



# IN THE NEWS

Empowering people with disabilities since 1973.

February/March 2021



David with John



Tom and Karen



Sheila with Kathy

## Long-serving David Outhouse Retires New Executive Director Announced

It is 12:30pm sharp and there is a knock on the door. The first participants begin coming in and taking up one of the three chairs in his office to share the latest news and update him on everything from what they had for dinner last night to their views on something happening at Bonny Lea Farm.

This was David's daily routine between 12:30 and 1:00 every day before Covid-19. For the past year he has missed these daily visits with participants. But he has not lost the sense of purpose that their personal growth inspires or the pride that he has in the progress Bonny Lea Farm has made over the last three decades.

*"My focus has always been to lead our organization toward ensuring that everything it does reflects the philosophy of encouraging people to do as much for themselves that they can and want to do,"*

*- David Outhouse*

*(as printed in South Shore Breaker, February 24, 2021)*

After 14 years as executive director and 36 years with the organization, David has announced that he will be retiring in May. To ensure a strong transition, we are pleased that he is not going far. He will be moving next door to the South Shore Work Activity Program as work centre manager.

The Board of Directors is pleased that Karen Lake, our current residential services director, has accepted their invitation to step into the executive director role. Karen returned to Bonny Lea Farm three years ago after more than 10 years as executive director at Kings Meadow Residence Society in Windsor. Before that Karen had worked in direct support roles in Bonny Lea Farm's residential and day programs and as day program co-ordinator. Karen will begin her new role in April to allow for transition time with David.

*"We look forward to Karen's leadership of our continued growth and development."*

*- John Biebesheimer, Board Chair*

Sheila Landry will become our new residential services director. Sheila has been with Bonny Lea Farm since 2019 as a residential supervisor. Prior to joining us she was executive director with Louisdale Community Homes in Cape Breton and worked with the Community Association for Community Living Antigonish. Sheila began her new role on March 1.

*"We welcome Sheila into her new role in supporting participants to live with dignity and fulfilment."*

*- John Biebesheimer, Board Chair*

Stay tuned for more from David, Karen and Sheila in our next issue.

## Our Gradual Re-Opening - What you need to know

The sounds of laughter have returned to day program. The gradual re-opening of our day program is continuing with each crew now working two days a week. Although it is far from “normal” and not a full work-week, participants are happy to be back. Since they are currently working bubbled with their housemates, it also means that most of them are in new work areas, learning new skills and new jobs.

Many of you have been asking about what you can do to support us, when you may be able to access our services and buy our products. We appreciate your loyalty and patience!

Here is what you need to know:

### Confidential Shredding

- Our confidential shredding service is accepting deliveries by appointment only.
- Please call Alex at 902-275-5622 ext. 231 several days in advance to schedule your drop-off time.

### Handy Wipers

- We now have safety protocols in place to receive donations of 100% cotton jersey and flannel by appointment only here at Bonny Lea Farm or any time at our donation bin located at The Park (rink parking lot) in Chester.
- As we have just resumed production, participants in this crew are currently building up stock and do not have any Handy Wipers ready to sell at this time.
- To schedule your drop-off of donations here at Bonny Lea Farm, please call Sarah at 902-275-5622 ext. 228.

### Greenhouse and Gardens

- Plans are underway to “get back to our roots” with a focus on growing a selection of herbs. This will allow us to offer participants planting, tending and harvesting work opportunities and hopefully kick start our production of specialty products later this year.

### Kuttin' Kindlin' Crew

- Out in the Barn, the splitters are splitting and a new crew is being trained. It will take some time for the participants to build up inventory. We hope to have product for sale in the coming months.

### Workshop

- Participants have been busy building special projects in the workshop. Starting soon they will begin making small planters.

### The Shop on Central

- We are hoping to be able to open the shop later this year.

Stay tuned for more details in next month’s issue of “In the News”.



Joanne's lasagna looks delicious!



Tom tobogganing



Lacosta is staying active with our Adaptive Physical Lifestyle program



Rose and a few other participants did telephone interviews with Inclusion NS for an upcoming guide

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 FOR YOUR SUPPORT