



LAURA GREEN / CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Embryo couple

honoured

Accepting the Embro Community Service Award for Robynn and Richard Donker from President Marie Scholl (left) are children Jack, Andrew and Eddle (in front), Richard and Robynn, and Sam; along with the Embro Fair Ambassador Alexis Kramer.

by Laura Green

The Embro and Zorra Agricultural Society is always full of surprises and this year's annual meeting held on January 20th, 2014 at the Embro Legion was no exception. Robynn Donker was asked to make sure that her husband Richard would be attending the supper and AGM for he was going to receive the Community Service Award. Wow! Was she surprised to hear her name included in the announcement by presenter Al Kramer.

Their love story began at Ridgetown Agriculture College. According to Richard's two older brothers Robynn was a great influence for Richard. His marks improved tremendously and he was home on time for weekend chores on the family's dairy farm in the Embro area of Zorra Township.

After they were married and Richard developed his own herd of Holstein cattle,

they built a new barn on their current farm not too far from the home farm.

Robynn who was from Paris Ontario, "married" into the Embro community wanted to meet people and be involved in the community that her husband grew up in. In 2008, she became a director for the Embro and Zorra Agricultural Society and is the current 1st Vice president of the main board.

Robynn is involved with her church and with activities at their children's school - Zorra Highland Park.

Richard soon discovered that "one meets more people at the fair, then cutting hay" when he helps Robynn with jobs at the fair like setting up all the display tables or putting up the miles of snow fence. He is currently an associate director for the fair board.

Richard is the current President of Embro Minor

Hockey and in previous years helped with the coaching.

They want to demonstrate to their family of four young boys the importance of community involvement and how rewarding it can be.

Other segments of the meeting included greetings from the Mayor of Zorra, Margaret Lupton, councillor Gord MacKay, Embro Fair Ambassador Alexis Kramer and District 7 representative Jean Tucker.

Guest speakers were Michelle Hutchison and her oldest son Jason. Last March they travelled to Costa Rica to work with Widecast Sea Turtle

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Rescue. Volunteering for this organization was certainly an experience to remember.

There are still tickets available for the annual Dinner Theatre production of "Here on the Flight Path" by Norm Foster and directed by Kate Innes. Theatre dates are: February 22nd, 23rd, 27th, 28th, and March 1st. Just give Mary Ellen Garner a call at 519-475-4437 or email at wgarner@millerskeep.com

The 2014 Embro Fair theme will be "Fun with Games" and the dates are September 12-14th. All the directors would love to see you at their fair which they work so hard at to make the best event in the Township.