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**\*Immediate Release\***

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

**January 29th, 2024** Simcoe, Ontario - The Norfolk County Agricultural Society held its annual meeting Saturday, January 27<sup>th</sup> at the Junior Farmer's Building on the Fairgrounds. The purpose of the meeting was to report on the financial activities of the organization to its members and to elect members to the Board of Directors.

Brad Nunn was elected President for the 184th year of the Norfolk County Agricultural Society. In accepting a second-year term, President Brad Nunn stated, "I am honoured to be elected for a second term as President, 2024 is set to be an exciting year for the Norfolk County Agricultural Society. We intend to push forward with our focus on better year round use of our grounds which we continue to improve, as we strive to provide the best venue in Norfolk County to bring our local community together for entertainment, friendly competition and agricultural education."

Executive positions on the board are elected on an annual basis, with a one-year term limit. Dan Taylor was elected to the position of 1st Vice President, and Molly McDowall was elected to the position of 2nd Vice President. Steven Balcomb assumes the role of Past President.

Five directors were elected to the Board for a three-year term, including one new member. The newest director elected to the Board is Yvonne Norman. Returning to the Board is Steve Balcomb, Mike Bollert, Brian Kenney, and Les Tchorek. As part of an ongoing review of the governance structures of the organization, in late 2023, the NCAS Board voted in favour of a reduction in the number of directors of the society, from 21 to 18 for the 2024 year.

The financial statements were presented to the membership at the meeting. The Norfolk County Agricultural Society is a registered, non-profit organization.

General Manager, Angela Hogeveen reviewed the past year “In 2023, we began to reintroduce the Norfolk County Agricultural Society to the community, as more than ‘the Fair’. Taking steps to improve the volunteer program, strengthen community relationships and undertake an examination of uses of our 48 acre facility and its infrastructure. We diversified programming and revenue generation by adding multiple new events.” Hogeveen spoke of 2024 and beyond “We are taking the opportunity to revisit our strategic plan, strengthening the foundation to support substantial growth in the future. We will make careful, and strategic decisions to ensure another 183 years of success for NCAS as a pillar of Norfolk County as we further engage the community and stakeholders, wisely invest in our facilities with a master plan driving priorities, and examine all of our programs, evaluating past, present and future, to ensure they are serving our mission, vision and values”.

Prestigious National citations highlighted presentations at the Annual General Meeting-

**The Distinguished Service Award** from the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions, awarded to a firm or organization that has provided outstanding service to the Fair for ten or more years was presented to **ABCO Lock & Key**.

**The Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies Meritorious Award** was presented to **Fran Haskettt** for her contribution of consecutive years of time and energy to an Agricultural Society.

*The Norfolk County Agricultural Society (NCAS) was formed in 1840, and operates under the Agricultural and Horticultural Societies Act (Ontario). The non-profit organization operates a 48 acre facility in Simcoe, ON, with a variety of multi-use buildings, unique infrastructure and community-used greenspace. The Society’s marquis annual event, the highly-acclaimed Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show, has been the recipient of numerous Canadian, provincial and local awards. The society strives to provide year round agricultural experiences and special events in partnership with volunteers and the community.*

Eat & Drink Norfolk April 4, 5, 6, 2024

Norfolk Night Market - Summer Edition June 7-8, 2024

Fairgrounds Festival June 14-15, 2024

Norfolk County Fair & Horse Show October 8-14, 2024

Norfolk Night Market - Christmas Edition December 6-7, 2024