



Washington D.C.

Tales from our Travels

Questioning and understanding Canada-US Relations was the focus of a recent North American study tour by Class 10 of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP). The 30 participants received a comprehensive lesson in history and politics during a 10-day tour that included stops in Pennsylvania, Washington DC, Maryland, New York, Vermont and Quebec.

While tour stops included spectacular capitol buildings, historic battlefields and influential farm organizations, it was the community leaders that were the group's greatest teachers. Each reminded participants to think strategically, lobby with influence, persevere and remain innovative.

Class members also had the chance to meet with Canada's agriculture counsellors at the Canadian Embassy in Washington DC, and see the political lobbying process first hand. The tour wrapped up in Montreal, Quebec where participants met with representatives of the L'Union des Producteurs Agricoles to learn about the unique structure of the agricultural sector in that province.

Other stops along the route included a heifer farm in New York State, Waybright Farms – a large scale dairy operation in Pennsylvania, influential horse breeder Chanceland Farms in Maryland, and the United States Department of Agriculture's Agricultural Research Center in Beltsville, Maryland.

Since only they can best explain what was learned on the tour, once again we asked four participants to write down their thoughts about the tour, and about AALP as a whole. Here's what Jay Fretz (Monsanto Canada Inc., Chatham), Lilian Schaer (Ontario Pork, Guelph), Jim Cooke (beef farmer, Walkerton) and Carol Leeming (Municipal Planner, Huron County) had to say:

1. What was the highlight of the tour for you?

Jay – Spending time with 29 high calibre agriculturalists.

Lilian – Three stops in Pennsylvania really stand out. The speakers at the Farm Bureau were very upfront in discussing their problems and successes as well as the importance of lobbying

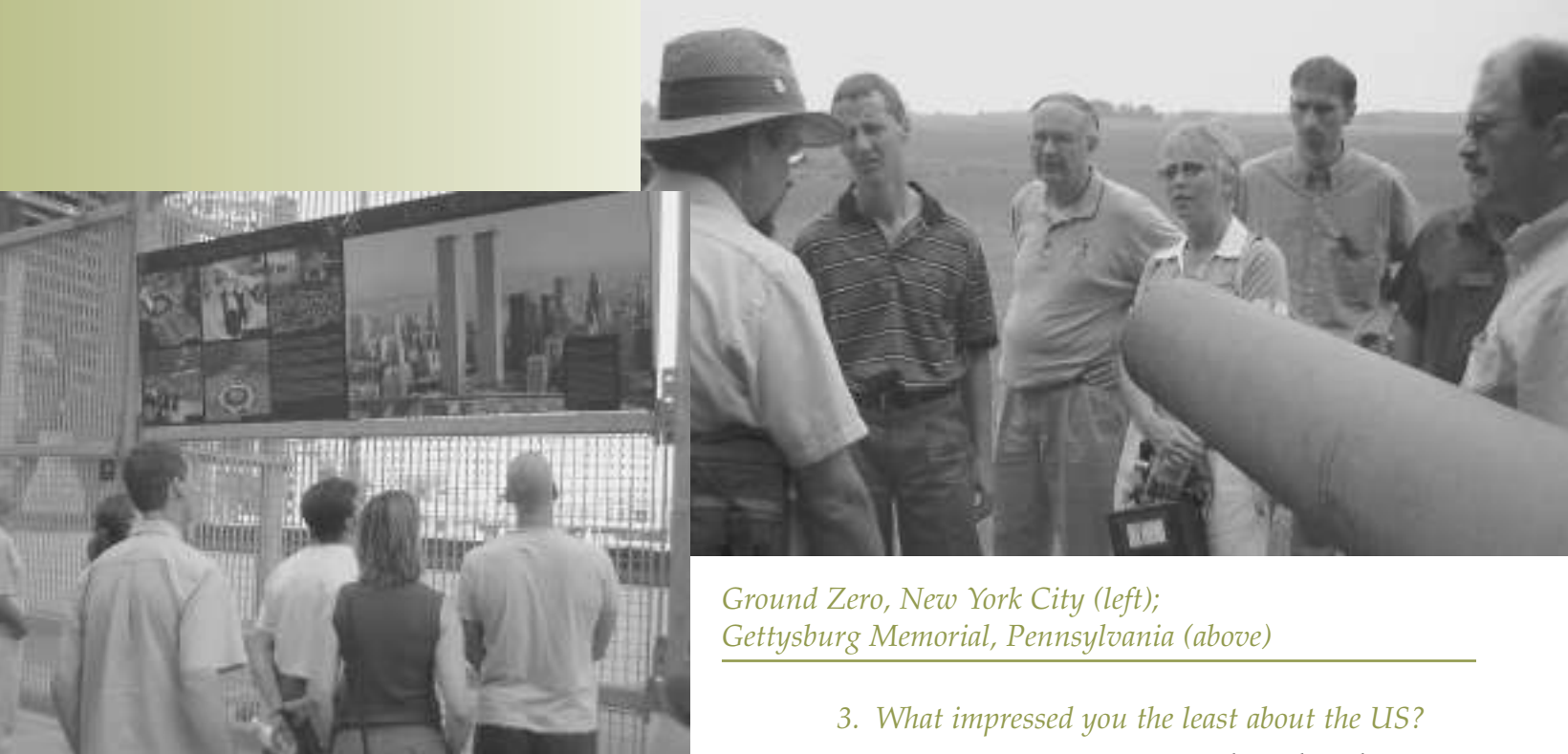


AALP **UPDATE**
A Newsletter Published by Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program

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Fall 2004



*Ground Zero, New York City (left);
Gettysburg Memorial, Pennsylvania (above)*

and government relations. The guide at the Battlefields at Gettysburg made the Civil War battle of 140 years ago so vivid in our minds that we could almost smell the gunpowder! And the participants in the Pennsylvania RULE program, their version of AALP, with whom we discussed similar issues affecting our farming communities.

Jim – The benefits of traveling as a “top-gun” ag group. We got into places, such as the House of Representatives in Washington, which as individual tourists would have been off limits.

Carol – Visiting the Mason Dixon 4,300 head dairy farm and seeing the biogas manure digester they use to meet their energy needs; visiting Ground Zero and the Empire State Building in New York City; meeting and talking with American farm organizations and their leaders and hearing about the Quebec agriculture system and the L'Union des Producteurs Agricoles.

2. What impressed you the most about the US?

Jay – The strong patriotism that Americans have for their country.

Lilian – The sheer size of their farms and the large resources dedicated by the government to the farming sector. Also, the illuminated national monument tour in Washington DC. When it comes to national pride and patriotism, the US is miles ahead of everyone else.

Jim – The way the US government looks after their farmers – with more financial farm programs, and research dollars.

Carol – Their patriotism. Statues of their great leaders and monuments to history are everywhere.

3. What impressed you the least about the US?

Jay – We know a lot more about them than they do about us.

Lilian – Lack of knowledge and/or total disregard for anyone outside of their own borders.

Jim – They remain ignorant of their neighbours to the North.

Carol – They don't appreciate that Canada is their neighbour and one of their biggest agricultural trading partners. There also seems to be a 'disconnect' between the Federal farm organization and the individual State farm organizations. I think that in Canada we have a better relationship between our federal and provincial farm organizations.

4. What could Canadian/Ontario farmers learn from their US counterparts?

Jay – GO BIG and be proud to be a farmer.

Jim – Aggressiveness.

Carol – They seem to do better at “speaking with one voice” for agriculture.

5. How do you see the relationship between Canada and the US changing in the next decade?

Jay – I see our countries getting more competitive with each other in the next decade. We will compete with the US to sell our goods & services globally, especially to the growing Asian market, not to each other.

Jim – I don't see the relationship getting much better until Canada learns to be a stronger negotiator.

Carol – Trade needs to be dealt with. The Farm Bill is a political game the U.S. plays. It is interesting that 70% of this budget is for Food Stamps/Nutrition and Food Safety Programming. The Farm lobby does not control the Bill.

Looking for Leaders

It's recruitment time again. Applications for Class 11 are due on March 18, 2005 so we're actively trying to get the word out to qualified candidates across the province.

If you know someone who ...

- Is committed to the future of the agri-food industry
- 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 a vision
- Has a broad interest in agricultural and societal issues
- Is involved in farm, rural community or industry organizations...

PLEASE TELL US ABOUT THEM.

We know that you have people in your organizations and your communities with the above qualities and who would benefit from further leadership training. And in turn, your organization would benefit from their further development as well. We need your help to encourage them to apply for AALP.

Please keep forwarding us name(s) and address(es) of individuals who you think would make ideal AALP participants.

In 2002, we didn't receive a single application from East-Central, Eastern or Northern Ontario. Let's do something about this for Class 11.

6. What will be the biggest benefit you gain from your participation in AALP?

Jay – Networks and connections I have made with others.

Lilian – There are two things. The first is the people that I have met and the connections that are made throughout the industry. The other is an increase in confidence. I have already noticed that I feel much more at ease chairing a meeting or taking charge of group discussions. The practice you get in front of a group you feel comfortable with makes it easier to apply those skills outside of AALP.

Jim – The people I met.

Carol – Confidence in my leadership abilities. Knowing what is expected of a leader and the protocols of meeting management and about who to talk to and how to get things done.

Information Nights

Our Information Meetings are one of the most important elements of our recruitment campaign. These informal evenings are the best opportunities for potential applicants to not only get more information about AALP, but also to talk to grads about how the program has affected their businesses, careers and family lives. Only people who have been through the Program can accurately detail its impact.

If you're a grad, consider attending the meeting in your area - and bring along a potential candidate. This is an opportunity to not only share AALP experiences, but to also learn about how the Program continues to evolve and grow.

Town	Date	Location
Ottawa*	Monday Nov. 1 6:00 pm	Holiday Inn Hotel & Suites 111 Cooper Street, Ottawa
Guelph	Monday Nov. 22 7:30 pm	Ontario Pork 655 Southgate Drive, Guelph
Blenheim	Wednesday Nov. 24 7:30 pm	Thompson's 2 Hyland Drive, Blenheim
Walkerton	Thursday Nov. 25 7:30 pm	Walkerton Public Library Colborne Street, Walkerton
Ilderton	Monday Nov. 29 7:30 pm	Middlesex Mutual Insurance Company 13271 Ilderton Road, Ilderton
Innisfil	Tuesday Nov. 30 7:30 pm	Church's Farm Supply 3560 7th Line of Innisfil, Thornton
Belleville	Thursday Dec. 2 7:30 pm	Bioniche Animal Health 231 Dundas Street East, Belleville
Niagara*	Monday Jan. 10 6:00 pm	Doubletree Resort Lodge & Spa 6039 Fallsview Boulevard, Niagara Falls

* The Ottawa and Niagara sessions will be held in conjunction with AALP Class 10 seminars. Grads will be asked to cover the cost of their dinner if joining the Class for the evening session. The costs of dinner for recruits will be covered by the Program.

Next Stop – Brazil

Next up for Class 10 is their International Study tour to Brazil, February 15 - February 28, 2005.

Although the agenda is not yet finalized, proposed stops include visits to the Canadian Consulate in Sao Paulo; Fundacao MT, a soybean and crop research station and Embrapa Soja, a Brazilian Government crop and biotechnology research organization in Londrina; the Holland Memorial at Ponta Grossa; the Castroland co-operative in Castro and the waterfalls at Foz do Iguaçu.



The AALP Class 9 baseball team, right; "Shake Hands with the Devil", by Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire (Ret.), far right



Fantastic Fundraisers



Ball Tournament Raises \$2900 for AALP

The third annual Pitch'n for AALP ball tournament has raised \$2900. The event, organized by members of Class 10, was held on August 14 at the Marden Community Centre just north of Guelph.

The unusually sunny and dry weather contributed to the festive atmosphere as about 100 people gathered to participate in the tournament. The Hydroponics, a team from Agricorp, were the tournament champions. Other participating teams were Class 9, Class 10, AALP Board and Staff, Monsanto, OFA, Farms.com, and the O'Henry's.

The event attracted considerable sponsorship from across the agricultural sector, which helped make the tournament the success that it was. Sponsors included Ontario Pork, Wallenstein Feed and Supply, Maple Leaf Pork, Hybrid Turkeys, Total Swine Genetics, Strubs Pickles, Bank of Montreal, First Line Seeds and Kraft Canada.

Many, many thanks go out to everyone who was involved with the tournament, whether it was by playing on a team, or helping run the event or by contributing donations.

Class 10 will determine at the end of its program how the proceeds of their fundraising will be spent, although all funds will go towards AALP.

Wm. A. Stewart Lecture & Reception hosts Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire (Ret.)

The 2005 Stewart Lecture will be held on Thursday March 31 at the London Convention Centre. We're excited to announce that Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire (Ret.) will be our key-note speaker at this prestigious industry event. Tickets will be available through the AALP Office in early 2005.

Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire (Ret.) is a true Canadian hero and an outspoken leader for the 21st century. A decorated Lieutenant General, Roméo Dallaire served for 35 years with the Canadian Armed Forces. He is best known for his work as the Force Commander of the United Nations Mission to Rwanda, where he witnessed "the failures by humanity to stop the worst genocide in the 20th century."

Dallaire's areas of expertise, now shared with audiences around the world, include presentations on leadership and conflict resolution. His compelling presentations use military and business experience, addressing the whole arena of conflict, of ethical and moral decisions, of humanity; the arena in which one could sit back and ponder the following question: are all humans human, or are some more human than others?

He states that if our vision is self-interest and the advancement of our nations, there should also be a strategic focus on that higher plane called humanity. We are not allowed to abdicate that responsibility.

A best-selling author, his recently released book, *Shake Hands With the Devil*, is a recount of the "powerful story of betrayal, naiveté, racism and international politics that exposes the failures by humanity to stop the genocide in Rwanda despite timely warnings." Dallaire's message is simple and undeniable: "Never again."

Grads on the Move • Grads on the Move



OAC Dean Dr. Craig Pearson presents Julien Den Tandt with his Volunteer Recognition Award

- Lilian Schaer (Class 10) was promoted to Communications Manager for Ontario Pork
- Lisa Thompson (Class 6) is the General Manager of the Ontario Dairy Goat Cooperative
- Brenda Watson (Class 4) is the 2004 University of Guelph Agrologist in Residence.

From John, Cathy and Hannah Young

Cathy & I haven't been able to be active in many leadership activities as we remain in hospital with Hannah. I was able to put my AALP presentation skills to some use, however. Just before leaving home in January, I adapted a presentation I'd given to a local service club, and narrated "Hannah's Story", which was used as a multi-media presentation for the Children's Health Foundation's kickoff fundraising event. I thought the audience of 500 was pretty big, but then the story was later broadcast on several radio stations for their annual telethon.

Cathy (always the organizer) suggested a weekly coffee hour here at the hospital for the oncology parents. It has caught on really well, and is a great opportunity for parents to get out of the room for a few minutes and socialize with others in a similar situation. It is also attended by the social worker and other organizations connected to the cause. Cathy has also written a booklet with information about the hospital for parents of newly diagnosed kids. We have learned a few things by being here for so long!

We appreciate all the support we have received from our AALP friends and welcome everyone to check out Hannah's website and follow her progress.

www.caringbridge.org/canada/hannah

Thanks for all the good energy sent our way.

– John, Cathy & Hannah



John, Cathy and Hannah Young, July 2003

- Cathy Bartolic (Class 5) is working for the Ontario Farm Fresh Marketing Association
- Robert Hunter (Class 10) was recently promoted to manage Maple Leaf's Hong Kong office
- George Klosler (Class 8) was elected as the 65th president of Canadian 4-H Council
- Amy Lemay (Class 9) and Julien Den Tandt (The Centre for Rural Leadership Board of Directors) received Agri-Food & Rural Volunteer Recognition Awards presented by the Ontario Agricultural College at the University of Guelph. The Centre for Rural Leadership was instrumental in nominating Julien for this award
- Cathy Lennon (Class 9) is the Manager, CAIS Verification for AGRICORP, which takes over management of the CAIS program in December
- Kevin MacLean (Class 8) is building a new milking parlour on his Napanee-based dairy operation. The state-of-the-art facility will have a viewing room for people who wish to come and view the milking process. Kevin understands he has a duty to help consumers understand where their milk comes from
- Mary Lou McCutcheon (Class 6) returned to Ontario Pork as a Business Intelligence Analyst
- Lynn Philp (Class 10) is the new Livestock On-Farm HACCP Specialist for the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food
- Mark Richards (Class 8) is Chair of the Canadian Young Farmers Forum. Mark is also the recipient of an Ontario Volunteer Award from the Province

OUR NEWS

Welcome Back Molly

Molly Ross, our Fund Development Manager, has returned from maternity leave and is spending even more time with us – 50% as opposed to previously only 25%. The rest of her time is spent with 4-H Ontario. Molly continues to work on coordinating sponsorships, fundraising and donor relations for AALP and lending support as required, to our Special Event Volunteer Committees.

Art Receives Rural Distinction Award

Art Stirling received the 2004 Mary Robertson Rural Distinction Award from The Ontario Rural Council. This award is presented to "a rural leader who demonstrates the ability to act as a catalyst for collaboration and action across rural Ontario, demonstrates a passion for rural issues and is a champion of initiatives that strengthen the rural sector." Art was nominated for this award by The Centre for Rural Leadership. Congratulations Art.

Thanks Rod and Julien

Rod Stork recently retired from his position as Chair of the Farm Products Marketing Tribunal at the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food. In lieu of gifts at his retirement party, Rod requested that donations be made to either 4-H Ontario or The Centre for Rural Leadership and AALP. In response, we received donations of over \$2500! This is just one of the many ways in which Rod has promoted life-long learning, and agricultural leadership throughout his career. Also leaving the Board is Julien Den Tandt, of Den Tandt and Associates. Julien has been representing the Foundation for Rural Living on the board for several years and is very active in rural community issues. We'll certainly miss both Rod and Julien and thank them for their many years of support.



*Art Stirling,
TCRL President
thanks outgoing
director Rod
Stork.*

The Centre for Rural Leadership 2004-2005 Board of Directors

At the Centre's Annual Meeting in September, the new Board of Directors was elected. They are:

- *President* – Art Stirling, Pioneer Hi-Bred Limited, AALP Class 6
- *Vice-president* – Rick Culbert, Bioniche Animal Health, AALP Class 7
- *Treasurer* – Kevin Thompson, Association of Ontario Chicken Processors, AALP Class 8
- *Secretary* – Dan Legault, Executive Director TCRL / AALP, non-voting

Directors

- Rob Black, 4-H Ontario
- Lisa Duffin, Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA), AALP Class 8
- Christine Dukelow, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- John Geurtjens, Farm Credit Canada, AALP Class 2
- Rob Hannam, AdFarm
- Gwen Paddock, RBC, AALP Class 6
- Dr. Craig Pearson, University of Guelph
- Dana Richardson, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- David Thomson, Ontario Association of Certified Engineering Technicians and Technologists
- Mike Toombs, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food (OMAF)
- Jan Varner, The Laurier Institute

AALP Management Committee

- Chair – Lisa Duffin, AALP Class 8
- Vice-Chair – Cathy Lennon, AGRICORP, AALP Class 9
- Curriculum Advisor – Dr. George Brinkman, University of Guelph
- Dan Carli, Strub Pickles, AALP Class 9
- Dan Legault, Executive Director TCRL / AALP
- Mike Nailor, Chicken Farmers of Ontario, AALP Class 9
- Mark Reusser, OFA, AALP Class 4
- Mike Toombs, OMAF

Let us hear from you...

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