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Immediate Release

Norfolk County Agricultural Society - Highlights of Annual General Meeting

January 26, 2019– The Norfolk County Agricultural Society held its annual meeting today at the Junior Farmers Building on the Fairgrounds. A new President was elected, new executive in place and prestigious national citations highlighted presentations at the Annual General Meeting.

In accepting her new position Debbie Morrison stated “it is an honour and privilege to be the incoming President of the Norfolk County Agriculture Society. The fair is steeped in 178 years of rich history and to be a part of that is humbling. I give special thanks to Dianne Persall, Sharon Petheram, and Sharon Judd. These three women were the trailblazers in becoming the first three female Presidents of the NCAS”.

Steven Balcomb was elected to the position of 1st Vice President, and Brad Nunn was elected to the position of 2nd Vice President. Brian Kenney assumes the role of Past President.

Seven directors were elected to the Board for a three-year term, including one new member. The newest director elected to the Board was Carolynne Campbell, along with Patricia Douel, Mark Jacobs, Percy McNabb, Sharon Petheram, Craig Smith and Dan Taylor. Keith Harvey was elected for a two-year term and Molly McDowall for a one-year term. The financial statements were presented to the membership at the meeting. The Norfolk County Agricultural Society is a registered charity operating as a not for profit organization.

“Once again, the community has embraced our programs, facilities and services ensuring the long-term goals of the Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show” stated General Manager George Araujo. “Thanks to a dedicated volunteer core that includes committee leaders and members along with staff and our Board of Directors, next year looks to be great, as we support the community with our buildings and programming and as we celebrate our rural Heritage and Culture at the Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show that is distinctly Norfolk.”

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 ten or more years **Lyle & Marsha McLaren (Old Fashioned Fudge Inc.) the Race Family, CIBC, and Ramblin’ Road Brewery Farm.**

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 for five or more years was presented to the following; **Dave Richardson, and Perry Willson.**

The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies presented **Ginger Stanley** with an Agricultural Service Diploma for her service over the years as a volunteer.

The Ontario Association of Agricultural Accomplishment Award was presented to **Ron Barker** for his contribution to consecutive years of time and energy to an Agricultural Society.

The Norfolk County Agricultural Society continues to recognize the service of people in memoriam who dedicated themselves to the betterment of the Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show in generations past. Candidates are nominated annually by current Board Members to honour their memory and contributions to the history of the Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show. The awards this year were presented to the families of the late; **R. B Kent, W. A. Bowyer, J. James Miller, A. E. Culver, Horace Kellum, Paul E. Angle, Ruth Gundry, Lois Buckborough, Doug Witham, Cecil Crane, and Walter Petheram.**

The Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show is celebrating 179 years, and is the fourth largest fair in Ontario and has an annual attendance in excess of 100,000 visitors. The Fair along with Eat & Drink Norfolk has earned a "Top 100" event designation through Festivals and Events of Ontario.

*Norfolk Wildlife Festival & Adventure Show March 9th-10th, 2019
"Where the great outdoors comes indoors for two days!"*

*Eat & Drink Norfolk April 4th-6th, 2019
Celebrating 10 years!*

*Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show
October 8th - 14th, 2019
"It's Tradition!"*

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