



AALP Class 13 visited Andrews Air Force Base, MD in July 2010 during the North American Study Tour

Class 13: Tales from our Travels

AALP Class 13 is now nearing completion and we are starting recruitment of candidates for Class 14. We recently checked in with three Class 13 participants: Bonnie denHaan, Loretto; Drew Spoelstra, Binbrook; and Bruce VanderWees, Thunder Bay to learn about their recent experiences in AALP. In July they travelled to Washington, DC and in October met with LEAD NY participants during their seminar in Ottawa. Next up is the International Study Tour to Guatemala and Belize in February, 2011.

What was the highlight of the North American Study Tour for you?

Bonnie: The highlight was a side trip to Meyers Dairy in State College, PA. The 87 year old owner gave us a personal and up close tour. He was thrilled to have a group of Canadians interested in his operation and he was passionate about the dairy industry. He took us to his home to show us his antiques from the creamery, vintage cars, trucks and tractors.

Drew: In State College, PA we had the amazing opportunity to hear from Russell Redding, the Pennsylvania Secretary of Agriculture. I found him to be very inspiring and a great asset to American agriculture. Secretary Redding's demeanor and acceptance of our Ontario group was one of a kind. He took time to speak to each of us and in his speech congratulated us for the steps we are taking in leadership.

He also talked about how agriculture is changing and that we are putting ourselves in a great position to embrace it. **Bruce:** The highlight would have to be the time spent in the Capital. The speakers we had, who are stationed in D.C., were often very candid with us. The museums, monuments and evening guided tour were amazing. Beyond Washington I would have to say the time spent in the Amish community, including an authentic evening meal with an Amish family is probably something that none of us will ever do again.

How did you handle being away from your family and your job for ten days?

Bonnie: I joined AALP in part to take our operation to the next level where one owner could be away for a period of time. This would allow us to join organizations with longer time commitments than one day meetings. Getting away for ten days took some planning especially during haying season, but the weather cooperated, we hired good help and it was doable.

Drew: It was a challenge to be away however the time seemed to fly by. Our schedule was always packed full of speakers, tours and presentations, which help the time pass quickly. I tried my best to get all my work done before we left and I was happy that we had time to rest on the bus.

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Bruce: My wife and I used email and FaceBook to talk to each other and to the kids. We were very busy on the tour so often communication back home was not always easy, but sometimes it was just nice to hear what they were up to back home in Thunder Bay. On the other hand I was not too distracted by my work life as my partners and our office manager really took care of things, even to the point of screening my emails!

How did the dynamics of the class change as a result of being together for ten days straight?

Bonnie: The class was very close before, but we bonded even more. We work and play very effectively as a group. We shared more personal experiences and thoughts than we had previously. I think since day one, we have had an exceptionally well-rounded group. Drama free!

Drew: I feel the class bonded very well over the course of the trip. We all seem to mesh very well together. Each different hotel means a new room mate which is a great way to get to know the other people around you. Even just the time you spend on the bus beside other people is a great chance to network. In each town the class always tried to experience the 'local' culture. I think this is a great thing for the class dynamics as well.

Bruce: The time together really allowed us to get to know each other and each other's peculiarities better! Honestly, I am amazed how 29 people with different backgrounds and different life experiences can be so supportive of each other. Now going in to our final seminars and our tour to Belize and Guatemala, I am encouraged that we seem to exist as one group and not as a series of cliques. For that I am grateful.

What do you expect to get out of your International Study Tour to Belize and Guatemala?

Bonnie: This is an area I would not normally plan to visit for business development, but I look forward to seeing micro agriculture at work. Much of the fruits in our stores from January to March have Guatemala on the label. Truthfully, it would not matter what place we toured, when you get 30 people passionate about agriculture in one place, it is going to be exciting!

Drew: I'm sure that our study tour will be a very rewarding experience. I expect to be able to understand the cultures and agriculture practices of Belize and Guatemala after our trip. This trip will be another great bonding experience for our class, and a great experience for me personally being away from home for this length of time.

Bruce: I have had the traveling bug since I was a child, so the opportunity to travel with our class and see the real countryside and real issues of Guatemala and Belize are what I am looking forward to. These and other similar countries have had unique ways to deal with their difficulties as well as their natural advantages and I am looking forward to exploring them.

What are you most looking forward to in upcoming sessions?

Bonnie: Engagement! It seems the topic and speaker really doesn't matter. Our group is so engaged the discussion just takes off on its own. It's thrilling to be part of this.

Drew: In our next seminars I am looking forward to enhancing my leadership skills and improving on some personal weaknesses. The London seminar is destined to be a rewarding yet emotional experience as we graduate from the program and move on in our individual lives.

Bruce: Every session has one or two presenters that really grab my attention. I am really looking forward to the sessions ahead when these dynamic and passionate leaders work with our AALP group.

What will be the biggest benefit gained from your participation in AALP?

Bonnie: Confidence! The ability to present myself and network with others; to know I can accomplish my dreams; and the ability to be away from our home business knowing everything is ticking along without me.

Drew: It's definitely the group of people I have met and who have become my friends. Amazing networking opportunities have been provided - we have met political figures, leaders of community initiatives and agriculture groups; and the 'who's who' of agriculture. Some of the workshops have been very insightful, eye-opening experiences for me.

Bruce: Having more confidence in public speaking is probably one of the greatest benefits that will certainly stay with me after the class winds up. A new network of classmates and ROI staff will be important to me as I go forward in life and in my career once the 'busyness' slows down. Some of the session presenters provided the opportunity for me to reflect upon my own life and my own career path and for that I am grateful and excited to see what is next in my life story.

(Above right - top to bottom) During their North American Study Tour in July 2010 AALP Class 13 enjoyed an Amish dinner; met with Russell Redding, Pennsylvania's Agriculture Secretary; and visited a cucumber farm.



AALP Class 14 Recruitment

We are now recruiting candidates for Class 14. Please help spread the word to those who may be interested. Applications will be due March 11, 2011 and the form is now available online.

Application packages can be obtained by contacting the office at 519-826-4204 or by email at kmacdonald@ruralontarioinstitute.ca.

Do you know someone who:

- Is committed to the future of the agri-food industry and a strong and vibrant rural Ontario
- Has the potential to give back to their organization or community after the program
- Has demonstrated leadership potential in past activities
- Is open-minded and has vision
- Has a broad interest in agricultural, rural and societal issues
- Is involved in farm, rural community or industry organizations

We know that you have people in your organizations and communities with these qualities and who would benefit from further leadership training. In turn, your organization will benefit from their further development. We need your help in encouraging these folks to apply for AALP. Please forward the contact information of individuals who you think would make ideal AALP participants.

INFORMATION SESSIONS

We are currently planning information sessions throughout the province over the next few months. These informal meetings are the best opportunities for potential applicants to not only get more information about AALP, but also to talk to alumni about how the program has affected their businesses, careers and family lives.

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| • Thursday January 6 | Barrie - Central Ontario Agricultural Conference, Georgian College |
| • Sunday January 9 | Niagara Falls* - Radisson Fallsview Hotel, 6733 Fallsview Blvd. |
| • Monday January 17 | Chatham - Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd. |
| • Tuesday January 18 | Thamesford - Matt Langford Insurance |
| • Tuesday January 18 | Listowel - Trillium Mutual Insurance Company |
| • Thursday January 20 | Guelph - Rural Ontario Institute |
| • Wednesday January 26 | Guelph - Monsanto Canada |

Other sessions are being planned for the greater Toronto and Northern areas. Please check the website www.aalp.on.ca regularly for further details. Times are still to be confirmed.

* The Niagara session is being held in conjunction with the AALP Class 13 seminar.

AALP Grad News

- Richard and **Nadine Armstrong** (Class 9) welcomed new daughter Carmen Hope Armstrong on June 10, 2010 weighing 7 lbs 12 oz.
- Our sympathy is extended to **Nadine Armstrong** (Class 9) on the passing of her husband Richard Armstrong on August 22, 2010, after a courageous battle with cancer.
- Congratulations to **Steve** (Class 11) and **Lisa** (Class 12) **Cooper** for being named Canada's 2010 Outstanding Young Farmers co-winners on November 26 in BC. The Coopers were named the Ontario regional winner of Canada's Outstanding Young Farmers' program earlier this year.
- Jen and **Greg Devries** (Class 8) welcomed baby boy Eric Nathan Charles Devries on June 3, 2010.
- Congratulations to **Joe Dietrich** (Class 11) who was awarded the OMIA Presidential Merit Award at the OMIA annual convention in Toronto. Joe was presented the award in recognition of his leadership and contributions to the Farm Mutual Industry.
- **Mark Foster** (Class 11) is the Channel Marketing Manager for Canada and the U.S. for the Monsanto Vegetable Seeds Business based in Oxnard, California. Mark and his family relocated to Thousand Oaks, California on November 29, 2010.
- Congratulations to **Jackie Fraser** (Class 11) and Derek Roberts! Their business, Fraberts Fresh Food, was presented with the Rural Outreach Award by the Guelph-Wellington Business Enterprise Centre at the Bridges to Better Business STAR awards reception.
- **Jack** (Class 5) and **Christine** (Class 12) **Greydanus** appear on the front cover and are featured in September of the 2011 Faces of Farming calendar produced by the Ontario Farm Animal Council.
- **Ove Hanson** (Class 11) is a new director on the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Association.
- **Lisa Jenkins** (Class 8) is now the Marketing Manager of the Canada Business Unit of Pioneer Hi-Bred Ltd. in Chatham.
- Congratulations to **Don Lewis** (Class 3) of Lewis Land & Stock, Holstein (Grey) received a Regional Premier's Award for Agri-Food Innovation Excellence.
- **Henry Lise** (Class 13) was recently acclaimed as the board director for District 4 of Chicken Farmers of Ontario.
- Ron and **Kathryn Minten** (Class 13) welcomed baby boy Jeremiah Robert Joseph Minten on August 5, 2010. He was born at 2:30 a.m., weighing 8 lbs 1 oz and he was 22 inches long.
- **Cathy Jo Noble** (Class 12) has started her own consulting practice providing a range of public affairs services including government relations, writing, research, project management, event planning and training.
- **Gwen Paddock** (Class 6) was presented with the Ontario Agricultural College's Outstanding Service Award on May 6, 2010. Gwen was recognized for her outstanding contributions to OAC, Ontario's agricultural industry and the local community.
- Hope and **Bruce Parks** (Class 11) are the proud parents of May Madeline Parks born September 28, 2010, weighing 9 lbs and measuring 21.6 inches long.
- **Roger Pelissero** (Class 11) is a new director on the Ontario Agricultural Hall of Fame Association.
- **Roger Pelissero** (Class 11) is featured in April of the 2011 Faces of Farming calendar produced by the Ontario Farm Animal Council.
- **Paul Schoppman** (Class 12) has been elected as mayor of St. Charles, Ontario.
- **Angela Stiles** (Class 7) was sworn in as a provincial constable with the Ontario Provincial Police (OPP) after serving as an auxiliary officer for almost two years.
- **Bill Weaver** (Class 1) is co-chairing this year's United Way campaign in Chatham Kent. Bill retired from politics this fall after thirteen years.



(Above) **Anne Hinrichs** (Class 8) and her dad Bill hosted 45 culinary students from George Brown college on a tour of their broiler chicken farm at Flamborough. The day-long tour was designed to show chef students where the product comes from that they use at the college.

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



AALP Fundraising Highlights

Wm. A. Stewart Lecture & Reception

“Leadership Traits and Leader Responsibilities”

featuring **General Rick Hillier (Retired)**

Thursday, March 31, 2011 - 7:00 p.m.

London Convention Centre, London, Ontario

Tickets: \$100 per person



General Rick Hillier is considered one of Canada's most charismatic and influential soldiers with a 35-year military career. As former Chief of Defence Staff—Canada's highest ranking position in the Canadian Forces - Hillier oversaw our country's most important mission in Afghanistan. Since retiring from that role, he is in high demand as a strong leader, motivator and team builder. General Hillier will challenge convention and inspire Canadian pride while sharing his trademark Newfoundland charm and humour.

Presenting Sponsor: TD Canada Trust

Additional Sponsors: Monsanto Canada Inc., AdFarm, Gay Lea Foods Co-operative Ltd., Miller Thomson LLP, Ontario Mutuals, and Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited

For tickets, call the Rural Ontario Institute office at 519-826-4204 or visit www.aalp.on.ca or www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca

Monsanto Continues Partnership with Agriculture Leadership at Genuity® Technology Expo



Monsanto once again partnered around the Genuity Technology Expo, part of Canada's Outdoor Farm Show. This is the third year of the partnership, which includes the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) and 4-H Ontario. To date, this unique partnership has raised over \$30,000 to support rural leadership initiatives in Ontario.

This year for each farmer who toured the Genuity Technology Expo at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show, September 14 to 16, Monsanto donated \$5 to rural leadership in Ontario, split equally between the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) and 4-H Ontario. In each of the past three years approximately 2,000 farmers have enjoyed the tour and Monsanto committed a minimum of \$5,000 to each organization this past year.

As a company that is 100% dedicated to agriculture, the Genuity Technology Expo provided attendees with the opportunity to see firsthand many of the innovative technologies that Monsanto is developing and that reflect their commitment to farmers and the future of agriculture. "Monsanto is not only

committed to bringing new technologies to Canadian farmers we also believe strongly in helping to develop new leaders," said Mike Nailor, Corn and Soybean Trait Marketing Lead for Monsanto Canada. "We are big supporters of 4-H and the Rural Ontario Institute and believe they are doing great things to build strong future leaders for Canadian agriculture."

"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.

Rural Ontario Institute Chief Executive Officer, Rob Black concurs. "Monsanto understands the importance leadership plays in agriculture and their continued financial support is evidence of this."





*Save the dates for ILAC!
August 24 to 27, 2011*

Project CENTRL Alumni are proudly hosting ILAC next year at the Hilton El Conquistador in Tucson, located in the beautiful Catalina Mountain foothills of the Sonoran Desert of Arizona.

For more information and to stay posted on developments, visit www.ilac-conference.com or forward any questions to ILACconference@gmail.com

ILAC 2012 London, ONTARIO

We are looking for AALP alumni to:

- ▶ *be on the conference planning committee*
- ▶ *be guest speakers*
- ▶ *host a tour*
- ▶ *provide sponsorship*

Planning is now underway for the 2012 International Leadership Alumni Conference to be held in London, Ontario in August 2012,

*Please Contact:
Carolyn Fuerth
519-723-4456
carolynfuerth@xplornet.ca*

Innovating for Positive Change in Rural Ontario



Delegates of the recent **Leading Edge Summit** were asked if they want to make positive changes in themselves, in their organizations and in their communities. From the outset of the conference there was a buzz in the air as sixty-two rural leaders, association members, staff and rural citizens shared and engaged with the speakers, the facilitators and each other.

The commitment and passion for leadership in rural Ontario was evident throughout as the attendees participated in workshops and sessions at Orangeville's Hockley Valley Resort on October 19 and 20, 2010. The conference provided innovative tools and techniques that would change thinking. Speakers demonstrated how to engage and collaborate with others, and enlightened participants on how to overcome roadblocks and how to embrace creativity.

From the high energy opening keynote session on innovation styles and driving change by Alain Rostain, CEO, Creative Advantage, New York, New York, to the more reflective and philosophical 'Circles' workshop presented by Jennifer Ball and Wayne Caldwell of the University of Guelph, the group found inspiration and ideas relevant to their own lives, businesses, projects and communities.

And throughout the conference activities there were opportunities for participants to share their own stories, their own experiences and how they will use the new ideas and tools garnered there, in the future.



Contest Asks Rural Ontarians to "Do Something Great!"

Steps to Leadership is holding an online contest that asks rural Ontarians: "What is one thing that **you** can do to make your rural community an even better place to live, work and play?"

The contest will award \$200 to a chosen winner, and \$200 will also be donated in the winner's name to a not-for-profit or charitable organization in the winner's rural Ontario community.

The "**Do Something Great (in Your Rural Community)**" contest will accept submissions at www.stepstoleadership.ca/DoSomethingGreat, and is open to people of all ages. The contest closes on December 6, 2010, and the winning entry will be chosen by a committee at the Rural Ontario Institute.



UK Nuffield Scholar visits ROI Office

Clare Greener, from Telford, UK, a senior policy advisor with the National Farmers' Union (NFU) visited with the staff of the Rural Ontario Institute in late June. The NFU is an organization that represents farmers and growers of England and Wales.

Ms. Greener is a 2010 Nuffield Scholar conducting a study on resiliency in agriculture. She visited with a number of agricultural and rural organizations during her time in Ontario, gaining a wealth of information and perspectives on leadership and engaging farmers in policy development.





RURAL ONTARIO INSTITUTE

WORKSHOPS

The Rural Ontario Institute, in partnership with **Andy Sherwood and PROGRESSIVE TRAINING.CA**, is offering the following workshops:

Productivity Improvement using Microsoft Outlook

We are offering a **day long workshop** (9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.) 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. **February 15, 2011, June 9, 2011, September 28, 2011 and December 8, 2011.**

Project Management Breakthroughs

We are offering a **3 day program** on Project Management. The focus of the workshop is on the management of work in order to reach a clear set of outcomes. About 70% of the program is spent doing increasingly complex assigned projects as part of a team. The program runs from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. each day. The cost is \$1,495.00 with refreshments and lunch included each day. Discounts are available for multiple participants from one organization. **February 28, March 1 & March 2, 2011.**

Working Sm@rt with BlackBerry

We are 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 workshop runs from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. Cost of this ½ day workshop is \$295.00 with morning and mid-morning refreshments included. **April 13, 2011 and October 19, 2011**

The Rural Ontario Institute, in partnership with **Strive!** is offering the following governance workshops:

Fiduciary and Other Responsibilities of Board Members

In this **one-day workshop**, we'll contrast the minimum (must do's) with the optimum (what good corporate governance looks like). At the end of this workshop, you will be able to size-up where your organization sits on the scale. The workshop runs 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost of this day long workshop is \$545.00 with refreshments and lunch included. **February 16, 2011**

The Board's Role in Risk Management

During this **½ day workshop**, we'll look at an international standard for risk assessment and work through a variety of scenarios to practice risk ranking. The workshop runs 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Cost of this ½ day workshop is \$295.00 with morning and mid morning refreshments included. **March 9, 2011**

Championship Chairing

During this **½ day workshop**, we'll look at best practices for important job of chairing. The workshop runs 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost of this ½ day workshop is \$295.00 with afternoon refreshments included. (Note: if you decide to register for both the morning and afternoon workshops, the cost will be \$545.00 for a full day including lunch and refreshments.) **March 9, 2011**

Understanding Not-for-Profit Organization Financials

During this **½ day workshop**, we'll analyze sample financial statements to illustrate the financial liability that board members incur. The workshop runs 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Cost of this ½ day workshop is \$295.00 with morning and mid morning refreshments included. **October 26, 2011**

Inspiring and Monitoring Association Performance

During this **½ day workshop**, we'll discuss the board member's responsibility to inspire and monitor performance. The workshop runs 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. Cost of this ½ day workshop is \$295.00 with afternoon refreshments included. (Note: if you decide to register for both the morning and afternoon workshops, the cost will be \$545.00 for a full day including lunch and refreshments.) **October 26, 2011**

Information and registration for all workshops is online at www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca under the Events tab or by contacting Denise at 519-826-4204 or dmouter@ruralontarioinstitute.ca

BOARD OF DIRECTORS NEWS

Congratulations to **Chris White**, director ROI, who was elected chairman of the Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA) at their convention in Toronto in late February. Chris was also re-elected as mayor of Guelph-Eramosa Township in November.

Craig Desjardins, director ROI, has accepted a position as adjunct instructor at Queen's University, School of Business in Kingston, Ontario. Congratulations Craig!

STAFF NEWS

Norman Ragetie joined ROI on June 1, 2010 as the Director, Policy and Stakeholder Engagement. In this capacity Norm's key areas of focus have been on research, knowledge exchange and policy. ROI is collaborating in a variety of rural research proposals with organizations such as: Monieson Centre, Queen's University; OMAFRA; ROMA; the Conference Board of Canada; EDCO; and the University of Waterloo. ROI will be partnering with the University of Guelph's Wayne Caldwell to deliver a series of municipal councilor sessions on community economic development beginning with the Rural Ontario Municipal Conference. We will also be supporting a series on social enterprise with the Foundation for Rural Living. ROI was invited to make a presentation to a range of health providers at a session in Seaforth regarding rural health as we await the release of the government's response to the panel on rural and northern health. ROI convened a discussion between agricultural NGO's and environmental NGO's and provincial Ministries about the monitoring of the provincial land use policies to assist organizations contributing to the review of the provincial policy statements.

FRIEND NEWS

Ken Knox, who was instrumental in the establishment of AALP over 26 years ago, was recognized by the University of Guelph and the Ontario Agricultural College with the creation of the Kenneth W. Knox Endowment Fund which will support future leaders at the university. The fund is currently sitting at just over \$160,000 and will allow for three annual scholarships. At the same time it was announced that the University will be conferring upon Ken an Honorary Doctorate at their winter convocation in February 2011.

Rob McLaughlin, a past chair of the former Agricultural Leadership Trust and former dean of the Ontario Agricultural College (OAC), was a recipient of an inaugural Governor General's Award in Celebration of the Nations Table. The honour recognizes and celebrates efforts to improve the quality, variety and sustainability of Canada's food table. McLaughlin was honoured in the education and awareness category. He was recognized for "dedicating his life to actively promoting the growth and study of our distinctly Canadian food culture."

AALP ALUMNI SURVEY

Thank you for the tremendous response to ROI's AALP Alumni Survey circulated in August 2010.

- 45% responded to the survey
- 17% responded the first day
- 24% responded in the first week

The survey queried AALP alumni for their key areas of interest and desired level of involvement in the activities of the Rural Ontario Institute. The level of interest expressed is very high. Stay tuned for more details coming soon of how you can be engaged.

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The Rural Ontario Institute (ROI) contributes to a strong, vibrant rural Ontario with Vision, Voice and Leadership. Show your support for ROI by becoming a subscriber. Become engaged in a growing network concerned about the future vibrancy of rural Ontario. Take part in various activities and discussion forums and have access to a growing list of resources and opportunities. Subscribe today!

We want to hear from you...



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