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Immediate Release

## **Norfolk County Agricultural Society- Highlights of Annual General Meeting**

**January 23, 2010 Simcoe-** Larry Dawson was re-elected as President, new faces were added to the Board of Directors, and prestigious national citations highlighted presentations at the Annual General Meeting of the Norfolk County Agricultural Society, presenters of the Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show.

In accepting his second term as President, Larry Dawson stated, "I am humbled to be given the task of following the great individuals who have shown such great dedication and leadership promoting agriculture and fun for 169 years."

Sharon Petheram was re-elected to the position of 1<sup>st</sup> Vice President, and Percy McNabb maintains the position of 2<sup>nd</sup> Vice President. Sharon Judd continues her role of Immediate Past President.

Seven directors were elected to the Board, including two new members. Those two new directors include Shawn Hagan and Chantal Zorad. Returning to the board is: Mike Bollert, Linda Bresolin, Aaron Culver, Alan Duthie, Grant Edwards, Darryl Evans, Mark Jacobs, Brian Kenney, Terri Mattice, Debbie Morrison, Dianne Persall, Scott Persall, Walter Petheram, Judy Sheppard, and Craig Smith.

**The Distinguished Service Award** from the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, awarded to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to the success of the Fair for many years, was presented to Darryl Hagan. Hagan stepped down as a Director of the Board, but continues his volunteer commitment to the Fair and various other committees.

**The Order of Merit Award** from the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, awarded to a firm or organization that has provided outstanding service to the Fair, was presented to the following; St. John's Ambulance for their volunteer support and partnership to the Society's events. Barb Rideout from the Simcoe Comfort Inn for her continued support and partnership for furthering the goal of increasing the number of overnight visits to the fair.

Art Hayward was presented with an **Agricultural Service Diploma** from the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies for his service over the years as a volunteer. Art is best known as the "voice of the fair" through his continued participation as fair announcer.

Marion Vermeersch of the Haldimand-Norfolk Children's Aid Society, Suzie Mabee of the Mennonite Help Centre and Haldimand-Norfolk Women's Shelter Heidi Van Dyk were presented with special comfort blankets from the fair's "Community Service Project", a program that provides homemade blankets to children and women in stressful or traumatic situations. These blankets were shown at the fair and donated by the exhibitors.

*The Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show is the fifth largest fair in Ontario following the CNE, the Royal Winter Fair, Ottawa and London. Last year over 101,000 visitors attended this seven-day event.*

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For more information, call Karen Matthews, General Manager at (519) 583-1448 (home), (519) 426-7280 Ext 228 (work) or by cell at (519) 420-0673