



IN THE NEWS

Empowering people with disabilities since 1973.

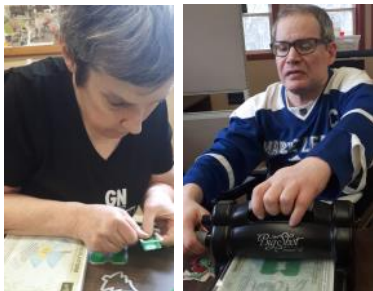
January 2020

A Bike Ride Brings New Opportunities

A new product line has been made possible by the donation of an extensive collection of card making tools and supplies.

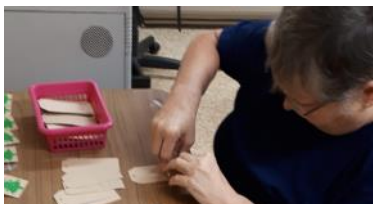
What started out as a bike ride turned into a new product line for Bonny Lea Farm participants.

When Valerie Gagnon stopped for a rest during a bike ride in August, she met Bonny Lea Farm staff member, Jewel, and they struck up a conversation. A few weeks later when Valerie and her husband went to Picnic in the Park they met a number of participants. She thought Bonny Lea Farm may be just the right place to donate her extensive collection of card making equipment, which she had moved across the country from Alberta and was no longer using.



“I am the one who wants to thank you. I am so grateful to give to such a meaningful cause.”
- Valerie Gagnon

The Contracts crew are excited by the new project and are beginning to experiment with the equipment.



Sue, Toby & Kathy making gift tags

“I like it. It’s fun.”
- say Joanne and Sue together

The crew will continue to provide confidential shredding and custom packaging. In fact, they are repurposing file folders brought in with shredding, giving them a new life as greeting cards and gift tags.

When we contacted Valerie to thank her for her donation, she said, “I am the one who wants to thank you. I am so grateful to give it to such a meaningful cause.”

She and her husband have also discovered our delicious hot pepper jelly and handy kindling bundles and have become regular customers.

Christmas and New Years Celebrations Bring Magic to Participants, Staff and Families

For some, Christmas is a happy time that is looked forward to with giddy anticipation, for others it can be a struggle.

Here at Bonny Lea Farm we have a few long held traditions and other newer ones that celebrate the season and have a little something for everyone.

Our annual Christmas Dinner for over 200 guests - participants, families, staff and board members with its warm atmosphere, music, food and celebration of participants accomplishments is a special time for everyone.

“Christmas dinner at Bonny Lea Farm is the beginning of the Christmas season for so many of us.”
- David Outhouse, Executive Director

In many of the homes, participants baked their favourite Christmas treats and decorated their spaces. Santa and several members of the community are generous in ensuring no participant is left without a present on Christmas morning.



Residential staff planned a New Years Eve party for participants. The festive decorations, party snacks and fun all helped to ease the transition from Christmas, happy or sad, back to the comfort, security and opportunities that Bonny Lea Farm provides.

Thank you to everyone who helped to make the holidays special!

Memories Gallery



Mickey MacDonald, with participants at Palooka's.

We Are All Just People

For the last five years Micco Companies, which includes Palooka's Gym and the iconic Chickenburger, have been sponsors of our annual Lobster Lovers Feast.

Recently owner, Mickey MacDonald, hosted a group from Bonny Lea Farm for a tour of his office and gym in Bedford. Participants enjoyed trying out the various machines and getting a few tips on weight training and boxing from Mickey.

Bonny Lea Farm is not the only organization empowering people living with disabilities supported by Mickey. He is also a friend of Special Olympics Nova Scotia. He shared that many of his businesses, including the gym and restaurant, employ people with disabilities. *"We are all just people. There is so much we can learn from each other."*

Thank you for the memorable morning Mickey and for your lasting contributions to empowering people with disabilities.

One Word Project—Annual Campaign



Thank you to everyone who has supported our Annual Campaign this year, featuring our One Word Project. We asked participants, staff, families and volunteers, for one word that sums up what Bonny Lea Farm means to them. Their words speak volumes about the impact of your support.

In addition to the photos, we made a video. If you haven't seen it or made your donation, we invite you to visit our website at www.bonnyleafarm.ca.

All of the funds raised through our Annual Campaign directly support our vocational and enhanced programs for Jason, Duncan, Debbie (above) and all of the participants who live and work here.

Raised to date: \$48,000 toward our goal of \$60,000.

SILENT AUCTION!

Plan to drop by
*For the Love of
Lobster*
to place your bids!!

Forest Heights
February 9
12:00-4:00pm



Top to Bottom—Floyd and Jeffrey welcome the New Year in style. Life Members of the Board, Anne Flinn and Jack Fleming share their "One Word" with us. Bonita, Trudy, Susan and Judy serve up Christmas Dinner. Joanne is enjoying working in the kitchen. Rose and the team at The Shop on Central have closed for the season. The Shop will reopen in early April. Tom sang "Drummer Boy" for Jackie. Jackie Evans, long-time staff member, has left an indelible mark on the participants and staff at Bonny Lea Farm. We miss her.

