

# ADVANCED AGRICULTURAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM (AALP)





AALP Class 17 will participate in eight seminars, two study tours and one issues analysis group project.

- October 2017, Guelph "Leadership: Theory and Application"
- November 2017, Belleville
  "Personality, Self-Understanding and Development"
- January 2018, Sarnia
  "Shaping the Future, Dynamics of Change Decision Making and Responsibility"
- February 2018, Toronto "Political Process, Urban Society and Media"
- April 2018, Thunder Bay "Examining and Dealing with the Issues"
- July 2018 North American Study Tour "Understanding Canadian/American Relations"
- October 2018, Ottawa "Federal Government; Globalization and Trade"
- January 2019, Niagara Falls "Making your Case and Modeling Leadership"
- February 2019 International Study Tour "Political, Economic and Cultural Comparisons"
- March 2019, London "A Look Ahead"

# **Fundraiser Dates**

February 10, 2018 – AALP Dream Auction, Guelph

March 28, 2019 – Wm. A. Stewart Public Lecture and Reception, London

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The Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) is a 19-month executive development opportunity for men and women who want to shape the future of the agriculture and food industry and make a positive difference in rural communities across Ontario.



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AgLeadershipProgram



@AALP

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#### **Kelly Armstrong**

Renfrew, ON Home Phone: 343-700-5170 Cell Phone: 613-223-4029 Email: kelly.d. oconnor@gmail.com or kelly.armstrong@scotiabank.com Education: University of Guelph, B.Sc.Agr., 2008 Employment: Scotiabank Leadership Activities: Vice President of Ottawa Rideau Regional Soil & Crop Improvement Association; Director on the Renfrew County Soil & Crop Improvement Association; Assistant Coach for Upper Ottawa Valley U7 Ringette Team.



Kelly is a Client Relationship Manager for Scotiabank in the Ottawa Valley. Scotiabank has a team of agriculture specialists that provide customized financial solutions for a wide range of agribusiness clients. Prior to this role Kelly worked on the Census of Agriculture for Statistics Canada as well as completing field research for a crop protection company.

Growing up in Huron County, Kelly developed an interest in agriculture and decided to pursue an Agricultural Science degree from the University of Guelph. After graduation her interests led her to various roles in agronomic and economic areas of the industry. For the past seven years she has been living in Renfrew County with her husband and their two children.

Kelly enjoys spending her spare time reading, playing sports and camping with her husband and two young children.

#### Laura Bowers

Ailsa Craig, ON *Cell Phone*: 519-441-7108 *Email*: Ikbowers11@gmail.com or Ibowers@burnbraefarms.com *Education*: University of Guelph, B.Sc., 2012 *Business Operation/Employment*: Burnbrae Farms *Leadership Activities*: Course Instructor at Ridgetown College; OAC Poultry Club; OAC AI Certificate Program development; Tractor Tug for Tots Co-Chair, development of Ontario Poultry Euthanasia Training Program and PoultryPro.



Laura is a Producer and Industry Relations Representative at Burnbrae Farms. Burnbrae is a family-owned egg production company, with farms, grading stations and processing operations across Canada. In her role, Laura works directly with egg farmers in southwestern Ontario who supply eggs to Burnbrae, in addition to involvement with grading operations and being actively involved in committees and initiatives within the Ontario poultry industry. Previously, Laura has worked for the Poultry Industry Council, Beef Improvement Ontario, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs and the Municipality of Huron East.

Laura was born and raised in the Brussels area of Huron County. She thoroughly enjoyed growing up in a rural community, and developed an interest in animal agriculture, especially poultry. She has since relocated to Middlesex County, where she currently resides in Alisa Craig with her husband Ryan Kennes.

In her spare time, Laura enjoys travelling, outdoor activities and spending time with family and friends.

#### **Brendan Byrne**

Essex, ON Phone: 519-991-4027 Email: gfobrendan@gmail.com Education: University of Windsor, Honours Business and Economics Degree Business: Byrne Brothers Farms Leadership Activities: Local director for District 1 – Essex

for the Grain Farmers of Ontario. Chair – Government Relations, Resolutions and sit on several committees and outreach groups; Past local Chair of the Grain Farmers of Ontario – District 1 Essex Group: Past President Essex



Soil and Crop Improvement Association. Also leader in his kids sports as he coaches both hockey and baseball.

Brendan is the manager of Byrne Brothers farming operation. Byrne Brothers was founded by his father and uncles and is currently operating 1,500 acres of corn, soybeans and wheat. Brendan works on the farm with his father and uncle as well as his brother-in-law and hopes to inspire his children and nephews and nieces to discover the benefits of life on the farm. He is the local Director of the Grain Farmers of Ontario – Essex and has been active in local agricultural organizations as well as his provincial duties with the GFO.

Brendan was born and raised on a 100-acre family farm just outside the Town of Essex that his mother and father still live on today. Growing up, Brendan was always around the farm while playing several sports, most notably hockey and baseball. He attended the University of Windsor where he met his wife Mindy. They now reside on 48 acres just outside the town of Essex with their two children Alyssa (13) and Brendan (11). After graduating, Brendan settled into managing the family farm operation where he continues his work today.

In his spare time, Brendan is an avid reader who is also heavily involved with his children's sports teams. He loves self-improvement and philosophy books but can also be found reading popular fiction. He is an avid sports fan and still follows his childhood teams the Oilers, Tigers and Redskins.

#### Krista L. Cressman

New Hamburg, ON Cell Phone: 519-584-4447 Email: kristabuck@stecklehomestead.ca or klcressman@hotmail.com

Education: Co-op University of Waterloo, Honours BA; University of Windsor, Honours B. Ed., University of Windsor; Conestoga College, Certificate of Volunteer Management Business Operation/Employment: Executive Director, Steckle Heritage Farm



Leadership Activities: Board of Directors, Tillsonburg Station Arts Centre; Board of Directors and Convenor,

Tillsonburg Soccer Association; Coordinator, Single Women over 40 Networking.

Krista is the Executive Director of Steckle Heritage Farm in Kitchener. Steckle Heritage Farm is a heritage-designated farm property within the City of Kitchener that is owned and operated by a charity with a mandate of Education and Heritage Preservation. In this position, Krista is actively engaged in every level of the operation from animal care and crop planning to program development and fiscal oversight and budgeting. The organization has grown and changed significantly under her leadership in the past seven years and has now become a known location for top agriculturally related youth programs, special events for families and a site for hosting weddings.

Krista grew up in New Hamburg, a small town in Waterloo County. Pursuing undergraduate studies in Political Science in a co-operative education program at University gave her the opportunity to live in a variety of places in Ontario including Ottawa and Thunder Bay. It was after being hired as the Dairy Educator for Oxford County that she discovered her passion for agriculture and rural issues which took her to a career change working for 4-H and eventually Steckle Heritage Farm where she has been for seven years.

Krista spends her spare time with her young teenage children, travelling during her slow season at work (winter) and doing home renovations and gardening.

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#### **Janice Danen**

Stratford, ON Home phone: 519-655-2976 Cell phone: 519-649-2976 Email: cjdanen@gmail.com Education: Birmingham School of Dental Hygiene, Diploma in Dental Hygiene; Seneca College Dental Assistant Business Operation/Employment: Dairy and Poultry Producer; Dairy Farmers of Ontario, Perth Dairy Educator Leadership Activities: IFarm organizer; Past Fundraiser Committee Member for St. Joseph's Church; Past Manager Stratford Aces Girls Hockey Team.



Janice works with her husband Chris operating their dairy and poultry farms. Janice is a Perth Dairy Educator, which is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn about the dairy industry and agriculture. Janice presented to over 2,000 students last school year.

Born and raised on a dairy farm in Perth County, Janice has always had a passion for agriculture. Also having an interest in health and wellness, Janice worked as a Dental Hygienist for over 20 years. Janice resigned from Dentistry a few years back to focus more on her family and the family farming business. Janice is the mother of three children: Nicholas, 18; Mitchel, 16; and Adriana, 14.

In her spare time, Janice enjoys riding her horses, Lucy and Fancy, doing her best to stay fit and loves to travel and experience new adventures.

#### **Jeffrey French**

Mitchell, ON Cell Phone: 519-274-4718 Email: jefholm@guadro.net

Education: University of Guelph, Associate Diploma in Agriculture, 1995

Business Operation/Employment: Dairy heifer replacement producer, Hoof trimmer

Leadership activities: Past District Deputy Grand Master for South Huron District, Grand Lodge of Canada; curling timing and scorekeeping supervisor.



Born and raised on a dairy farm near Mitchell, Jeff raises replacement dairy heifers and trims cattle hooves.

In his spare time, Jeff is active in both curling and the Freemasons, and sponsors the Keith McLagan award, which he also created.

#### **Rebecca Egan**

Toronto, ON Cell Phone: 647-206-5859 Work Phone: 416-263-3440 Email: rebecca.egan9@gmail.com Education: Wilfrid Laurier University BBA, Specialization in Brand Management and Communications, 2013 Business Operation/Employment: Manager, Agriculture and Food at The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair



2017 saw Rebecca working on her third Royal Agricultural Winter Fair as Manager, Agriculture and Food. Rebecca has also worked at McCann Canada on the Bayer CropScience Inc. account.

Rebecca was born and raised in Belleville. Her grandparents owned a farm supply store nearby and growing up, Rebecca spent most of her weekends there helping out. When she wasn't at her grandparent's store, she was riding horses nearby. That experience gave her an appreciation for agriculture that has only increased over time.... and a new-found appreciation for The Royal.

In her spare time, Rebecca likes to get outside and spend time with friends and family as often as she can. She also enjoys reading and, depending on the day, binge watching Netflix.

#### **Roger Harrop**

Fergus, ON Home phone: 519-843-5696 Cell phone: 519-820-7652 Email: rh7812@gmail.com Education: Centralia College, Diploma in Agricultural Business Management, 1974

Business Operation/Employment: Cash crop farmer Leadership Activities: Board member of Gay Lea Foods; Board Member of Co-operators Insurance; Board Member of Progressive Dairy Operators; Chaired the Audit Committee at Gay Lea Foods; has been on the Governance



Committee and currently Vice Chair of the Training and Development Committee at Gay Lea Foods; has been on the Governance Committee and currently sit on the Risk and Compensation Committee for the Co-operators Insurance Board, Past member of the Wellington County Milk Committee and Chair; Past Treasurer of the Fergus Fall Fair; has been active in Junior Farmers, being Club and County President, Zone Chair and Provincial Director.

Roger is a cash crop farmer who farms wheat, beans and hay. Roger also works for a large cash cropper and picks up milk part time. For 42 years, Roger milked cows in Wellington County but has stepped aside to let his brother and his brother's son take over.

For fun, Roger enjoys playing hockey in the winter and in the summer he flies gliders. Roger also tows and instructs at the Toronto Soaring Club. When the opportunity arises, Roger likes to travel. He also enjoys sports cars.

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# Class 17 (2017 – 2019) Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program

The twelve female and six male participants of Class 17 bring a range of backgrounds and educational experience to the class. Seven class members are primary producers or involved in family-run farming operations. The remaining eleven come from agribusiness and agri-food and legal sectors, nongovernment and commodity associations, the provincial government and various agencies. Class members range in age from 26 to 63.

Formal education ranges from OSSDs to graduate degrees. For the first time, many of the participants do not hold undergraduate degrees or diplomas in

agriculture and related fields. Five of the current class members have undergraduate degrees or diplomas in agriculture and related fields, one has a Masters degree and another has a Ph.D. Other fields represented are dental hygiene, education, business, paralegal studies and journalism.

Participants come mainly from the eastern and western parts of the province. Areas of the province represented in Class 17 are: Ottawa (1); Leeds and Grenville (1); Renfrew (1); Toronto (1); Wellington (3); Waterloo (2); Brant (1); Perth (2); Huron (2); Bruce (1); Lambton (1); Middlesex (1); and Essex (1).

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#### Paul Hoekstra

Cambridge, ON Cell Phone: 519-241-1652 Email: Phoekstra123@gmail.com or Paul.hoekstra@syngenta.com Education: University of Waterloo, B.Sc. (Hons.), 1998; University of Guelph, Ph.D., 2003 Business Operation/Employment: Syngenta Canada Inc.

Leadership Activities: Member of the Board of Directors for the FarmSafe Foundation; Chair of CropLife Canada's Resistance Management Committee; past and current member of various industry association (and related)



committees (Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, CropLife Canada, Canadian Seed Trade Association, Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs).

With a strong background in regulatory affairs, communication and stakeholder engagement, Paul oversees Syngenta's various stewardship and related outreach activities. Paul is the Stewardship and Policy Manager at Syngenta and has served in various roles at the company ranging from regulatory affairs, product safety, HS&E and stewardship. He also represents Syngenta on several industry committees on the safe and sustainable use of plant science technology. With numerous publications across several disciplines, Paul also leads various efforts in promoting a science-based approach to evaluate the effectiveness and safety of pesticides and other technologies in providing a safe, sustainable and affordable food supply.

Paul was raised on a small farm in eastern Ontario and has always had a deep connection with agriculture, a passion for science and the environment, and a desire to learn. After completing his graduate studies, he worked in a variety of fields: academia, government and industry before joining Syngenta Canada. Paul lives in Cambridge with his wife and has two young children.

With young children at home, free time is luxury to him. When it does occur, Paul enjoys beekeeping, camping, skiing and keeping active.

#### **Nick Huybers**

Wyoming, ON Cell phone: 519-330-4250 Email: huybersnick@gmail.com Education: Olds College, B.Sc. Applied Agribusiness, 2012;

University of Guelph Ridgetown Campus, Agriculture Management Diploma, 2011; Fanshawe College, Insurance Diploma, 2009



Business Operation/Employment: Owner, Huybers Hillside Hectares Inc.; Manager and Shareholder, Huybers Hog Haven Ltd.

Leadership Activities: Nick belongs to a few local farm

committees, has taken some leadership courses through Cattlemen's Young Leaders, as well as the Ontario Pork leadership course. Nick also uses the social media platform Instagram to educate people about what really happens on a pig farm.

Nick runs a farrow-to-finish land-base hog operation with his parents, Mike and Lillis. Nick is responsible for overseeing the finish hog side of their operation. He also assists with field work, sow herd production and managing farm staff.

Nick was born and raised on the family farm in Lambton County. He has always been enthusiastic about agriculture. Since completing his post-secondary education he has worked with his parents to improve and grow their farming operation.

In his spare time, Nick likes to go to the family place at the lake which is only 20 minutes from his farm. Nick also enjoys running, skiing and being active. Nick likes to travel and tries to take one or two trips a year. Nick also likes to binge watch Netflix.

#### Paul Legge

Chesley, ON Cell phone: 226-668-1071 Email: Legge.paul@gmail.com Education: Niagara College, Welding Technician,

2010; Chesley District High School, High Skills Major in Agriculture, 2008

Business Operation/Employment: Legge Farms Leadership Activities: Student Tutor in Mechanical Engineering Drawing and Blueprint Reading at Niagara College; Director, Vice Chair and Bus Trip Planning Committee for Bruce County Soil and Croo Improvement



Association; Ice Committee for 2017 Elementary School Curling Championships at Chesley Curling Club; Planning Committee for Grey/Bruce Farmers Week.

Paul is a partner in a family-run farm. He farms with two cousins, Aaron and Cory, his uncle Doug and his father, John. The farm is primarily a cash crop and custom farming operation, growing mainly corn, soybeans and wheat with occasional spring grains, canola and edible beans. A large focus is on improving soil health using reduced tillage and cover crops. In the winter, Paul also works as a millwright at a business in Walkerton. This business primarily focuses on the structural steel needs in the area.

Born and raised on a beef cattle finishing operation, the business eventually evolved into a cash crop and custom farming operation. After finishing high school, Paul decided to pursue secondary education in a different field than agriculture to bring some diversity to the business. As a welding technician, Paul designs and builds many things to be used on the farm and most equipment is fixed and maintained on farm.

Paul likes to spend his spare time with family and friends. He is especially fond of playing with his four nephews and teaching them about farming and the equipment. As time permits, he likes to bike, snowboard and wakeboard.

#### Brenda Miller-Sanford

Guelph, ON Cell Phone: 519-835-4824 Email: bmsanford@gfo.ca Education: Fanshawe College, Business Information Systems, Data Processing Major, 1986 Business Operation/Employment: Grain Farmers of Ontario Leadership Activities: Former Director and Treasurer of Ontario Agri-Food Education.



Brenda was raised on a cash crop and farrow-to-finish hog operation in Huron County and relocated to Guelph

when she accepted a job with the Ontario Corn Producers' Association. She served in different roles with this organization and was involved in working through the merging of the corn, soybean and wheat organizations which formed Grain Farmers of Ontario in 2010.

With Grain Farmers of Ontario, Brenda currently serves as the Manager of Administration where she is responsible for the technological, administrative and operational needs of the Board of Directors, staff members and office building.

Brenda and her husband, Dave, have two children and enjoy living in rural Ontario. In her spare time, Brenda enjoys gardening, playing baseball, reading, cooking, going to the gym, travelling and spending time with family and friends.

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#### Erica Murray

Seaforth, ON Cell Phone: 519-615-2684 Email: emurray@tcc.on.ca Education: Nipissing University, B.A. History, 2008; Westervelt College, Paralegal Studies, 2010 Business Operation/Employment: Little, Masson & Reid Professional Corporation

Leadership Activities: President of Huron County Federation of Agriculture; Chair of Huron County Food Court 2017 Committee; Chair of the Huron County Federation of Agriculture 75th anniversary gala

committee; President of Perth 4-H Leaders' Association; President of Huron 4-H Leaders' Association (2012-2014); Referee in Chief (2011-2015).

Erica is a law clerk at Little, Masson & Reid Professional Corporation, dealing mostly with criminal, litigation and family law. Little Masson & Reid is a law firm located in Exeter. They are a full-service law firm, offering legal services to both businesses and individuals throughout southwestern Ontario.

Born and raised on a pig and cash crop farm in Huron County that is still operated by her family. Erica has always been passionate about agriculture and issues that affect rural Ontario. Erica was a 4-H ambassador in 2006, participating in several different 4-H clubs and opportunities. Erica continues to be involved in the 4-H program as a 4-H Leader.

Erica spends her spare time going to Crossfit, reffing ringette and spending time with her family and friends.

#### Katie Nolan

Business Phone: 613-258-8371 Email: katie.nolan@ontario.ca Education: McGill, B.Sc. Biology, 1999; University of British Columbia, M. Sc. Soil Science, 2002 Business Operation/Employment: Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Advisor



Katie's love of agriculture developed when she realized as an adult that it combined her interests in environmental stewardship, human health and global issues. Her first

experience in agriculture was working as an intern on an international development project with subsistence farmers with the Panamanian Ministry of Health, through a study-abroad program offered by McGill School of Environment. That led her to pursue graduate studies in soil science with the University of British Columbia Agroecology and Soil Conservation Group, completing an on-farm research project on the use of soil amendments for newly transitioned organic horticultural producers. She continued working with UBC for several years as a sessional instructor.

Katie was also involved with the Alternative Land Use Services (ALUS) pilot project in Norfolk County, a program designed to compensate farmers for ecological goods and services provided to the public by their stewardship practices. She worked briefly as Program Director for the then-named Ottawa Chapter of Canadian Organic Growers, and joined OMARRA in 2008. Since that time, she has worked as a Regional Information Coordinator and an Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Advisor in several counties of Eastern Ontario. She has helped to spearhead new initiatives such as the Eastern Ontario Local Food Conference and the Teeny Tiny Summits. This programming reflects her two main current professional interests: strengthening local food value chains in Eastern Ontario and a customized, asset-based approach to lasting community economic development in "Teeny Tiny Places".

#### Erin O'Hara

Ottawa, ON Cell Phone: 613-261-0534

Email: o\_haraerin@hotmail.com or oharae@croplife.ca Education: Carleton University, Bachelor of Journalism, 2007 Business Operation/Employment: CropLife Canada Leadership Activities: Captain of the Carleton University women's volleyball team; led the development and implementation of CropLife Canada's social media and training program; lead on implementation of several largescale communications projects; led local CropLife Canada Habitat for Humanity build dav.



Erin is a senior communications officer at CropLife Canada where she has been for more than seven years. CropLife Canada is the trade association representing the manufacturers, distributers and developers of crop protection products and products of plant biotechnology. In her role, Erin oversees media relations and the organization's social media activities, while also providing strategic communications and issues management support as well as playing a role in stakeholder relations. Erin is proud to have built the organization's social media efforts, including an external member training program, from the ground up.

Erin grew up in Almonte, a small town west of Ottawa. She studied journalism with the idea of being a sportscaster but quickly fell in love with communications and public relations. She spent the first years of her career as a writer in a marketing agency serving a whole range of public and private sector clients. She then fell into her job at CropLife Canada without any agricultural background. It has been a steep learning curve but Erin has found great satisfaction in playing a role in helping the public better understand agriculture.

Erin's wife is a chef and together they enjoy food – both home-cooked meals and trying out new restaurants. The couple have a dog (a very high-energy puggle) that they spend a lot of time walking. Erin loves sports and still plays competitive volleyball in the winter and summer. Erin also plays Ultimate Frisbee, cross country skis in the winter, goes to the gym and enjoys the chance to play almost any other sport when given the opportunity. Erin enjoys travelling when she gets the chance and has done three Habitat for Humanity trips around the world (Thailand, Brazil and Jordan).

#### Rhonda Ryan

Walton, ON Home Phone: 519-527-2118 Cell Phone: 519-502-7043 Email: rrya@trilliummutual.com Education: Conestoga College, General Business Diploma, 1994; CIP (Certified Insurance Professional) Designation, 2016 Evaluate Constitution (Construct Team Leadure 6 April Province Constitution (Construct Team Leadure 6 April

Business Operation/Employment: Team Leader of Agri-Business & Commercial Underwriting at Trillium Mutual Insurance Company



Leadership Activities: Rhonda helps out at her local

parish church with Sunday School, is the chair of the Employee Leadership Council at Trillium, has been a Brownie Leader and helps out where needed for fundraising and volunteering with her children's school and extracurricular activities.

Rhonda is currently the Team Leader of the Agri-Business and Commercial Underwriting Teams at Trillium. Rhonda has worked at Trillium for nine and a half years and has been part of the Leadership Team since 2012. She has also been the chair of Trillium Mutuals' Employee Leadership Council for the last two years. Prior to that, Rhonda was an Insurance Broker for 14 years.

Rhonda was born and raised in Blyth and lived there until she was married in December of 1999. Rhonda then moved to Walton with her husband Joe, where they reside on a 75-acre cash crop farm with their four boys. The family still live on the family farm and are cash cropping with her husband's father. Rhonda and her family love living in the country and hope to pass along the farming "bug" to their children.

In her spare time, Rhonda plays slo-pitch in the local women's league and enjoys gardening and working in her flowerbeds. Although with a busy home life there is not a whole lot of spare time!

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#### Valerie Stone

Paris, ON Cell Phone: 519-732-1928 Email: valstone18@hotmail.com Education: Wilfrid Laurier University, Bachelor of Arts, Contemporary Studies – Organizational Leadership with a Minor in French Business Operation/Employment: Crop Input

Representative, Cargill

Leadership Activities: Canadian 4-H Council Director, Brant County 4-H Association Board Member and Dairy 4-H Leader: Paris Agricultural Society Director, Paris Fair

Ambassador Committee Co-Chair and Homecraft Second Vice President; Brant-Six Nations Plowmen's Association Secretary-Treasurer; Paris Youth Softball Association Coach.

Valerie is employed by Cargill as a Crop Input Representative based out of the Grain Elevator and Crop Input Facility in Princeton. She works with a large portfolio of farmers towards crop excellence. Cargill is a farm supply company providing agronomic, marketing and grain services to farmers in the area. Valerie is also involved with Cargill's Talent Recruiting Program and is instrumental in their presence at Canada's Outdoor Farm Show.

Raised in the small town of Paris, Valerie grew up with a love for agriculture. Being a lifetime 4-H member she gained a wealth of knowledge and experience around livestock, life skills, food and farming. Valerie has always been very involved in her community through different organizations, committees and sports teams. Her love for agriculture and community has led her to a fulfilling career working in the local farming community.

In her spare time, Valerie enjoys figure skating, coaching, playing and watching baseball and is a huge Baltimore Orioles fan. She enjoys spending time with friends and family, travelling, working on renovating her first home and exploring and enjoying local hot spots.

#### **Bernice Weber Passchier**

Palmerston, ON Home phone: 519-343-5858 Cell phone: 519-292-9033 Education: University of Waterloo, BA; Wilfrid Laurier, BDA (Diploma in Business Administration); Queen's University,

B. Ed. Business Operation/Employment: Ag Business & Crop Inc. and UKKO (a division of Ag Business & Crop Inc)

Leadership Activities: Vice Chair/Past Chair of the North Perth Public Library; involvement with the Launchlt Minto Business program; fundraising campaigns for various

causes; past Chair on school councils, Community Member Westfield North Perth Elementary School.

Bernice and Felix Weber started Ag Business & Crop Inc. (ABC) several years ago. ABC/UKKO provides a wide range of innovative product solutions and expertise for precision agriculture. They are the Canadian distributors for senseFly, a Swiss company designing and developing bio-inspired UAV (drone) systems for the commercial and agricultural markets. Ag Business & Crop Inc. is active in research and development and working with universities and ministries in applying this technology. Several years ago, Ag Business and Crop Inc. was named one of 10 top regional winners of the Globe and Mail/Telus Small Business Challenge. Bernice's role is assisting in managing and coordinating activities and growth at ABC.

Bernice is also a passionate supporter of her rural community. She spends time volunteering for school councils and educational endeavours, literacy advocacy, fundraising and supporting small business growth and development.

Bernice and her husband live on a farm just outside of Palmerston, and work together at their business, Ag Business and Crop Inc. Most importantly, they are grateful and proud parents of two children who have grown to be remarkable, interesting and engaging young men.

# Staff

Rob Black

Chief Executive Officer Rural Ontario Institute



#### John Zandstra

Curriculum Advisor University of Guelph, Ridgetown Campus



#### Tanya Stuart

Coordinator, AALP & Communications Rural Ontario Institute



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### **AALP Advisory Committee**

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\*Indicates AALP graduate

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