

A MESSAGE FROM THE HOMECRAFT CHAIRPERSON...

On behalf of the Homecraft Division, I would like to take this opportunity to warmly welcome everyone back to the 170th edition of the Barrie Fair presented by the Essa & District Agricultural Society. The Homecraft Division is thrilled to showcase everyone's exhibits again at the fair as well as on social media. Please select the categories that is the best fit for you, and please review the Rules & Regulations in each department as well as the General Rules & Regulations for the Junior Fair Division and for the Senior Fair Division. The Homecraft Committee have worked diligently to create a prize book that fits to everyone's talents and creativity, and we hope it sparks your interest in entering this year. It is such a pleasure to work with such a positive committee that thrives on team work and the love of the arts. I would like to thank the Homecraft Committee for all their hard work and dedication before, during and after the fair, it is so greatly appreciated.

On January 2, 2023, my mother Connie Kistler passed away at RVH surrounded by her family. She was a huge part of the Homecraft Division since 2002, and she will be greatly missed by all. In her honour, we will be having a new award in the Junior and Senior Photography Department called the Connie Kistler Memorial Award given to the overall exhibitors with the most monetary winnings.

The Homecraft Division also lost a dear volunteer and exhibitor, Penny Malcolm on June 5, 2023. Friends of Penny Malcolm shared this lovely tribute in her honour, which states, "Penny lived in Utopia, and she participated in the Barrie Fair for three years. She loved to grow vegetables and enter them in competitions at the fair. She was also an avid participant in the Life Skills Division. She helped throughout the fair, showing people what they had won

and being there on judging day. Penny especially loved the Country Fair Scarecrow Competition, specifically the year that we entered Elvis the Scarecrow. Penny passed away this June and will be greatly missed by her friends at Christian Horizons and at the Barrie Fair. As a memorial, the Country Fair Scarecrow Competitions prize money has been donated in her honour." The Penny Malcolm Memorial Award will be given to the first prize winners in the Junior, Life Skills, and Senior Fair Country Fair Scarecrow Competitions.

The Homecraft Division has always been an important part of the Barrie Fair's tradition, and the amount of interest in the Homecraft Division is continuously growing. Our sponsorship alone shows that the community truly supports the Homecraft Division and sees the bright future ahead for this wonderful part of the Barrie Fair. It is their contribution that makes the Homecraft Division of the Barrie Fair, a huge success! We are continuously looking for families and businesses to sponsor different classes within the Homecraft Division. Please let me know by email or phone if you are interested in supporting our classes.

In 2018, the Homecraft Division started a new tradition by having a Homecraft Awards Ceremony recognizing Junior, Senior, and Special Needs winners at the Barrie Fair's Opening Ceremony, which was well received by the exhibitors and the general public. Moreover, we will continue with this tradition at this year's Opening Ceremony.

The 2023 Homecraft Division theme is "Homegrown Fun" and the OAAS Poster Competition for the Junior Division is to embrace this theme. Last year, we had four items that went to the OAAS District Competitions, and the Barrie Fair placed in three competitions. Congratulations to Reta Denne who placed 1st in the OAAS Butter Tart Competition; Gillian Street who placed 1st in the Senior Poster Competition (Grades 9-12); and Natalie Bourne who placed 3rd in the OAAS Plain Chocolate Chip Cookie Competition. Two items moved onto the OAAS Provincial Competition, and congratulations to Reta Denne

who placed 3rd in the OAAS Butter Tarts Competition. There are many different OAAS competitions in the Homecraft Division Prize Book that we would love for our exhibitors to participate in this year, so the Barrie Fair can bring the winning entries to the District 5 Competitions, and hopefully to Provincial.

The preferred and easiest method of registering your entries is through AssistExpo <https://www.assistexpo.ca/essa-agriplex>. The closing date for submission of entries is no later than Friday, August 18, 2023, at 8:00 PM. If you have any questions regarding your registration or submission of entries, please feel free to contact me either by phone or email. There are so many specials in all departments that we would love for you to participate in, including the Lego/Duplo Competitions, Country Fair Scarecrow Competitions, and the Emailed Digital Photography Specials in both the Junior and Senior Divisions. We cannot wait to see all your wonderful exhibits! If you or someone you know is interested in demonstrating any form of art or craft techniques, quilting, flower arranging, painting, etc. to the general public, please let me know either by email or phone. We are trying to encourage local businesses to promote and demonstrate their gifts and talents.

In closing, promoting agriculture and celebrating our community through the arts is one way that the Homecraft Division of the Barrie Fair can bring joy and positivity to our community this summer. We look forward to seeing all our wonderful exhibitors and exhibits this year! Keep well and see you all at the 170th edition of the Barrie Fair!

Warm Regards,

Emily Kistler, Homecraft Chairperson

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