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For Immediate Release

## **The Winning Begins at the Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show**

**October 6th, 2019 Simcoe-** The judging begins at the Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show. We are pleased to announce winners of the The Norfolk Visual Arts Competition and the largest pumpkin, two of the largest cash amounts awarded at the the fair.

The Norfolk Visual Arts Competition at the Norfolk County Fair is a celebration of the creativity of the artists in Norfolk County. This competition is only open to legal Norfolk County residents.

The 2019 Norfolk Visual Arts Competition would like to congratulate Steve Watts from Port Rowan for placing first in the annual arts competition with an 18” mixed media art work (soldiers portrait on artillery shell). First place comes with a prize of \$2,000 in cash. Prize money in this competition is \$6,000 in total.

Thirty one artists entered the 2019 competition representisng fifty-five entries. This year the two judges were from art galleries in Hamilton and Kitchener-Waterloo.

Other artists earning top placing in the competition were:

- 2nd place – Lorraine Fletcher, Vittoria
- 3rd place – Krista Reimer, Port Rowan
- 4th place – Anda Kett, Simcoe
- 5th place – Monte Sonnenberg, Port Dover

Visitors to the exhibition are encouraged to vote on their favorite piece of artwork in the competition to help determine the "People's Choice" award. Voting ends Sunday night at 9:30pm and People's Choice will be awarded on Monday with a \$250 cash prize. All accepted entries will be eligible for this award. The public can view these amazing pieces of art in Bldg. #1 (Jr. Farmer's Building)

The winner of the Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show's giant pumpkin competition was crowned Sunday. For the third consecutive year John Butler of St. Thomas took home first prize. Butler took home the James I. Moore Memorial Award along with the \$2,000 grand prize for growing the largest pumpkin weighing in at an amazing 1,483 lbs. Prize money for this competition is generously donated by Ontario West Insurance Brokers.

Dave McQuay of Delhi, was also a big winner this year. Dave won \$500 for the largest pumpkin grown in and by a resident of Norfolk County. This prize was generously donated by Tri-County Insurance Group. His pumpkin weighed in at 1,402 lbs. This competition is open to all ages.

Joel Jarvis of St. Thomas took first place and \$500 in cash for the largest squash weighing in at 1,055 lbs. This prize was generously donated by Woolley Farms.

*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 has earned a "Top 100" event designation through Festivals and Events of Ontario and is one of the top fairs in the country according to the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions. Norfolk County Fair and Horse Show is held in Simcoe, Ontario and runs October 8<sup>th</sup> -14<sup>th</sup> , 2019.*

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*Attached: John Butler, St. Thomas (winner) , Lindsay Schieck (ON West Insurance) with son Gibson, General Manager George Araujo*

*Wendy Brick*

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