

# WESS art students get work on display

The artwork of five WESS students, Nicole Campbell, Rebekah Brayton, Jessica Mead, Cassy Kelly and Jacqui Lawley, are on display at the Museum of London as part of the *People in the Picture* exhibit. Over 250 entries were made from Thames Valley students, and 120 were chosen to be put on display. The exhibit officially opened March 6 in the Community Gallery and will be open until June 7. Read about Nicole below. Read about Jessica on page 8. Read about Rebekah on page 10. Look forward to reading about the rest of the girls in next week's issue!

Nicole Campbell has been doing art since she was little, and her efforts have paid off.

Her untitled oil painting of a girl on a blooming flower has been chosen to be on exhibit at the Museum of London until June 7. Not only that, but the ability Nicole has displayed in class has caused her art teacher to recommend her for the Pre-University Scholarship Program in Visual Arts at the University of Western Ontario.

The ten-week program is meant to give committed and creative students an opportunity to explore art beyond what is normally offered at the secondary school level. The program offers training in drawing, painting, video and sculpture, and workshops with an instructor who is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art and Design. In-class work culminates in an exhibit in the department's Art Lab Gallery so students can experience a professional gallery environment.

"Mainly, if I see something that inspires me, I'll try to paint it. It depends on how I'm feeling or what's going on, or if the thing I want to paint has some meaning," said Nicole. "I just think it's fun, being able to make something...When you're done you have something that you made, that's yours. It can be any-

thing you want. In the stages of making it you can change it if you want."

The oil painting of the girl on a flower took Nicole about four weeks to complete. She finished in late December 2008. She chose to make the flower pink and white because those are her favourite colours.

"I chose to put a girl on the flower because the girl represents me. The balls around it are 16, because I'm 16. I chose to put her on the flower because she's blooming into a woman," said Nicole.

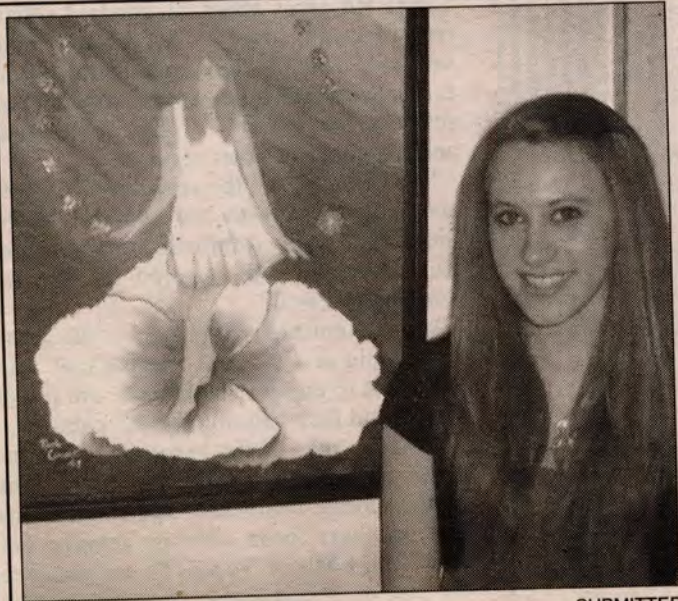
Nicole attended the official opening of the exhibit March 6 and said she enjoyed herself.

"When I went to it, it was really fun. There were a lot of people," she said. "I ended up seeing people I hadn't seen in a long time from other schools."

This untitled painting was Nicole's first time working with

oils, but after this good reception of her work, Nicole said it probably wouldn't be the last.

"The fact that it's in there and everyone can see it, it will probably inspire me to do more oil painting"



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### Pretty as a picture.

WESS student Nicole Campbell is shown with her untitled oil painting which was selected to be a part of a student exhibition at the Museum of London. Over 250 entries were made from Thames Valley students and Nicole was one of 120 young artists who were selected. Her work and the work of the other students can be viewed at the *People in the Picture* exhibit up until June 7.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### Curiouser and curiouser...

West Elgin Senior Elementary School put on their musical production of 'Wonderland' last week. The students combined Alice's magical journey through the looking glass with song and dance. From left to right, the Red King (Cody Boyd), the White King (Kyle Brown), the White Queen (Kiana Gilroy-Brown) and the Red Queen (Amber McCallum) meet Alice (Jenna Mitchell). The show was WESES' first drama production.

May 7/09



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE



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### SAA Awards!

On May 27, students of West Elgin Secondary School were recognized for their athletic abilities at the annual SAA award banquet. Photo on Left (L-R) - Wyatt Ocalisan and Andrew McWilliam tied for Sr. Male Athlete of the Year, Emily Varga, Jr. Female Athlete of the Year, Rob Roos, Junior Male Athlete of the Year, and Jordan Emmet, Sr. Female Athlete of the Year. Photo on Right - This year's Heart and Hustle award went to Michael Godfrey and Brodi Jewel. Many other students were awarded in basketball, volleyball, field hockey, golf, and other school sports.



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

**WESS Girls take on Parkside**

The WESS senior and junior girls basketball teams played at home against Parkside C.I. Oct. 6. The senior girls played a strong game but lost 34-20. The junior girls also lost 52-3. On Oct. 7, the senior girls played Central Elgin and lost 45-18, while the junior girls lost 36-21. The girls' next game will be Oct. 20 away against Aurthur Voaden. Above, WESS number 11 Stephanie Campbell on the senior team during the Oct. 6 game against Parkside.

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**WESS art students get work on display**

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WESS student Jessica Meade said she hasn't worked with oils before, so imagine her surprise when her first oil painting was chosen to be put on exhibit in the Museum of London.

Jessica's painting is of a girl with rainbow hair colours and a set of headphones plugged into the earth. 'Listening to the earth' fits in with her class's theme for the project, which was about man working with or against nature.

"I guess I had that inspiration for a while now. I don't know where it started, but it's a theme that seems to be cropping up in most of my art work, the headphones and rainbow colours," said Jessica.

Over 250 entries were made by Thames Valley students and Jessica's was one of five West Elgin Secondary students chosen to be put in the People in the Picture exhibit.

Jessica is a fairly artistic person. She does paint from time to time, but mostly she enjoys pencil drawings and photography. She's been involved in art from a young age.

"I would like to say it's a form of expression, but I actually don't think so. The things I like to draw are some of the most corporate things you can come up with," she said.

By "corporate", Jessica means she likes art from an advertising standpoint. Many of her sketches focus on brand name products.

"I don't put the message in when I first make it. I find the message after. And that's the way it's always been. I'm

not thinking about it the first time I do it, I'm just thinking about what looks nice."

Jessica attended the opening of the exhibit at the Museum of London where her art is on display along with the work of 120 other students.

"There were so many different types of art. It wasn't just paintings. There was photography, there was art done on Photoshop," she said.

Jessica's entered her photographs in the Wallacetown and the Rodney fairs. She hasn't done much work with oil paints, but now she may start.

"I am going to continue working with oils. I want to practice that and get better at it," she said. "I think I've seen a huge improvement in my art, particularly in the last year... so it's great that somebody else sees it."

**WESS art students get work on display**



**Meaning in an abstract.**

Rebekha Brayton (above) of WESS is one of 120 Thames Valley students whose work is on display at the Museum of London.

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*continued from page 8*

Rebekah Brayton, a 17-year-old WESS student, got a pleasant surprise when she found out her artwork was chosen for a London Museum Exhibit.

"This was my first abstract piece. I didn't know I liked working with abstract before it," she said. "It's really cool because as I started looking at it, I started putting more and more meaning into it. It gained depth"

Over 250 Thames Valley students submitted their art, and 120 were chosen to be put in the museum's People in the Picture exhibit. Rebekah's abstract piece showing five women made the cut.

The untitled painting was done in pastels and water colour. It shows five women, one in the background, two without faces, and two who can't see. Rebekah painted it for her class's 'Women of WESS' project. She worked on it for three days and finished it in late December 2008.

"Before we handed in the art, we were asked to write a couple words on the piece, what it was, what it meant, and mine was basically about the faceless people in society, people who blend into the background and people who don't see the things in the world," she said.

Rebekah has been doing art since she was little.

"I got my first official artist pencil set when I was eight years old. My grandparents decided 'She wants to do art. Let's get her some good artist supplies.'"

Rebekah not only paints, but she also does pencil sketches, plays guitar, sings, does creative writing and performs in school plays.

"Life in school can be really confining. You can't always say and do exactly what you want to do without criticism. But when it comes to your art, when it comes to your lyrics in music, when it comes to performing on a stage, it's all about being exactly what you want to be and how you want to be."

Rebekah's display piece was her first time experimenting with abstract art. That piece was started by using models, but now Rebekah says she'd like to take it further.

"It [abstract art] is definitely something I'll do more often. I have done a couple abstract pieces since then. But instead of trying to capture something that I saw, I was capturing an idea. It was really nice to try and embody an idea in my artwork," she said.

The official opening of the People in the Picture exhibit was March 6. The exhibit is in the Community Gallery on the museum's second floor and will be open until June 7. Rebekah didn't manage to attend the official opening, but she's seen it since and compliments all the student artists for the calibre of their work.

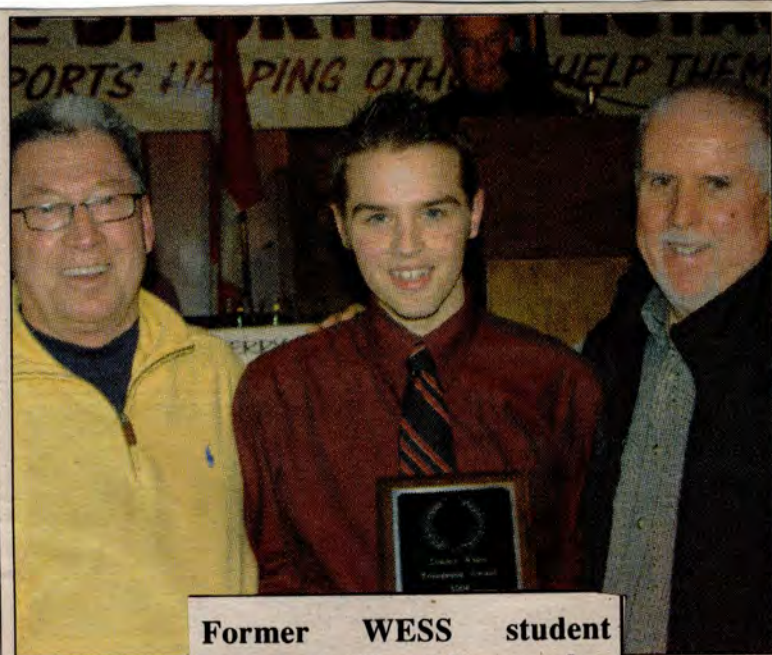
"All the girls who got chosen were very, very talented and they're not the only ones in the class too," she said.



**Art on display**

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Above is a picture of Jessica Meade with her untitled oil painting which is currently on exhibit at the Museum of London. Jessica is one of five West Elgin Secondary School students, and 120 Thames Valley students, whose work was chosen to be put on display. The exhibits open until June 7.



**Former WESS student awarded at Sport Spectacular.**

The 31st Annual St Thomas Sports Spectacular was held in St Thomas Jan. 22, at St Anne's Centre. Jeremy Koscik (center), received the 2008 Tommy White Foundation Award, which is given to the athlete who exemplified "leadership, sportsmanship, positive attitude in education" while he attended West Elgin Secondary School in West Lorne. Jeremy is currently attending the University of Waterloo. Presenting the award is Paul Bottineau (left) and Bob Gilson (right) from the Scholarship Foundation Committee. Guest speakers included Jerry Howarth, the Voice of the Toronto Blue Jays, Cheryl Pounder, Gold Medalist Canadian Hockey Olympian, Terry Evanshen CFL Hall of Fame, and others. *JAN 29 09*

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**CLEW Leadership Educational Workshop**

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

On April 24, WESS Grade 12 student Darren Downie organized an Elgin County CLEW Leadership Educational Workshop at the highschool. The goal was to encourage students to get active in the community and learn about being leaders. The day included group discussions, group games (as seen above) and guest speaker A.J. Fordham who told his story of overcoming a brain injury he suffered at 16. Darren Downie is the Regional Director for Elgin County for Hugh O'Brien Youth Leadership (HOBY). The workshop offered at the school April 24 was basically a day-long version of longer youth leadership programs HOBY offers. About 30 students attended.

## The Chronicle Scrapbook



**Veteran Alexander Boulet visited WESS May 28**

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On May 28, Mr. Tait's grade 10 History class had a very special visitor, WWII and D-Day veteran Alexander Boulet.

Mr. Boulet, dressed in his Royal Canadian Legion jacket and decorated with his various war medals gave the students a thorough explanation of his experiences in the war. Mr. Boulet was part of the 15th Field Regiment in the Canadian Fourth Division, which took part during the Normandy Invasion on June 6, 1944. D-Day (Day of Days) was the turning point of WWII as it gave Hitler and the Nazis a taste of defeat and provided the Allies with inspiration and momentum that they would use to propel themselves to victory. If it were not for Mr. Boulet and the countless other

soldiers and veterans that sacrificed and risked their lives, none of us would be here today.

June 6 is the 65th anniversary of D-Day, all of us owe a great deal of gratitude, respect and thanks to all of the veterans that took part in D-Day and WWII. At the conclusion of Mr. Boulet's presentation, he showed the students his "Hug a Vet" pin, each and everyone of the students came up and hugged this exceptional and inspirational vet. It was a moment that the class and Mr. Boulet will never forget. If you see a vet, give them a hug; it is the least we can do to show them our thankfulness for their dedication and sacrifices they gave for our freedom.



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**WESS heads to playoffs**

On Oct. 29, the WESS Junior Girls Basketball team played at home against the Arthur Voaden Vikings and came out on top with a score of 42-26. The Junior Girls entered Playoffs Game 3 against Central Elgin, playing at home Nov. 4. Pictured is WESS number 21 Mary Jane Millar during the Oct. 29 game.

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**WESS Girls are playoff bound**

The WESS Senior Girls Basketball team took on Arthur Voaden at home Oct. 29. Pictured is WESS number 4 Emma Wilkins. The girls fell behind early in the game, but made a strong comeback which ultimately fell short when the game ended 44-40 for Arthur Voaden. The Senior Girls played at St. Joseph's Nov. 4 as the playoffs got underway.



► It's that time of year again! WESS Grade 12 art students are currently showing off their skills with paintings; some on canvases, but mostly in the school hallways. Photos by Jesse Cnockaert/The Chronicle



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## Concert Night at WESS

Oct. 29 was concert night at West Elgin Secondary School, with students from Litherland, U.K. as guest performers. Eleven students from Litherland and three of their instructors arrived in Canada Oct. 23. They got to take in some sights, including the C.N. tower and Niagara falls. Their performance Oct. 29 was part of a performance tour, where they played music in Southwold, at Dunwich-Dutton Public School and WESES. Performances were made by the WESS Senior band, Jazz band, a band of Litherland students called 'The Envy,' and 16-year-old Alex Edgar (left) who sang Opera music.



Chelsea Drent



Christy Hentz and Cassy Kelly



Tiffany McFadden

# Track and Field!

PHOTOS BY: JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

► On May 14, West Elgin Senior Elementary School students competed in a day of races, long jumps and many other track events!



Dalton Danis (Gr.8) during the high jump.



## Four Hundred meter race

Seen above is Gr. 7 students Autumn Roberts and Meagan Grant during a run around the high school track. Roberts finished this run with a time of 1 min. 19 sec, and Grant finished with 1 min 20 sec.



Eddie Marshall (Gr.7) in the running long jump



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## St. Mary's Catholic schoolyard chalk campaign

Four-year-old Ashley De Wulf was one of many St. Mary's Catholic School students who was out drawing with chalk on the school tarmac Sept. 25. In support of Childhood Cancer Awareness Month during September, St. Mary's participated in the provincial chalk drawing campaign. Students used chalk to communicate messages about childhood cancer on behalf of their peers struggling with a cancer diagnosis. The goal of the campaign is to raise awareness of cancer among students, parents, and in the local community. The school also held the annual Terry Fox run later that same day.

## From the Principal's Pen

Fall is coming and with it the winter chill. It has been a wonderfully productive semester so far and I would like to invite people to drop by and see the school. The first thing that most people notice are the paintings on the walls in the corridors. They are all student painted and show the importance of an audience in authentic assessment. When students know that their paintings will be seen by everyone, they take extra time and care to ensure that these paintings will be of the highest quality; and they are. Congratulations to Mrs. McLagan for doing such a great job.

A number of our students begin their school day without having a

proper breakfast whether it be because they wake up late, don't feel like eating when they get up, don't have any food in the house, or come for an early morning practice at 7:00 and then are hungry again at 8:30. Research has proven that if students attend class on an empty stomach, their level of success is negatively affected. West Elgin provides a nutritious breakfast every day for all of our students. If you are interested in helping us out with donations, please contact Mrs. Ross at the school.

We have just finished our Commencement and it was a wonderful evening. We are grateful to all those companies and

individuals who have donated to our students. The number of awards and the scholarship money donated to our West Elgin students is a show of tremendous support for the West Elgin graduates. Thank-you so much.

The music program is running at full steam. We are welcoming visitors from Litherland High School from Oct. 25 until Oct. 29. We will be hosting a music concert on Oct. 29 in our cafeteria and our winter concert will be on Dec. 8. West Elgin would love to have everyone join us. Both concerts will be accepting donations at the door.

Our West Elgin sports teams are enjoying their seasons. The

football team beat Arthur Voaden last week; the Senior Boys Volleyball team is undefeated, and the Girls Basketball team recently won two games in a tournament and scored 50 points in their 2nd win. Go Wildcats.

The West Elgin Parent Council is hosting an evening with Shanna Burns on Oct. 28 at 7:00 who will be speaking on the internet and the issues surrounding online social networking. Everyone is welcome.

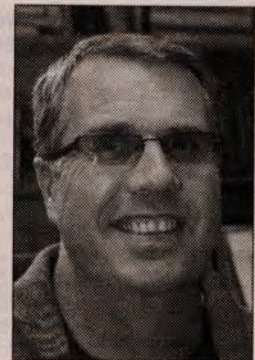
West Elgin has a new website so check us out at <http://www.tvdsb.ca/WestElgin.cfm>. We are working hard at updating it so please join

us on-line and give us any feedback about the events and information listed. We have also

opened our parent portal for all parents to connect electronically to how everyone's son and daughter are doing. Ah, the electronic age.

It is such a pleasure to be the Principal at a school with such great school spirit and such community involvement. I invite you to drop in when you can to see the school and see us in action. On behalf of

the staff and students at West Elgin, enjoy the beautiful fall colours.



Richard Pincombe  
WESS Principal

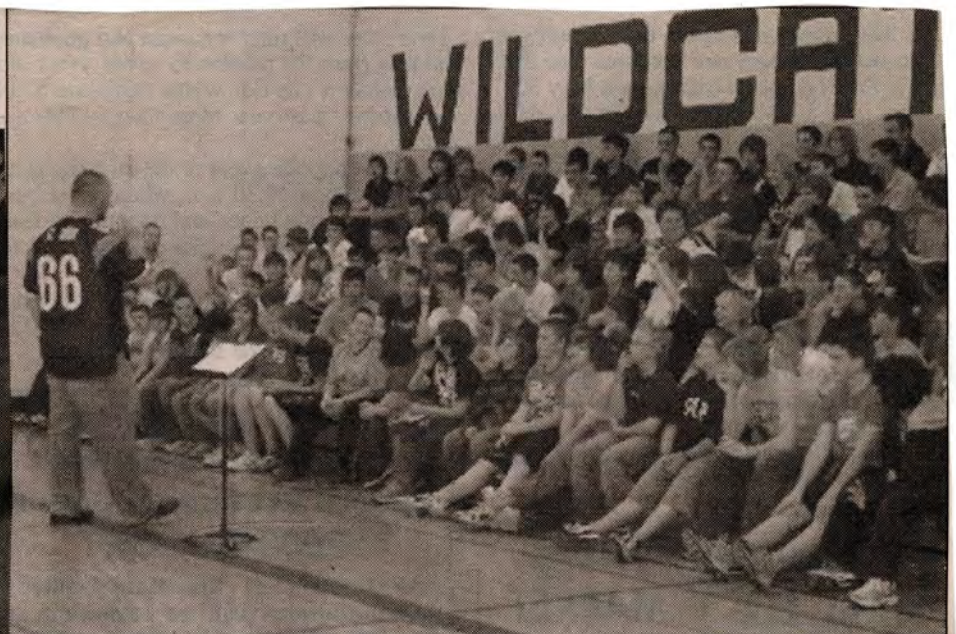
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### WESS VS Central Elgin

WESS number 3 Milos Agbaba pushed past Central Elgin's defense line during the Senior Boys Basketball game played at home Nov. 3. WESS lost 29-51.

The senior boys will play at home again Dec. 10 against St. Joseph.



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### WESS hears from Argonaut

On May 7, the grade 7 and 8 boys from WESES joined with the grade 9 and 10 boys from WESS to hear Toronto Argonaut Offensive Guard #66 Jude St John, who came to the school to give a motivational talk on respect, responsibility and bullying. St. John graduated from Western with an honours bachelors degree in Physical Education and a Bachelor of Education degree, and has worked as a substitute teacher for the TVDSB. He has been playing professional football in the CFL since 1995. After playing for Western in an undefeated National Championship, he was drafted by the Hamilton Tiger-Cats and after three years signed with the Toronto Argonauts. St. John's career highlight to date is winning the Grey Cup in '04.



## Award-winning author encourages reading and charity work.

JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

Eric Walters, a Canadian author of over 40 books for children and young adults, made an appearance at St. Mary's Catholic School in West Lorne April 20. He talked about his work and encouraged the students to become involved in the writing process. Walters also spoke about The Creation of Hope Project, an initiative with which he is affiliated that provides direct support, education, advocacy, micro-grants and micro-loans for children and their extended families in Africa. Walters let students know that, even at their age, they can help change the world. Students took off their shoes, because so many children in the world have to walk barefoot.

## Teacher honoured for agricultural contribution

West Elgin Secondary School instructor Peter Soos will be recognized for bringing agriculture into the classroom at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show (COFS) Sept. 15 in Woodstock.

This year's Farm Show is putting special emphasis on agriculture education and youth.

"In addition to recognizing contributions of 4-H, we will also be applauding some of the teachers within the school system who are bringing agriculture into classrooms," said Lorie Jocius, COFS President in a press release.

"This year, we are partnering with Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc. to recognize one of those teachers, Peter Soos."

Soos has been teaching about agriculture at the high school for five years. For Soos, the reward is in the work and seeing the students succeed.

"I love every minute of it. I look forward to going in to work every day," said Soos. "Rather than teach about cars, I teach about farm equipment; hydraulics, combine theories, that kind of thing... We also have a high skills major component to our courses so students can actually specialize in agriculture."

WESS students have been visiting the Farm show annually for four years to get a look at the latest agriculture technologies so



JESSE CNOCKAERT/THE CHRONICLE

### Honoured for teaching about agriculture

WESS instructor Peter Soos will be recognized Sept. 15 at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show for his work getting students involved in agriculture. The Farm Show will be held in Canada's Outdoor Park in Woodstock, ON.

they can do class presentations.

Representatives of 4-H Ontario will be officially opening the 16th edition of COFS Sept. 15 at the Ginty Jocius Memorial Waterfall and it will be open until Sept. 17.

With help from partners such as COFS,

Ontario Agricultural College, Ontario Agri-Food Education Inc., and the University of Toronto Youth Voices, 4-H is working towards expanding their network of youth interested in agriculture, food, health and the environment.

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