

Committee Reports

Presented for the Annual General Meeting of the Binbrook Agricultural Society

February 12, 2020

Greetings Members!

As suggested by a long-time member at our last AGM, we are sending out all committee reports that have been submitted to date, ahead of our meeting later this month.

This change represents a new approach to committee reports, but, one we hope most folks will find welcome. Rather than oral presentations, you may digest the attached information ahead of the meeting, and simply present any questions to committees, at the AGM.

We will have a limited number of printed copies on hand at the AGM *(due to cost and environmental responsibility), but encourage you to bring questions based on your electronic review. We will have the ability to display the report on the big screen, as needed.

Enjoy.

2019 AGM Road Horse Report

The Stick Horse class was again successful with 16 kids participating. We had a few parents say that their kids have done it every year and can't wait to do it again next year. The prizes and money will continue to be donated by the Merritt Family for the 2020 fair.

- Just a reminder the reason parents are asked to pre-register their kids is to ensure enough prize packs are made up as all participants get a toonie and prize bag. My email address is provided in the Stick Horse Kit for parents to do this.
- Please ensure the start time of 12:00pm is consistent with all materials as I was told there were conflicting times present. We may start a little late depending on when the heavy horse line classes finish for the morning however it is better to have everyone there early.

The Road Horse show had classes sponsored by Earl & Mrs. H.A. Stirling (wagon stake), Hare's Harness & Tack (bike stake) and the Merritt Family (green roadster). Thank you, cards have been sent out and 2020 sponsorship has been confirmed.

- This was the best the show ring has been yet and great job with the water truck keeping the dust down but not making it too wet. Thank you!
- We had one stable show in the Road horse classes and they left looking forward to returning next year.
- No concerns or suggestions for the 2019 show. We hope to have a few more exhibitors in the ring next year.

Thanks everyone and see you at the 2020 fair!

Cally Merritt

Road Horse Chair

2019 AGM Dept 11 Home Sewing Report

People are sewing! New exhibitors, new ideas, new fabrics and lots of special skills were exhibited at our 2019 Binbrook Fair. The Home Sewing Dept can report we are “healthy” and have had a boost of activity. Department 11 had over 147 items entered in competition. Thanks to the new exhibitors for participating and thank you to our wonderful “reliable-long time” competitors, we had a beautiful showing of home sewing. We never quit learning or so we hope, and as much as change, new ideas, new inspiration and new questions challenge us.

We congratulate exhibitor Betty Gilbert for Most Points in Department 11 and thank the Binbrook W.I. for their continued sponsorship. Binbrook W.I. changed their sponsorship this year; their support of Class 5 Section 4- “Child’s Party Dress” was changed to the Most Points category, in memory of Joyce Elliott.

The Judge’s Choice Award was given to Ivy Smart. Her beautiful fall runner of machine-embroidered maple leaves was definitely ‘eye-catching’ and completed with perfection.

Thank you for the support of office staff for their diligence in compiling entries and the results, for the winner cards and having our exhibitor cheques ready Sunday night to be given to the exhibitors.

Thank you to Paul Anderson and team for setup & dismantling of the tables & ‘rigging’ for the displays in the main hall.

Thank you to the ladies in Department 11 & 12 and our extra help from Department 9 & 10 who worked long hours to complete displaying items after judging, putting down the netting & putting up the burlap skirting to be on time for the opening of the fair.

Volunteering is ‘hard’ work but a rewarding one for community and BAS.

Respectively Submitted,
Diane Switzer
Chairperson Department 11

2019 AGM Dept 12 Senior Citizens

I believe there is a need to expand our display space, as we seem to be in a new season of interest from exhibitors. Where do we go from here? New ideas and imagination are needed to accommodate the changing look of the Binbrook Fair for its exhibitors and participants coming to the fair.

This year there was an increase of exhibits entered in Department 12 – Senior Citizens. Department 12 had 18 exhibitors who entered 141 items to be judged and displayed.

Most Points went to Ivy Smart as well as the Judge's Choice Award. Ivy shows her beautiful talents, melding colour and design in all she sews.

Thank you to the BAS volunteers who helped in the 'Main Hall' – working together makes 'lighter and faster' work. Thank you, to the volunteers of Department 12 that helped our judges and displayed all the entries.

Sincere thanks to the set-up crews with the tables, lattice, netting and burlap.

The dismissal of entries can be a stressful time; I thank the 'demolition crew' for their patience and efforts as burlap, netting and supports were quickly put back on the wagons, once the exhibitors had their items returned.

Thank you for the support of the office staff and the directors for their time and organization to make Binbrook Fair 2019 a successful event for the still rapidly expanding and changing community.

Respectively Submitted,
Diane Switzer
Chairperson Department 12

2019 AGM Queenston Gate Report

Overall the operation of the gate was smooth with only 1 major issue. The timing of the events left us with an issue regarding the arrival of the demo teams on Saturday. Due to the addition of the rodeo, there was no infield parking available when the teams started showing up. We alienated this problem by parking the teams on Fall Fair Way.

The second issue we had was parking for volunteers and exhibitors with the additional rodeo equipment onsite. Not only was there a lack of parking for these people we also had no direct access to buildings 1 through 3 without walking down to the Old Macdonald Tent.

The other reoccurring issue we had was the electrical outlet provided does not work and is unsafe hanging from a tree. Kevin and Cliff were able to get power once again just as the Fair was about to start.

The addition of the golf cart this year was very helpful as we spent a lot of the weekend between Fall Fair and running volunteers to their positions. We also used the cart to guide the horse teams in when we could find an adequate parking spot. The police help was fantastic and crowd control was no issue.

Recommendations moving forward:

1 – Make sure the demo teams are told to arrive at an appropriate time and line up on Fall Fair Way, we can stagger them in when it's safe. As well, make sure they are not to start their vehicles if there are still horse teams in the vicinity.

2 – With the addition of the rodeo it is no longer safe to allow pedestrian or general admission traffic through the gate. This needs to be clearly displayed on a sandwich board outside the gate not mounted to the gate.

3 – Find a permanent solution for the faulty power box.

4 – If we could widen the gate by 6-10 feet it would make it a lot easier to accommodate the tractor trailers and longer pickup trailer combos.

5 – If we continue the rodeo, volunteer parking should be along the northside of the track away from the rodeo pit. We can accommodate transportation to the proper building when needed.

Overall a great weekend while muddling through the unique challenges we faced this year. Any comments or thoughts moving forward would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you,

Brian Lamb

2019 AGM Quilt Report

The 2019 Binbrook Fair saw 49 exhibits by 16 registered exhibitors. It was noted that the number of exhibits was down from previous years. There was an increase in new exhibitors. This allowed for the exhibited quilts to be spread out and much more of each quilt on display. A section of the Quilt area was used to display and promote modern quilting which will be a new category in the 2020 Fair.

The quilt department had a great crew of volunteers. Seasoned volunteers, Lisa Burrows, Lois Irvine and Joanne Raiser really kept our department on track and their expertise was invaluable in helping all the new volunteers (Lesley Boileau, Lesley Kennedy and Connie Young) learn the ropes.

During drop off and pick up of exhibits new exhibitors were encouraged to come back next year and bring more quilts. Discussion with various quilt exhibitors throughout the fair weekend allowed for conversations on possible changes and improvements for the 2020 fair year.

Overall the 2019 fair was a great learning experience and going forward we hope to have many more exhibitors and exhibits.

2019 Plants & Flowers

Good year. Thankful for all the help from my committee. Shannon Wellnitz entered all the winners into Assist Expo and helped others in Building #3. That worked well this year. Much more effective. Thursday evening was more hectic. Trying to keep people from the midway from coming through the buildings. Also, washrooms were well used on Thursday evening. Great feedback about the Rodeo. Real boost for the Binbrook Fair!

2019 AGM Guernsey Show

This year the Guernsey Show increased with one new herd showing, as well as some 4-H members showing their 4-H projects. Hydro upgrade was a huge improvement and appreciated by all. Very pleased with the show. Thanks to the committee who helped with the show: Gary Whitwell, Don Hall, Michelle and Brooke Young, and Karyn Roberts. Clean up committee: Nik, Chad, Dan, Jamie, Fiore and Mike.

2019 AGM Beef Cattle Show

In the open show we had 9 herds exhibiting their cattle. Hydro upgrade was excellent. No more generators. Great show. Herdsmen competition needs more encouragement to be more competitive. Special thanks to the committee who helped with the Open Show: Gary Whitwell, Don Hall, Brooke Young, Patti and Wayne Smith, Karyn Roberts. Clean up committee: Nik, Chad, Dan, Jamie, Fiore and Mike.

2019 AGM 4-H Beef Show

We were very pleased to have 17 4-H participants showing their projects. Good show. Thank you again to the committee who helped with the 4-H show: Gary Whitwell, Brooke Young, Don Hall, Patti and Wayne Smith, Karyn Roberts. Clean up committee: Nik, Chad, Dan, Jamie, Fiore and Mike.

2019 Heavy Horse Show

Good turnout this year. Many thanks to Queenston and Worldwide Security, great ring.

2019 Sheep

Show was great, will be removing rosettes going forward. Thanks to the volunteers.

2019 Poultry

Smaller show in 2019, added people's choice chicken and put rabbits in the same building.

2019 Goats

This year was an extremely good goat show. From the weather cooperating, to the number of goats showed, and the crowd viewing the show, it was a success. Thanks to the BAS for their ongoing support as well as the Powell family. This year we saw approximately 150 goats showed. We had one new exhibitor enter and a third-year exhibitor brought twice as many goats as last year. The judge was sure to keep the show flowing as it was about a 4 ½ hour show. The only issue brought up by the exhibitors was they couldn't watch the rodeo. I will remember that going forward. I hope to start the show earlier next year, at 10am. Also, would like to increase the prize money by \$5 for 1st, \$4 for 2nd, \$3 for 3rd, \$2 for 4th and the remaining entries receiving a \$1 increase.

Thanks, Heather

2019 AGM Old McDonalds Tent

The tent had lots of additional volunteers this year with brightly coloured shirts, so were recognizable. We are really trying to increase the number of educational components; example, chick holding, information signs, pig owner representation and chance to hold the piglets.

We have plans to implement more as the years go on.

Planting station in conjunction with Terra Greenhouses for kids to plant something and take home and learn to care for it.

Washing station for wool.

Vet corner where I do a session with the horse for an hour Saturday and Sunday.

Display of all the things made from pigs; toothpaste, marshmallows, etc.

We didn't have any issues with protestors this year or heat concerns.

2019 Photography Department

The photography department had a total of 438 entries. This is 110 more photographs than the previous year where there were 328 entries. This is very good news. There were 216 in section 1 Colour Photographs, Section 2 Black and White had 60 photographs. Section 3 Specials had 152. There were only 10 in Digital Effects Photographs. 8 in panoramic view and 2 in restorations therefore this section will not be added to the 2020 display.

The year 2019 was the second year of the two-year cycle, so many of the categories have been changed for 2020.

The judging was completed by Terry Babij, who is a member of the Hamilton Camera Club. He has offered to judge again at the 2020 Binbrook Fair. Terry was very thorough in making his selections when judging the photographs. We appreciate his time and effort put into judging.

The photographs were judged Thursday evening after being received between 7 and 9pm. The judging began shortly after 9pm. Gerry Fuchs entered the winning photographs by number into the computer, while Linda Creasy entered the information on a paper chart as a back up. The task was completed shortly after 11pm.

It was a challenging few days at the fair as chairperson for the Photography Department, since it was my first year in the position. I want to thank Gerry Fuchs, who held this position for many years. He helped me and taught me all I needed to know. Gerry is very knowledgeable and was very generous with his time, he gave to me during the set up, as well as the take down of the display. He spent a great deal of time with me during the fair.

I was unaware of the time commitment involved as well as the heavy lifting of setting up and taking down the display. I must also, at this time thank the following volunteers that gave of their time: Paul Devereaux, John Froman, Vivian Kinnear, Hilde Martin, Lucy Gris, Albert Gris, Bev Henson, Al Vasseur and Mark Hodges.

The owner of the barn boards, which were used to display the photographs, took the boards home so they will not be available for the 2020 fair. A new set up is necessary for next year.

We had many visitors that enjoyed the display of photographs. Some commented that the area for viewing the photographs was crowded. There really wasn't enough room around the displays.

Regretfully I must decline being the chairperson in the future. I will be willing to meet with the new chairperson and go over the details of the photography department and help however I can. I will volunteer at the display during the fair.

Thank you,

Dale Creasy

2019 AGRICULTURAL EDUCATION PROGRAM Report

2018 saw the retirement of Linda Whitwell, who had been chairing the Ag Education Program for 21 years. Michele Bain took over the position of Chair, with Melinda Ramsay and Jane Elliott joining the committee.

The 2019 program remained basically the same as in previous years. We had a morning and an afternoon program with 8 presentations: Chick/chicken, Dairy Cow, Pig/piglets, Horse, Alpaca, Sheep, Beef Cow and Farm Equipment. We were fortunate to have all of the presenters from 2018 return for this year.

There were 8 classes in the morning and 7 classes in the afternoon. Each class averaged 23 students, so we had approximately 345 students attend, along with approximately 45 adults. We were pleased to have our local Catholic Elementary School, St Matthews, bring 6 classes in total to the program. Bell-Stone Christian School returned this year with a grade 2 class. In addition, we were happy to Elizabeth Bagshaw, St. John Paul and St. Therese schools returning. These are city schools with diverse student populations and the committee feels that these kids really benefit from being introduced to not only “where food comes from”, but also the agricultural heritage of our area.

All of our students received an apple and a carton of milk when they left, courtesy of our sponsors Lincoln Lines and Dairy Farmers of Ontario. The teachers received bags with educational material in them – this material was sourced both from AgScape and the producers themselves.

Our program couldn't succeed without the volunteers that give up their time to put up the tent and lay out the facilities, guide the classes, greet buses, hand out apples and milk, and generally keep things running smoothly. We appreciate that so many of our volunteers continue to support the program year after year, and that they helped us transition so smoothly.

MOVING FORWARD....

In 2020 we will begin rotating the Farm Equipment station with another presentation every 2nd year. This is at the request of the presenter due to work constraints. We haven't chosen an alternate yet, however we have been discussing stations like vegetables, hydroponics and grains. We have been offered a bee presentation, however there is concern regarding the comfort level of school kids who might have bee allergies (despite the safety of the presentation).

We would like to work more closely with the Old MacDonald's Tent committee to expand the educational opportunities of that tent during the overall fair weekend. This year we managed to have regular chick-holding sessions throughout the weekend, in addition to the sheep shearing and milking demonstrations. We would like to expand our interactive displays such as spinning and other fiber arts and have been discussing activity sheets for kids.

The committee members (and the rest of our volunteers) are passionate about providing kids with agricultural education. We appreciate the support we receive from the BAS, TD Canada Trust, and our community members in helping us continue with this program. We are excited for 2020 and look forward to making Ag-Education Day at the BAS even better.

2019 AGM Junior Department Report

- After two years we finally had an entry for our group Challenge. This is where up to four exhibitors enter as a group and they earn their own individual prizes and then the total amount of points between them all is collected and the group with the most points wins an additional \$100 divided among them.
- We lost the wagon this year so had to switch up our display cases and look for feedback on this, but we feel it went well.
- We had a good amount of entries but are still struggling to fill spaces so looking for suggestions in promoting the group challenge and exhibits in general. If you have any suggestions, please let me know.
- We are in need of new netting on the one short wall as there is a giant rip up it.
- We were extremely low in 4H displays this year, not sure as to why, but also looking for ideas to enhance this as well.
- Junior Department has been running crafts at the market every other weekend from opening day until fair. Always try to have crafts that can be entered in Elementary and Junior when possible. Would love some extra volunteers to help with this as it has now become a staple and I know a lot of families and children who look for it.
- I would love to thank all my volunteers who help with set up, take down, judging etc..

2019 AGM Antiques Report

As first year Chairpersons we had concerns but looking back are so pleased how well everything went. The backdrop for the display was freshened and a few updates made. There were the usual enthusiastic exhibitors who came with their baskets and boxes of family treasures. Dan Wentworth did a wonderful job of judging such a wide variety of categories. One area of concern was "guard duty" and we thank everyone who signed up and took a turn.

We look forward to September and are planning a few changes with Board approval.

2019 AGM Arts & Crafts Report

We had another year showing a great display of our local talent. We seemed to have a higher number of displays and a few new exhibitor names.

I was made aware of a rip in the netting where some jewellery was displayed but nothing was taken.

Thank you to my committee and volunteers who help pull it all together. Thanks to the office staff for all their support and hard work and providing us with anything we needed.

2019 AGM Culinary Arts Report

As Binbrook and the G.B.A.(!) continues to grow, we are pleased to report a good number of new exhibitors in our Culinary Arts department. We try to keep the classes current as well as including the always popular fruit loaves, brownies and chocolate chip cookies.

Most classes were well represented and of excellent quality. Entries in the preserves were down from other years. Incentives are needed in this class or just better weather ?! Ideas welcome!

We are forever grateful for the interest and generosity of the many and various donors of the special prizes and the B.A.S for prize money in the more general categories. A very special thank you is extended to our great committee members for the contributions, dedication and friendship. What a team!

Yours in Community, Wilma Switzer Chair, Culinary Arts

2019 AGM Hall Rentals Report

As more and more residents are settling very comfortably in Binbrook i.e. G.B.A., our B.A.S. buildings and fairgrounds are very desirable and convenient to rent.

We continue to provide the main hall (Building #1) for Beavers and Clubs on Monday and Tuesday evenings - as well as annual events like community banquets. We have hosted several birthday parties, showers, weddings and baptism celebrations. Building #1 is a most popular "Jack and Jill" venue with the convenience of size (348 guests with Special Occasions Permit) a large kitchen, refrigerator, two ovens, coffee pots. Food is to be prepared elsewhere and "parked" in the kitchen until serving time.

Buildings #3,4 and grounds have become more essential for larger events that require more area, very appropriate, convenient and available to our expanding community, As well as car and boat storage in Buildings #3,4 (winter only).

Special thanks to our maintenance crew and cleaning staff for providing spaces that I am proud to show and for which I receive many compliments.

Yours in Community, Wilma Switzer, Hall Rental Coordinator

2019 4-H Dairy Show Report

This was the first year for the 4-H Dairy show and with it being the first one, the committee limited the # of entries to 40 and invited 2 associations (Hamilton Wentworth and Haldimand) to participate. Although it was small there was still a good turnout of 4-H Members (about 20) that came that day and washed, prepped and showed their dairy calves. The show ran smooth and the members had fun. For 2020 we will be opening it up to other counties and increasing the number of entries to 60.

I would like to thank the agricultural society for agreeing to add the 4-H Dairy show to the fair, the workers/directors who assured me that we would have enough water and the electrical wouldn't be a problem and the committee for all their help in the organizing and keeping the day going. Looking forward to a great 2020 show.

Michelle Young

2019 Grounds & Buildings Report

Thanks to Nik and all who helped to move the track fence and Demo Blocks, so as to make space for the Rodeo as it was a great success.

Thanks to the Monday night crew who do a great job of maintaining and repairing the grandstands.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the weed whipping of the grounds as it made the grounds look manicured.

I spent about 95 hours cutting grass in 2019.

Also, in 2019 we had the roofs replaced on building 3&4 so now no more leaks.

As of the first part of December the sewers were installed so now no more worry about tanks overflowing. Thanks to Brenda Johnson and Co-Co paving for getting this done.

Thanks, Mel

2019 Amateur Winemakers Competition Report

There were approximately 20 entries, a decrease from 2018, although the quality of the wine was very favourable according to our judges. I would like to thank the help I received from the office staff and Gerry and Ruth Fuchs, along with our sponsors, Fletchers Apples and Brew Time at Upper James and Rymal. I also asked The Glanbrook Gazette for help, letting local wine makers know about our competition with some information about wine making and where you can purchase wine supplies.

Albert Gris

2019 Concessions Report

The buildings were full but it was an interesting time with getting some replies back, with an up coming election it was hard to get all of candidates a spot as we never know who we will have to work with after the election.

I continually get food trucks calling me wanting in. Some would conflict with our own booth, Lions Club and Dairy Booth. I steer them to Campbells.

Every year I try to have 5 or 6 new exhibitors and try to accommodate local ones if possible.

Thanks Mel

2019 Home and Garden / Car Show Report

The 2019 Craft show saw a change with the addition of bouncy castles. The families who came, thoroughly enjoyed themselves and we had much positive feedback. Unfortunately, we didn't get the attendance we would have liked to the craft portion of the show. We took feedback from the vendors present and decided in 2020 to return to the craft show focus and let the Home/Garden portion fade. In 2020, we are also planning much better marketing and community awareness. The Car show was a success as we had beautiful weather on the Sunday!!

2019 New Years Eve Report

2019 (as in January 1, 2019) was a solid New Year's Eve, where we recognized some changes were needed. Surveys were collected and analyzed, but mostly showing positive feedback, and perhaps simply a retiring demographic.

Changes were made based on feedback, but by December 15th, 2019, we had only sold 45 tickets for the December 31, 2019 event, and made the decision to cancel the event, and refund tickets.

Discussions are in place with local community groups, about the possibilities for this year, either with an alternative approach, an alternative audience, or both.

It is our belief that we are simply witness to the changing face of our community, as we evolve.

2019 BAS Food Booth Report

Another great year in the food booth, where customers of the fair get good quality food, at reasonable prices, with the fastest service on the Midway!

A huge thanks to all the Scouts and their Volunteer leaders, who run the booth for us each and every year. They love being part of the fair, and are proud to report a profit of \$8,174.54 for 2019's fair.

2019 Technology Report

Technology use through 2019 improved again, through more consistent use of our website and social media. As well, more adoption of the AssistExpo software during the fair, once again streamlined many of the processes in the past that were cumbersome.

Our wifi networks have had new hardware purchased for upgrade as well, and are due for install in the spring of 2020.

We are also exploring other ways to share our resources with outside partners, and therefore reduce recurring fixed costs for our utilities.

2019 ATM Report

Our support of providing financial availability (ie: cash) during events like the fair and farmer's market, continues to be a positive influence on profitability. In addition to the more than \$65,000 we provided to various events (mostly the fair), our profit in service charges for the use of our machine in 2019 was more than \$2,700.

We look forward to 2020, as we have plans to purchase a new and more modern ATM, and improve availability.

2019 Storage

We are pleased to report that building 3 is back up and running for winter storage, after our investment in a new roof in 2019, for building 3 & 4.

In the fall of 2019, we have filled buildings, with a gross income for storage of \$26,110.44.

Many thanks to Kevin & Lenard, and everyone else, for their help with this annual source of revenue.

2019 Departments Missing year end Report

- 1** Publicity
- 5** Miniature Horses
- 6** Horse Pulls
- 12** Root & Vegetables
- 13** Grain Seeds & Hay
- 16** Knitting/Crocheting
- 17** Organized Group Display
- 25** Wood Carving
- 28** Elementary Dept
- 29** Gate
- 31** Pet Show
- 32** Baby Show
- 35** Entertainment
- 38** Parking
- 39** Demolition Derby
- 42** Catering
- 45** Farmer's Market
- 48** Community Church Service
- 51** Homecraft Committee

1st Binbrook Scout Group Report

We continue to enjoy and appreciate our partnership with the BAS, as our official Group Sponsor.

The youth in our program, gain exposure to the Ag Society, it's priorities, and the Agricultural community as a whole.

We remain as one of the largest Scouting groups in the country, thanks mostly to the fine team of very dedicated volunteers, and can't thank them enough.

We appreciate the opportunities to help with events, the Fair, the Food Booth, and general maintenance around the grounds, and look forward to 2020 with you.

We have many camps, outings, and events planned, including taking 50 to New York City, over the March break.

Our ongoing challenge as always, is the ability to fundraise enough to support all, but appreciate the support of this community as we do our best fiscally.

Thank you!