

Local reps among five 4-H Ambassadors

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By Richard Turtle
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With a century of history to celebrate, a pair of Hastings County 4-H Club members are preparing for a year of

ambassadorship, promoting the importance of agriculture and of the 4-H organization throughout the province. Stirling-Rawdon resi-

dents Brianna Dracup and Rebecca Posthumus were recently named as two of the five 4-H Ontario Ambassadors, attending a late February training session at the organization's Ontario office in Guelph before assuming their official titles and promotional duties which could take them anywhere in the province. And for the local 4-H Club, the representation marks a first.

"We've never had an ambassador before," says Posthumus of the county-wide club, "and now we have two." And with other representatives hailing from Prince Edward, Oxford and Niagara counties, the local area features prominently.

Ambassadorships are granted to up to six 4-H members, between the ages of 17 and 21, each year whose role is to promote the organization and its programs at various events, conferences and competi-



Hastings County 4-H Club members Rebecca Posthumus (left) and Brianna Dracup are looking forward to the year ahead after being named 4-H Ontario Ambassadors recently. They are among five young adults who will be promoting 4-H programs across the province. Photo: Richard Turtle

tions. And both Posthumus and Dracup say they are up to the task. Both have been longtime 4-H members, participating in numerous programs and clubs over the years, and both have a family history in agriculture and the intention of maintaining close industry ties. Dracup, who is now in her co-op placement, also currently holds the title of Hastings County Queen of the Furrow and hopes to attend agricultural college in the fall. Posthumus, now completing a "victory lap" at Bay-side Secondary School says she would ultimately like to pursue a teaching career with a focus on agriculture

programs. But in the coming year, the duo will be talking up the national organization that had its beginnings in Manitoba 100 years ago. In Ontario, 4-H started in 1915. And among their first duties as provincial representatives, the new ambassadors were on hand for the club's signup day at the Stirling Senior School last weekend. Posthumus notes that 4-H offers numerous opportunities for youth through its agricultural clubs that range from animals to arts and crafts, adding agriculture should be a primary interest for everybody.

Many, she says, begin

their 4-H memberships as early as nine years old, and maintain them for more than a decade. And while club members must be 21 or younger, there are other ways to get involved, Dracup says, and promoting youth membership will go hand-in-hand with encouraging support from adult volunteers for other 4-H programs ranging from grants and scholarships to projects and camps.

And having represented the industry in some way for most of their young lives, Dracup and Posthumus say 4-H Clubs offer a range of opportunities that are well worth talking about.

NORTHAMBERLAND NEWS Feb. 28/13

First Castleton pond hockey tournament a shinny success

CASTLETON -- Grassroots hockey is alive and well in rural Ontario.

On Feb. 16 the temperature was a perfect -8 C for a day of all-out pond hockey at the Castleton Sports Fields ice rink. Forty-eight players in eight teams took to the ice for a battle for top position in the first Castleton Cup Pond Hockey tournament, said Liz Carr, a spokeswoman for the event.

The first puck drop was at 1 p.m. and each 25-minute game brought more excitement, she said.

After the scheduled three games, two teams had a flawless record, winning all three of their games. The teams assembled by John Rolfe and Ryan Wilson were perfect on the day leading into the final match. It was a do-or-die, 25-minute race for the cup. At the final whistle, it was the team entered by John Rolfe that hoisted the Castleton Cup Pond Hockey trophy under the lights in victory at 7:30 p.m., said Ms. Carr.

The teams were comprised of various ages but it was the timeless entry of "golden oldies" by Derek Jones that drew the attention of spectators.

Organizers hope to make the tournament an annual event as long as Mother Nature smiles favourably on the ice makers, she added.