

**Ontario 4-H Council  
Director Nominee Biography Form**

**Anne Verhallen  
Chatham-Kent 4-H Association**

**Briefly describe your history with the 4-H program:**

- 24+ clubs as a member in Middlesex County, youth leader and leader – sheep club / life skills.
- 4-H parent since 2000 currently with 4 children in 4-H life skills
- 4-H agricultural club leader since 2000/2001.

**List your local 4-H Board and other Board experience:**

- Local 4-H Association Director
- Currently acting President
- Previously on Region 6 Board for several years including CAM 2008 organizing committee

**List your volunteer experience:**

- Previously 10+ years as a Cub / Beaver leader
- Parent Council Chair (past), Parent Council member currently
- Previously Daycare Board member
- Canadian Cancer Society canvasser for 5 years
- Heritage Days volunteer
- Host parent for multiple international students over the last 10+ years

**What skill sets would you bring to the Ontario 4-H Council Board of Directors?**

- 20 years of professional experience in adult education and technology transfer
- Strong organization, effective meeting management and communications experience
- Diverse experience, training and practice in board governance
- Proven abilities in developing partnerships between 4-H and other industry events and organizations
- Valuing a diverse group of personality and opinions toward development of solutions and plans
- Creating awareness and marketing of 4-H
- Leadership skills developed throughout my life and more recently as a graduate of Class 12 of The Centre For Rural Leadership's AALP program.
- Personal experience and value of the importance of cultural diversity.

**Explain why you would like to be a Director on the Ontario 4-H Council:**

I understand from a personal and professional perspective the impact and outcomes of 4-H as a youth leadership development organization. I have a strong connection with rural, urban and international youth interests and needs. I bring a current and relevant perspective of current issues and opportunities in Ontario agriculture and its connection to food, environment and health. Finally I want to contribute actively toward the governance and vision of 4-H in Ontario to keep it relevant and increasingly vibrant.

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**Arlene Belanger  
North Simcoe 4-H Association**

**Briefly describe your history with the 4-H program:**

Four years ago our family became a “4-H family” and I have fully felt and witnessed the great impact this program has on all involved. My daughter joined as a member and myself as a volunteer. My involvement quickly expanded to include 4-H Leader where I have focused on leading life skills clubs in Severn Bridge. One contribution I am particularly proud of are the changes we made to our Maple Syrup club which now uses the sugar bush as a Learn To Do By Doing lab for experiencing firsthand the entire process involved in the production of maple syrup. I really have enjoyed the experience of being a 4-H parent, 4-H leader and a 4-H volunteer helping everywhere I can.

**List your local 4-H Board and other Board experience:**

On a local level, I have been North Simcoe Association President for 2 years and last year I became the Association Representative for North Simcoe. I have also been a member of Region 4’s 2010 CAM committee.

**List your volunteer experience:**

My volunteer experience is varied and lengthy having been a volunteer since I was in public school as a lunch buddy. At this point in time I am a proud volunteer with 4-H, a driver for Muskoka Family Focus, a receptionist at the Gravenhurst OPP Community Centre, part of the Community Volunteer Income Tax Program and a dedicated parent-volunteer at my children's school.

**What skill sets would you bring to the Ontario 4-H Council Board of Directors?**

I am a confident communicator with a particular strength in listening to understand and being able to communicate with a wide variety of people. I know to ask for help when needed and freely give help when I see it is needed. I am continuously learning and thrive on teams that are focused on continuous improvement. I am energetic and capable of energizing others toward a shared goal.

**Explain why you would like to be a Director on the Ontario 4-H Council:**

I thoroughly enjoy what I have been doing with 4-H. I value the role and importance of connecting provincial, regional and local associations and our volunteers. To contribute my skills and passion for 4-H at the provincial level to assist in developing future directions, while directing and protecting this great organization would be an honour. I look forward to seeing you at CAM.

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**John den Haan  
South Simcoe 4-H Association**

**Briefly describe your history with the 4-H program:**

I have been involved in 4-H for over 40 years. At the age of 12 I became a member until 18 and then became a 4-H Leader. I have been a Director and President of our Association and also a Director and Chair of the Region 4 Advisory Committee. My wife Bonnie and four children have or are still involved with the 4-H program

**List your local 4-H Board and other Board experience:**

- Local Association President and Chair of many of its committees
- Association Representative and Region 4 Chair
- Longtime elder and Trustee at Knox Presbyterian Church
- Delegate for Gencor
- Advisory member at local high school leading to the development and establishment of a very successful Specialist in Agriculture program for Grade 11 and 12 students.
- Past Director on local DHI Association and Holstein club

**List your volunteer experience:**

- Strongly involved as a family in 4-H
- Very involved with church – financial and leadership
- Involved in local community issues

**What skill sets would you bring to the Ontario 4-H Council Board of Directors?**

I have worked with several volunteers and believe in teamwork. I also believe it is important to have all the facts before making a decision. I am very familiar with the financial end of charitable organizations. I also bring my skills and experience from our family business enterprise.

**Explain why you would like to be a Director on the Ontario 4-H Council:**

4-H has been very good to our family and I would like to give back to it by being a Director contributing my experience, skills and vision toward enhancing the future of 4-H in Ontario.

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**Kelly Barclay  
Carleton 4-H Association**

**Briefly describe your history with the 4-H program:**

I have been a 4-H leader for 13 years. My main focus is with horse clubs and I also co-lead life skills clubs during the “off” season. I help out with many County and Regional events i.e. Judging Night, Go for The Gold, and Regional Horse Show.

**List your local 4-H Board and other Board experience:**

- President of Carleton
- Vice President of regional board
- Chairperson regional horse show
- Chair and/or member of most committees at local level

**List your volunteer experience:**

My main focus now is the 4-H program. In the past I have been the secretary and newsletter person for our local riding club, cancer canvasser and assistant coach for my daughter’s soccer team.

**What skill sets would you bring to the Ontario 4-H Council Board of Directors?**

I am a well organized person, seek to be fully informed and actively involved. I believe in the responsibility of ensuring all volunteers have the right information, training and support. Having worked in large corporations in the past, I bring practical business management knowledge, and appreciate the value and practice of having an effective vision, well defined goals, objectives and training.

**Explain why you would like to be a Director on the Ontario 4-H Council:**

I believe I have a healthy balance of 4-H and business experience that enables me to contribute actively to the vision and governance responsibilities of the Board. I understand eastern Ontario while knowing the role of Director is to be representative of the Province and all of its current and future volunteers and members. I love this program and bring a skill set that will contribute to its growth and impact.

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**Megan Burnside  
Hastings 4-H Association**

**Briefly describe your history with the 4-H program:**

I grew up with the 4-H program. I spent eleven years as a member and upon returning home from university became a leader. I lead several clubs within my county, both life skills and livestock, and I have recently become a volunteer with several opportunities.

**List your local 4-H Board and other Board experience:**

I have been a volunteer on my local county board for several years, taking on the roles of Association Representative and Membership Coordinator. I have recently taken on the task of website design as well. I also volunteer on the Regional Board and have been on the Provincial Board of Directors for two years.

**List your volunteer experience:**

Along with taking part in all things 4-H, I have also been a volunteer tutor. I volunteer at our local curling club, am a Junior Liaison for the Ontario Maine-Anjou Association and serve as its Vice President. I am also a member of several local fair boards and show committees.

**What skill sets would you bring to the Ontario 4-H Council Board of Directors?**

I am objective and have proven my ability to look at opportunities and challenges from all sides. Thinking and contributing proactively to the future, is certainly a trait that I contribute to the Board. I embrace and accept constructive change that is planned and well researched. In all of my various organization involvements I have, and continue to make it a priority to know the policies and come to meetings prepared to actively contribute to the work at hand.

**Explain why you would like to be a Director on the Ontario 4-H Council:**

I have enjoyed the last 2 years on the Board of Directors immensely. Governance and vision is a rewarding challenge and I am confident my skills lend well to these roles. I am excited with the new developments in the program and I am very committed to the growth, direction and protection of 4-H Ontario.

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**Sandra Hanes  
Hamilton Wentworth 4-H**

**Briefly describe your history with the 4-H program:**

4-H has been a very important part of my life for the past 15 years as a leader and as a member since I was 12 years old. 4-H has done so much for me personally that I enjoy passing along the skills that I have learned onto the next generation of 4-H members

**List your local 4-H Board and other Board experience:**

I have been a director for the past 4 years and have enjoyed helping to grow the 4-H program from the provincial level. In the past I have been very active in my local 4-H association of Hamilton-Wentworth and held positions on the board including, chairperson, A.R., fund development as well as leading 4 clubs each year including Photography, Beef, Vet, Sewing, Cooking and Scrapbooking. Leader development and recruitment is one of the areas that I most enjoy.

I have been on the board of directors for the Rockton Agricultural Society. Over the past 10 years I have been a committee member, secretary and currently Chairperson of the West Central 4-H Beef Show and Sale that is held at OLEX each October.

**List your volunteer experience:**

My other community involvement include 3 years on the Beverly Minor Hockey Association Board, 5 years with Rockton Minor Ball holding positions as Chairperson, Treasurer and Secretary. I have been a life member of the Rockton United Church and enjoy helping with Nursery Duty and fundraising by helping co-ordinating our local Lions Club dinners each month. I have been on the board of directors for the Rockton Agricultural Society and chair or help on the following committees: 4-H Intercounty Beef Show, 4-H Club Display Boards, Fair Ambassador Committee, Ag Alive Tent, Ag Education Day program and Beef Fitter Competition. Over the past 10 years I have been a committee member, secretary and currently Chairperson of the West Central 4-H Beef Show and Sale that is held at OLEX each October.

**What skill sets would you bring to the Ontario 4-H Council Board of Directors?**

I am a good networker, fundraiser and people person.

**Explain why you would like to be a Director on the Ontario 4-H Council:**

4-H has so much to offer that I would be honoured to be chosen to help deliver the 4-H program Provincially as a member of the Board of Directors for the Ontario 4-H Council. Thank you for your time as 4-H Leaders in your community, I look forward to meeting you all at CAM in February!