

WI recognized

**Yvonne
Wettlaufer**



What would 4-H be without its volunteers and supporters? 4-H without volunteers, is like the cone without ice cream. By volunteers, we mean not only the 4-H leaders, but also the many groups and individuals who volunteer their time, equipment, services, products or money to the 4-H clubs.

In Essex County, the 4-H Club Leaders' Association has devised a system to show their appreciation to contributors of this sort. They call it Friends of 4-H and Ian Rumbles, Rural Organization Specialist in that county defines it as, "A way of recognizing agri-businesses and individuals who provide support either materially, financially or personally to the 4-H program".

All these supporters are awarded a specially designed, framed certificate with their first donation. A seal is added for each consecutive year's donation. These presentations are usually made at the county 4-H awards night and banquet.

1985 was the first year for Friends of 4-H in Essex County and the system was very well received. Certificates were awarded to various individuals and groups such as Pork Producers, who provided cash

awards; United Cooperatives, who provided a van for 4-H field trips; 4-H auction buyers; individuals who assist at achievement days weighing cattle, etc.; the media for advertising and press coverage; and Junior Farmers and Women's Institutes, who purchase project supplies, donate awards and assist in numerous ways.



Accepting certificates from Ian Rumbles, (right) are Ruby Robertson, President of Essex North District Women's Institute whose group provided a 4-H scholarship; Beenie James, Secretary-Treasurer of Essex South District W.I. which also provided a scholarship; Irene Hogan, President of Roseland W.I. which funded 4-H members at conferences and exchange trips; and Myrtle Crowder, whose Oldcastle Branch established a fund for 4-H when the branch disbanded.

Essex County 4H Club Leaders' Association

presents this

Friends of 4H Award

to



in recognition of your significant contribution
to the promotion of the Essex County 4H Program.

PRESIDENT

DATE ISSUED

R.O.S.

It is likely the Friends of 4-H fund will grow in the future, thanks to these sponsors. In this event, the money could be used to offset costs of regional, provincial or national events/activities that Essex County 4-H members and or leaders take part in. This would make attending these events more feasible for those individuals who might otherwise find it financially difficult. The leaders association also hopes to attain a non-profit status for the fund so that tax receipts may be issued and thus encourage more individual donations.

Friends of 4-H is not new to Ontario's 4-H program. There are other counties who operate a similar type of recognition system and have been doing so for a number of years. Undoubtedly, the idea will spread throughout the province, because, as Ian says, "It's long overdue that we recognize our supporters and sponsors." These are the people who really make the 4-H program work.

Yvonne Wettlaufer, an employee of the ROS Branch in Guelph, is a regular contributor to OMAF publications.