

## 2010 NCA Historic Carousel Award

Patrick Wentzel, NCA Census Chairman

Good things do, eventually, happen. On June 8, 2012, I had the pleasure of representing the NCA by presenting the 2010 NCA Historic Carousel Award to The Roseneath Carousel. The beautifully restored 1906 C. W. Parker machine is owned by the Roseneath Agricultural Society, Roseneath, Ontario, Canada, and operates at the Roseneath fairgrounds. Family happenings, a glitch with the plaque production, and my bout of pneumonia clashed with previous opportunities to make the presentation. The plaque could have been mailed, but it was important that the presentation be made in person.

The carousel was not open during our scheduled visit. Upon our arrival at the fairgrounds we were warmly welcomed by a large contingent of Agricultural Society members and carousel volunteers gathered at the carousel building. Accompanying me on the visit were

NCA members Brenda Wentzel and our grandson, Ethan Grose. Fellow member Barb Foreman, the heart and soul of the carousel, was on hand to represent it. After introductions and discussions on the criteria used to select a recipient of the NCA Historic Carousel Award, the plaque was presented to Dale Gallagher. It was Dale's late husband Allan whose vision led to the restoration of the carousel for future generations to enjoy.

I have witnessed many NCA award presentations in the past, but participating in the presentation offers a unique and different perspective. This opportunity to represent the NCA was a special moment of my nearly 30-year membership, and one which I will never forget. After the plaque presentation, the operators and volunteers explained their duties and involvement with the carousel. One could easily feel the commitment and love these individuals have for this



Brenda Wentzel, Ethan Grose and Patrick Wentzel enjoying a ride.

—Photo courtesy of Suzanne Atkinson

In photo below left, Patrick Wentzel presents the plaque to the Agricultural Society members and carousel volunteers.

—Photo courtesy of Brenda Wentzel

One of two rocking boats on the carousel.

—Photo courtesy of Patrick Wentzel

special machine. We also learned more about the history of the carousel and about future plans for a climate-controlled building. Then it was time to do what NCA members enjoy—taking a few rides. Our grandson had never seen a rocking boat like the ones on this machine, so that was our first choice.

Those who have not visited Roseneath are missing a rare treasure. The C. W. Parker carousel was purchased in 1932 and has operated at the fairgrounds ever since. The three-abreast machine features a mixture of Parker and Herschell-Spillman horses, with two unusual rocking boats in place of chariots, and a Wurlitzer Style 125 band organ. The building includes a small museum with historical dis-

plays and some of the extensive documentation of the machine's restoration. More information about The Roseneath Carousel can be found in the NCA Census, or visit the Roseneath Agricultural Fair web site at [www.roseneathcarousel.com](http://www.roseneathcarousel.com), on which the NCA Historic Carousel Award plaque is proudly displayed. (The other 2010 Award went to Santa Monica Pier's PTC #62 in California.)



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