

The Capacity to Communicate – Alberta 4-H’s Provincial Communications Competition



Lakeland College, Vermilion – On April 4, 2009, the success of Alberta 4-H’s communications’ program was exemplified by 43 senior-aged 4-H members, who were in Vermilion to talk, present and compete at the 33rd Annual Provincial Public Speaking competition, and the 7th Annual Provincial Presentations competition, both of which happen under the umbrella competition of “Provincial Communications”.

On the public speaking side of things, the top two competitors from each of the seven regions rose to the occasion, with 14 4-H members delivering prepared speeches on the assigned theme of *Today’s Youth*. “*All of the speakers carried themselves with a degree of professionalism that would envy any seasoned speaker,*” observed Cameron Horner, Alberta 4-H Communications and Marketing Specialist. “*These 4-H’ers could enter a boardroom today and not miss a beat.*”

In a syncopated fashion, with prepared speeches alternating with impromptu, members were presented with three different, current event-related topics, from which they could craft their impromptu speech. Despite murmurs being heard throughout the crowd regarding the difficulty of the impromptu topics – subject matter ranged from oilseeds for bio-fuels to Canada’s Young Offenders’ Act – members breezed through the topics unfazed.

“*The composure of the members when they delivered their impromptu speeches was impressive, and the skills the competitors learn in the public speaking competitions will help them excel in their careers,*” reported Robin Boschman, Communications Advisor for AltaLink and Impromptu Judge at this weekend’s Provincial Communications Competition.

After 28 speeches in total, the judge’s pencils came to a rest and the top three competitors were announced: Chris Loomis, member of Two Hills 4-H Beef and Multi Club, was awarded third place; Ted Andrew of the Dryland 4-H Multi Club took second, and top honours went to Rosie Templeton, seven-year 4-H veteran and member of the Readymade 4-H Beef Club.

“*It was an honour in itself to go to Provincials, and so winning was more than I could have imagined. It was definitely worth the six hour drive and countless hours of preparation!*” explained Rosie, following the announcement of her winning the 2009 Alberta 4-H Provincial Public Speaking Competition. “*As a 4-H member, I feel very lucky to have the opportunity to compete in these events and improve my abilities as a speaker. I have been working towards an accomplishment like this over my entire 4-H career.*”



Alberta 4-H Public Speaking Champions (l to r) - Chris Loomis, Rosie Templeton, Ted Andrews



In addition to being named public speaking champion, Rosie was also awarded the Grant A. Fletcher Memorial Award, which is given to the event's top speaker. Rosie will also go on to compete at the Canadian Young Speakers for Agriculture (CYSA) National Public Speaking Competition, which takes place in November in conjunction with Toronto's Royal Agricultural Winter Fair.

The Alberta 4-H Provincial Communications competition is title sponsored by AltaLink, and is co-sponsored by Agrium and the Calgary Exhibition and Stampede.



Alberta 4-H Public Speaking (l to r) - Rosie Templeton receiving award from Cameron Horner, Communications and Marketing Specialist