



Pictured above is a group photo of 36 4-H'ers from the Onslow Belmont 4-H Club took a day trip on November 29th to visit beef farms in Chester and Annapolis Valley. (Natalie Porter Photo)



William Cooper with his heifer Blossom at the Royal in Toronto (Submitted)



Emily Rose enjoyed her third year attending the Royal. This year she showed her heifer, Missy. (Submitted)



Helping hands of all sizes are always appreciated. The annual Great Village Fire Brigade Auction took place on Oct. 24th, with everything from furniture to a mini trampoline up for auction. (Harrington Photo)



Flood waters did not prevent the annual Great Village Fire Brigade Auction from taking place this year. Tables were piled high with donated items for the one day event. (Harrington Photo)

Onslow- Belmont 4-H'ers enjoy day trip & The Royal

By Natalie Porter

On November 29th, 36 4-H beef members, parents, and leaders, from Colchester and Cumberland counties, went on a road trip to visit a couple of interesting beef farms.

The bus left Great Village at 7:30 a.m. and travelled to Lobster Point Farms in Chester, where everyone was given an impressive tour by the herdsman, Jay Hiltz.

After stopping for lunch, the group travelled to the Armstrong family farm in Kingston, where the owner, Richard Armstrong, shared his vast knowledge and experience with our 4-Hers.

The bus arrived back in Great Village at around 5:00, completing a full day of travel and learning about the beef industry. Everyone is very grateful to these farmers for taking the time for our 4-H members.

After our 4H members returned from the Royal Winter Fair, November 5th to 11th, in Toronto, I had a chance to catch up with them and ask some questions about their trip. Emily Ross and Will Cooper were pleased to share their experience with us.

Have you been to the Royal before?

Emily: This was my third year attending the Royal

William: This was my first time at the Royal

What class did you go for?

Emily: I was champion beef show person at Pro-Show. At the Royal, I was in the 4-H junior show for both showmanship and conformation, and I also went in the Charolais Open Show.

William: I got chosen through the Royal Selection class at the Pro-Show this past fall and competed in the Limousin Yearling class at the Royal and place 2nd.

What was a day like?

Emily: A day at the Royal began with a very early morning. We would go get our heifers from tie-outs (cattle spent the night outside under a big overpass in Toronto, about a kilometer from the barn where they spent the day), and walk them to the display in the barn. We would then feed and water and take the heifers to the washrack. Then we would blow the heifers off, giving priority to those who were going to show that day. After a day of looking after our heifers and showing, we would take the heifers to tie-outs for the night.

William: A typical day started around 6:00 a.m. We would get up and have breakfast at the hotel or close by. We then took the subway and streetcar to the Exhibition grounds. We brought our cattle in from the

tie-outs, which was a very long walk. We would then wash a feed our calves and if it was show day we would get ready for our classes. If it wasn't show day, we would have a bit more time to walk around the Fair. At around 7:00 in the evening, we would take our calves back to tie-outs for the night, get back on the streetcar and subway and go to our hotel. We would then go out for supper as a team. The next day we would do it all over again.

Were you busy?

Emily: Depending on the day and if you showed that day would determine how busy you would be but most of the time there was lots to do.

William: We were very busy- We didn't have much time to go around the city.

What did you learn?

Emily: Every year I have gone the Royal, I have learned a lot. I got to meet a lot of new people this year who show Charolais and learned a lot from Nesbitt's, who own Cedardale Charolais, which is where my 4-H heifer came from. I got tons more experience with clipping and fitting Charolais which is totally different than the Simmentals that I used to show. I learned about which shampoos to use and new products that work well with the white heifers. It was a great experience.

William: I learned a lot about clipping and fitting cattle

What was your favourite part?

Emily: My favourite part was meeting new people

William: My favourite part was getting ready to show.

Our 4H club collected items for the Christmas Index

program. After a brief general meeting in December we had a Christmas party with games and snacks. Many projects have started having meetings to begin the new 4-H year.

Natalie Porter is Onslow Belmont Club Reporter

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