

**SUBMITTED BY
MARLENE BERRY**

Secretary-treasurer
Walkerton Agriculture Society

The annual meeting of the Walkerton Agriculture Society was held on Jan. 25, in the boardroom of Building 2.

Francis Zettler said grace and everyone enjoyed a pot luck supper. President Gerald Wilhelm welcomed everyone to the meeting. He then introduced Brockton Mayor Charlie Bagnato.

Mayor Bagnato thanked everyone for all their hard work throughout the year. He said that the council had lots of fun working the food booth at the fair.

Krista Ernest, chairperson of the Ambassador pageant introduced the 2005-2006 Tiny Tot Ambassador, Georgina McKee. Georgina's favourite thing at the fair was handing out ribbons. The 2005-2006 Junior Ambassador is 13-year-old Courtney Hicks. Courtney enjoyed the pet show portion of the fair as well as the heavy horses.

Krista then introduced the 2005-06 Senior Ambassador, Hayley Scherders a Gr. 12 at Walkerton District Secondary School who hopes to pursue a career in fashion merchandising.

Joan Wilhelm introduced Len Wilhelm, who brought greetings on behalf of Walkerton & District Lions Club. They are proud to be a major sponsor each year at the fair.

The guest speaker for the evening was Clarke Birchard of Chesley. He retired in 1992 after 20 years as supervisor of the Outdoor Education. He is probably best known for starting and supervising the Outdoor Education Centre near Oliphant.

He and his wife Dianne travelled to South Africa in February, 2005 with a group of people from southwestern Ontario. Mr. Birchard had a video presentation of his trip and shared some very interesting facts and information. He and his wife are heading to Japan in March to visit with family.

Tom Schmidt introduced and congratulated Francis Zettler, the 2005 Field Crop Overall Winner. Francis stated that the effort is family collaboration and that they all had a share in the trophy. The trophy is donated by Dorothy Wilhelm, in memory of the late Harold Wilhelm.

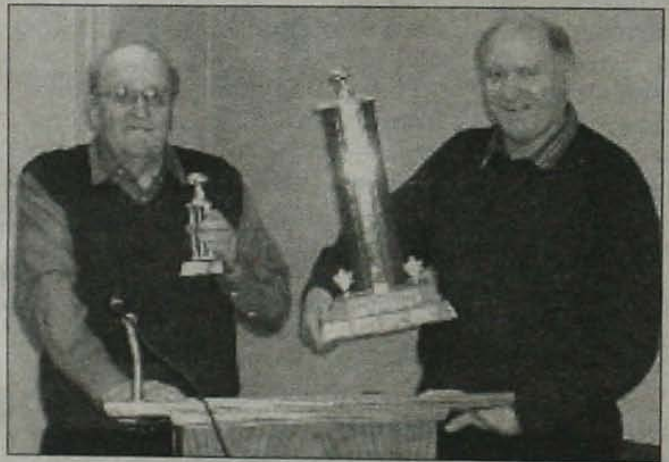
Joan Wilhelm and Anna Oehring had a presentation to make on behalf of Homecraft. They presented the outgoing Homecraft President Ferne Abell with a gift and thanked her for five years as Homecraft President. Anna and Joan then presented the 2006 Ontario Association of Agriculture Society Service Diploma Award.

This year's recipient was also Ferne Abell. She has been a member of the sewing committee and secretary of Homecraft as well as chairperson of the sewing committee for several years as well as Homecraft President.

Twelve people were nominated for one-, two- or three-year terms as directors for the Walkerton Agriculture Society. They are Dave Zister, Fred Brown, Doug Berry, Tom Schmidt, Gerald Wilhelm, Ferne Abell, Barb Ernest, Francis Zettler, Morgan Inglis, Jeff McKee, Gail Dupuis and Ken Schlorff.

Gerald gave a brief president's report and said that he had enjoyed being president and that the members were always there to help out whenever they were needed. It was suggested that the Agriculture Society have a fund raising dinner on March 11. The price will be \$11 per plate and there will be two seatings, one at 5 p.m. and one at 7 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned and members enjoyed an evening of fellowship.



Tom Schmidt, left, presents Francis Zettler with the 2005 Field Crop trophy.

Photo submitted