



Laura Green
For the Ingersoll Times

On Thursday night, Sept. 11 when exhibitors for the Embro Fair started to bring their prize entries, I watched one lady along with the help of her husband bring in beautiful flowers, vegetables, baking and preserves, sewing and other crafts.

Then she came in with a box full of games, to help her fellow Braemar Women's Institute members set up a display.

The next day, I received a request to cover a special presentation that was part of the opening night program for the 156th Embro Fair. The Women's Institute (WI) member who was busy with all exhibits had been nominated by her fellow branch members to receive "The Woman of Excellence Fair Award".

This award is presented at the District level of FWIO (Federated Women's Institute of Ontario) and recognizes the significant contributions made by WI members working at local fairs.

Oxford District president Anne Innes presented this award to Anya Donaldson of the Hickson area.

Donaldson was raised in Calgary and as teenager became interested in submitting entries at the local fair. When she was in high school, she began entering and saving her prize money which she put towards her tuition for nursing school. She completed her nursing degree, married Jim Donaldson whom

she met at the hospital and moved to Ontario.

Donaldson rekindled her interest in fair involvement after the birth of her second child in 1978 and started to enter at the local fairs including Woodstock, Tavistock and Embro.

As a W.I. member, she used her creative skills to set up exhibits following the fair themes.

Donaldson works diligently encouraging young people in her area to compete in the Embro Fair

Ambassador Competition. Braemar W.I. sponsors a competitor almost every year and can claim to fame to many winners.

In recent years, she helps as a volunteer on judging day at the Embro Fair.

Her nominator closed her nomination by writing "What every Anya does, whether in her home, her career, women's institute, or church, she excels with quality, efficiency and excellence."

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At the opening night of the 156th Embro Fair, Anya Donaldson (center) received the Woman of Excellence Fair Award presented by Oxford District Women's Institute president Anne Innes. This award is presented at the District level of FWIO (Federated Women's Institute of Ontario) and recognizes the significant contributions made by WI members working at local fairs. Bernice Marsland, a member of the Braemar W.I. presents Anya with flowers.

Donaldson named Woman of Excellence

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