**Chairperson Reports 2023**

**Technology Marches Forward - Andy**

New investment into a fully realized dual band Wi-Fi network across the grounds in 2022, meant better direct support for both clients in the halls, and our own members.

Additionally, both primary gates got their own outdoor access point, to support ticket scanning and other duties.

Davis gate, needs some more improvement, but the missing piece of hardware that was backordered at the time, is now in hand.

We will also work with the Davis Gate Redevelopment Committee, to ensure that any new layout has full outdoor coverage.

Showpass did very well for us again this year, providing opportunity for online pre-sales, and simple scanning in at the gate.

Online sales accounted for just over 50% of the tickets sold, and with a little tweaking of the prices for 2023, we expect to see an increase in this use.

Many thanks to several local businesses who donated surplus technology, in support of the BAS.

**The ATMs - Andy**

Between our two ATMs, we pumped more than $100,000 into the fairgrounds over the weekend, generating over $4,000 in profits for us.

Our ATMs continue to support the market events, and have now been deployed during other hall rentals, creating additional revenue during pre-paid events.

**Home Sewing**

2022 seemed to be a 're-set' year as the 2022 Binbrook Fair looked for a new beginning, for new and returning exhibiters to participate at the fair, after two years of dealing with pandemic restrictions. Exhibitors provided an interesting display of sewing, and we are thankful for their work and time. We congratulate the winners of the Most Points, Cheryl Warner and the Judges Choice Award, Margaret Messier.

There was varied interests in the 5 Classes in this department, and exhibits in some sections were low and sometimes, non-existent: taking that into consideration, there has been more changes made to the 2023 exhibitor list. "Streamlining" Sections and Classes and increasing prize money hopefully will intrigue new and faithful exhibitors to participate and show case their talents. Finally, a new name for Department 11 has been proposed, that being "**Creative Sewing**" rather than Home Sewing, with the hope that this might entice new interest for exhibitors to enter their 'sewing creations' at the fair.

 I remain thankful for the help of the Home Sewing team and all of the volunteers and to the office staff for their ongoing skills in coordinating, organizing, and compiling all the information for Home Sewing and the exhibitors. Remaining positive, open to change, new ideas, and inviting and welcoming new interested volunteers are keys to continued success and the future of Binbrook Fair and the BAS.

Respectfully submitted, Diane Switzer (Department 11)

**Senior Citizens**

This report starts with thanks to the return of our exhibitors to the 2022 Binbrook Fair, after a two-year lapse dealing with restrictions from the pandemic. The Seniors' class remains 'healthy' with a return of past exhibitors. There was also a renewed interest in exhibiting items and new exhibitors participating and submitting many beautiful creations.

The Most Points Prize went to Cheryl Warner and Judge's Award to Margaret Messier. Congratulations to these two ladies, as they were rewarded for their work and time in both Department 11 and 12.

Once again, many thanks for the wonderful assistance from the office staff, directors, and all the BAS volunteers.

Respectively Submitted, Diane Switzer (Department 12)

**Beef Cattle**

Our 4-H Beef Show started the day with representation from four counties: Niagara, Haldimand, Hamilton-Wentworth and Oxford. The Open Show was a huge success, and we look forward to everyone returning in 2023. We had 73 entries and 28 exhibitors.

Thank you to a wonderful committee who made our show possible: Michelle Young, Brooke Young, Adam Baird, Nicole Young, Chad Edwards, Adam Smith, and Brynn Roberts.

Special appreciation goes out to all the sponsors who continue to support us.

Karyn Roberts

**Ag Education Program**

2022 saw our first full in-person program since 2019. It was also the first year that the Ag-Education Committee also ran the Old MacDonald Tent, becoming essentially one committee.

The Education Program on the Friday was full. We had classes from both Bellmoore and St. Matthews, as well as participants from home-schooling groups. We ran 8 sessions again this year:

* Beef Cow (supplied by the Smith Family and presented by Allie Roberts)
* Dairy Cow (supplied by the Spoelstra Family and presented by the Niagara Dairy Farmer’s Educator
* Pig (supplied and presented by the Smid Family)
* Chicks/Chickens – the chicks were supplied and presented by Shadowbrook Kennels and Michele Bain. The full-grown chickens were provided by Jane Elliott and supplemented by the Poultry Committee
* Sheep (supplied by Lickety Spit Fibre Farm and presented by Kelly Picken)
* Alpacas (supplied by Lickety Spit Fibre Farm and presented by Shelley Brinkman)
* Heavy Horse (supplied and presented by Brian and Marion Walker)
* Safety – which was new to us this year, but which was a huge success ( organized by Chad Roberts and presented by Bill Switzer)

We had a great volunteer turnout, and we offered lunch which was sponsored by Binbrook Auto and Tire.

The new tent setup was ideal for the program – there was less noise overall and there was space for kids with special needs to take a break if they needed it. We also have a plan on how to adjust the layout if it should rain in future years.

Our livestock presenters remained for the rest of the weekend, and Rabbits and Poultry were added.

The poultry cages from Building 2 were brought over for the weekend, freeing up space in the buildings and keeping all of the livestock together.

The Old MacDonald’s Tent was also very well attended. We had organized to have some kind of volunteer with each station so we could ensure not only the safety and comfort of the animals but to improve the overall experience of the visitors. People seemed to enjoy the variety of animals that they could learn about and really appreciated having someone to ask questions of. We plan to continue this strategy in 2023.

In discussions with the Poultry and Rabbit Committees, we have decided to amalgamate into one Ag-Education Committee. We have started conversations about how to expand the rabbit and chicken / chick-holding opportunities with more experienced producers involved. We will have some kind of poultry display (be it the existing cages or something new) as well as rabbit hutches that will form part of the display.

Our only concern over the course of the weekend was security for the animals after the derby / late night entertainment on Friday and Saturday. We have asked for and received the approval for an additional tent to close the “U” shape of the layout so that we can close off the south end of the display, preventing people from seeing and accessing the animals. In addition, we have discussed the idea of dedicated security in some form for the tent, since it lies outside of the midway area which requires its own security presence. We also would like to improve the “NO DOGS ALLOWED” signage for the tent – we had numerous visitors bring dogs into the livestock area which caused some stress and disturbance.

Overall, the committee is very pleased with how 2022 went, and looks forward to 2023. We want to thank our amazing volunteers, and we want to express our appreciation to Karen Small for organizing our Junior Volunteers – they were great. And a huge thank you to the office and board overall for all of their support over the weekend.

Melinda Ramsay

**Quilt Department**

*Submissions:*

* This year’s submissions were way down over 2019. We had very few entrants, but most entered multiple quilts.
* Feedback from various people included the categories left them limited options to enter quilts or wording in fair book was confusing.
	+ - Quilt Chair acknowledges the changes were made to categories trying to open things up but very much missed the mark.
* Due to limited number of entries, there was a lot of space to fill in our display. We were able to pivot and add an informational display on quilting and various quilting techniques.

*Judging Day:*

* We had 2 judges and 1 apprentice judge who were very thorough and accommodating.
* We were very rushed in the displaying of quilts and there is a concern of future fairs with more entries and not being able to give our display the care that is required with these expensive works of art.
* This was a concern in 2019 as well where I believe we had a later building opening. We had many more quilts that year.
	+ Possible solutions to this are:

Splitting up the judges and have two judging tables. Space may be an issue. We also may run into issues with choosing larger prizes (Grand/Reserve Champions and Judges choice)

Roping off the Quilt Section for the first part of the fair to allow volunteers the time to display quilts properly.

Requesting an earlier drop off for the Quilt Department and having judging completed the day before and allowing us plenty of time to display everything.

*Moving Forward:*

* We now have a Quilt Committee with members who are excited to help address issues of the 2022 Fair.
	+ The Committee is made up of Quilters who want to see local talent encouraged and showcased.
* Exploring ways to engage the next generations of quilters into exhibiting at the fair.
* Future possible pivot of current Quilting Department model to include a Juried Quilt Show which would happen leading up to the fair. This would allow judging to happen ahead of time and attract Quilters more familiar with this model.

*Class Proposal*

* 2020 we had organized Learn to Quilt evenings at the BAS. We had approval from the Board and were charging $100 per person to take this class and this included the fees associated with entering this quilt into the fair category we created for it. The class was slated to start at the end of March 2020.

This is a copy of the proposal presented to the board at that time:

Host a quilting workshop at the Binbrook Agricultural Society, where participants come and learn how to quilt. Their end project will be entered into a new quilt category in the Fair.

*Why:*

1. Quilting in Canada is changing. Traditional quilting has been on the decline, and this is the core group of people who enter our fair. Modern quilting in the USA is a massive industry and Canada is set to follow. Our biggest hurdle is introducing quilting to the next generation.
2. Getting started with quilting is expensive. Most people don’t want to invest in all the tools until they know they will like it.
3. There are fewer quilting stores teaching classes. Many quilt stores have moved to selling online only.
4. Many people did not grow up entering items into a local fair. Stepping into the local fair world can be intimidating especially for people just new to a particular craft.

*Details:*

* A quilting class would be developed with an easy beginner quilting project which would appeal to a large range of demographics. This class would be spread over 4-5 sessions lasting 2-3 hours each. Each session will focus on one part of the quilt making process where they will learn proper quilting techniques.
* Participants would be responsible for obtaining all their fabric supplies for the class and bringing a sewing machine and small tools.
* The BAS would supply an area to host this class. This area would have to have power plugs for multiple sewing machines and be able to carry the load of 2-3 irons.
* I would develop and teach the class. I will also provide a large selection of quilting tools that will be required to make the quilt but are an investment that beginner quilters don’t always want to spend money on until they know they like quilting.
* The last session of the workshop the participants would sign up to be an exhibitor online and sign up to exhibit their quilt in the new section.
* Leading up to the fair time participants will be contacted regarding their entry reminding them about picking up their tag, where and when to drop off their entry and answer any other questions they may have.

Thank you,

Amanda Brown

Quilt Chair

**Goats**

The 2022 went well, thank you to Alicia for ensuring the show ran smoothly in my absence. No changes to the fair book but may look at increasing the prize money.

Heather Murphy

**Arts & Crafts**

This year we reduced our sections by approx. 20% and received a reduction of entries at 30-40%.  We definitely had a lot of space to fill on the tables. I’m thinking we will add the 20% back this coming year. We were able to spare one of our judges to help Home Sewing whose judge did not show up.

Thanks goes out to committee members and office for their help and support. Also, thanks to those who setup and takedown.

Rhonda Fairhurst

Chairperson

**Parking**

Thankyou to everyone who volunteered or supported parking at this year’s fair.

We didn't have to turn anyone away and were complemented on the doubling of accessible parking spaces.

Please take the time to share your ideas for improvement.

Looking forward to Binbrook Fair 2023!

Clint

**Junior Department**

But I can say we had our lowest number of entries ever. We have some ideas to get more for next year. We will be reaching out to the schools, and we will work on some social media posts as well. Hopeful to get set back up with the Market in the Brook as well to offer craft activities once again that can be entered into the fair. This will be in partnership with the Elementary department.
We have partnered with the Elementary department and Photography to move the building around for a fresh new look.
We received a lot of compliments of the lay out, photo spot opportunity and the craft area.
We are wanting to get the building painted this year to match the other exhibitor buildings.
Nicole

**Antique Department 2022 Annual Committee Report**

2022 was a transitional year for the Antique Department.  With a smaller list of 51 entry items, the number of entries was reduced but the showing in the display was well set out and as interesting as always for Fair attendees.

Kathy Powell and Susan Reeder have stepped up to be the Co-Chairpersons for the 2023 Binbrook Fair.

We welcome volunteers to join us. Come and learn about antiques, use your display set up skills and be part of our team!

We are looking forward to the 2023 Binbrook Fair.

Sincerely,

Kathy Powell and Susan Reeder

Co-Chairpersons

Antique Department

**Photography Department**

Chair: Stephanie Vigliotta

Successes

* New display set up was very well received by all.
* Great collaboration with elementary and junior department chairs to spruce up building 4.
* Great support from veteran chairs and previous chair of photography department.
* Many entries received.

Challenges

* First year as chair for in-person fair.
* Difficulty connecting with and engaging previous photography committee.
* A lot of work to set up new display.
* No help for judging and displaying entries Friday morning.
* Complaint of professional photographer entering and winning many sections.

Changes Ahead

* Divide classes into 2 categories; amateur and professional photography.
* Possibly move elementary and junior classes to photography department.
* Recruit new volunteers for committee.
* Gain new sponsors.
* Renovate building 4.

**Dairy Show**

The 4-H dairy show was Saturday morning and there were about 12 entries from Hamilton-Wentworth and Haldimand county.  There were some good heifers from both counties and although small the members had fun competing against one another.  The open dairy show was in the afternoon and the same entries from the morning classes showed their entries in the open dairy show.  Need to look at how we can get more entries for both shows as everyone has fun when they are there. Thanks to our judge - Aaron Smith and his trainee-Hunter Smith.  I couldn’t have done it without the help of our committee-Adam Baird, Chad Edwards, Brynn Roberts, Karyn Roberts, Brooke Young and Nicole Young.

Michelle Young

**Binbrook In Bloom Summary 2022 – Year Two…**

In its second year of our community garden competition, we continued to see a positive level of community engagement.

In the 5 categories we had 7 entries:

Residential Detached – 4 entries – winner – Jennifer Knight

Residential Rural – 1 entry – winner - Rosemary Knight

Business – 2 entries – winner – Pure Skin Spa

We still didn’t have any entries submitted for Residential Townhome or Institutional (School/Church). I will do some outreach this year to see if we can get a few nominations in this category.

Many thanks to our Volunteer judges, the committee, Karen, and of course the home gardeners for allowing us to enjoy their gardens as much as they do. Special thank you to Kickass Metal Works for the creation of our dragonfly garden awards that were presented to the winners.

In additions in 2022, Terra Greenhouses also donated additional gift cards for each of the winners. This will be continued for the 2023 season.

This year we will work on getting are hoping to get word our earlier and cross promote on social media platforms so we can increase our entries for all categories. If you have any ideas or know of a deserving garden, please pass it along or nominate them!

Gardening continues to be popular, and I am personally looking forward to an early spring. Hopefully Mother Nature cooperates, and we have a great growing season.

Sincerely,

Colleen Zimmermann

**Culinary Arts 2022…back to baking**

The 2022 year was a bit more normal in the world and everyone was excited to get back to a more typical fair. Culinary Arts saw some new exhibitors with many yummy entries.

We had an incredible sponsor with Highland Packers in 2022. They sponsored all the prizes for Most Points for Class 1 – Baked Goods $50 and in Class 2 – Preserves $50 as well as Most Points overall $100.

Winner Class 1 – Baked Goods = (please fill in)

Winner Class 2 – Preserves = (please fill in)

Winner Class 1 & 2 Overall = (please fill in)

We have tweaked our categories a little for 2023 but are keeping the popular classes so our culinary artists can practice their recipes and enter the best of the best.

This year we hope to work more with some social media and online posts to get the word out to new exhibitors. Focusing on basics like how to enter and what to enter as well as judging standards and tips from seasoned exhibitors.

Special thanks to the Culinary Arts team – it couldn’t happen without you! An extra special thanks to Wilma aka Mom for helping me make the magic happen in this department.

If anyone has a passion for food and would like to help, please contact myself or the office – we can always use more cooks in this kitchen.

Sincerely,

Colleen Zimmermann

Culinary Arts Chairperson

**Knitting and Crocheting**

We were pleased with the number of entries we had.

Have made some changes based on entries received for the 2023 fair.

Thank you to the exhibitors for exhibiting.

Thank you to the committee members (Sherry Whitwell and Kimberly Stevens) for their tremendous support in assisting me with the judging and displaying of the entries.

**Food Booth**

A huge thank you to the Office Staff for helping to source all the products for the Food Booth.

The youth once again enjoyed helping out over the weekend.

Food Booth wasn’t as busy Saturday evening as it has been in past years.

Was nice to get back into the swing of things and to see all the people we have missed over the past 2 years.

Looking forward to 2023.

I do not have financial information for the Food Booth.

Thanks,

Pam

**Roots & Vegetables**

We had a total of 85 entries, definitely down from previous years.  Entries shown, were of good quality.  The exhibitor with the most points was Don Reeder.  We would like to thank Murphy’s County Produce for their donation of corn stalks.  It really finished off our display.   I would like to thank my committee for all their hard work and assistance, in making our corner colourful and eye catching.

Lorraine Rush

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| Plants & FlowersDept. 8, Class 1, 2, 3, 4 & 52022 Report | **Joanne Robitaille, Chair** Holly LaidmanShannon WellnitzBev HensenRoberta GreenwoodMark Robitaille |
| **Report prepared for the** Annual MeetingThursday, February 23, 2023 |

Welcome back to our Fair. Felt like a **RESET** year. We lost but we also gained new exhibitors. Our entries were very low due to unforeseeable circumstances.

It ended up to be an Excellent Show for our 2023 Official Judge (Royal Botanical Gardens certified) Catherine McGill.

So many enjoy their stroll, walking through our **“Flower Garden”** with all ages enjoying the scenery as well as the water fountain.

Rosettes were awarded, and gift certificates were handed out to the WINNERS in the “Special” section at the end of the fair. Again, the exhibitors really appreciated receiving the “Prize Money Cheques” when picking up their exhibits.

*Thanks to all the Sponsors who donated gift cards for our* ***Specials****:*
Brook Restaurant, Del’s Pizza, Laidman Plumbing, Silver Wok, Nail Salon, Lucky’s Fish & Chips, and White Flame.

Thanks to our committee and others for all their help from setting up our display to tearing it down.

Greatly Appreciated!

2023 we welcome Holly Laidman as a Co-Chairperson.

Submitted by,
Joanne Robitaille, Co-Chair

February 23, 2023