



IN THE NEWS

January 2016

Happy Retirement Wishes

On January 8, participants and staff marked Peter Parsons retirement with a celebration of his forty-three year history with Bonny Lea Farm. Peter started working here in 1973, the year Bonny Lea opened its doors to provide education and training for children with special needs. Over most of this time, Peter was the Vocational Program Leader. He is best known for his ability to advocate for and mentor our participants when they needed help to reach a particular goal or if they needed reassurance regarding personal matters.

During the celebration many participants shared what Peter has meant to them. "Peter, you are a nice man. We really like your jokes. We really like your singing. You have helped us very much. Good luck!"



I have seen many changes, but what has remained constant has been the joy and inspiration I got from working with the participants — offering them guidance and support, and celebrating their accomplishments. I've been

"I've been able to tell people that I have enjoyed my work. It has been very rewarding."

- Peter Parsons



ABOVE: Participants gathered with Peter Parsons on his last day for a photo.

LEFT: Peter at the piano.

able to tell people that I have

enjoyed my work. It has been very rewarding. I have learned so much from the participants and staff. Thank you all!"

Peter, thank you for your valued service, your sense of humour, your devotion to the work and for sharing your musical talents all these years.

Be fulfilled, be happy, be adventurous. You deserve it!

Community Connections - Julien's Bakery

Julien's Patisserie and Café has a loyal following in Chester and beyond, for their fresh croissants, pastries and artisan breads.

Owners Didier Julien and Laura Mulrooney are giving back to the community in a special way, by hosting a work placement for Ronnie Awalt.

"Ronnie is a fantastic worker. He can now work independently. We are willing to hire him for a few additional hours per week." At their large bakery on Stanford Lake Road, the bread is baked in wood fired ovens.



ABOVE (left to right) Ronnie Awalt is shown working at Julien's bakery. Delivering products to the store front. Stacking wood outside. Bringing wood to the ovens.

"This is fun work. I like the people. They are good to me." - Ronnie Awalt

Register Now & Save - Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon Charity Challenge

Team Bonny Lea Farm includes participants, family members, staff, donors, board members, volunteers and community supporters. Whether you run, walk, wheel, or cheer us on, you are a key part of the team. Please join us!

The Scotiabank Blue Nose Marathon Charity Challenge is an opportunity for Team Bonny Lea Farm to not only raise funds but to also build the strength and pride of our participants in achieving personal goals. Over the past three years Team Bonny Lea Farm has raised nearly \$18,000. The funds raised went towards having the new elevator installed to increase the freedom and independence of our participants who have mobility challenges.

This year, our goal this year is to raise \$7,500 towards our Mobility Project to remove the humps and bumps created through use, time and weather along the routes used by our participants to get to and from work each day. A smooth surface is vital to our participants' independence, mobility and safety.

If we have the team with the most members, the team that raises the most funds or the team with the highest individual fundraiser, we could be awarded an additional \$4000 from Scotiabank!

[The Bluenose Marathon 5km walk is on May 21 beginning at 3:00pm in Halifax.](#)

Register at www.bluenosemarathon.com. Click on "Register Now". Complete your registration and select Bonny Lea Farm as your charity of choice and start getting sponsors! Early registration starts now. Only \$41 before February 29! If you raise \$250 for Team Bonny Lea Farm we will reimburse you for your registration fee!

Coming next month: Learn how to sponsor our Team Members.

For more information on how you can join in the fun, contact Jane Rafuse at 902-275-5622 ext.224 or jrafuse@bonnyleafarm.ca. Just Giv'er!



The sign says it all. We're raising funds to smooth the routes for Joanne Boswell and all of our participants.

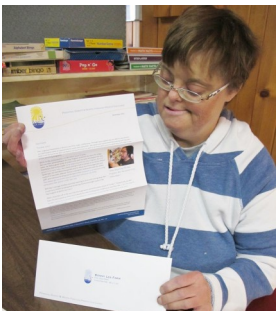
Mark Your Calendars! Bonny Lea Farm's 2016 events

Saturday, April 9, 7:00-9:00pm
Spring Concert featuring Chester Brass and the Studio Singers

Saturday, May 21, 3:00pm
Blue Nose Charity Challenge

Saturday, June 4, 8:00-11:00am
Annual Plant Sale & Breakfast

Sunday, July 31, 4:00-6:30pm
A Lobster Lovers Feast



Nancy Frank and other participants helped to prepare the Annual Giving mail packages.

Annual Giving Campaign Underway

Since launching our Annual Giving Campaign in November we have raised \$20,000 toward our goal of \$40,000. This campaign is vital to our organization as each year we need to raise 25% of our revenue through grants, our on-site businesses and investments made in the lives of our participants by donors like you. Help us to reach our goal through this campaign by completing the donation form on the appeal letter we mailed to you in November.

If you did not receive our campaign letter or would like us to send you one, please contact Liz Finney at 902-275-5622 ext. 241 or efinney@bonnyleafarm.ca.

We appreciate your support!