



RURAL ONTARIO
INSTITUTE

**Building Vision, Voice and
Leadership for a strong
and vibrant rural Ontario**

2013/2014 Annual Report

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Ministry of Agriculture
and Food
Ministry of Rural Affairs

Ministère de l'Agriculture
et de l'Alimentation
Ministère des Affaires rurales



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A Message from Deb Stark, Deputy Minister

On behalf of the Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, I am pleased to offer greetings to the Rural Ontario Institute.

The Rural Ontario Institute is an important stakeholder for the ministries. As a catalyst for dialogue and collaboration on issues facing rural Ontario, your organization has been educating the next generation of agricultural and rural leaders who want to help shape the future of the agri-food sector.

The agri-food industry is an important contributor to the economy and continues to be a priority. Ontario agri-food exports remained strong in 2013 reaching a total of \$11.86 billion, up 9.58% over 2012.

The Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Agriculture and Food remain firmly committed to working with our partners in the agriculture and food industry and the province's rural citizens to build a strong future. Working together, we can strengthen rural communities and economies.

Thank you for the tremendous contributions you make to our province every day.

I congratulate you on your achievements, and wish you all the best for the future.

Yours truly,

Deb Stark
Deputy Minister

Message from the Chair and Chief Executive Officer

This marks the fourth year of the Rural Ontario Institute (ROI), and it's exciting to look back at our accomplishments and look forward to the future as it rolls out ahead of us.

As residents of rural Ontario, we have many of the same opportunities and challenges as our urban neighbours, but in a rural area those opportunities and challenges may have different solutions. ROI ensures that policies developed by government, public agencies, private and non-profit organizations are evaluated through a "rural lens."

One highlight of this year was collaborating with the Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs to deliver the 2014 Rural Ontario Summit that brought together rural stakeholders to learn about and discuss priorities for creating and maintaining a strong and vibrant rural Ontario. We feel the Summit provided strong direction to build community partnerships, attract new investment and provide leadership to rural Ontario as communities work through change.

ROI strives to provide vision, voice and leadership for rural Ontario and we have stayed focused on making progress in our three key results areas:

- Strong leaders, strong organizations and strong rural communities
- Effective facilitation of dialogue and collaboration on rural issues and opportunities
- An effective Rural Ontario Institute

This annual report captures some of the activities in each of these areas, and we would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, donors, program partners, board members, volunteers and friends for their support. In particular we would like to acknowledge the Ontario Ministry of Agriculture and Food and the Ministry of Rural Affairs for their continued support of ROI programs.



Janet Horner
Chair
Rural Ontario Institute



Rob Black
Chief Executive Officer
Rural Ontario Institute



Ontario agriculture depends on strong leadership and the Ontario Federation of Agriculture congratulates the Rural Ontario Institute on its important role in building future leaders.

We are a proud founding partner of the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program, and a committed supporter of the ongoing leadership work of the Rural Ontario Institute. Leadership capacity building and advocacy has never been more important for the long-term health and stability of Ontario's agri-food sector. Together, we must invest in training future leaders to maintain and grow our industry's position as a key economic driver in Ontario.

The Rural Ontario Institute provides an important service to effectively engage rural stakeholders, deliver community engagement strategies and inform key decision makers about rural issues that are critical to strong communities and a vibrant agriculture industry.

The Ontario Federation of Agriculture looks forward to working closely with the Rural Ontario Institute in the years to come to ensure agriculture and rural Ontario achieve their full potential.

On behalf of Ontario farmers, thank you Rural Ontario Institute. We appreciate your excellent leadership.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Mark Wales'.

Mark Wales
President
Ontario Federation of Agriculture

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



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(Chair)**
Shelburne, ON



**Rob Hannam
(Past Chair)**
Guelph, ON



**Jim Whaley
(Vice Chair)**
Wasaga Beach, ON



**Stig Puschel
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Rob Black
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Officer



Scott Currie
Project Manager



**Bill Bearrs
(Treasurer)**
Brampton, ON



Dean Anderson
Guelph, ON



Dr. Rob Gordon
Guelph, ON



Paul Karges
Gowanstown, ON



Alicia Evans
Project Manager
Leadership Programs



Norman Ragetlie
Director, Policy
and Stakeholder
Engagement



Susan Leuty
Fergus, ON



Cathy Redden
Campbellford, ON



Molly Ross
Huntsville, ON



Chris White
Rockwood, ON



Arlene Warner
Manager,
Communications and
Fund Development

STAFF

AALP ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Teresa Van Raay* (Chair)

Van Raay Farms & AALP Class 9

Sara Avoledo*

OMAF/MRA & AALP Class 12

Rob Black

ROI Chief Executive Officer

Clinton Buttar*

Farm Credit Canada & AALP Class 13

Steve Cooper*

Coopers CSA Farm + Maze & AALP Class 11

Matt Langford*

Langford Insurance & AALP Class 13

Brad Lichty*

AGDATA Ltd. & AALP Class 12

Amanda Macdougall

OMAF/MRA

Carol Maki*

AALP Class 13

Karen Mansfield*

Generations & AALP Class 14

Barry Micallef

Curriculum Advisor

Kathryn Minten*

Minten Dairy Farms & AALP Class 13

Nathan Stevens*

Christian Farmers Federation of Ontario
& AALP Class 12

Marlene Werry

Program Advisor

*indicates AALP graduate

Developing strong leaders, strong organizations and strong rural communities

Strong individual, community and industry leadership is needed in rural Ontario. 2013 was a year of both beginnings and endings for our key programs: Steps to Leadership, BUILD Leadership and the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program.

Steps to Leadership Highlights

Funding for the Steps to Leadership Program ended December 31, 2013, but the year was filled with community leadership development.

Step Up to Leadership Youth Program

In 2013, 49 young people took part in the Step Up to Leadership youth program – through Volunteer Thunder Bay, RDÉE (the Francophone community in Eastern Ontario) and the Renfrew County Community Futures Development Corporation (Pembroke).

Leading Edge Community Action Lab

The new Community Action Lab approach was piloted in 2013 in Smiths Falls to address physician recruitment with participation from over 40 community residents of all ages. Community Action Labs are focused on community-specific issues, and integrate training and coaching for local leaders in the use of innovative community tools and processes as well as facilitation of community dialogue and planning. ROI will pursue sponsorship and funding to continue this valuable work.



Participants in the Smith Falls physician recruitment Community Action Lab used many different group facilitation techniques to discuss options.

“The Action Lab was a productive catalyst moving the community forward to create change. Collectively we stepped away thinking differently about our value to the community and our ability to provide leadership within the community.”

—COMMUNITY ACTION LAB PARTICIPANT

“The innovative concepts we learned through our relationship with the Rural Ontario Institute have greatly enhanced our community’s ability to engage greater community dialogue.”

—COMMUNITY ACTION LAB PARTICIPANT

2013 Leading Edge Summit

Connected Rural Communities: Tools and techniques for networked leadership

October 16 and 17, 2013

More than 70 passionate people from across many sectors of rural Ontario explored a networked approach to leadership – understanding what networks are, how to work with networks and how to make networks work for them. And of course, we used participatory processes for connecting, learning and getting to work.

Resources from the 2013 Leading Edge Summit are available at www.stepstoleadership.ca

BUILD Leadership Highlights

Beef Farmers of Ontario and ROI offered the customized BUILD Leadership Program and in early 2014, 10 individuals graduated from this multi-day, multi-seminar program. A few of the topics included in the three sessions: Becoming a leader people will follow, Roles and responsibilities of effective boards, Developing and delivering key messages, Five practices of exemplary leadership, Advocacy and lobbying, Using social media, and Empowering and motivating others.

Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) Highlights

AALP Class 15 welcomed 29 participants in September 2013: 16 females and 13 males ranging in age from 23 to 59. Seven class members are primary producers of vegetables, field and cash crops, poultry, dairy, hogs, beef and sheep. Another eight of the group are actively involved in primary agriculture, while also working off farm, and the balance of the class is involved in agri-business, non-government and commodity associations, and provincial and federal governments and their agencies.

Most recommendations made in the AALP program evaluation last year have been implemented, and a followup evaluation will be done to determine the success of the changes.



AALP Class 15

AALP Dream Auction raised more than \$110,000

More than 350 people who are passionate about leadership in agriculture came together on February 8, 2014 for the AALP Dream Auction and raised more than \$110,000. This brings the total raised by the AALP Dream Auction to more than \$625,000 since the first event was held in 1997.

The theme was "Your Experience is Waiting" and items included home baked sweet treats, fishing vacations, six days at an African Safari Lodge, a day as a cheesemaker and advertising space.



Mike Menzi, AALP Class 14, provides notice to bidders that tables were closing.

PATRONS \$50,000+



PACESETTERS \$15,000 - \$24,999



CHAMPIONS \$10,000 - \$14,999



ALLIES \$7,500 - \$9,999



LEADERS \$5,000 - \$7,499



BUILDERS \$2,500 - \$4,999



BOOSTERS \$1,000 - \$2,499



Effective facilitation of dialogue and collaboration on rural issues and opportunities

The Rural Ontario Institute provides opportunities for stakeholders in rural communities across the province to learn from each other as we host discussions on common challenges they face.

ROI now has more than 760 subscribers, a 17% increase over last year and the Rural Ontario Institute website is becoming a source for information. In 2013/2014, ROI staff and other rural stakeholders wrote 45 blogs. The "Resources and Reports" section houses informative documents published by a range of organizations.

The Rural Ontario Institute participated in many conversations about rural issues and policy, in many different roles: from organizer and co-host to facilitator and presenter. A few of our activities included:

Focus on Rural Ontario Fact Sheet Series

Rural Ontario represents 20% of the province's population – that's about the same population as Toronto – so it is critical to understand the ongoing and emerging issues in rural Ontario. ROI commissioned a series of Focus on Rural Ontario fact sheets based on Statistics Canada socio-economic data. These 17 easy-to-read fact sheets highlight the changing dynamics of rural Ontario's population, communities and economies. All of the Focus on Rural Ontario fact sheets can be downloaded at: www.ruralontarioinstitute.ca/resources-reports/

Feedback from the fact sheets was tremendous, from rural stakeholders to the media. Another series of Focus on Rural Ontario is scheduled for release in 2014.

Forums on Rural Health and Aging and Youth Employment

During 2013 and early 2014, three forums exploring rural health and aging were held, and two on youth employment. More than 275 individuals representing 108 organizations attended the forums, held across Ontario, to hear expert presenters and participate in facilitated small group discussions.

Accelerating Rural Transportation Solutions

Solving rural transportation issues is critical for economic, social and health reasons. ROI is leading a partnership project with the Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition to accelerate the adoption of effective rural regional transportation solutions, along with a strong group of supporting organizations such as Ontario Good Roads Association, Rural Ontario Municipal Association and Ontario Public Transit Association. Using webinars, case studies and an assessment of the financial feasibility of cost-shared models, we are creating and sharing information to build understanding and support the evolution of effective approaches. The case studies and financial feasibility assessments will be discussed at three forums during June 2014.

The project received funding from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Ontario government.



Rural Ontario Summit

On March 3, 2014, the Rural Ontario Summit was held in Cobourg as a collaboration between the Rural Ontario Institute and the Ontario Ministry of Rural Affairs. The Summit provided an opportunity to discuss the social and economic infrastructure issues that will help build a healthier, more prosperous rural Ontario. A range of experts from academia, business and economic development, municipal governments and the broader public sector contributed to the in-room discussion, with significant participation from across the province in the live stream event.



The Summit's keynote speakers included Jeff Leal, Minister of Rural Affairs for the province of Ontario; Dr. David Freshwater, Professor of Agricultural Economics, University of Kentucky; and Dr. Rob Greenwood, Executive Director, Leslie Harris Centre for Regional Policy Development, Memorial University, St. John's Newfoundland.



Chartered Accountants
and Business Advisors

People Count.

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors of: Rural Ontario Institute

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the Rural Ontario Institute, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2014 and the statements of operations and changes in net assets-general fund, operations and changes in net assets-restricted funds, and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's Responsibility for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditor's Responsibility

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the entity's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the entity's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained in our audit is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our qualified audit opinion.

Basis for Qualified Opinion

In common with many non-profit organizations, the Rural Ontario Institute derives revenue from the general public in the form of cash donations and fundraising activities, the completeness of which is not susceptible to satisfactory audit verification. Accordingly, our verification of these revenues was limited to the amounts recorded in the records of the Rural Ontario Institute and we were not able to determine whether any adjustments might be necessary to excess of revenue over expenditures, assets and fund balances.

Qualified Opinion

In our opinion, except for the effect of the adjustments, if any, which we might have determined to be necessary had we been able to satisfy ourselves concerning the completeness of the revenue sources referred to in the preceding paragraph, these financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Rural Ontario Institute as at March 31, 2014 and the results of its operations and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations.

Guelph, Ontario
May 29, 2014

RLB LLP
Chartered Accountants
Licensed Public Accountants

These financial statements are excerpts of the audited financials. The Statement of Cash Flows has not been included.

**RURAL ONTARIO INSTITUTE
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS – GENERAL FUND
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

	2014	2013
REVENUE		
Donations	\$ 9,969	\$ 4,117
Tuition	159,268	126,052
Fundraising	126,689	19,300
Interest income	3,167	3,862
Sponsorships	152,916	176,887
Grants and contributions	558,977	661,339
Training and business development	315,445	122,946
Other income	543	284
	<u>1,326,974</u>	<u>1,114,787</u>
OPERATING EXPENSES		
Accommodations and meals	102,159	116,764
Amortization	6,076	9,474
Board of Director expenses	9,668	8,949
Communications and marketing	11,286	14,988
Contract and professional services	460,036	337,711
Financial services	29,975	24,137
Fundraising expenses	2,377	0
Information technology	14,512	9,798
Operations	41,708	54,226
Professional development	5,334	1,725
Salaries and benefits	437,960	431,901
Travel	59,570	215,835
Repairs and maintenance	0	120
	<u>1,180,661</u>	<u>1,225,628</u>
SURPLUS (DEFICIENCY) OF REVENUE OVER EXPENDITURES for the year	146,313	(110,841)
TRANSFER FROM RESTRICTED FUNDS (note 5)	12,127	15,094
	<u>158,440</u>	<u>(95,747)</u>
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, beginning of year	<u>252,267</u>	<u>348,014</u>
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>\$ 410,707</u>	<u>\$ 252,267</u>

See notes to the financial statements

**RURAL ONTARIO INSTITUTE
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS – RESTRICTED FUNDS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

	LEADERSHIP LEGACY FUND	W.G. WESTON FOUNDATION FUND	K. McKINNON MEMORIAL FUND	WM. A. STEWART ENDOWMENT FUND	2014 TOTAL	2013 TOTAL
REVENUE						
Investment income	\$ 1,624	\$ 4,935	\$ 1,651	\$ 6,928	\$ 15,138	\$ 18,586
NET ASSETS, beginning of year	64,208	195,122	65,283	265,959	590,572	587,080
TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND (note 5)	<u>(1,462)</u>	<u>(3,455)</u>	<u>(1,156)</u>	<u>(6,054)</u>	<u>(12,127)</u>	<u>(15,094)</u>
NET ASSETS, end of year	<u>\$ 64,370</u>	<u>\$ 196,602</u>	<u>\$ 65,778</u>	<u>\$ 266,833</u>	<u>\$ 593,583</u>	<u>\$ 590,572</u>

See notes to the financial statements

**RURAL ONTARIO INSTITUTE
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

	GENERAL	RESTRICTED (note 5)	TOTAL 2014	TOTAL 2013
ASSETS				
CURRENT				
Cash	\$ 386,520	\$ 54,990	\$ 441,510	\$ 0
Investments	0	538,593	538,593	599,364
Accounts receivable	132,518	0	132,518	150,742
Grants receivable	0	0	0	132,620
Prepaid expenses	29,308	0	29,308	10,101
	<u>548,346</u>	<u>593,583</u>	<u>1,141,929</u>	<u>892,827</u>
CAPITAL ASSETS (note 4)	<u>16,591</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>16,591</u>	<u>12,852</u>
	<u>\$ 564,937</u>	<u>\$ 593,583</u>	<u>\$ 1,158,520</u>	<u>\$ 905,679</u>
LIABILITIES				
CURRENT				
Bank overdraft (note 6)	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 0	\$ 9,227
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	22,554	0	22,554	53,613
Deferred income	131,676	0	131,676	0
	<u>154,230</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>154,230</u>	<u>62,840</u>
NET ASSETS				
Unrestricted net assets	410,707	0	410,707	252,267
Restricted net assets	<u>0</u>	<u>593,583</u>	<u>593,583</u>	<u>590,572</u>
	<u>410,707</u>	<u>593,583</u>	<u>1,004,290</u>	<u>842,839</u>
	<u>\$ 564,937</u>	<u>\$ 593,583</u>	<u>\$ 1,158,520</u>	<u>\$ 905,679</u>

See notes to the financial statements

**RURAL ONTARIO INSTITUTE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

1. NATURE OF BUSINESS

Rural Ontario Institute ("the Institute") is a registered charitable organization dedicated to building vision, voice and leadership for a strong and vibrant rural Ontario and, accordingly, is exempt from income tax.

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The financial statements have been prepared in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations and include the following significant accounting policies:

(a) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The Institute follows the restricted fund method of accounting for contributions.

General Fund

The General Fund reports unrestricted resources available for the Institute's general operating activities.

Restricted Funds

The Restricted Funds report resources that are to be held as endowments. Restricted funds are comprised of the Leadership Legacy Fund, the Wm. A. Stewart Endowment Fund, the W. G. Weston

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(a) BASIS OF ACCOUNTING (continued)

Foundation Fund and the K. McKinnon Memorial Fund. These funds are to be invested, in trust, for the Institute, with investment income to be used to support the organization. A minimum of 10% of the total annual income of the Wm. A. Stewart Endowment Fund, 10% of the total annual income of the Leadership Legacy Fund and 30% of the total annual income of the W. G. Weston Foundation Fund and the K. McKinnon Memorial Fund must be reinvested under the conditions of the funds.

(b) CAPITAL ASSETS

Amortization is taken on assets at the following rates:

Computer equipment	– 3 years straight line basis
Website	– 4 years straight line basis
Furniture and equipment	– 20% declining balance basis

Amortization is taken at 50% of the above rates in the year of addition.

(c) IMPAIRMENT OF LONG LIVED ASSETS

Long lived assets are tested for recoverability whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying amount may not be recoverable. An impairment loss is recognized when the carrying value exceeds the total undiscounted cash flows expected from their use and eventual disposition. The amount of the impairment loss is determined as the excess of the carrying value of the asset over its fair value.

(d) REVENUE RECOGNITION

Restricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate restricted fund in the year received and in the general fund in the year in which the related expenses are incurred. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue of the appropriate fund when received or receivable if the amount can be reasonably estimated and collection is reasonably assured.

Contributed or donated items are recorded if the fair market value is easily estimated and the organization would have purchased these items in the normal course of operations. During the year, the organization received approximately \$58,930 of in kind contributions related to the Dream Auction, the value of which has not been recorded in the financial statements.

Investment income is recognized when earned.

(e) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Measurement of financial instruments

The Institute initially measures its financial assets and liabilities at fair value, except for certain non arm's length transactions.

The Institute subsequently measures all its financial assets and financial liabilities at amortized cost, except for investments, which are recorded at fair value. Changes in fair value are recognized in net assets.

Financial assets measured at amortized cost include cash, accounts receivable and grants receivable.

Financial liabilities measured at amortized cost include the bank overdraft, accounts payable and accrued liabilities and deferred income.

Impairment

Financial assets measured at amortized cost are tested for impairment when there are indicators of impairment. If an impairment has occurred, the carrying amount of financial assets measured at amortized cost is reduced to the greater of the discounted future cash flows expected or the proceeds that could be realized from the sale of the financial asset. The amount of the write down is recognized in net surplus. The previously recognized impairment loss may be reversed to the extent of the improvement, directly or by adjusting the allowance account, provided it is no greater than the amount that would have been reported at the date of the reversal had the impairment not been recognized previously. The amount of the reversal is recognized in net surplus.

**RURAL ONTARIO INSTITUTE
NOTES TO THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED MARCH 31, 2014**

2. SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (continued)

(e) FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS (continued)

Transaction costs

The Institute recognizes its transaction costs in net income in the period incurred. However, financial instruments that will not be subsequently measured at fair value are adjusted by the transaction costs that are directly attributable to their origination, issuance or assumption.

(f) USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with Canadian accounting standards for not for profit organizations requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the year. Significant areas requiring the use of management estimates and assumptions relate to useful life of capital assets, valuation of prepaid expenses and accrued charges. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

3. FINANCIAL INSTRUMENTS

Unless otherwise noted, it is management's opinion that the Institute is not exposed to significant interest, credit, currency, liquidity, or other price risks arising from these financial instruments.

The extent of the Institute's exposure to these risks did not change in 2014 compared to the previous period.

The Institute does not have a significant exposure to any individual customer or counterpart.

4. CAPITAL ASSETS

	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net 2014	Net 2013
Computer equipment	\$ 19,776	\$ 11,597	\$ 8,179	\$ 0
Website	16,050	14,636	1,414	4,104
Furniture and equipment	12,238	5,240	6,998	8,748
	<u>\$ 48,064</u>	<u>\$ 31,473</u>	<u>\$ 16,591</u>	<u>\$ 12,852</u>

5. TRANSFER TO GENERAL FUND FROM RESTRICTED FUND

The allowable portion of investment income in each restricted fund has been transferred to the general fund as per the guidelines in the restricted funds.

6. BANK OVERDRAFT

The Institute has utilized \$0 (2013 \$65,000) of an authorized operating line of credit with a limit up to a maximum of \$150,000. The line of credit bears interest at 5%. The line of credit is secured by the investments. No conditions regarding this loan have been breached at year end and no accrued interest relating to this loan is owing.

7. CORRESPONDING FIGURES

Certain figures presented for corresponding purposes have been reclassified to conform to the current year's presentation.

Endowments

The Rural Ontario Institute greatly appreciates all the endowments and gifts that continue to grow and provide interest income to assist in supporting the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) and other programming to foster the leadership qualities needed in rural Ontario.

KEN MCKINNON MEMORIAL FUND

The Ken McKinnon Memorial Fund is a tribute to Ken McKinnon's leadership and service to Canadian agriculture, and a commitment to excellence in the agricultural leaders of tomorrow. During his 21-year tenure at the Ontario Milk Marketing Board, Ken played an integral role in leading the changes that revolutionized milk production, pricing and marketing in Ontario, and throughout Canada. Through donations from individuals, businesses and organizations, the Ken McKinnon Memorial Fund fosters the leadership qualities needed in rural Ontario in the years ahead.

WILLIAM A. STEWART ENDOWMENT

The William A. Stewart Endowment was initiated in 1991 by the Agricultural Leadership Trust as a tribute to the late Ontario Minister of Agriculture and Food, the Honourable William A. Stewart. The fund recognizes and honours his legacy of public service, community involvement and leadership. As part of each AALP class, the William A. Stewart Public Lecture & Reception is held every other year.

This prestigious event provides an opportunity for public involvement and a forum for the development of the leadership qualities exemplified by the work of William A. Stewart.

GEORGE DMETRIUC MEMORIAL FUND

The George Dmetriuc Memorial Fund was established by the Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board as part of the William A. Stewart Endowment in 1993. The fund exemplifies the spirit of George Dmetriuc as a leader in Ontario agriculture. The Ontario Wheat Producers' Marketing Board, other commodity organizations, and friends and associates of George Dmetriuc provided this fund in recognition of the leadership that George contributed to Ontario agriculture, particularly in his capacity as a director and then chairman of the Ontario Wheat Board (1984 to 1992).

W. GARFIELD WESTON ENDOWMENT

The W. Garfield Weston Foundation originated in 1959, and is named in honour of Willard Garfield Weston, a Canadian who established successful business enterprises throughout Canada and in many parts of the world. The W. Garfield Weston Foundation's mandate states that grants are to be given for projects in Canada for the benefit of Canadians. The foundation currently directs its funds primarily to two areas: scholarships and land conservation. Through the generosity of the Foundation, the endowment was established on receipt of an initial contribution in 1994, followed by additional funding in 1995 and 1996.

DEAN TIESSEN MEMORIAL FUND

The Dean Tiessen memorial fund honours the vision and memory of SW Ontario agricultural entrepreneur and AALP Class 10 graduate Dean Tiessen who died tragically in Brazil in 2013. Dean was President of New Energy Farms, was a catalyst in helping establish Ontario's biomass sector and was a leader in the greenhouse vegetable industry. This fund will support AALP Classes 16 through 20 in their "Dynamics of Change" seminars in SW Ontario. Donations are still being accepted for this fund.

Gifting to Leadership

Celebrate friends and loved ones by making a gift in their name to the Rural Ontario Institute. Whether in celebration of a life lived or a tribute to someone dear to you, a gift to the Rural Ontario Institute is a powerful expression that will help support emerging leaders through programs such as the Advanced Agricultural Leadership Program (AALP) and the BUILD Leadership Program.

Consider a donation:

- To thank a friend or colleague
- To congratulate a milestone in someone's life
- To celebrate a wedding or anniversary
- To send "best wishes" for any occasion
- To remember someone special in your life

When you make a gift, the Rural Ontario Institute will send a card on your behalf that can include your own special message. An official receipt for income tax purposes will be issued to you, the donor. Donations like this are a fitting tribute to anyone committed to leadership in agriculture and rural Ontario, and a way to ensure their special commitment is recognized, remembered and honoured.

To learn more about endowments and gifts, please contact the Rural Ontario Institute at 519-826-4204 or info@ruralontarioinstitute.ca



RURAL ONTARIO INSTITUTE

Connect with ROI and other rural stakeholders:

- **Write** a guest blog for the ROI website to share a story or opinion – email us at info@ruralontarioinstitute.ca
- **Share** stories, ideas and thoughts on ROI's Facebook page
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