

Announcing the 2010 4-H Ontario Ambassadors

Five enthusiastic 4-H members will represent 4-H Ontario across the province as part of the Ambassador program which is made possible thanks to the generous support of sponsors GROWMARK, Inc. and UPI Energy LP. 2010 marks the 6th year of this program that not only promotes 4-H and its sponsoring companies but also develops young leaders. The successful candidates will spend the next year promoting 4-H across the province, and hope to pledge their Head, Heart, Hands and Health to this role, through the slogan they have created: "Building Youth one "H" at a time!". Congratulations to Anikka Bolender, Nicole Charlton, Jessie Groniger, Eleri Morris and Valerie Stone on their success!



Anikka Bolender (left), of Stouffville, has completed 60 projects during her 11 years in 4-H. Beyond the club level, she has attended provincial and national opportunities such as Future Talk and National Careers Conference. A dedicated community volunteer, she has completed 7 Youth Leader projects and at the University of Windsor she is a supervisor and social coordinator for the Walksafe program, assisting other students to get home safely from campus. Anikka hopes to continue to work with people while pursuing a career in biology or psychology after completing her Bachelor of Science in Behaviour, Cognition and Neuroscience.

Nicole Charlton (right), of Brantford, has completed 63 projects over 9 years of 4-H involvement. Not only has she participated in many provincial opportunities, she has also attended National Citizenship Seminar. A proven leader, Nicole has completed 5 Youth Leader projects and has been a member of the Brant County 4-H Board of Directors as well as volunteering with the Paris Fair Agricultural Awareness display and the Langford Church Youth Group. Nicole hopes to continue working on her family's dairy farm while also pursuing a career as a Registered Nurse. She is currently a nursing student at Western University, focusing on neonatal studies.



Jessie Groniger (left), of Carlsbad Springs, has completed 32 projects over 10 years of 4-H involvement. Her competitive spirit has enabled her to win many awards in her 4-H career as well as the right to compete at the Classic Canadian 4-H Dairy Show at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. She is committed to coaching and developing skills in other youth, as demonstrated by her completion of 3 Youth Leader projects and her role as an Assistant Coach of the Upper Ottawa Valley Junior B Girls Ringette team. When not pursuing her studies in Early Childhood Education, Jessie can be found helping out on her family's dairy farm or playing ringette at the women's national level.

Eleri Morris (right), of Elmvale, has completed 28 projects during her first 7 years of involvement with the program. A recent highlight of her 4-H career was competing on Ontario's 6th place team at the Agribition 4-H Judging Competition in Saskatchewan. She is very involved in school activities, serving on her high school Student's Council and singing in the choir. While she does hope to maintain ties with her family's dairy farm, she could make an excellent life skills leader in the future as she plans to study culinary arts and pursue a career as a baker.



Valerie Stone (left), of Paris, has completed 27 projects during 4 years as a 4-H member. She has attended almost all of the provincial camps and conferences, such as Future Leaders in Action, Careermania, Leadership Camp and Future Talk. Valerie is also very involved in competitive skating, with her Ice Image Synchronized Skating Team having recently won their Ontario Regional competition. Upon completion of high school, Valerie plans to become a physical education teacher to promote active living and healthy lifestyle.