

Untitled

2007 Woman of Excellence in Local Agriculture Fairs Award

As President of the Russell Village Women's Institute, it is my pleasure to announce the winners of the 2007 Woman of Excellence in Local Agriculture Award for the Navan and Russell Fairs.

In 2006, the Russell District Women's Institute had decided to develop a District Award to recognize the significant contributions of Women's Institute members working at local fairs. These include the Russell Fair as well as the Navan Fair.

Nominations were handed in and I'm pleased to announce this year's winners. Because the selection was not final before the Navan Fair, I am honoured to announce not only the Russell Fair winner, but also the Navan Fair winner.

Both candidates, who were nominated by their peers, have worked tirelessly for many years in many various capacities at their local fairs. I can only mention a few of their many tasks that they have taken on, year in and year out.

The first winner we honour here tonight is Helen Burns from Navan. Helen has served on the Navan Fair Board either as a director or as a committee member for 42 years. She was the Floriculture director for 10 years during the 90's. For many years she has been entering food, flowers, vegetables, photos, handwriting and poems at the Navan Fair.

Helen has also been an active member of the Navan's Women's Institute for 41 years. As such, she has been involved at the Russell Fair in setting up food and homecraft exhibits. These are just a few of Helen's many contributions.

Please give a round of applause for Helen Burns!!!

Our second winner we honour, is Cherry Bekkers from Russell. Cherry has also been a member of the Russell Village Women's Institute for 41 years. Through her involvement with WI, Cherry has taken on numerous appointments, and has participated yearly at the Pie and Tea Booth at the Russell Fair. During the 80s, Cherry joined the Fair Board and for the next 8 years used her WI skills to embellish the many and varied tasks designated to her by the Fair Board. In 1988 she became one of the first Women Presidents of the Russell Fair. It was during this time that she and her Fair Board Secretary (also another Russell Village WI member) reorganized the structure of the Russell Fair Board to mimic that of the WI structure and set up committees to handle various tasks.

Please give a round of applause for Cherry Bekkers!!!