



## **Syngenta 4-H Ontario Arbor Awards recognizes volunteers**

### ***Three amazing 4-H volunteers recognized at the 4-H Ontario 2010 Conference and Annual Meeting.***

(February 27<sup>th</sup>, 2010 – Waterloo, ON ) Three 4-H volunteers were awarded the Syngenta 4-H Ontario Arbor Award recently at the 4-H Ontario 2010 Conference and Annual Meeting in Waterloo, ON. Recipients of this prestigious award are Diane Armstrong, Peterborough 4-H, Shelley Barfoot-O'Neill, Grey 4-H, and John den Haan, South Simcoe 4-H. Each of the recipients were presented with an award at the evening banquet, their name will be displayed on a plaque and a tree will be planted in their honour, within their community.

The Syngenta 4-H Ontario Arbor Award is presented to 4-H volunteers who have made a difference to 4-H in Ontario. Recipients of this award must have shown significant leadership and initiative and have made a positive impact on 4-H at various levels in their communities. The Syngenta 4-H Ontario Arbor Awards were initiated in 2001 during the International Year of Volunteers. To date 44 outstanding volunteers have received this distinction.

Handing out awards were Syngenta representatives Clare Illingworth, Internal Communications Specialist, Jolene Wilson, Product Quality Technician and Jessica Currie, Sales & Agronomy Manager.

“At Syngenta, we know that strong rural communities are important to Canadian agriculture, which is also at the heart of 4-H,” says Illingworth. “We are proud to be part of a program that recognizes the role of volunteers in making 4-H successful.”

Diane is a 4-H leader and volunteer, who has brought a lot of creative ideas and thoughts to the 4-H program. John has been a leader of the Cookstown Dairy Club for 23 years; South Simcoe 4-H Association Board for 10 years; as well as serving for 4 years on the Regional 4-H Committee, and as chairman for 2 years, and Shelley, a second generation Arbor Award winner, grew up participating in the 4-H program and has been a Grey County 4-H leader for 15 years.

The 4-H Ontario Arbor Award is proudly sponsored by Syngenta - one of the world's leading companies with more than 25,000 employees in over 90 countries dedicated to our purpose: Bringing plant potential to life. Through world-class science, global reach and commitment to their customers they help to increase crop productivity, protect the environment and improve health and quality of life. Syngenta is represented in Canada by Syngenta Crop Protection Canada, Inc. and Syngenta Seeds Canada, Inc.

4-H is an organization of leaders building leaders. Over 6000 youth 10-21 years of age, and a grass roots network of 1600 trained, screened volunteers pledge their Head, Heart, Hands and Health as members of community-based clubs. With projects encompassing agriculture, food, health and the environment, 4-H Ontario's “Learn To Do By Doing” clubs, camps and conferences have a successful 95 year history in developing competence, confidence, connection, character and caring within rural and urban youth.”

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Photo available upon request.

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