



Press Release

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For Immediate Release
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COMMITTEE NAMES PEGGY BREKVELD AS 14th WINNER OF DAIRY WOMAN SERVICE AWARD



Peggy Brekveld (3rd from left) is this year's recipient of the Outstanding Service Award for Dairy Women. Presenting the award are past winners, l to r, Nancy Beerwort, Heather Parkin, Karen Velthuis, and Sandy O'Hara.
PHOTO BY OLIVIA DUNN.

LONDON, ON FEBRUARY 28, 2024

Peggy Brekveld was announced as the winner of this year's Outstanding Service Award for Dairy Women. The ceremony took place during Holstein Ontario's Annual General Meeting in London, Ontario on February 28, 2024. Karen Velthuis, who is part of the organizing committee and a past winner from 2015, presented the award to Peggy.

Before announcing Peggy as the winner, Karen spoke on all of the incredible things Peggy has done to support the dairy industry and agriculture in general.

With an impressive record of involvement on many boards and committees, Peggy has been a driving force in advancing the dairy industry. Peggy served as the president of the OFA from 2020-2023, bringing various commodities together on common issues such as the environment, labor, and farmland preservation, all

of which directly impact dairy farmers.

Locally, Peggy was involved with the Thunder Bay Pizza Project for many years and was a board member between 2005-2011 of the Thunder Bay Federation of Agriculture, including President between 2009-2011. Peggy and her family have been regular participants at their local Dairy Show, and she has been occasionally seen in the ring. Peggy and her family have also hosted farm tours for both students and politicians of various levels of government.

Peggy has been involved with Dairy Farmers of Ontario as a member of the Training and Development Subcommittee. She stepped up to the Ontario Federation of Agriculture in 2011 and served as President from 2020-2023. Her dedication to the industry goes beyond her role at the OFA. She currently serves as the Chair on the Agricultural Adaption Council, has chaired the Presidents Council, and is a board member of Canlead Solutions. She is involved with the Canadian Agricultural Human Resource Council on labor issues, and has spoken to federal committees on food security, and bill C234, showcasing her commitment to advocating for the industry at a federal level.

In recognition of her exceptional leadership, Peggy was awarded the Influential Women in Canadian Agriculture in its inaugural year in 2020. Her passion for promoting women in the dairy industry is evident through her work at the OFA, where she actively advocates for women's representation and leadership in the farming community.

Outside of her involvement in the dairy industry, Peggy finds balance in her life by actively volunteering and being a member at her local church, enjoys singing, and taking walks. Peggy also encourages farmer wellness and encourages her peers to check in on one another and take care of their own health during challenging times.

Peggy's tireless efforts and dedication make her a role model and an invaluable asset to the dairy industry. Her talent for bringing people together and promoting common goals is remarkable and inspiring.

Established in 2011, and sponsored by Holstein Ontario, the annual award recognizes the efforts and accomplishments of Ontario women who have devoted their lives to serving, promoting, and enhancing the dairy industry. The award is the brainchild of Tara Bullock, a dedicated dairy farmer and mother of three from Lakefield, ON. Today, the coordinating responsibilities are spearheaded by Deb Knapton, the 2019 recipient.

Past recipients of this distinguished award include Heather Parkin (2011); Elaine Standeven (2012); Nancy Beerwort (2013); Sandy O'Hara (2014); Karen Velthuis (2015); Ruth Vogel (2016); Janet Ringelberg (2017); Barb Fraser (2018); Deb Knapton (2019), Bonnie den Haan (2020), Diane Jarrell-Ray & Jessie Weir (both in 2022); and Phyllis MacMaster (2023).

Photos are available upon request.