

Showing our stuff at the Royal Winter Fair

There's more to 4-H Clubs than farming, members say

By ROB SAVAGE
Thomson News Service
TORONTO—There's much more to the 4-H clubs than farming. Peter Fleming, a director on the 4-H clubs' Canadian council, says there is a diverse number of activities members can take part in. He says that diversity ranges from management skills education to marketing.

Naturally, agriculture is still a large part of 4-H. And the programs continue to be promoted primarily in rural areas. But the old stereotype that it is "just" for budding farmers must be overcome, Fleming says.

"These days, 4-H has changed significantly where there's a lot of activities that people who don't live on farms can take part in," he says.

The 4-H clubs are for young people under the age of 22. The clubs, set up in various rural communities, generally tackle different agriculture-related projects such as the marketing of cattle.

Young people who join are given a good deal of control over their own progress. While adult leaders help run the groups, an executive is usually chosen from the young members.

The 4-H members can schedule their meetings, arrange the topics of discussion and plan special field trips.

In some cases, each 4-H member will raise his or her own calf, something well known in the traditional view of the clubs.

However, Fleming says the projects don't have to deal with farming. He says a group may choose to study municipal politics and a project's activities could include following the town clerk for a day.

Fleming says the idea is to develop the young people's self-worth, rather than merely produce a new generation of farmers. While he admits many young people in 4-H have a farming background, he says the groups are starting to attract more young people who don't live on farms.

Young members of 4-H who attended the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto certainly speak highly of the program.

Tyler Brander, 15, of Norval, says going to the annual dairy calf contests at the Royal is one of the best parts of 4-H.

"It's the biggest 4-H show in Canada," he says.

He admits he has a fondness for collecting ribbons when he competed nationally.

"I like to win, but I'm not a sore loser."

Chrissy Serviss, 21, is in her third year of 4-H. She says she recently moved to Oakville from York and belonging to a club like 4-H helped make the move easier, since she has met new friends.

She adds the club offers more than she expected when she joined three years ago.

"I learned a lot more," she says. "They teach you nutrition, how to take care of your animal."

"They don't just give you a heifer and say, 'go nuts'."

There are about 45,000 4-H members in Canada. The

minimum age for membership varies in different provinces, but the maximum age is 21.

The 4-H clubs began in the United States at about the turn of the century and have been in Canada for 76 years. At one time, 4-H was well known career training when most Canadians lived on farms.

Fleming says the benefits to the program still exist, although they aren't as obvious today.

"It's more the personal development," he says. "Developing skills in the member that he or she can use later on in life in any career or activity."



Tyler Brander of Norval placed fifth in junior showmanship at the Royal Agricultural Fair in Toronto on the weekend. (Photo courtesy of Thomson News Service)

Miss CNE Kelly Stewart still has royal touch

Kelly Stewart continues to have the royal touch.

Ms. Stewart, who was named Miss CNE in August, returned to the Canadian National Exhibition grounds this week to win another honor.

The young woman from Milton had the reserve champion calf in the Scotiabank Hays Classic dairy calf competition. Ms. Stewart won \$75 for her second-place finish in the contest among 4-H regional and provincial clubs from throughout Canada.

It was just one of numerous wins, to go to Ms. Stewart and the 4-H club from Halton. The Halton group also won the top prize collectively as the premier club.

As well, Lee-Anne Bustard finished first and Marvin Ella was second in the Jersey Calf category. Tyler Brander placed fifth in junior showmanship. And Halton was third in the group of three calves class.

Tyler Brander, 15, of Norval,

said the team had hoped for a win.

"We hoped we would win and we did," he said.

Jennifer Livock, of Oakville, was one of the first to congratulate the team after the contest. Ms. Livock normally competes with the Halton club but was sidelined this year with an injury.

She said she knew Halton would do well.

"As soon as I heard Peterborough named third, I screamed," she told Mr. Brander.

The contest had 281 contestants, representing 51 regions and provinces, take part. The competition, which judges 4-H members' abilities to raise and show cattle, is part of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

Peterborough's Jane Crowley picked up \$100 as the champion showman while Quebec's David Crack had the grand champion calf.

The Scotiabank Hays Classic is considered to be Canada's most prestigious dairy calf competition.

New horticultural executive in Acton

The Acton Horticultural Society has elected a new executive for the 1989/1990 year. New executive members are: president - Joan Waldie, first VP - Jacquie Hornby, 2nd VP - Mike Van Beek, treasurer - Nina Palichuk, secretary - Jan Soutiere, directors - Ruth Ross, Joyce Pickles, Mary MacKenzie, Steve Palichuk, Diane Evans, Al Crawford, Donna Thom, Barb Steed, and Marie Zions.

The Society has over 80 members for the second year.

Everyone is welcome to the society's meetings held at the Knox Presbyterian Church in Acton on the third Tuesday of every month.

The next meeting will be held Nov. 21 at 8 p.m. Iva Knechtel will present a slide show called "Take Time to Smell the Roses."

Christmas bazaar

Enjoy the feeling of Christmas at St. Andrew's United Church in Georgetown on Saturday, Nov. 18 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Browse through the bazaar which will feature a great selection of hand-made Christmas decorations and gift items and crafts.

The bazaar will also feature home-made baking, a children's game area and refreshments.

St. Andrew's United Church is located at the corner of Mountainview Road and Sinclair Avenue.

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