



IN THE NEWS

March 2017

A Wish Come True

A few years ago Joanne had a wish. She wished to be able to go places without needing to use the parabus.

You see, Joanne and four others at Bonny Lea Farm use wheelchairs. If any one of them needed to go anywhere it required using the parabus, even if it was just one person. Not any more!

Last spring we started raising funds to fulfill Joanne's wish for a wheelchair accessible van. Not only did we reach our goal early this year, we placed the order and have just received the van!!

"Thank you. Thank you. Thank you." - Joanne Boswell, wheelchair user

Realizing "Joanne's Wish" would not have been possible without the support of the community, a few anonymous donors and four organizations: Halifax Youth Foundation; the Lions Clubs of Bridgewater, Mahone Bay, New Germany and Riverport; Masonic Foundation of Nova Scotia and 100 Bluesosers Who Care.



TOP: Val and Doug paying for and receiving the van

BOTTOM: a better view of the van

All Work and No Play - No Way!

Winter can be long. To break up the routine and brighten the participants' days we recently held a few Winter Carnival activities.

The staff at day program prepared a Participant Appreciation breakfast followed by the presentation of work recognition certificates by Association Support Coordinator, Jane Rafuse and Managing Director, David Outhouse. The participants were beaming with pride as each was called upon to come receive their certificate. These two events coincided with pajama day and crazy hat and hair day, which made for some fun photos. Later on there was bingo and a movie, complete with popcorn.

A week or two later the participants enjoyed performing their favourite songs during a day long karaoke event. Every one had a turn in the spotlight, mic in hand, to sing and dance along to their hearts content. Great job every one!



You Make A Difference!

Last fall we launched our Annual Fund Drive, sharing with you the story of Tom and his daughter Catherine and their journey. Tom, said, "Every now and then miracles happen. For us its been Bonny Lea Farm."

To be frank, the miracle of Bonny Lea Farm is dependent on the support of many people. With only a week to go of our fund drive we have raised nearly \$50,000.

We are grateful to the 297 people, organizations and businesses that believe enough in what we do to make a personal investment in our success. Thank you.

For those who would like to spread your giving out through the year, we encourage you to consider the monthly giving option available by clicking on the "Donate" button on our website: www.bonnyleafarm.ca.

Generations Apart but Two Sides of the Same Coin

What started as a temporary work opportunity blossomed into a career lasting more than 40 years and inspiring a future generation to pursue training and seek a position as a Participant Support Worker here at Bonny Lea Farm.

Judy Melvin first came to Bonny Lea Farm for a six month work placement in 1975. When the placement was over, she decided to move on. Six months later she was asked to return under the mentorship of Jane Ritcey, the Physical Education Instructor. It was then that Judy fell in love with Bonny Lea Farm and the people we support.

"I can't imagine having worked any where else." - Judy



Grand-daughter Racheal and Grand-mother Judy Melvin at Racheal's graduation from NSCC last June.

"I always knew that I wanted to work at Bonny Lea." - Racheal

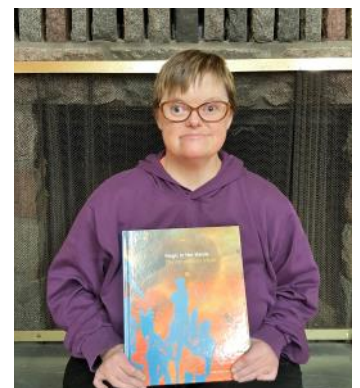
prior to her graduation in June, she applied. She found out she got the job the day before her graduation. When a part-time Participant Support Worker position was posted she jumped at the opportunity and was hired last fall. When asked if Judy's experience had anything to do with her career planning, Racheal said, "Oh yeah. I hope I'm still here when I am her age!"

We're glad you are both here!

Over the last 40 years, Judy continued to learn and seek new opportunities, working in both residence and the day program, coaching Special Olympics snowshoeing and track & field, and leading the Daily Life Skills team. But it is vocational training and seeing the participants learning and growing every day that she truly loves. From fish tags to cleaning rags (the Wiper Program) and Louisiana Pacific siding samples to shredding and so much more, helping participants discover their strengths and building on them, while experiencing the fun, love, caring, and enjoyment of working with the participants took Judy from thinking Bonny Lea Farm was a temporary stop on her journey to not being able to "imagine having worked any where else".

Then there is Racheal. She "always knew" she wanted to work at Bonny Lea Farm. She came here three times with Judy for "Bring Your Kid to Work Day". When she graduated from high school she enrolled in the NSCC's Community Disability Supports program, completing her two work terms here. When a reserve position came up last year,

Good Times Gallery



Top to bottom: Mary Ellen making a birthday card for Liz Flemming; Lunenburg Queens Special Olympic Curling Team at season closing tournament; Nancy attended a talk by her friend Marie Webb at the Chester Art Centre; and the winners of the Stuart Carver Bonny Lea Benefit Pool Tournament, 1st place Dwayne Baker and Glenn Vervaeke, Stuart Carver, and 2nd place Billy Davis and Rob Fear.