contribution to the 4-H program, and thus to Island youth. Jody has been a dedicated leader for over 8 years and continues to be influential and passionate member of the 4-H Community. As one of the founding members of her 4-H Club in 2011, she is the current Over-all Leader and has always lead multiple projects, facilitating an overnight camp at Centre Go-Land and developing a Summer 4-H Program run by a Summer Student, ensuring that members in the community are able to participate.

The Women's Institute Agriculture Awareness Project Award was established to instill an appreciation of the importance of agriculture in the everyday lives in 4-H members and the community as a whole. Prize money was awarded to the following 4-H clubs: 1st place – Millview-Vernon River 4-H Club; 2nd place Wheatley River 4-H Club and 3rd place – Albany Centennial 4-H Club.

The Buddy Loane Memorial Top Beef Showperson award which was introduced in 2019, was established by his family in his memory. Buddy Loane was a well-known and dedicated 4-H Leader. They winner of this award was Gabrielle Naddy of the Millview-Vernon River 4-H Club.

4-H Canada provides many opportunities for members to explore the world as 4-H ambassadors. Eligible members have gone through the application process and we are pleased to announce who will represent PEI at these events.

US National 4-H Conference; Washington, DC

- Megan Downe, Cavendish 4-H Club

4-H Canada Citizenship Congress; Ottawa, ON

- Isabella Acorn, Grand River East 4-H Club
- Alecia Gallant, Elmsdale 4-H Club
- Ryan Boswell, North River 4-H Club
- Isaac Drake, Millview-Vernon River
- Avery Nicholson – Cavendish 4-H Club
- Chloe Loane – Brooklynn-Heatherdale 4-H Club

4-H Canada National Members Forum; Toronto, ON

- Jessica Larsen – Albany Centennial 4-H Club
- Isabella Acorn – Grand River East 4-H Club
- Nicole MacDonald – Grand River East 4-H Club
- Avery Nicholson – Cavendish 4-H Club
- Chloe Loane – Brooklynn-Heatherdale 4-H Club

4-H Canada also offers an opportunity for members to explore the world as 4-H ambassadors. The Going Global Exchange program allows members to share new and innovative practices in agriculture and learn about global food security issues from local, community-based perspective. Traveling to Taiwan this summer and then hosting his exchange partner here at a later date is Brandon Malone, of the Morell & Area 4-H Club.

2019 offered many Scholarship Opportunities for both graduating 4-H members and those already attending post-secondary education. 4-H PEI offers two scholarships each year - The PEI 4-H Council Scholarship, awarded to Kaitlyn MacNeill from the Cavendish 4-H Club & The 4-H PEI Alumni Scholarship, awarded to Megan Vanderkloet of the Dunstaffnage Marshfield 4-H Club; both valued at \$1000 each.

Cavendish Agri Services has established five 4-H Scholarships valued at \$1000 each in relation with the PEI 4-H Trust Legacy Campaign. This is the second of 5 years that these scholarships will be presented and we sincerely thank Cavendish Agri Services for supporting our members in their post-secondary endeavors.

4-H members receiving the Scholarships from Cavendish Agri Services are;

- Daniel Naddy – Millview-Vernon River 4-H Club
- Bethany Visser – Millview-Vernon River 4-H Club
- Janie Beaton – Freetown Harmony 4-H Club
- Jory Donovan – Summerville 4-H Club
- Ella Doucette – Cavendish 4-H Club

4-H is a national positive youth-development program which provides opportunities for youth between the ages of 9-21 to participate in leadership and hands-on skill development projects. It is a registered non-profit organization that has been operating on PEI since 1918. Congratulations to all of the award recipients!