



IN THE NEWS

Empowering people with disabilities since 1973.

April 2020

We're All in this Together

We are now seven weeks into a battle that we could never have envisioned. It has required us to shift our focus while at the same time keeping our eyes on how we serve and support the participants. Staff are screened daily and wearing masks. All protocols are being followed.

Our staff are doing a commendable job helping participants stay positive and engaged in their day to day life, with a range of activities.

For all of us, our daily lives look so different than they did just over a month ago. Our freedoms have been restricted and others are making decisions on our behalf for our own good. We respect the directives for the good of all of those around us.

New habits are developing and new approaches to meeting needs in our lives are helping us to see that maybe there is a better way of doing things. Ways that are simpler and bring a little joy to our lives instead of being a chore.

One of the things that has been reinforced for me, is that the experience we are living is very similar to the experience that many participants have lived their whole lives.

A life lived with someone else being in charge of how my life is lived is something I am truly thankful that I have not had to experience. It is only this experience over the past six weeks that has made me truly appreciate everything that I take for granted.

May this experience serve us all well in better understanding some of the frustrations participants experience when things in their lives are restricted, sometimes unnecessarily, but always with good intentions.

We have made major gains in giving participants control over their lives, but we must continue to address those systems in place that restrict without good reason.

To all of you, thank you for your contribution to our organization. This is a time where our strengths shine through and where everyone in the organization has a vital contribution to make towards our work.

Participants are continuing to lead amazing lives (albeit in a very changed way), because of your support and the extraordinary efforts of our staff team.

David Outhouse, Executive Director



Staying Connected

We know it is difficult for participants, families and friends to be apart at this time.

Home visits, trips into the community and having visitors are all not possible.

Many of you are asking what you can do to help support participants and staff, while respecting protocols.

Here's a list of what we can and cannot have you do.

CAN	CANNOT
✓ Email - send messages for Participants & staff to vsmith@bonnyleafarm.ca . We will print & distribute them daily.	✗ Visit
✓ Video call - message our Facebook page to schedule a FaceTime/Skype visit.	✗ Deliver items
✓ Mail - send letters, packages or cards to: Bonny Lea Farm, PO Box 560, 5 Collicutt Road, Chester, NS B0J 1J0	
✓ Facebook - check our page often for updates on what participants are doing here at Bonny Lea Farm.	
✓ Donate - via mail or online at www.bonnyleafarm.ca	

Thank you for thinking of us and helping us to stay safe!

Difference Makers - Celebrating Volunteers



Just some of our nearly 100 volunteers: Board Chair John Biebesheimer, The Healy Family, Tom and Greyson, Pat with Joanne.

This week, April 19th to 25th, is **National Volunteer Week**. It's a time to acknowledge the 13-million Canadians who contribute their time, energy and talent to charities and causes they care about, helping to create stronger communities and transforming the lives of the people they touch.

At Bonny Lea Farm our volunteers give in so many ways - from leadership roles on the Board of Directors and committees to sharing their musical talents, or helping us pull off our big annual fundraising events.

Through all of the ways you engage with Bonny Lea Farm, you help us achieve our mission of empowering people living with disabilities - providing opportunities to experience faith, self-respect, love for one another, dignity, integrity, productivity, and responsible community living - and we are enormously grateful for that.

This year, we would also like to celebrate the community recognition of one of our long-term staff members for all that she does for others. Pat Bates, our Broadening Options instructor, is the Municipality of Chester's Volunteer of the Year. Sadly, the usual fanfare may not happen. So join us in applauding her for sharing her gifts in the community, particularly with the residents of Shoreham Village.

From all of us at Bonny Lea Farm, we say a simple but very heartfelt "*Thank you!*" to all of our volunteers for so generously sharing your time with us.

BONNY LEA FARM UPDATED EVENTS CALENDAR

JUNE 6	Annual Plant Sale & Breakfast - CANCELLED
JUNE 7	Team Bonny Lea Farm - Cut 'n Run - CANCELLED
AUGUST 6	Annual Lobster Lover's Feast - TBC

Did you know?

- Bonny Lea Farm is lucky to have nearly 100 volunteers who have helped us with an event, enhanced our programs, or served on our Board, in the last 12 months.
- Some of our volunteers have decided to leave a gift to Bonny Lea Farm in their Will to help ensure that we can continue to support people living with disabilities in the future. CRA #119158459RR0001.

Thank you!

Photo Gallery



Top to Bottom

Easter fun: Liz, Kathy & Floyd; Larry, Debbie, Joanne; Scrapbooking Skip; Blair, Jeffrey & Lacosta's spring poster.

For more photos visit our Facebook page.