

Announcing AALP Class 13

We are very excited to be able to announce the participants in AALP Class 13. These 30 individuals will begin their AALP leadership journey during their first seminar in Guelph in late September 2009.

Those selected as participants in AALP Class 13 include:

John Borland, Egbert, Cash Crop Producer

Sarah Brown, Guelph, Quarry Integrated Communications

Clinton Buttar, Guelph, Farm Credit Canada

Andrew Chisholm, Woodstock, Monsanto Canada

Gunther Csoff, Walsingham, Tobacco & Cash Crop Producer

Bonnie denHaan, Loretto, Dairy Producer

Darlene Downey, Caledon, Downey's Farm Market

Phil Emmott, Drayton, RBC Royal Bank

Doug Eng, Zephyr, Organic, Fruit & Vegetable Producer

David Ferguson, St. Thomas, Dairy & Cash Crop Producer

Neil Hemingway, Brussels, BroadGrain Commodities Inc.

Nathan Klages, Guelph, Syngenta Crop Protection Canada Inc.

Jordan Kniaziew, Kingsville, Pepper Producer

Rick Kush, Guelph, Agriculture & Agri-Food Canada

Matt Langford, Thamesford, Matt Langford Insurance

Henry Lise, Hagersville, Broiler & Cash Crop Producer

Carol Maki, Thunder Bay, Beef Producer

Arlie McFaul, Guelph, Agricorp

Kathryn Minten, Kerwood, Dairy & Cash Crop Producer

Katija Morley, Guelph, eBiz Professionals Inc.

Michel-Antoine Renaud, Guelph, Flowers Canada

Andre Roy, Cambridge, Grober Nutrition

Christa Royce, Listowel, Trillium Mutual Insurance

Drew Spoelstra, Binbrook, Dairy & Cash Crop Producer

Ben Sterk, Embro, Dairy, Field & Cash Crop Producer

Arik Theijsmeijer, Sudbury, FedNor/Industry Canada

Amadou Thiam, Gatineau, OMAFRA

Bruce VanderWees, Thunder Bay, Egg Producer

Melanie Williams, Palgrave, AECOM

Tim Williams, Petrolia, Cash Crop & Vegetable Producer

Class 12 our newest alumni

"Go, Class 12 and find your mountain, your challenge. And if, at first, you don't succeed, try and try again. We've trained, we've packed and we're ready, Class 12, for the adventures that lie ahead and for excellence. The future is what WE choose to make it," urged Amy Cronin in her inspiring valedictory address at the graduation of AALP Class 12. Alumni, family, friends, program sponsors and more gathered together at the London Convention Centre on April 4, 2009, to celebrate the culmination of AALP Class 12's leadership journey.

Cronin reminded her classmates of how they had come together 19 months earlier at the first seminar in Guelph as strangers and were now bound by their many shared experiences. *"Eight seminars, two study tours and an issues analysis project later, we have bonded like no other,"* said Cronin.

Included in the evening's program was the presentation of the *Richard Lichty Memorial Award*, to Class 12's Peggy Brekveld. Chosen by their class peers, the recipient exemplifies the qualities

demonstrated by Richard (Class 6), such as passion for their rural community and agriculture, and faith in the ability of people to make a difference.



Rob Hannam, President TCRL, Peggy Brekveld and Mary Lichty

AALP
ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL
LEADERSHIP PROGRAM

Summer 2009 Edition

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UPDATE

...Continued from page 1

Class 12's AALP leadership journey wrapped up with their final seminar, which kicked off with the Wm. A. Stewart Lecture on the evening of Thursday April 2 featuring Andrew Coyne. The weekend ended with declarations by each of the new AALP graduates of how they will use the knowledge and skills they acquired through their AALP experience as they move forward. As they bid their tearful farewells, not goodbyes, it was obvious the tight bonds that had been forged within the class over the 19 months of the program.

Highlights of the London seminar included: a tour of the Fusion Centre in Ingersoll, an innovative youth activity facility; a fund raising workshop, with many useful tips and ideas for use in organizations and communities; presentations by AALP alumni to challenge and inspire the group for the future; and a tour of Ontario Plants Propagation, lead by Class 12 member Tim Vanderkooy and AALP alumnus Jack Vanderkooy, Class 4.



(Above) Jack Vanderkooy (Class 4) leads a tour of Ontario Plants Propagation during Class 12's final seminar in April 2009

In February the North American Study Tour took the class to California where they examined the political, environmental, social, cultural and economic issues in California. They learned about the 'golden state's' 36.3 billion dollar agricultural industry, with 88,000 farms. In California they had the opportunity to meet with government and industry leaders, private industry, academia and public sector agencies and toured farms, ranches and processing facilities.

One major issue that the group heard about time and time again while in California was water. And the solutions and options with this issue lead to a key learning for Peggy Brekvel, where she recognized that part of being a good leader comes from experience. "Californians took what they had for resources (excellent land) and built on that, using their skills to bring what they needed to the desert. They see prime ag land where others would just see sand. That is facing adversity head on," said Brekvel.

The meeting with Stuart Woolf, an alumnus of the California Agricultural Leadership Program (CALP) who runs a diversified farming and processing operation near Fresno was enlightening to many. "What I took home about leadership was that you have to be honest with yourself, understand your strengths, and be willing to bring in outside help / expertise to shore up those areas that you are weak in. The Los Gatos presentation in particular solidified the notion that everyone has shortcomings and you have to be willing to address those issues to succeed," said Brad Lichy.

Class 12's Wilfred Strenzke says that the biggest benefit of the program for him was, "Learning to work with other people, and watching how others have developed. This class has an amazing group of leaders and it was inspirational just to be in the group. I can see how they will make a difference and it gave me the confidence to do likewise."

"The agricultural industry is a small world but has a huge impact on everyone. As up and coming leaders we need to remember that there are three types of people in this world...Those who let it happen, those who make it happen and those who wonder what happened. This weekend, we finish AALP, and head in 29 different directions, influencing agriculture and rural life in Ontario and beyond, taking it to new heights, and feel compelled to make things happen," challenged Cronin as Class 12 drew to a close.

And it appears that the newest alumni of AALP have already begun to make it happen (see AALP Grad News on page 5) and will continue well into the future.



(Above) Amy Cronin, Class 12, delivering her inspiring valedictory address during the graduation banquet on April 4, 2009



(Left) Class 12 during their North American Study Tour to California in February/March 2009

CELEBRATE - the best Ontario Farms have to Offer

Come one, come all to "CELEBRATE - the best Ontario Farms have to Offer"

Class 12 brings you a night of friend raising and support for AALP.

This event will include a great meal featuring fresh Ontario produce, barbecued meats and more, entertainment and the opportunity to meet and mingle with AALP supporters along with former and current participants.

This is a licensed event - 19 and over - funds raised will be used to support AALP.

Saturday, September 5th, 2009 - 5:00pm to midnight

Puslinch Community Centre, Wellington County Road 46 in Aberfoyle

Tickets: \$30 per person, \$50 per couple, Student rate of \$20 - Purchase online at www.aalp.on.ca or through the TCRL office 519-826-4204

2009 Wm A Stewart Lecture

Who is going to lead Canada through the current economic turmoil? This was the question that Andrew Coyne, National Editor of *Maclean's* magazine strove to answer during his keynote address at the William A. Stewart Public Lecture & Reception in support of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP), on April 2, in London. While discussing the economy throughout North America, Coyne despaired the lack of a realistic long-term plan from any political party.

"Andrew Coyne was very thought provoking, and did an excellent job assessing the state of the economy and the political landscape of Canada. His final message, 'we are able to change what people perceive as the middle rather than move people to the middle' was an interesting approach to the impact of messaging and media in our society," enthused Class 12 member, Nathan Stevens.

"Coyne gave us an insight on how a journalist sees the events happening within and outside our boundaries and he backed up his opinions with true facts that have happened," shared Paul Schoppmann, AALP Class 12.

This bi-annual fund and friend raising event realized a profit of just over \$17,000 in support of AALP.



(Top) Andrew Coyne and Rob Hannam, TCRL president

(Bottom) Guests mingle with Andrew Coyne at the post lecture reception

AALP Fast Facts

353 AALP alumni

12 classes completed

93% of AALP graduates indicated AALP had a "very" or "somewhat positive impact" on their careers

71% of AALP graduates indicated their involvement in leadership activities has increased "a lot"

99% indicated they have utilized skills learned through the program

88% of graduates have recommended the program to friends or colleagues

79% of graduates indicated they were very satisfied at the time of graduation while a further 19% were somewhat satisfied (Net Satisfied – 98%)

From information gathered & analyzed in the IPSOS REID 'AALP GRADUATES MEASURES OF SUCCESS' SURVEY—January 2008

Dream Auction 2010 – Winter Magic

Exciting New Venue

The Dream Auction will be held Saturday, February 20, 2010 at the Delta Guelph Hotel and Conference Centre.

Organizers are very excited about the new venue. According to CJ Noble, Class 12 graduate and co-chair of the event, *"The Delta is a beautiful facility with luxurious accommodations fitting for this premier fundraising and social event held in support of AALP."*

Co-chair and fellow class member, Kevin Prong added, *"We've partnered with the Delta to offer an overnight package with Sunday brunch and hope that attendees will take advantage of this opportunity to treat themselves to this beautiful hotel at a great rate! We also hope that this will encourage alumni and supporters from farther away to make the trip and build on the opportunity to reunite with friends and colleagues."*

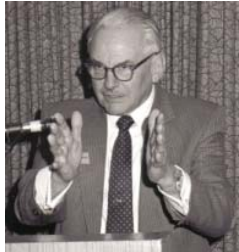
There are many exciting opportunities to become involved with for the 2010 Dream Auction. Organizers are seeking event sponsors, donated items/experiences for the auction and volunteers. If you, or someone you know is interested in becoming involved and offering their support in this capacity, please contact Kathie MacDonald at the TCRL office at 519-826-4204.

Get ready for a magical and unforgettable evening! Tickets can be purchased online www.aalp.on.ca or by calling the office.

To reserve a room at the Delta for the night of the Dream Auction please call 519-780-3700 or 1-800-268-1133 and identify yourself as being part of our group (Group Code: GSACC3). Special rates include high speed Internet and complimentary access to the Athletic Centre - \$179 includes free 'Sunday Brunch' for Two on Sunday morning (\$60 value); \$129 includes breakfast for one person; \$139 includes breakfast for two.

AALP has been growing leaders for 25 years...

Upon the launch of AALP in 1985 the Honourable William A. Stewart, past Minister of Agriculture and Food in Ontario said, "In every sphere of agriculture there is a need for leaders: men and women who can distinguish between fact and emotion, who can analyze situations and take decisive action, and who can inspire others to do the same."



Hon. William A. Stewart

Over the past 25 years AALP has graduated over 350 leaders who are now making a positive difference across Ontario and beyond.

In a recent Ipsos Reid survey (2007), ninety nine per cent of AALP graduates reported that they regularly use the skills learned in the program and ninety eight per cent say that the program has made them better leaders.

Please join alumni, friends and supporters in celebrating '25 Years of AALP' at this year's Canada's Outdoor Farm Show.

Tuesday September 15, 2009
Reception - 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Canada's Outdoor Farm Show
Bayer CropScience Tent
(5th Lane South)

Food processors, primary producers, retail agri-business owners, bankers and others from the private and public sectors have all participated in AALP over the past 25 years.

John Geurtjens, AALP Class 2, Director, FCC Financial Services, Farm Credit Canada, heard about the program from one of his work peers who was in Class 1. Geurtjens applied at a time when he was looking to further his leadership experience. "I learned many things from the people we met, as well as the thirty participants in the program with me. From the experience, my perspective became much more regional, national and global than it had been. Also the group work and collaboration was good practice for the real world," says Geurtjens.

Gwen Paddock, AALP Class 6, Vice President Agri-Business & Commercial Banking with RBC Royal Bank practices leadership in her work and in her volunteerism. In recognition of her leadership efforts, Paddock was a recent nominee for Guelph's Women of Distinction 2009 awards. "Leadership skills are universal, whether in the workplace or when working with volunteer groups and AALP was definitely instrumental in honing mine," says Paddock.

Tim Schinkel, owner of Schinkel's Legacy, a gourmet meat company in Chatham is a graduate of AALP Class 11. Schinkel is a past president of the Ontario Independent Meat Processors Association (OIMP) and his high quality meat products are regularly recognized as award winners in the annual Ontario's Finest Meats Competition. With all of the challenges the meat processing industry has been facing of late, Schinkel says that, "The lessons I learned about communications and dealing with the media have been very useful."

Monsanto Continues Partnership with Agriculture Leadership at Genuity™ Technology Expo

The future of agriculture meets the future of agriculture leadership once again at Monsanto's Genuity™ Technology Expo, part of Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. Last year, Monsanto celebrated the opening of its technology expo by partnering with 4-H Ontario and The Centre for Rural Leadership through its Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP). And this year will be no different. Monsanto will continue these partnerships, as expectations for this year's Genuity™ Technology Expo are even bigger and better.

The Genuity™ Technology Expo will showcase Monsanto's extensive pipeline of corn and soybean traits. And for every farmer who takes the time to tour the Genuity™ Technology Expo at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, running September 15th, 16th and 17th, Monsanto will donate \$5 to agricultural leadership programs in Ontario. In 2009, these funds will be split between 4-H Ontario and The Centre for Rural Leadership.

Mike Nailor, Trait Marketing Manager for Monsanto Canada, says continuing the partnership makes a lot of sense. "Thanks to the more than 2,000 farmers who took the time to participate in the technology expo last year Monsanto was able to donate more than \$10,000 to rural leadership in Ontario,"

says Nailor. "Monsanto strongly supports rural leadership programs and we hope to again be in a position to make a large donation to rural leadership groups in Ontario in association with the Genuity™ Technology Expo."

"Monsanto continues to be a strong supporter of 4-H Ontario and we appreciate their efforts and devotion to support the development of future leaders in agriculture," says Andrew Moore, Marketing and Events Coordinator for 4-H Ontario.

Rob Black, Executive Director for The Centre for Rural Leadership, the umbrella organization that delivers the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program, concurs. "Monsanto understands the importance leadership plays in agriculture and their continued financial support is evidence of this."

This year's tour will act as a launch point for Monsanto's new Genuity™ brand. Genuity™ is the name for Monsanto's first family of traits across corn, soybean, canola and specialty crops. For the first time, many of the traits farmers count on now, and those yet to be introduced, will be organized together under one brand. Eastern Canadian farmers will learn how the Genuity™ brand will help them do what they do best, even better.

"Monsanto's science is only as good as the solutions and the value our products provide to farmers," says Nailor. "This is why we felt we needed a brand like Genuity™, to simplify and more clearly connect our family of traits with the farmers who value them."

Farmers will see the innovative products in the Monsanto pipeline that will be available under the Genuity™ brand in 2010 and in the years to come. Products like Genuity™ SmartStax™, the only corn technology available on the market in 2010 with 8 genes with multiple modes of action for both above and below ground insects and Genuity™ Roundup Ready 2 Yield™, the next generation of soybean technology that can deliver 7 to 11% improved yield over first generation Roundup Ready® soybeans.

To arrange for a tour of the Genuity™ Technology Expo contact your local seed dealer, stop by the Monsanto booth during Canada's Outdoor Farm Show or call 1-800-285-1281



AALP Grad News

- **Joan Brady**, Class 12, joined FoodNet Ontario as their Project Coordinator on June 1, 2009.
- **Ryan & Jennifer Brown**, Class 11 and 12, welcomed new son Andrew Ryan on June 4 around 11:20 a.m. weighing 7 lbs 8oz.
- **John Bongers**, Class 9, was recently re-elected Chairman of CanWest DHI.
- **Amy Cronin**, Class 12 was elected as Director for District 3 of Ontario Pork in April 2009.
- **Brian Fox**, Class 7, has returned for a two-year term on the board of directors of the Ontario Sugarbeet Growers' Association in March 2009.
- **Christine Greydanus**, Class 12, was accepted into the MBA program at the University of Guelph, beginning in June 2009.
- **Rob Hall**, Class 11, recently joined Wallenstein Feed and Supply as Business Development Manager.
- Congratulations to **Ove Hansen**, P.Ag., Class 11, being named as Agrologist in Residence by the Ontario Institute of Agrologists in late 2008.
- **Greg Haskett**, Class 11, was elected as Director for Oxford County, District 5 of Ontario Pork in April 2009.
- **Mary-Ann Hendrikx**, Class 10, was elected Vice-Chair of Ontario Pork in April 2009.
- John and **Alison Kwarta**, Class 10, welcomed new son Scott Craig Kwarta on June 25, 2009, weighing 5 lbs, 14 oz.
- Bob and **Carol Leeming**, Class 10, were recipients of a 2008 Certificate of Recognition for Energy Conservation from the Conservation Bureau, Ontario Power Authority for installing a wind turbine to produce electricity, retrofitting their lighting to reduce electricity use, and contributing to a culture of conservation in Ontario.
- **Crystal Mackay**, Class 7, and Kirby Ayles welcomed new daughter Jaden Eva Marie Ayles on July 15 at 6:11 a.m. weighing 8 lbs, 4 oz.
- **Kevin MacLean**, Class 8, was selected as a finalist for the 2009 Ontario's Outstanding Young Farmer's Award.
- **Tara Malcolm**, Class 11, joined the Farm Mutual Reinsurance Plan (FMRP), as Risk Assessment Specialist in November 2008.
- **Tony Morris**, Class 5, has become a resident of Centre Wellington, after 27 years in Bruce County. Elected to the Board of Directors, Grand River Agriculture Society, responsible for operations of Grand River Racetrack & Slots. Recently a proud grandfather to 2nd grandson, Owen.
- **Mark Richards**, Class 8, was elected for a two-year term on the board of directors of the Ontario Sugarbeet Growers' Association in March 2009.
- **Art Stirling**, Class 6, was named the first Director of Community Relations & Fund Development with the Prism Foundation in support of the Prism Centre for Audiology & Children's Rehabilitation in November 2008.
- **Angela Stiles**, Class 7, became an Auxiliary Constable at the O.P.P. in June 2008.
- **Kevin Thompson**, Class 8, is now the Manager, Chicken Sector of the Canadian Poultry & Egg Processors Council (CPEPC) as they join forces with the Association of Ontario Chicken Processors (AOCP). Kevin will also remain in his current role with AOCP.
- **Alice Uher**, Class 5, was recently honoured as the Agriculturist of the Year by the Blenheim & District Chamber of Commerce
- Lindsay and **Tim Vanderkooy**, Class 12, welcomed new son Grayson Timothy Vanderkooy on June 3rd at 6:07 a.m. weighing 6 lbs 4 oz.
- **Teresa VanRaay**, Class 9, was elected as Director of Zone A of Ontario Pork in April 2009.
- **Jeff VanRoboys**, Class 10, is now General Manager of Thames Van Farms Ltd., the recipients of more than \$1 million of funding through the Rural Economic Development Program, to create jobs and become a globally competitive cucumber grading facility.
- Our condolences to **Paul Wardlaw**, Class 3, on the passing of his wife, Ethel on April 24, 2009.

SPONSORS

Patrons \$50,000 and up



Champions \$10,000 to \$24,999



Leaders \$5,000 to \$9,999



Builders \$2,500 to \$4,999



Founding Partners



2009 ILAC Conference

The **2009 ILAC Conference (International Leadership Alumni Conference)** is scheduled for August 19-22, 2009 in Pasco, Washington, and will be hosted by the Washington Leadership Alumni Council. Please note that one of the tours, the nuclear power plant (Thursday, August 20th), is limited to 40 people and will require identification information two weeks in advance. See the ILAC website for details. Christine (Class 12) and Jack (Class 5) Greydanus have attended a number of ILAC events in the past. When asked about ILAC Jack had this to say, "Issues within agriculture are common to all but great solutions and ideas can come from abroad. ILAC is a wonderful conduit to meet like-minded people from around the world in agriculture." Christine built on this with her thoughts, "I've attended 6 ILAC conferences as a spouse, and have always come away with tremendous food for thought. Our own farm operation has been a benefactor of the new to us ideas. We have learned from the tours and other participants. You also get to make some really great friends." More details and registration options can be found at www.ILAC09.com

WORKSHOPS

POPULAR WORKSHOP is Back!!

The Centre for Rural Leadership, in partnership with Andy Sherwood and PROGRESSIVE TRAINING.CA, is again offering a day long workshop (9:00 to 4:00) on productivity training and time management solutions, integrating communications, tasks, activities and planning using Microsoft Outlook®. The cost of this day-long workshop is \$545.00 with refreshments and lunch included.

Register for this very worthwhile workshop to be held:

- Guelph - Wednesday September 23 or Wednesday November 25
- U of G's Kemptville Campus -Thursday October 8

Sharon Leslie, AALP Class 4, Claims Administrator with the Agricultural Adaptation Council, participated in a recent productivity workshop and had this to say, "I was in awe on how much Outlook can do for you. I am a task orientated person so the discovery of the task pad has made it so much easier to keep my "to do list" up to date from day to day. I like the idea of keeping an empty "in box" and turning e-mails into tasks and adding them to my task pad on the appropriate day. All in all Outlook is a very useful tool for the work place and home and I would recommend this course to anyone wanting to make their life less stressful, more organized and productive. You will be working smarter not harder in no time by taking this course."

NOW OFFERING Working Sm@rt with BlackBerry

Plus we are now offering a ½ day workshop Working Sm@rt with BlackBerry. Created in conjunction with Research in Motion (RIM), graduates of this workshop increase productivity and enhance on-the-job performance by knowing how to match the right process and skill set when using their BlackBerry devices. The next workshop will be held on Tuesday, October 27, 2009, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cost of this 1/2 day workshop is \$295.00 with morning and mid-morning refreshments included.

Lee Whittington, AALP Class 2, President/CEO of Prairie Swine Centre Inc. had this to say about the BlackBerry workshop, "I was sure I was only using a fraction of the capability offered. The small class size allowed for discussions and indeed some new users had been using the technology for little more than a cell phone so I was relieved that we were all starting at about the same point. The manual has several great tips and applications that will improve my efficiency, and the components we concentrated on in the workshop made a difference starting that day!"

Information and registration is online at www.ruralleadership.ca under the Program Calendar tab or by contacting Denise at 519-826-4204 or dmouter@ruralleadership.ca

Tributes and In Memoriams

The Centre for Rural Leadership is grateful to those who choose to honour friends, family members and colleagues with tribute and memorial gifts.

A donation was made to The Centre for Rural Leadership in tribute to:

Joe Dietrich, Trillium Mutual Insurance



TCRL News

Denise Mouter joined The Centre for Rural Leadership in September 2008 as **Office Coordinator/Executive Assistant**. Now fully ensconced in her position Denise is using her amazing organizational skills in coordinating various events and functions for TCRL and AALP and in keeping the office 'humming'.

Denise has held various positions in the banking and financial fields during her working career; the latest position was that of Executive Assistant with Farm Mutual Financial Services Inc. and she brings all of this experience and breadth of knowledge to her role.

If you haven't already had the privilege of meeting Denise or spoken with her on the phone, please say 'welcome' when you do.

Wedding Congratulations to TCRL's President!

Please join us in congratulating newlyweds, **Rob & Jennifer Hannam** on their recent nuptials in June 2009. Rob and Jennifer, we wish you all the best in your new life together.

Opportunities for you

Steps to Leadership – Local Coordinators

The Centre for Rural Leadership is seeking 3 local coordinators for the delivery of the *Steps to Leadership* programming in 3 areas: Chatham/Kent, South Simcoe, Northumberland. Reporting to the Project Manager, the Local Coordinator will play a key role in the coordination of sessions, the promotion of the programs and the recruitment of participants. The Local Coordinator must have a thorough understanding of the local community – including the people, services and networks. The position is expected to run from Fall 2009 to Winter 2010. An honorarium of \$6000 will be provided as well as the opportunity to further develop your own leadership skills and gain experience in program planning. For more detailed information or to forward your resume please contact: Alicia Evans – Project Manager, Leadership Programs at aevans@ruralleadership.ca or 519-826-4204. The deadline for applications is Monday, August 10, 2009

Local Business Development Workshop Champions Needed!

The Centre For Rural Leadership is looking for AALP graduates interested in collaborating with TCRL to bring top-notch business development training to their local area of the province in the Fall of 2009 & Winter of 2010. Workshop topics may include "Introduction to Farm Succession Planning" and "A Quest for New Farm Value". AALP graduates who have benefited from similar training or would like to bring this type of training to producers in their area can find out more about this opportunity by contacting: Marnie Kloppenburg, Project Manager – Business Development & Open Learning Programs at 519-667-1143 or Rob Black, Executive Director at 519-826-4204.

We want to hear
from you...

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