



Press Release

285 Fountain St. S, Cambridge, ON N3H 1J2

For Immediate Release
Tel: 519-653-6180
branch@ontario.holstein.ca

FIRST EVER ONTARIO OUTSTANDING DAIRY WOMEN SERVICE AWARD WINNER SELECTED

Cambridge, ON March 7, 2011 —The Ontario Holstein Branch would like to congratulate Heather Parkin of Owen Sound on being selected as the first recipient of the Ontario Outstanding Dairy Women Service Award.

Heather was recognized at the recent Ontario Holstein Branch's Annual General Meeting, held in Belleville on February 23. The inaugural award recognizes the efforts and accomplishments of Ontario women who have devoted their lives to serving, promoting and enhancing the dairy industry. According to Chairperson Tara Bullock, who approached the Branch GM Jason French in early 2010 with the concept of establishing such an award, these are women – wives, mothers, sisters or aunts - who have empowered others, inspired others, managed the details, volunteered and gone above and beyond to serve with dignity and grace.

In total, 12 outstanding women were nominated. A committee reviewed the entries and Parkin was chosen as the winner in January. "What sets our winner this year apart is her absolute dedication to serving those around her," Bullock said before presenting the award to Parkin. "She has been a tremendous asset to her family, her business, her community and this industry."

Parkin's list of contributions over the past 25 years is impressive. She has served as a Grey Holstein club secretary and director, and later went on to work at the provincial level and was the first female President of the Ontario Holstein Branch. She has been heavily involved in 4-H programs at the local, regional and provincial level, and served on her local Agricultural society and fair board. She was involved with the International Plowing Match, has been a school volunteer, and has played a key role on countless church committees. She was recognized as Volunteer of the Year, received the Ontario Agri Food Education Outstanding Volunteer award and received the Distinguished Achievement award from the Ontario Holstein Branch in 1985.



Pictured L to R: Heather Parkin, Tara Bullock and Jason French

Parkin was shocked but thrilled when she was announced as the winner. She thanked her close friends and nominators, Glen and Vanda McNeil, as well as her husband, Larry, for his support over the years. She also expressed how honoured she was to be recognized by her valued peers in the dairy industry.

"It was a very emotional moment for me – quite a surprise!" Parkin said. "I've met a lot of great people and made a lot of friends over the years. This is just the icing on the cake."