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Halton 4-H Ontario Roundup



Halton 4-H Curling Club

by Jen Fagin
Press Reporter

"Sweep, Sweep" one of the many things you would have heard if you had attended our last meeting held on January 21 at 11 a.m. at The Milton Curling Club.

At this meeting we were on the ice for most of the time playing a game against each other. Thanks to the Take Out by one of our Cookies Amy, yellow beat red by 5 points.

Our club has 11 members and Debbie Brander as our "leader" (and Cookie), Heather Dixon is President (and a Cookie), Tyler Winter is our Vice President, Megan Winter is our secretary and I am the Press Reporter (and a Cookie). We also have Kate Leslie, Abby Brander, Debbie Aitken, Carrie Roberts (the "Princess"), Amy Winter (also a Cookie) and two Dreamboats Carl Patten and Dave Gregson. Aren't we a lucky club, 4 Cookies, 2 Dreamboats and a Princess??

The first two meetings were held on January 7 and 14 at 11 a.m. at the Curling Club in Milton. In these meetings we learned the basics of curling. Which foot to step on the ice with, how to hold the broom and what foot our slider needs to go on. As well as what the different lines are, different strategies and how to get points. Basically the object of the game. After all the discussion we went down to the ice to practice sliding and throwing the rocks. Only a few of us fell, the rest managed to stay on their feet.

Our next meeting is January 28, same place, same time.

Halton resident Lorna Wilson attends Alberta 4-H Conference



Angela Miller, left, and Lorna Wilson, eastern Ontario 4-H reps recently attended the Alberta 4-H Conference.

by Lorna Wilson
Vice President, Ontario 4-H

One of the joys of being a volunteer is when you're asked to attend a conference to learn more about your organization and get new ideas to keep it viable.

I recently flew to Alberta to experience 4-H western style and find out why the program is so popular and successful.

For the first time this year, Alberta has surpassed Ontario for the highest number of 4-H members but I believe that we will regain that title as our new program becomes well known. We have a lot of similarities with Alberta in that both provinces face cancellations of opportunities due to decline in membership. In Alberta, as well as Ontario, there is a membership fee for being part of 4-H, theirs set at least twice as high per year, as our annual \$15.00. The Province still operates a good portion of the program, compared to Ontario's total independence from government hands on work.

Alberta has an ambassador program which rewards the senior members and is quite an honour to achieve. These Ambassadors serve as junior leaders, camp leaders and youth spokesmen for the 4-H program. As with all of their opportunities, qualified applicants must submit an application and essay, as well as take courses in first aid to become eligible for the Ambassador title. I cannot say enough about 4-H opportunities. 4-H members and volunteers who participate in these opportunities always return refreshed, energized and full of new ideas and knowledge. If you are a 4-H member or volunteer, do not hesitate to apply for all those opportunities you qualify for.

Fundraising was an important topic at the Alberta Conference. Most of their funds are raised through volunteer operated casinos and bingos. In fact, all 4-H parents are given a committee to be part of at the first 4-H meeting of the year. I gained insight to the similarities of the fundraising woes we all feel, and came away with some dynamic new ideas.

A topic that we don't like to deal with, is youth at risk. This was covered very well by a probation officer from Red Deer who spoke on how to identify, and deal with, those particular youth. This session reinforced the importance of volunteer screening and workshops.

The conference was not all work, however, as I learned to two-step (with a genuine Alberta Cowboy) and play Spoons (a card game that can be very dangerous). Networking and idea sharing were also an important aspect. Albertans love to have fun and are VERY hospitable. The most memorable session, by far, was the keynote speaker's topic of "The 4 C's of Good Leadership." In this, the International Year of the Volunteer, he was very timely with his message. The satisfaction that I get from volunteering cannot be measured in dollars and cents, only pride in seeing 4-H'ers successful and confident. This Conference, in Alberta, renewed my commitment and recharged my volunteer battery.

Important Dates & News

**Halton 4-H Association
Annual Meeting
Wednesday, March 7th, 2001
Held at: Hillcrest United Church
Time: 7:45 p.m.**

Everyone interested in the 4-H program is welcome to attend. Please note that a 4-H Leadership Workshop will be held after the Annual Meeting. A guest speaker, Mrs. Ida Parsons from The Region of Halton. Ms. Parsons will be speaking to us regarding rural accident prevention with youth. Remember: At least one leadership workshop per year is a provincial requirement for 4-H Leaders.

**Halton 4-H Association
Kick-Off
Wednesday, March 28th, 2001
Held at: Hillcrest United Church
Time: 7:30 p.m.**

Look for more information in your next newsletter regarding what projects will be available in 2001.

Future Leaders in Action registration deadline is February 1, 2001. Visit the 4-H Ontario website at www.4-hontario.ca for information.

Watch your mailbox for the first edition of 4-H Ontario's new magazine, developed in partnership with Ontario Farmer.

4-H Volunteers, members and Newsletter Editors: if you would like to receive the Monthly Mailing via email, contact Suzan Lennox, Administrative Assistant at 1-877-410-6749 or slennox@4-hontario.ca.

The Opportunities of a Life Time Guide will be mailed to every 4-H Ontario household in mid-January. Look for it in the mail.

Ketchum Manufacturing Inc. has launched a national 4-H fundraising program. A portion of sales from every Ketchum Reflex CCIA/NLID ear tag sold will be donated to 4-H.

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