

## **Niagara advances to the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair for the Go For the Gold Competition**

By Ann Marie Chechalk

Go For The Gold is a trivia competition held between 4-H clubs based on local news and on information found in Lifeskill and Agricultural 4-H manuals. Winners from local competitions can go on to compete in regional games and then on to the finals taking place every year at the Royal Winter Fair.

Three years ago Niagara had only heard about Go For The Gold. There had not been competitive teams in years. With the invitation extended from Doug Peart of Haldimand 4-H to come and compete at their local competition some Niagara 4-H members became hooked on trivia and had dreams of making it to the finals at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto.

This year two teams vied it out to be Niagara's representative to the Regional Competition in Brampton held in early August. Team mates Carolyn Booker, Karen Booker, Thomas Booker and Andrew Chechalk competed against team mates, Carly Cain, Katie Chechalk, Spencer Dunn, and Sarah Keizer to see who would advance. The format of the game involves buzzing in to answer questions, true and false questions, word scrambles; pop up pictures and Who am I knowledge. It was a tough fight but the evening saw the older more experienced team excited about the opportunity to proceed.

Wearing their bright pink team shirts they travelled to Brampton to compete with teams from Haldimand, Dufferin, Brant, Peel 1 and Peel 2 on August 8<sup>th</sup>. They knew they would have a difficult time winning against the Haldimand Get Cracking Team, Elliott Armstrong, Nicole Huitema, Stephanie Huitema, Rebecca Laman and Heather Peart for they had been defeated by them before in local competition. The Peel team also gave them a real challenge as one of their members was quick on the buzzer and "that's how you win," said Andrew Chechalk, "getting the opportunity to answer the question first."

Carolyn Booker aided her team by answering the question right on how you stop a guacamole dip from turning brown. Karen was very successful in answering many of the cooking and sewing questions and Thomas knows his farm machinery and engine questions. Andrew must be acknowledged for his quick work on the buzzer and general 4-H information. The semi-final (1 seed vs. 4 seed game) was against Brant with Haldimand being victorious with the score being 195 Haldimand to 95 Brant.

The semi-final (2 seed vs. 3 seed game) between Niagara and Dufferin was extremely close with Niagara being victorious by a margin of just 5 points!

The final game between Haldimand and Niagara was well-played and the answers given by both teams were fantastic! Can you answer this question? "What is the first thing you do before starting a quilting project?" Good answers from both teams were wrong. Pre-wash the materials and iron and lay out the material were both given and dismissed. All eight competitors were laughing and shaking their heads when the judge said, "You wash your hands."

Coming right down to the last few questions before a champion was realized Niagara came out ahead with a score of 160 to Haldimand's 120 points.

Boning up on the 4-H manuals will be keeping this team busy as they look forward to the games at the Royal in November.