

Discovery Days comes to Niagara

By Ann Marie Chechalk

Last year eight Niagara 4-H members headed off to Rockton to discover what 4-H is all about. This year Discovery Days came to the Beamsville Fairgrounds. Those eight members must have spread the word on what an exciting and interesting day they had.

This year thirty six Niagara members and their friends were introduced to some of the things 4-H has to offer in the area. In all over sixty, ten, eleven and twelve year olds came from Brant, Haldimand, Norfolk and Niagara to experience the "Out of this World" space themed day.

After zooming in, members registered with Julia Whalen Region 4 Association Support Representative from Ontario 4-H and began working on a space themed bookmark before dividing into six groups and heading off to six different space stations.

The first station, the **Craft Club** had members working on an intergalactic picture frame to be filled with their picture that was taken with their extraterrestrial friends. Feeling just a bit sticky from all the glue they headed off to **Go for the Gold** where 4-H leader extraordinaire John Drummond Spock was manning the buzzing machine as members competed to answer trivia questions on 4-H and astronomy. As one Niagara member was overheard saying, "I didn't know I knew that much about 4-H and I also knew a lot about the planets as we just studied them in school."

As 4-H is also known for their snacking, it was on to the **Good Foods Fast** station out in the kitchen to enjoy a granola bar, apple and a milkshake. Niagara 4-H president Mike Chechalk was in charge of the milkshake machine but all the space creatures were able to pump in their own flavouring and mix them up to form a delicious snack. This gave all the local members some practice to prepare them for working in the 4-H food booth that will travel to the Smithville fair in the fall.

Station five (**what club is this?**) found members dressing a real live alien. One member from each group volunteered to be the group mascot and was wrapped in brightly coloured material, given hair of pink, glasses, ears and pipe cleaner pets. Competition was stiff as a winner would be chosen for creativity later in the day.

Then outside into the sunshine the group bounded to the Poultry building where **Goat Club** members Adriana Bianco and Carly Cain were there to explain the finer points of showing a Toggenburg goat and naming its body parts. A quick game of Survivor Goat found members totally unaware of What do you call a group of goats? It has been reported though that every member in attendance knew what you call a baby goat.

And now for the real fun, put together a combination of energetic young people, wind, spray paint and T-shirts. Elaine Elgie from Brant had her hands full passing out the brightly coloured spray bottles at this station. All combinations of paint colours were soon on the Discovery Day t-shirts donated by the Cattleman's Association. The wind soon had them dry and a group photo was taken off all attending with their designs.

Lunch came with pizza, milkshakes, carrots and make your own sundaes before the Alien Fashion Show. Combining the award winning costumes with a bit of public speaking as members showed off their morning creations and tried to convince the crowd to vote for their specimen. Group six were the winners.

Luckily the rain held off and the assembly was able to take some of their exuberance outside to participate in group games of the Jedi Noodle, the Alien Egg and the Blindfolded Minefield.

Three thirty came fast that day and it was time for parents to arrive. One very happy Haldimand Member asked on the way out, "can I come back next year even if I am twelve?" To find out more about 4-H in your area, watch for club announcements in the Niagara Farmers Monthly or call Mike at 905-386-6412 or visit www.nigara4-h.ca