



# ANNUAL REPORT

2017-2018

South Shore Community Service Association  
Bonny Lea Farm & South Shore Work Activity Program



# WHO WE ARE

In 1973, a group of interested men and women developed a vision to provide opportunities for young people with disabilities to learn the skills needed to lead meaningful and productive lives within their communities. The South Shore Community Service Association has grown beyond its original goal of creating Bonny Lea Farm as a nurturing environment for people living with disabilities to blossom. Also under its umbrella is the South Shore Work Activity Program, founded in 1986, which helps people overcome barriers to employment through skills development, training and work placements.

At Bonny Lea Farm, we support 45 participants from across Nova Scotia in our residential, vocational and therapeutic programs. It costs over \$4 million dollars each year to deliver our specialized programs. We receive 75% of our funding from the provincial government. The remaining 25% comes from foundations, grants, our social enterprises and investments made by supporters like you.

CRA #11915 8459 RR0001  
IRS EIN #23 7283520

**Photos:** Front cover - Sonja Joudrey & Anton Voegelé; Who We Are - Hansi Voegelé, Jeffrey Wambolt, Lynn Rafuse, Brian Willman, Jason Caney, Card Lake; Table of Contents - Dan Morris; page 2 - Liam and Tom Clancey; page 3 - Laura Glazier, Greenhouse; page 4 - Debbie Austin, Bonita Church, Nancy Frank, Baker House; page 5 - Hansi Voegelé, Shannon Brown, Jeffrey Wamboldt, Cortney Zwicker; page 6 - Jan Elliott, Confidential Shredding; page 7 - Valerie Roode, Liz Flemming, outside Church House; page 8 - Larry Tanner, walking to work; page 9 - Adam Gummesson, Camp Tidnish Crew; page 10 - Keji National Park; page 11 - Debbie Austin, Bonnie Conrad, Josh Veinot, Wade Davis, Sue Collins, Kindling Crew; page 14 - Paulette Countway, Nick XX, SSWAP; page 16 - Mary Ellen Brady, M. Allen Gibson, Andrew Parrish; Back cover - Floyd Thompson, Residence Lounge, Canada Day.



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# LEADERSHIP MESSAGE

Each year we marvel at how much change confronts us. The true marvel is how we deal with the change and how, in the end, we grow and learn from the change.

Since our beginnings in 1973, we have grown and learned continuously in our quest to always provide a meaningful supportive program that supports the men and women who live and work at Bonny Lea Farm or are supported by our South Shore Work Activity Program. Programs that respond to individual needs and strive to keep the participant at the centre can never remain constant. While often seeming to be in a state of flux, these programs remain always responsive and most importantly teach us new things in our quest to deliver what is needed by the participants. The challenge of change is a constant and we are so much better for it.

We remain fortunate to have the many partnerships and funders that support the work that we do daily. We want to acknowledge the specific financial contributions of the Province of Nova Scotia through the Disability Support Program that serves as our funding hub. We are also truly thankful for the continued support of the Pew Charitable Trusts for their financial assistance that supports both capital improvements and specialized program delivery. Our supporters, donors, the service clubs and corporate sponsors round out the financial support each year that makes all that we can offer our participants possible. Without all of you, we would not rise to the challenge of the changes that confront us.

Our reason for being is the men and women who live and work with us. For them and their families we endeavour to provide important and meaningful experiences that allow individuals a chance to learn, grow, and succeed. It is truly a privilege to be a part of your lives.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Biebesheimer', with a stylized, flowing script.

John Biebesheimer, Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David M Outhouse', with a stylized, flowing script.

David M Outhouse, Executive Director





## ABOUT US

Located in Chester, Nova Scotia, Bonny Lea Farm has been empowering people living with intellectual disabilities for 45 years.

In addition to our residential and vocational programs, our individualized enhanced program includes speech and language support, healthy eating and recreational therapy, counselling, broadening options and spiritual development.

Our participants come from across Nova Scotia and beyond to access our unique opportunities.

We are proud of our history and are committed to delivering our mission and vision into the future.

### Our Mission

Bonny Lea Farm is committed to empowering special needs individuals, providing opportunities to experience faith, self-respect, love one for another, dignity, integrity, productivity, and responsible community living.

### Our Vision

Each person who comes to Bonny Lea Farm has the chance to learn, grow and succeed.

Total  
46



23



23



Age range  
21-69



Group Homes  
4



Small Options  
4



Social Enterprises  
6





# MAKING A DIFFERENCE

## You Make A Difference

Our person-centered approach means that we are here to support participants in achieving a high quality of life and reaching their potential; identifying and realizing their goals at home, at work, and in the community; and building their social, physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing. We shared Laura's story with you in our Annual Fund Drive. With nearly a year having passed since she arrived at Bonny Lea Farm, here's an update.

### **LAURA'S STORY - New Beginnings**

For years Laura moved from "home" to "home" and dreamed of feeling safe and secure, not fearing when she would need to move again. She felt she was not living. She wanted to feel confident and supported in making her own decisions. She wanted to live at Bonny Lea Farm.

When she found out that there was a place for her at Bonny Lea Farm, it was the best day ever. A dream come true. But the story doesn't end there.

After nearly a year of living and working at Bonny Lea Farm, Laura shared how she is feeling.

She enjoys preparing meals in her group home and going on community outings. She works in the Kitchen and the Greenhouse and likes how the work changes every day. She is making friends and learning how to build healthy relationships and improve her interpersonal and communication skills. She is making decisions and becoming confident in voicing her views.

**"I am happy. I am where I want to be, doing what I want to do.**

**The staff have taken the time to learn about me and my disability and have found ways to help me grow.**

**That's the first time that has happened for me.**

**It has made a huge difference in my life.**

**I feel like I am living again."**

**- Laura Glazier  
Participant**



## PROVIDING DIGNITY

### You Help Provide Dignity

Our person-centered approach means that we are here to support participants in achieving a high quality of life and reaching their potential; identifying and realizing their goals at home, at work, and in the community; and building their social, physical, emotional and spiritual wellbeing.

### **DEBBIE'S STORY - Changing Pace**

Although Debbie is a hard worker and has more energy than many half her age, when she turned 65 this past year she wanted a change of pace and to not work full time any more.

For some others, their health caused changes in their ability to take part in our social enterprises and enhanced programs.

In response to these realities, this past year we have adapted our residential, vocational and enhanced programs to meet the needs of our aging population while embracing new opportunities to support and challenge participants to continue to learn and grow.

For Debbie and Nancy, we have introduced semi-retirement with reduced work weeks and more leisure time. For those who could no longer work and whose condition required one-on-one staff support, we have made this happen. Both of these scenarios have required providing day time staffing at residence.

To better support participants as they age and to help them manage their health care, we created a Nurse Consultant position, staffed by a registered nurse.

Work is also underway in planning and raising funds for our purpose built home to support participants as they age, right here at Bonny Lea Farm. Some gifts have already been directed to our Foundation and are being held for this project.

These changes have been made possible through your support and have directly lead to improved quality of life for our participants and ensured their dignity as they age.





# GROWING THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS

## You Help Us Grow

We partner with many businesses and organizations for the benefit of the participants in achieving their goals. You are our student interns, workplace partners, and business clients of our social enterprises.

The Nova Scotia Community College is one of these partners. Hosting student placements is a benefit to all involved.

Having the opportunity to work here at Bonny Lea Farm gave Cortney, an NSCC Occupational Therapy Assistant / Physiotherapy Assistant Student, experience with and insight into people living with disabilities, learning about their individual abilities and potential. For others working side-by-side with participants and our knowledgeable staff in residence and our day program has lead to their seeking employment with us when they finished their programs.

Participants benefit from the opportunity for one-on-one activities and the new knowledge that is brought to us by interns.

A service learning opportunity with NSCC's Graphic & Print Production program, Ivany Campus, was a huge win-win. The students gained practical experience and we gained thousands of dollars worth of professional quality print and promotional products, well beyond our annual printing budget.

“The more people we have come through our doors who gain knowledge and understanding of the uniqueness of what we do and how we do it, the better.”

– David Outhouse,  
Executive Director

“Reaching out to community groups like Bonny Lea Farm is an integral part of our learning at NSCC. And, the students love the “real life” print experience of these projects!”

– Doug Lewis,  
NSCC Instructor



## BUILDING CONFIDENCE

### **JAN'S STORY - You Build Confidence**

Your support of our social enterprises provide valuable vocational skills development and meaningful work experiences for our participants. But, that is not all you do.

Through the work, staff support participants in reaching their individual potential. While a work crew may be providing valuable service to our business partners or making quality products for our customers, they also empower participants by building confidence, self-respect and skills to succeed.

Jan has lived and worked at Bonny Lea Farm for over 30 years. By offering Jan a predictable and stable home and work routine and supporting her in building healthy relationships, developing her ability to communicate feelings, interests, wants and needs, Jan now speaks up for herself in a positive and assertive way. She has an active life at home and is a productive part of our confidential shredding team, which shredded 7 metric tons of paper in 2017.

Our success lies in the partnerships we have built with you, our suppliers and customers of our Custom packaging, Confidential Shredding, Handy Wipers, Kindling, Kitchen, Workshop, and Greenhouse, as well as our many community partners who engage in activities such as Coffee & Conversation.

The revenues generated from the ever growing demand for our products and services provide participants with their training wage and support our enhanced programs.

A photograph showing the backs of two individuals sitting in wheelchairs on a paved path. They are facing away from the camera towards a line of green trees. The person on the left is in a black wheelchair, and the person on the right is in a wooden wheelchair. Both are wearing red shirts. The text 'PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE' is overlaid in large, bold, white capital letters.

# PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE

## MAKING THE DAY TO DAY BETTER

We place a priority on promoting independence. You help us with the physical upgrades that are beyond our budget and that make daily activities and routines easier, safer and more comfortable.

### **VAL'S STORY** - Removing Barriers to Success

Val can tell you what it is like to age. She was once active in Special Olympics, competing in track and field, bowling and more. She also liked to dance up a storm. For the last 10 years or so, she has been using a wheelchair. (She still likes to dance, but she uses her wheelchair now!)

Val reminds us that many of the things we do every day become more of a challenge when you rely on a wheelchair to get around. With the support of staff at home and at work, Val has maintained her independence and remains very active, which was made easier this year with upgrades funded by grants and donations from you, our supporters.

A grant from the Halifax Youth Foundation funded a much needed upgrade of our main wash-rooms, including an improved barrier free layout, automatic LED lights, and new fixtures.

The installation of new rubber ramps, hand-railings and non-slip surfaces was made possible with a Community ACCESS-ability grant. Val is happy with the new ramps, which are easier to navigate on her own than the old ones, which frequently caused her to ask for help from staff.

We anticipate that our new raised beds for our Greenhouse, will enable people with mobility challenges to continue having a hand in the soil beyond sowing the seeds, as they tend to the plants as they grow and help with the harvest. Val thanks you.





## **LARRY'S STORY - Nothing Holding Him Back**

If you've met Larry Tanner, you know his energy, work ethic, and sense of humour. If you have ever seen him heading home or to work here at Bonny Lea Farm, you have likely remarked at his speed. We would never want to slow him down, but we do try to help him stay safe.

That is why Larry is happy with the progress of our Smoothin' for Cruisin' project funded by donations to Team Bonny Lea Farm. The project has resurfaced the route between home and work that participants use every day, making Larry's and the other participants' daily travels easier and safer.

Larry's abilities have been noticed by others as well. One regular kindling customer who has been impressed with Larry's work, learned that one of the crew's wood splitters had broken. He returned with a new one. This is one example of how you continue to help participants succeed.

## **DAVID'S STORY - Seeking Comfort in a Storm**

David is an avid sports fan who keeps us up to date on the latest hockey or baseball games. He loves music, listening to CDs and attending concerts. David is also a weather watcher. Weather disturbances and their possible effects cause him to feel anxious. A power outage and the uncertainty it brings for him and others here at Bonny Lea Farm adds to these feelings. Our current manual-start generators provide only partial power in our homes.

This past year we hoped to install automatic generators for our homes. Unfortunately, not all of our goals get met. Our budget and fundraising fell short of reaching the \$150,000 needed.

# MAKING MEMORIES



## You Bring Joy by Sharing Your Passions With Us

Barbara Geldart loved summer camp. In fact she was either a camper, counsellor or director of a summer camp for most of her life. So when she died, her daughter Kim decided that making a gift that would help participants at Bonny Lea Farm have the opportunity to go to camp seemed like the perfect tribute to her Mom. Kim's gift in her mother's memory provides a bursary to help defray camp costs for up to eight Bonny Lea Farm campers to attend Camp Tidnish each year. With camp costs reaching \$600 for one week, the bursary helps to make camp a reachable goal.

For Adam Gummesson, and other participants from Bonny Lea Farm, going to camp offers a change of pace and brings a sense of freedom, fun activities, relaxation, and new friendships.

## You Help Raise More than Money

Team Bonny Lea Farm raises awareness, self-esteem, physical wellness and funds to be used on projects identified by the participants.

Tom Clancey enjoys the personal challenge of raising funds with his sponsor sheets, walking the 5km route, taking part in a community event, being cheered on from the side-lines and having his brother Liam take part.

Floyd Thompson no longer walks with Team Bonny Lea Farm, but has found his own way of participating in their events by being the official team cheerleader. Raising the spirits of everyone he meets.

# ENRICHING LIVES



## YOU HELP US DO MORE

Our enhanced programs, which enrich the participants' lives, are not funded by the provincial government. Each year you help bridge our funding gap through fundraising, events, grants and sponsorships.

Ensuring quality of life, making dreams come true and delivering our unique programs would not be possible without you. Whether you are an active donor or someone who shares our facebook posts, you make a difference.

This past year, you gave to Bonny Lea Farm through grants, bequests, gifts of shares, annual fund drive, general donations, online giving, memorial and tribute gifts, and sponsoring or attending our events.

In addition to the impact stories you have read in this report, because of you we were able to hold a weekly yoga class for participants and regular activities in our gym; go on outings to parks, museums and libraries; provide physiotherapy exercises to those who need them; facilitate community work placements; offer our seniors and alternate programs for those who benefit from a different pace; and so much more.

Our success is measured in the contentment, growth and daily successes of the people we support. Thank you for making it possible.



605  
Donors



885  
Gifts



\$220,993  
Donations



# HELPING US SUCCEED



## Celebrating Our Sponsors

Our long-running annual fundraising events would not be successful without you, our committed supporters, community partners, corporate sponsors, and over 100 volunteers. This year we are recognizing our corporate sponsors. Thank you for your support!

### ***Lobster Lovers' Feast***

#### **Lobster Sponsor (625 Lobsters)**

Clearwater

#### **Presenting Sponsors (\$2500)**

Clearwater · Dexter · Sure Courier Services ·  
Universal Elevators & Lifts

#### **Contributing Sponsors (\$1000)**

LighthouseNow · Merrick Jamieson Sterns  
Washington & Mahody Barristers · Micco  
Companies · Chester Pharmasave

#### **Associate Sponsors (\$750)**

Cabot Shipping Supplies ·  
GN Thermoforming Equipment

#### **Bronze Sponsors (\$100)**

Carriage House Financial Services · McInnes  
Cooper

### ***ANNUAL BENEFIT Golf Tournament***

#### **Event Sponsors (\$5000)**

Ocean Contractors Ltd. · Scotiabank ·  
Chester Golf Club

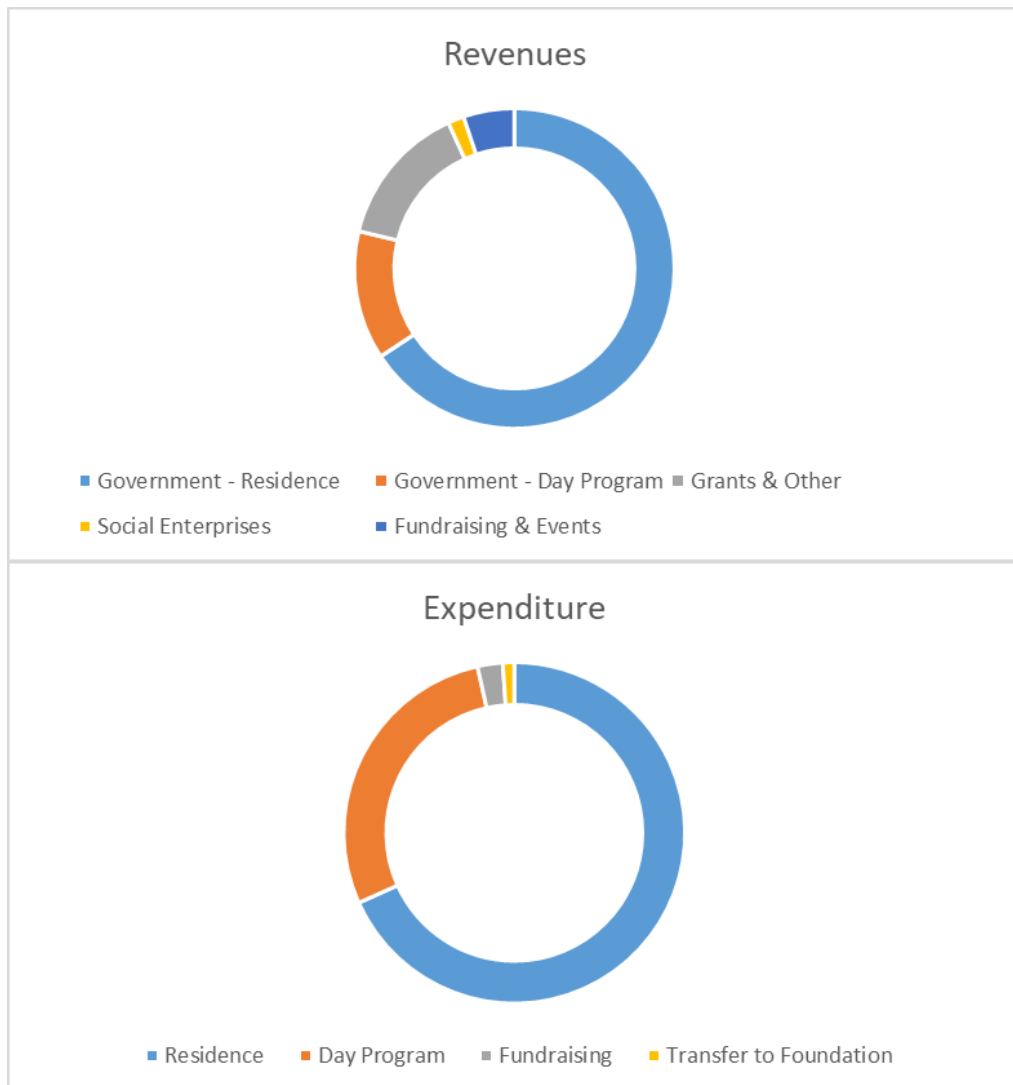
#### **Hole Sponsors (\$300)**

B.W. Armstrong Insurance · Basin Contracting  
Ltd. · Bluewave Energy · Chester Family  
Dental Centre Ltd. · Chester Golf Club ·  
Ciment Quebec Inc. · Collins Barrow Nova  
Scotia Inc. · Conrad Brothers Ltd. · Eastern  
Fence Erectors Ltd. · Hammonds Kwik Way ·  
Macdonald Buick GMC Cadillac Ltd. ·  
MacKay's Truck & Trailer Center Ltd. ·  
Manulife Financial · Nova Communications ·  
Ocean Contractors Ltd. · Pomerleau Inc. ·  
Thompson's Moving Group Ltd. · Trans East  
Trailers Ltd. · Travelers Insurance Company

# YOU MAKE IT POSSIBLE

Ensuring that every participant is learning, growing and succeeding costs more than our funding provides. Our residential and basic day program are funded by the Department of Community Services. However, our enhanced program supports, activities, and essential services, including heat and lights are paid by you.

With 2017-2018 revenues being just over \$4.4 million and expenditures just under \$4.4 million, we finished the year with a \$38,100 surplus.\*



\*Complete 2017-2018 audited statements are available on request.



# OPENING DOORS

## Transforming Abilities Into Opportunities

Since 1986, the South Shore Work Activity Program, or SSWAP as it is often called, has assisted hundreds of people to work through challenges and move towards employment. Some are entering the workforce for the first time, others are looking to get back to work or have a desire to better maintain future opportunities. We may even assist with transportation to the program, if it's needed, so that participants can focus on their growth.

This year, 43 participants from Lunenburg and Queens counties engaged in our diverse and supportive program, focusing on employability skills, teamwork, motivation, accountability and presentation, life skills, computer fundamentals, academic upgrading, employment training in woodworking, janitorial, customer service and food services, and work placements with one of our 23 work placement host partners.

South Shore Work Activity Program receives funding from the Government of Canada and the Province of Nova Scotia, under the direction of the Department of Community Services.







## FINDING SUCCESS

### **NICK'S STORY - Discovering Abilities & Finding Success**

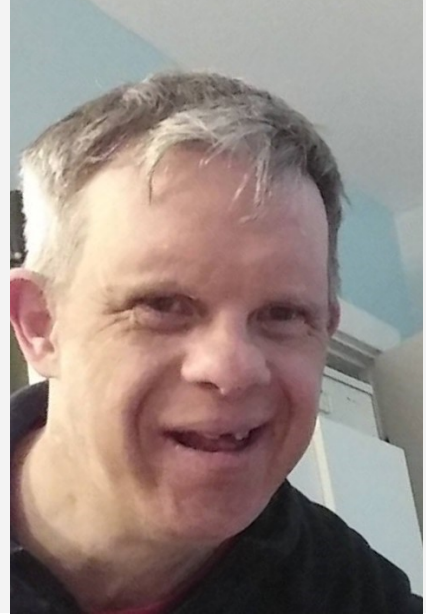
Nick completed our program in October 2017. When he came to SSWAP he had no work experience. He put great effort into learning new skills that helped with his work exploration and employability. He worked his way diligently through program levels and applied the skills he learned in the program while in the community on his work placements.

Nick's enthusiasm and commitment led to his being selected as the recipient of the John Whitehouse Award, given each year to a participant who models the spirit of SSWAP.

We are happy to report that Nick was hired by his work placement host when he completed the program and continues to enjoy learning more about that business.

### **Our Work Placement Host Partners across Lunenburg & Queens Counties:**

Cross Small Engine Repair · Sam's No Frills · Bonny Lea Farm · Nick's Independent · Freshmart · Chester Home Hardware · NAPA Auto Parts · Gow's Home Hardware · Chester Foodland · Spidle's Independent · Dollarama · Ocean Mark K-9 Resort · Ross Farm · Best Western Plus · Lunenburg Day Care · Pharmasave · Our Health Centre · Harbourview Haven · Chester Service Centre · Sobeys · Joey's Pizza · NAPA Auto Parts · Atlantic Superstore



## IN MEMORIAM

During 2017-2018, we said goodbye to a number of members of our “family”. Each of them helped to shape what we are today, in their own way. Their contributions will be remembered.

**Mary Ellen Brady** - Mary Ellen had lived and worked at Bonny Lea Farm for more than 20 years. Every one has their special memories of Mary Ellen. Whether it is a time when she held their face or hands in her hands or she gave them a tickle in the ribs. Perhaps it is listening to music or watching a favourite show. Her caring and sense of humour that she shared freely are missed by us all.

**Dr. M. Allen Gibson** - As a founding member in 1973, Dr M Allen Gibson was one of the people who saw the need for people with disabilities to be given the opportunity to learn, grow and succeed. He was instrumental in getting Bonny Lea Farm up and running. His commitment to community and addressing the situation of those he recognized as needing support made him a formidable force in making the dream of Bonny Lea Farm a reality. To mark his many contributions to the organization, in 2000 Bonny Lea Farm named a residence after him.

**Andrew Parrish** - To know Andrew was to have been in the presence of a gentleman. He was a hard worker, a believer of good manners and always thoughtful. Friends and staff fondly recall his love of wrestling and singing, completely at ease with a microphone in his hands. He was someone who certainly made the most of life, and we are so glad that he was a part of ours.

# OUR BOARDS

Our volunteer Boards and Committees guide us in delivering our missions.

## South Shore Community Services Association Executive

John Biebesheimer, President     Barbie Nunn-Porter, Vice-President  
David Hilchey, Treasurer

## Bonny Lea Farm Board of Directors

John Biebesheimer, Chair	Barbie Nunn-Porter, Vice-President	
David Hilchey, Treasurer	Colleen Fitzgerald	Robert Manuel
John Campbell	Rick Fraughton	Cy Mayo
Barbara Carthew	Kim Geldart	Tobias Norwood
Liam Clancey	Fred Honsberger	Catherine Robar
Mary Ellen Clancey	Colin MacDonald	Sara Whynot

**Life Members:** Jack Flemming, Joe Stackhouse

**Honourary Members:** Anne Flinn, Michael MacMillan, David Waterbury

## Bonny Lea Farm Quality of Life Committee

Barbara Carthew, Chair	Liam Clancey	Philippe Degraeve
Mary Ellen Clancey	Eve McDermott	Karen Lake
Barbie Nunn-Porter	Vanessa Smith	David Outhouse

## Bonny Lea Charitable Foundation Trustees

Rachel Martin, Chair	Kim Geldart	Joe Stackhouse
John Campbell	David Hilchey	John Tatlow
Judy Connolly		

## SSWAP Board of Management

Paulette Countway, Chair	Mary Ellen Clancey	Kevin McNamara
Eric Bishop	Judy Connolly	John Tatlow, Treasurer
Barbara Carthew	Norman Countway	David Outhouse





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(Facebook)



(Youtube)



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