



# Niagara Falls Bridge Commission

2013 ANNUAL REVIEW



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

About the NFBC	2
Board of Commissioners	3
Mission and Vision	3
Niagara Crossings	4,5
Year in Review Highlights	6,7,8,9
Financial Overviews	6, 8
Sponsorships	7
Scholarships	9
Statements of Financials	10,11

In 2013, the NFBC celebrated two historic anniversaries: the Commission's 75th Corporate Anniversary and the 50th Anniversary of the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge. To commemorate these important milestones, a series of events, recognitions, and educational outreach initiatives were organized by the NFBC. More details on these activities are included in this report.



## ABOUT THE NFBC

Entering its 76th year, the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission (NFBC) is the bi-national entity that owns, maintains and operates the Lewiston-Queenston, Rainbow and Whirlpool-Rapids Bridges. A Joint Resolution of the 1938 U.S. Congressional Third Session and subsequent amendments created the NFBC as currently constituted. The NFBC is licensed to operate by the Extra Provincial Corporations Act of the Province of Ontario, Canada.

The Commission is comprised of an eight-member Board consisting of four United States and four Canadian representatives. The United States Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the Governor of the State of New York, and the Canadian Commissioners serve at the pleasure of the Premier of the Province of Ontario. All officers hold respective office for one-year until the next annual meeting.

Initially established to finance, construct and operate the Rainbow Bridge, the Commission's efficient and effective management of that bridge led to an extension of responsibilities over the Whirlpool-Rapids (Lower Arch) and Lewiston-Queenston Bridges.

With the exception of one-time capital contributions from Canada and Ontario for the fifth lane on the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge and from Canada for the new Canada Border Services Agency facilities at Queenston, the NFBC does not use taxpayer dollars and operates solely through the collection of tolls as well as private and public-sector tenant leases. The Commission builds and maintains all facilities for Customs and Immigration functions on both sides of the international border. The NFBC strongly supports the continued growth of trade and tourism between Canada and the United States through enhancements and investments to ensure the safe, reliable and most efficient flow of goods, services and people over the three international crossings under its auspices.

*This publication is produced to comply with the reporting requirements of the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission's enabling legislation which states, "An accurate record of the cost of the bridge and its approaches, the expenditures for maintaining, repairing and operating the same, and the daily tolls collected shall be kept and shall be available for the information of all persons interested." The financial data contained herein has been taken from the Commission's 2013 audited financial statements.*

## 2013 BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



Thomas G. Pryce  
Chairperson



Kenneth E. Loucks



Ernest K. Smith  
Vice Chairperson



Janice A. Thomson



Kathleen L. Neville



Russell G. Quarantello



Michael J. Goodale



Francis A. Soda



*NFBC Board of Commissioners with General Manager Lew Holloway.*

### OUR MISSION

To build, maintain and operate lower Niagara River border crossings to facilitate commerce and the movement of goods and people in a safe and efficient manner.

### OUR VISION

The Niagara Falls Bridge Commission is a unique bi-national, self-financing, public benefit corporation which delivers exceptional border crossing facilities and services.

# ABOUT THE NFBC

## WHIRLPOOL RAPIDS (LOWER ARCH) BRIDGE

The oldest of the three spans under the auspices of the NFBC, the Whirlpool-Rapids Bridge was opened in 1897 and purchased by the Commission in 1959. The two deck steel arch bridge spans 550 feet with a total length of 1,069 feet and soars 225 feet above the Niagara Rapids. The upper deck is dedicated for rail crossings, while the lower roadway is dedicated to passenger vehicles only.

The Whirlpool-Rapids Bridge is a NEXUS only crossing. NEXUS is a joint program implemented by the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) and United States Customs and Border Protection (CBP) designed to expedite the border clearance process for low-risk, pre-approved travelers between the two countries. The Whirlpool-Rapids Bridge is open daily from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m. and offers passengers enrolled in the NEXUS “trusted traveler” program a quick and easy crossing.

Since 2008, the Niagara Falls Bridge Commission has invested \$27 million in repairs and other maintenance work to ensure the span’s continued longevity. This activity included rock stabilization in the gorge, removal and upgrading of the deck approaches, as well as structural

repairs and drainage improvements to the span.

The popularity of both the Whirlpool Bridge and the NEXUS program continued in 2013, with traffic at the crossing increasing over 30%. To address this expanded usage and capacity issue, the Commission has initiated a series of discussions and engineering analyses to determine remedies for current bridge facility limitations.



## RAINBOW BRIDGE

Opened in 1941, just 1,000 feet downriver from the American Falls, the Rainbow Bridge continues to be a major tourism gateway between Canada and the United States, generating tens of millions of dollars of economic activity on both sides of the border. Offering 18 Customs inspection booths in New York and 16 in Ontario, the Rainbow Bridge is open 24 hours a day to passenger vehicles and buses. No commercial vehicles are allowed on the Rainbow Bridge.

The deck of the Rainbow Bridge is approximately 202 feet above the Niagara River. It is a 1,450 feet long span with four total lanes comprising a total of forty-feet of roadway width. In the late 1990’s both bridge plazas were completely redesigned and rebuilt and their approaches widened to increase the efficient movement of traffic on the bridge. This work was completed in 2000 at a cost of \$72 million.

Updates were also recently made to the span’s United States-side skewbacks to protect their structural integrity and prevent water permeation. Concrete repairs to the bridgeseat and portions of the utility catwalk were instituted, and a new support system was installed for the existing bridge electrical conduits.

During 2013, design was completed for improved bus processing facilities on the Canadian-side of Rainbow Bridge. Work will begin in 2014. An Environmental Assessment (EA) process was also initiated by the Region of Niagara related to a proposed left turn lane for vehicles exiting the Rainbow Bridge Canadian Plaza. Such a project is anticipated to provide better access to the City of Niagara Falls, and other tourist destinations such as Clifton Hill, the Fallsview area and Lundy’s Lane. The effort is currently dependent upon completion of the EA process and identification of funding.



## LEWISTON-QUEENSTON BRIDGE

The Lewiston-Queenston Bridge, which has the 5th highest volume of commercial traffic between Canada and the United States, celebrated its 50th Anniversary in 2013. With millions of dollars in trade value crossing over the bridge each hour, representing thousands of jobs for both countries, the span also remains the preferred border crossing for the hundreds of thousands of tourists who visit Niagara-on-the-Lake and various Niagara Falls (NY) shopping destinations every year.



Built in 1962, the bridge spans 370 feet above the Niagara River and measures 1,600 feet long, and features five reversible lanes. The Lewiston-Queenston Bridge connects United States Interstate 190 with Highway 405 in Canada, making it an optimal crossing for both passenger vehicles and commercial trucks.

The initial phase of Canadian Plaza reconstruction at the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge was successfully completed at the cost of \$49 million. Such work included an enhancement of the plaza footprint, a new toll house facility, and five new commercial inspection lanes.

Phase Two and Three of the reconstruction of the Canadian Plaza is also complete, and encompassed a \$78 million investment in facilities for the Canada Food Inspection Agency and Canada Border Services Agency, 10 new primary vehicle inspection booths, a new Duty Free Store, Currency Exchange, public washrooms, and east bound civil works.

Phase Four work in the Canadian Plaza was completed in 2013 and covered additional civil works, landscaping, and a dividing fence. A top asphalt coat was also installed in front of and behind the new primary vehicle inspection booths, and a motor coach parking area was located near the Duty Free Store.



Whirlpool Bridge



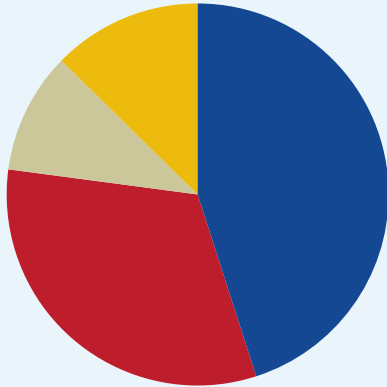
Rainbow Bridge



Lewiston-Queenston Bridge

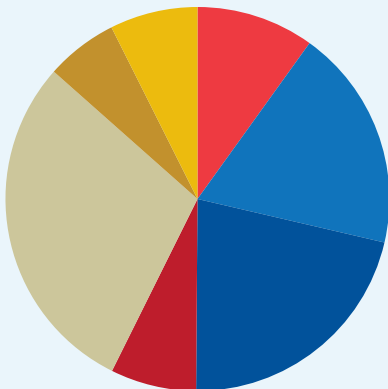
# 2013 YEAR IN REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

## 2012 - 2013 INCOME



- Tolls \$17.84 MM
- Rental \$12.70 MM
- Conditional Facilities Contribution \$4.06 MM
- Other \$5 MM

## 2012 - 2013 EXPENSES



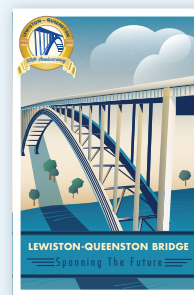
- Toll \$2.63 MM
- Maintenance \$4.98 MM
- Interest \$1.92 MM
- Administration and Overhead \$5.71 MM
- Depreciation \$7.76 MM
- Security & MIS \$1.61 MM
- Other \$1.92 MM

## HISTORIC ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

To mark the Commission's 75th Corporate Anniversary and the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge 50th Anniversary occasions, NFBC representatives, community leaders, dignitaries, and the general public took part in a series of commemorative events and gatherings, culminating in a formal luncheon at the Niagara Falls Country Club and reception at the Rainbow Bridge Promenade.

Both the luncheon and reception concluded with the reading of Niagara Falls Bridge Commission 75th Anniversary and Lewiston-Queenston Bridge 50th Anniversary commendations offered by Member of Parliament and Minister of Defence of Canada Rob Nicholson, New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo, Premier of Ontario Kathleen Wynne, U.S. Congressman Brian Higgins, U.S. Congressman Chris Collins, Consul General of Canada in New York John Prato, and Consul General of the United States in Toronto James Dickmeyer.

In addition to this activity, a celebratory website was launched at [nfb75.com](http://nfb75.com) chronicling the celebrations, special t-shirts were issued and put on sale in support of select regional food banks, an art-deco designed poster was created for free public download, and a public fireworks display was coordinated through the Niagara Parks Commission on August 23rd over the Horseshoe Falls. Thousands of spectators enjoyed this outdoor event.



U.S. and Canadian dignitaries participate in anniversary ceremonies.

## LEWISTON PLAZA

The NFBC authorized the expenditure of \$50 million in 2011 to rebuild priority infrastructure at the Lewiston Plaza, in an effort to alleviate ongoing congestion issues and modernize facilities at the crossing. While ongoing United States Federal budgetary constraints, lease agreement issues, and Customs and Border Protection staffing level concerns have hampered proposed plaza improvements, some headway was made in 2013 to move the project forward.

Such progress involved increased awareness of the Lewiston Plaza situation amongst federal legislators and administration officials, resulting in greater recognition and prioritization of the need for port enhancements.

A public meeting was also conducted in September 2013 as part of the proposed plaza project's Federal Environmental Assessment process. It is anticipated that a FONSI (finding of no significant impact) will be issued for the effort by the U.S. General Services Administration sometime in 2014.

## WHIRLPOOL BRIDGE UPDATE

In 2013, Canadian National (CN) completed the transition of its rail assets at the Whirlpool Bridge to Amtrak and VIA. This move solidified the presence of international rail travel in the region for the foreseeable future.

## BEYOND THE BORDER ACCORD

The Commission continued to monitor developments related to the landmark Canada-United States Beyond the Border Accord in 2013. NFBC also maintained its interaction with key government agencies and elected officials regarding the implementation of the Border Infrastructure Investment Plan (BIIP), and remained diligent in advocating for "high priority port" funding allocations, such as is needed to improve the current Lewiston Plaza.



Commercial vehicles proceeding through primary inspection at the Queenston plaza.



Anniversary celebration fireworks explode over Niagara Falls and the Rainbow Bridge.

## COMMUNITY SPONSORSHIPS



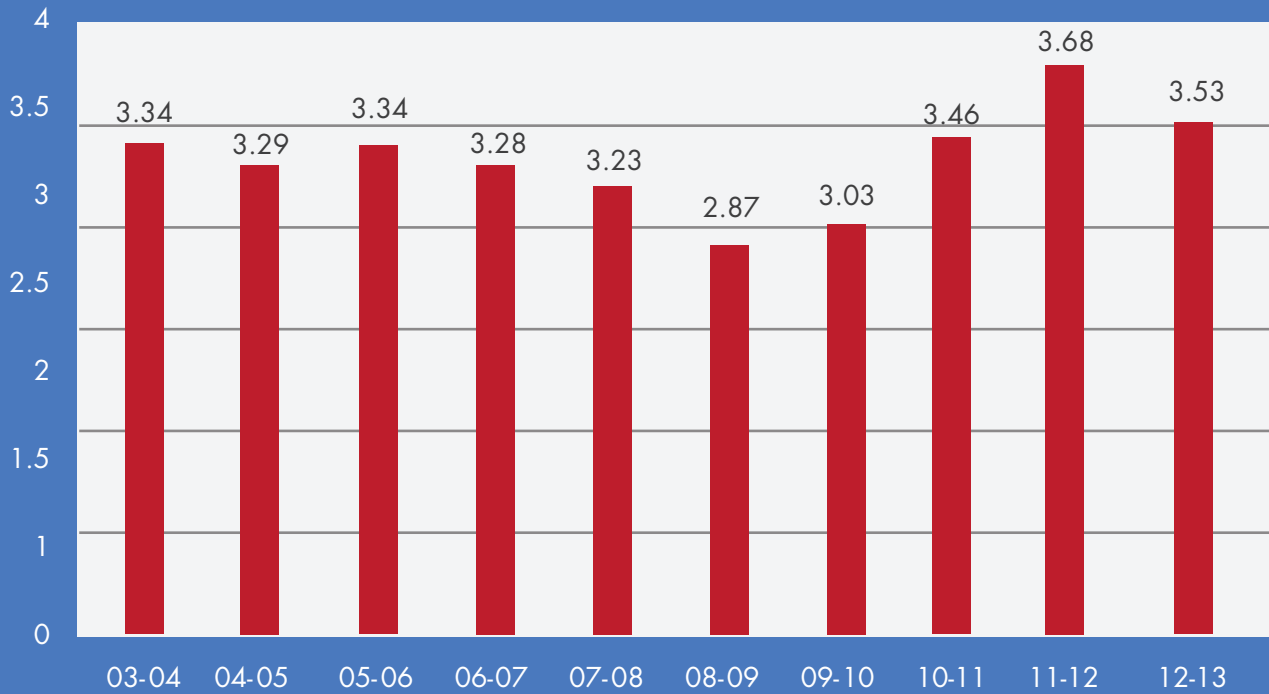
*Featured Picture: Artpark President George Osborne, Commissioner Ernest Smith, NFBC Chair Thomas Pryce, and Artpark Director of Marketing/Corporate Sponsorships Maureen Kellick present and receive a sponsorship plaque related to the NFBC's support for the Artpark 2013 Coors Light Wednesday's concert series.*

This past year the NFBC again supported a number of worthy local not-for-profit organizations and cultural attractions using funds generated by leases through the donation of \$62,000 (USD) and \$62,000 (CDN) in contributions.

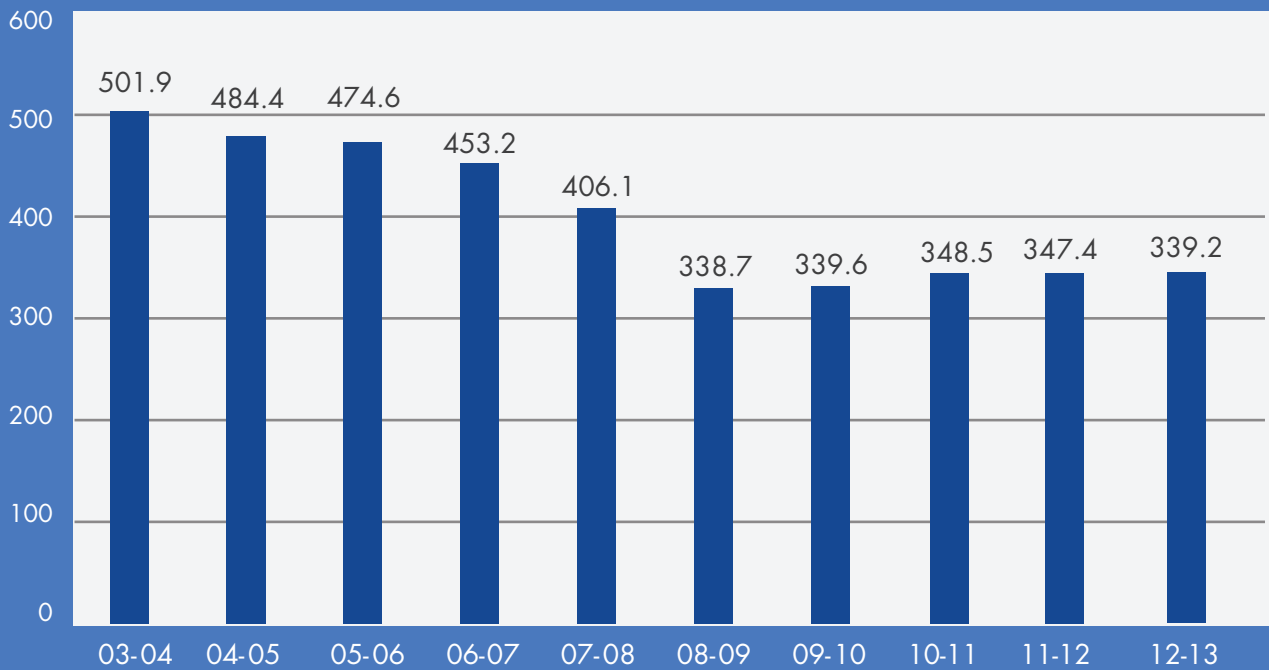
Recipients in 2013 included Artpark, Shaw Festival, the Lewiston Jazz Festival, Friends of Fort George, the Historical Society of Lewiston, and the NYS Council for the Humanities "Community Conversations" on "The Kite That Bridged Two Nations."

# 2013 YEAR IN REVIEW HIGHLIGHTS

## 10 YEAR WEST-BOUND AUTO TRAFFIC IN MILLIONS



## 10 YEAR WEST-BOUND TRUCK TRAFFIC IN THOUSANDS





## TRAFFIC VOLUME

Westbound (toll paying) automobile traffic crossings at NFBC bridges were down roughly 3.2% in 2013, while commercial truck traffic decreased by 2.4%. This compares to an increase of 8.2% for automobiles and a decrease of 0.3% for commercial truck traffic in 2012.

## LEWISTON-QUEENSTON CANADA-BOUND TRUCK LANE SIGNAGE ENHANCEMENT

This past year the Canada-bound “truck” lane on the Lewiston-Queenston Bridge was opened to additional vehicles through the use of variable messaging signage. Drivers are now alerted that “Trucks/Buses/NEXUS” may utilize the lane, as a means to increase the more efficient movement of buses, as well as add real value to NEXUS holders crossing into Canada. The change has already shown substantial benefits to traffic movement.

## BORDER WAIT TIMES

Much progress was made in 2013 on the automation of border wait times, in order to help improve the accuracy and latency of data. The eventual direct digital population of wait time data to the 1-800-715-6722 traffic line will be in place by early-2014. This will be the first step in full automation of border wait times.

## 20-YEAR INFRASTRUCTURE PLAN

On November 18, 2013, consultants Hardesty & Hanover/McCormick Rankin presented a final draft of the NFBC 20-year plan at the Commission's General Meeting. This document provides a comprehensive analysis of the NFBC's future infrastructure needs and priorities, and ensures a continued focus on the upkeep of all related facilities, bridges, and other physical assets.

## COLLABORATIVE SECURITY TRAINING EXERCISE

During the Fall of this past year, the NFBC, Canada Border Services Agency, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and local police and fire departments held an extensive live-time security training exercise at the Rainbow Bridge. This multi-faceted initiative tested various security and safety scenarios, and agency response to them. The Commission received high-marks from all parties involved regarding its efforts in the coordination and execution of the exercise.



Commission officials celebrate 75 years of binational bridge crossing stewardship.



The Lewiston-Queenston 50th Anniversary painting by Paul Hanover is unveiled.

## SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS



Featured Picture: One of this year's scholarship winners, Ms. Gabrielle Bellina

Each year the NFBC Awards a pair of scholarships to dependents of current Commission employees following a competitive application process. The scholarship recipients are selected based on the criteria of scholastic standing, individual achievement, and participation in extracurricular activities. Candidates must also be entering the freshman year of an accredited post-secondary educational institution or program.

The 2013 scholarship awardees were Ms. Gabrielle Bellina and Mr. Jonathan Decker.

NIAGARA FALLS BRIDGE COMMISSION STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION  
OCTOBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

ASSETS

		2013	2012
CURRENT ASSETS:			
Cash and cash equivalents	\$	12,265,734	7,655,130
Accounts receivable		877,233	2,294,310
Prepaid expenses		619,767	244,316
Investments		15,294,428	5,068,023
<b>Total current assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>29,057,162</b>	<b>15,261,779</b>
NONCURRENT ASSETS:			
Investments	\$	55,430,826	66,401,431
Land, bridges, buildings and equipment, net		320,142,405	243,958,825
Construction in progress - 30 year plan		673,591	673,591
Construction in progress - other		11,551,611	95,835,491
<b>Total assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>416,855,595</b>	<b>422,131,117</b>

LIABILITIES AND UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS

CURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Current portion of bonds payable	\$	6,405,000	6,085,000
Current portion of postretirement benefit obligation		362,922	324,053
Accounts payable		4,529,141	6,918,870
Accrued wages and related withholdings		1,270,560	1,176,545
Other accrued expenses		238,613	177,053
Bond interest payable		135,824	162,446
Deferred income		1,267,968	1,129,188
<b>Total current liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>14,210,028</b>	<b>15,973,155</b>
NONCURRENT LIABILITIES:			
Postretirement benefit obligation	\$	18,001,268	16,492,619
Bonds payable, net		31,093,953	37,267,604
<b>Total liabilities</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>63,305,249</b>	<b>69,733,378</b>
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS:			
Revenue	\$	(207,610)	581,740
Operation		(16,597,728)	(17,046,708)
General		44,924,414	39,729,776
Renewal and replacement		(3,993,875)	(4,096,027)
Debt sinking		4,378,984	4,990,105
Construction		278,669,146	271,038,869
		307,173,331	295,197,755
Cumulative effect of currency translation		46,377,015	57,199,984
<b>Total unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>353,550,346</b>	<b>352,397,739</b>
<b>Total liabilities and unrestricted net assets</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>416,855,595</b>	<b>422,131,117</b>

STATEMENTS OF ACTIVITIES AND CHANGES IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS  
FOR THE YEARS ENDED OCTOBER 31, 2013 AND 2012

		2013	2012
<b>REVENUES:</b>			
Toll income	\$	17,844,607	18,677,759
Rental income		12,702,681	12,482,098
Conditional facilities contribution		4,063,562	8,156,545
Investment income		2,371,024	3,209,804
Construction reimbursement		-	597,241
Miscellaneous		2,638,222	75,354
<b>Total revenues</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>39,620,096</b>	<b>43,198,801</b>
<b>EXPENSES:</b>			
Administration and overhead	\$	5,709,084	5,376,948
Maintenance		4,977,522	4,664,469
Toll		2,638,150	2,617,387
Management information systems		837,956	820,046
Security		772,861	740,671
Postretirement		1,735,689	1,188,464
Depreciation		7,763,914	7,472,557
Interest on indebtedness		1,922,728	2,227,512
Amortization of bond financing expenses		231,349	241,020
Loss on disposal of bridge related assets			381,171
<b>Total expenses</b>	<b>\$</b>	<b>26,589,253</b>	<b>25,730,245</b>
CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS BEFORE UNREALIZED LOSS ON INVESTMENTS AND CHANGE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION	\$	13,030,843	17,468,556
UNREALIZED LOSS ON INVESTMENTS	\$	(1,055,267)	(123,531)
CHANGE IN FOREIGN CURRENCY TRANSLATION	\$	(10,822,969)	(1,257,571)
CHANGE IN UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS	\$	1,152,607	16,087,454
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - beginning of year	\$	352,397,739	336,310,285
UNRESTRICTED NET ASSETS - end of year	\$	353,550,346	352,397,739



UNITED STATES  
5365 Military Road  
Lewiston, NY 14092  
p (716) 285 - 6322  
f (716) 282 - 3292

CANADA  
P.O. Box 395  
Niagara Falls, ON L2E 6T8  
p (905) 354 - 5641  
f (905) 353 - 6644

[general\\_inquiries@niagarafallsbridges.com](mailto:general_inquiries@niagarafallsbridges.com)  
[www.niagarafallsbridges.com](http://www.niagarafallsbridges.com)