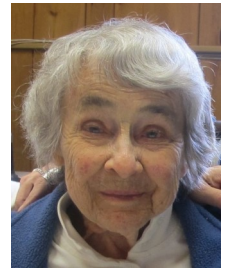




IN THE NEWS

December 2015



AS BONNY LEA FARM SAYS FAREWELL TO OUR FOUNDER HER LEGACY LIVES ON

With sadness Bonny Lea Farm and the South Shore Community Service Association mark the passing of our Board President and Founder, Dr. Alberta "Bertie" Pew Baker.

"Her legacy of wisdom and perseverance will long serve our work to sustain Bonny Lea Farm in our service to people who live daily with the challenge of a disability," David Outhouse, Managing Director South Shore Community Service Association.

Back in 1972, a group of people gathered for dinner. Afterward their discussion turned to the needs of residents of Chester living with disabilities and what could be done for them. At that time, the province had nothing to offer them. The school system had no place for them. Usually the families looked after them. Where that was not possible they became wards of the government. For many of them, life could have a richer dimension but the means did not exist to make it possible. What started as an after-dinner conversation lasted far into the night. A challenge was identified. Enthusiasm mounted and, before the guests departed for their various homes, a dream had been born.

That dream of over 40 years ago has realized a different reality for today. At the time there was no model to work from, no prototype, no curriculum. The founders developed a philosophy: That every person who attended Bonny Lea Farm should be supported to reach their potential. Each individual would have a program developed to meet their needs to challenge them to the utmost of their abilities with encouragement, support and the expectation of success in developing skills and finding personal dignity and worth through productive living. This is still the model in use at Bonny Lea Farm more than 40 years later. The results are measured in the smiles on the faces of the more than 40 "guys and gals" who live and work here today.

"Her legacy of wisdom & perseverance will long serve our work to sustain Bonny Lea Farm in our service to people who live daily with the challenge of a disability."

- David Outhouse, Managing Director
South Shore Community Service Association

"I will remember Bertie as a loving mother and always a fierce advocate on behalf of her children. Some forty years ago, when she opened her arms to embrace our Bonny Lea family as her own, we reaped the benefits of that same love and advocacy. We shall continue to value and to protect her legacy of love and support and encouragement for all within our walls," Mary Ellen Clancey, Board Chair.

The South Shore Community Service Association has grown beyond its original goal of creating Bonny Lea Farm as a nurturing environment for people with disabilities to blossom. Also under its umbrella are the South Shore Work Activity Program, which provides transition to employment and job readiness skills development and training; the Chester Career Resource Centre, which provides job search supports to the residents of the Municipality; Community Journey program aiding people in building life skills to gain independence; and it has been fertile ground for the Community Wheels program to grow, providing a necessary service in ensuring people living in the Municipality of Chester have the ability to get where they need to go, when they need to go.

She, along with her late husband Dr. David W Baker, have left a living legacy here at Bonny Lea Farm and South Shore Community Service Association. Her vision and dedication will not be forgotten.

Join us in helping to continue her legacy.



Our Santa Squad Know if You've Been Bad or Good, So Be Good for Goodness' Sake :)
LEFT to RIGHT: Adam Gummesson, Douglas Biebesheimer, Floyd Thompson, Debbie Austin and Elizabeth Flemming.

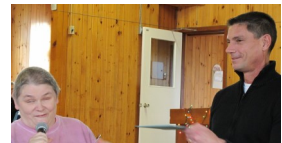
*Wishing you joy and peace this Christmas
& a healthy and hope-filled New Year!*

Celebrating Christmas and Marking Accomplishments

We gathered on Wednesday, December 16, for our annual South Shore Community Service Association Christmas Dinner with participants, families, staff, volunteers and community partners. The event is one we look forward to each year as we kick off the Christmas season. For many it is an opportunity to see family and old friends, enjoy good food and some entertainment by the participants and catch up on the events of the year.

After paying tribute to our founder, **Dr Alberta Baker**, we celebrated some of the milestones of which she would be proud. The Powers Trophy was awarded to **Ben Porter** for demonstrating a significant personal achievement during the past year and **Tom Clancey** was awarded the Susie McClung trophy for demonstrating achievement in the workplace. **Kathy Demone** received the Huey Barkhouse award for her contributions to spirit, humour and life at Bonny Lea Farm. Bonny Lea Farm must be a rewarding place to work. During the event we recognized two staff who have reached their 30 year milestone and two who have reached their 20 year milestone - **David Outhouse** and **Joanne DeLong** and **Steven Baker** and **Janet McGinn** respectively. We also took time to reflect on the contributions of **Peter Parsons** over the past 40 years prior to his retirement in January. We will not be losing Peter however, as he plans to stay around to help out when needed.

We are grateful to our Chair and Board of Directors for their continued leadership.



TOP to BOTTOM: Tom Clancey; Kathy Demone; Floyd Thompson, Maureen Dorey and Janet McGinn; Rose Deveau and Steven Baker.



Volunteers picking up dressers for the Starfish Refugee Project, donated by Bonny Lea Farm and refurbished by the South Shore Work Activity Program.
LEFT to RIGHT: Dwayne Whynot (SSWAP), Alex Kelsie (Starfish), Robert Manuel (Bonny Lea Farm Board Member and Starfish volunteer) and Laura Llewelyn (SSWAP).

Community Connections - Bonny Lea Gives Back

Last month we shared a story of our partnership with the Greyhound Rescue, giving them non-confidential shredded paper as bedding for the dogs.

This month, Bonny Lea Farm and the South Shore Work Activity Program worked together to provide four dressers for the Starfish Refugee Project, to help prepare homes in Chester for two refugee families.

As we have done in other years, many guests at our Christmas dinner made donations for the Lighthouse Foodbank in Chester.

Staff of Bonny Lea Farm partnered with the Salvation Army to make sure that two families in our community have the opportunity to enjoy a turkey dinner with all the trimmings this Christmas.

 Don't forget to check us out on Facebook!