



IN THE NEWS

April 2017

One Less Light Among Us, One More Star in the Sky

This month we mourned, grieved and celebrated the life of one of our big hearted, beautiful and fun loving participants. If you have ever visited Bonny Lea Farm or stopped by our stall at the market in Chester, you have likely met her. Amanda Robar could light up the room with her smile and laughter.

“She always kept us laughing” - Sonja and Laurie Anne

If anyone was having a bad day, Amanda was there to give them a hug or an encouraging word. She always took the time to make each person feel special.

“Amanda had such a great big smile and great big hugs.”

- Hiram Carver, Board member and New Germany “neighbour”

Amanda also worked hard. Having recently had her Individual Program Plan meeting, Amanda had set her goals for the coming year. She was looking forward to taking a baby-sitting course and raising funds through a benefit concert on May 28, to make a donation to Bonny Lea Farm in memory of her mother, Sharon. As a swimmer, she was thrilled to have been chosen for the Special Olympic provincial swim team.

Her spirit, enthusiasm, humour and so much more will be missed by everyone whose lives she touched. P.S. Her father is still planning to hold the concert.



Amanda at the Chester Farmers' & Artisan Market last summer. Amanda and Floyd.

Meet Team Bonny Lea Farm

We're counting down to this year's Blue Nose Marathon Charity Challenge on May 20. Our Team has been busy getting sponsors and are starting to train for the big event.

So far the Team has raised over \$7000 towards our goal of \$10,000 to repave the road from residence to Church House.

Here are our walkers!

Debbie Austin	Adam Gummeson	Jane Rafuse (staff)
Ronnie Awalt	Karen Healy	Lynn Rafuse
Joanne Boswell	Marilyn Hood	Valerie Roode
Tom Clancey	Laurie Anne Hughes	Holly van Barneveld
Susan Collins	David Huskins	Josh Veinot
Kathy Demone	Stacey MacDonald (staff)	Anton Voegele
Liz Flemming	Ben Porter	Hansi Voegele
Nancy Frank	Ross Porter (family)	Barb Carthew (Board)

To join the Team or support a walker or the whole Team call Jane at 902-275-5622 ext 224 or email jrafuse@bonnyleafarm.ca .

Goal \$10,000
Raised so far \$7,200



Ben and Ross Porter and Debbie Austin are among returning members to Team Bonny Lea Farm and great fundraisers! Go Team!

Saying Good-bye After Nearly 20 Years



Josh, Tom, Doug and Adam

In early April, Doug Spafford, Residential Coordinator, announced that he will retire on May 5. While we recognize that retirement is a part of everyone's career, we regret that he will be passing the baton so soon.

Doug could write a book of his experiences - and he just might - but here are a few of his reflections on Bonny Lea Farm and what he will miss the most.

"It's the relationships with the participants that make this place so special. They are kind, forgiving and understanding. We're working with people on everyday issues. Remembering that and keeping a good sense of humour, realizes very rewarding and positive results." - Doug Spafford, Residential Coordinator

"I have had a lot of good times with him. I am going to miss him." - Kathy Demone
"Doug is nice. I will miss having morning coffee with him. He gets a big "x" for retiring!" - Debbie Austin

A Memorial Gift That Will Make Memories

Did you ever go to summer camp? Can you conjure up the smell of a camp fire or the breeze in your face on a boat ride? How about the feeling of breaking free from routine

"Mom just loved camp. She loved everything about camp."
 - Kim Geldart

and living at a different pace, even if it is only for a week? Or, the memories you made?

For Board member Kim Geldart, these memories are not only hers but they were her mother Barbara's passion.

"Mom just loved camp. She loved everything about camp and felt so strongly about the camp experience. Making a gift that would help participants at Bonny Lea Farm have that opportunity seemed like the perfect tribute to my Mom," shared Kim.



Babara Geldart (left) is shown here circa 1970's when she was a leader at Camp Pagweak, Pugwash.

"We are so grateful. This will help some of the participants who would like to go to camp get there," commented Philippe Degraeve who coordinates camp plans with participants.

Kim's generous gift will provide up to eight participants each year with a bursary of \$200 towards attending Camp Tidnish. Participants decide in the fall if they would like to attend camp the following summer so that they can begin saving the \$600 in fees.

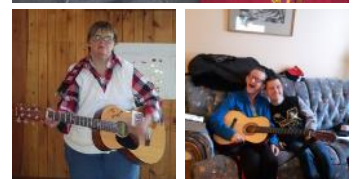
They make difficult decisions throughout the year in an effort to save up for this special experience and some have a hard time reaching that goal. Priority will be given to participants who are first time campers or who do not have a place to go for vacation.

For those who have gone to camp, it is often a highlight of their year. Thank you Kim for sharing your mother's love of camp with Bonny Lea Farm.

If you would like to discuss how you could make a gift that will make a difference contact Liz at 902-275-5622 ext 241.

"I am looking forward to going to camp, hanging out and making new friends."
 - Nancy Frank

Good Times Gallery



Top to bottom: Kathy and Ronnie had a great time painting Easter cards at Hamilton House; Rose showed the Soft Citizen crew how to shoot hoops; Jeffrey showed Jamie Baillie, PC Leader and Julie Chaisson, local candidate how he labels Louisiana Pacific stain sample cans; New Ross, Chester Basin, Chester Lion Alberta Duffney with Lynn Rafuse after King Lion Don Wright presented Lynn with a cheque for \$800; we couldn't get Nancy to the Grand Ole Opry so we brought the Opry to her; Larry and Blair "jamming".