

# DREAMS

## 2018-2019 ANNUAL REPORT

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

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“Bonny Lea Farm  
owes its place in this world to  
Dr. and Mrs. Baker.  
They saw the need  
and it thrives as a  
one of a kind home  
for many people.”

- Diane Voripaieff  
Facebook friend

“Each one is different and  
each one has a place here.”

- Joe Stackhouse  
Founder

# Our Founders

Alberta Pew Baker

David Baker

M. Allen Gibson

Srul Tullio Laufer

Desmond Piers

Joe Stackhouse

David Stevens

In 1973, a group of inspired men and women had a dream. They believed young people living with disabilities should have opportunities for meaningful and productive lives within the community.

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 intellectual disabilities.

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.

This past year we celebrated our 45th Birthday! While most of our Founding members are no longer with us, we are grateful to have Joe Stackhouse regularly attend meetings and share his wisdom with us.

Joe is shown above on his 90th birthday.



# Leadership Message

Our 45<sup>th</sup> year has been marked with excitement and growth. One of the highlights included the men and women we support being challenged to help develop and perform a theatrical production. The dedication, perseverance, fortitude, and risk this process required allowed our participants to shine as members of our community. To all the cast and crew of "Something's in the Air", BRAVO for a job well done!

At Bonny Lea Farm we provide opportunities for participants to live, learn, and grow. Our donors, supporters, funders, volunteers and board members ensure that we have resources to provide a high caliber program that supports people in reaching for their dreams. We truly appreciate all those who rise to the challenge of getting behind everything that we do.

Without our staff, we would not provide the experiences and opportunities that make us a leader in disability support services. Our employees rise to the challenge of finding ways to help people fulfill their life goals in a way that is supportive, caring, professional, and safe. We are fortunate to attract and retain such a highly motivated team.

As you review the contents of our annual report, we hope you learn why Bonny Lea Farm is truly an exciting place to live and work.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Biebesheimer'.

John Biebesheimer, Board Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David M Outhouse'.

David M Outhouse, Executive Director



# Bonny Lea Farm

For 45 years, we have provided hundreds of people living with disabilities diverse opportunities to learn, grow & succeed.

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.

## MISSION

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

## VISION

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

# 45

**YEARS OF  
CHANGING LIVES**

FOR PEOPLE LIVING  
WITH DISABILITIES



# 45

## **LIVES CHANGED THIS YEAR**

FROM ACROSS  
NOVA SCOTIA

...AND THAT'S ONLY  
COUNTING PARTICIPANTS!

...ADD IN FAMILIES, STAFF,  
VOLUNTEERS, AND  
THE COMMUNITY &  
WE'RE IN THE  
1000s!

## **9 HOMES**

Our supportive residential program offers participants the opportunity to live with independence, including decision making in all aspects of their lives.

## **6 SOCIAL ENTERPRISES**

Our onsite businesses provide meaningful work for participants who live with us, as well as those from the community who come for the day from as far away as Halifax and New Germany.

We create beautiful products and offer useful services to the community.

## **5 ENHANCED PROGRAMS**

Our holistic approach means that we focus on the whole person and recognize there is more to life than eat, sleep, work.

These programs nurture body, mind, and soul.



# Community Engagement

## BY NUMBERS

**19** work & volunteer placements

**1600** community members attending our events

**?** customers of our social enterprises  
(you know who you are)

**45** community sponsors for our events

**∞** community events participants attend  
(infinity)

**\$3M** spent in local economy

“I have known about the Farm since its inception.

I have watched how the participants have prospered and I’m amazed at what is possible.

But I think what really warms my heart is seeing the participants at the Picnic in the Park.

Their presence “makes the picnic” and makes me realize how important they are to our diverse community.”

– Jill Mattinson



## **WHAT DO JASON & BRYAN HAVE IN COMMON?**

It's a rainy morning. A group of participants are gathering in the cafeteria. There is a buzz of excitement as they put on their coats and get ready to go. It is Coffee & Conversation morning with the St Martin's Parish, as part of the Broadening Options program.

Jason and Bryan are among the 18 participants who enjoy this opportunity to engage with the community and practice their conversation skills with the group of regulars who come out to share their time, talents, and tales. Over the past few years, this group has celebrated milestone birthdays together, mourned losses, made music, and provided valuable fellowship.

## **WHAT DO ANTON & SONYA LOOK FORWARD TO?**

Well, lots of things, really.

If you see Anton on a Tuesday he will likely tell you about his job. You see, Wednesday is the day Anton goes to work at Spidle's Your Independent Grocer, where he stocks shelves and organizes items. Having this placement is the realization of a dream for Anton.

It doesn't take long to learn how much Sonya loves small cuddly animals. A highlight of her month is the trip she takes to the Dartmouth SPCA to visit with the cats in the shelter. This outing is a step towards meeting a goal that she has set for herself to work in the community with animals.

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## **OUR WORKPLACE & VOLUNTEER PARTNERS (2018-2019)**

Dani's Laundromat - Julien's Bakery - Kiwi Café - Shoreham Village Home for Special Care - Spidle's Your Independent Grocer - St Stephen's Anglican Church



# Realizing Goals

Our person-centred approach means that we are here to support participants in identifying and realizing their goals at home, at work, and in the community; and building their social, physical, emotional and spiritual well-being.

## WHAT GOOD CAN COME FROM THE FLU?

Few people blossom with a gastro-bug or the flu. For Hansi, it was just the impetus needed to jump start his janitorial assistant job at Bonny Lea Farm. He had expressed an interest in such a position and learning the skills required. Now, every Thursday he carefully disinfects all door knobs and high traffic surfaces, helping to keep us all germ-free.

## REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE

We strive to minimize our waste with the help of Blair and Debbie. Their jobs include gathering and sorting our recycling at work and residence respectively.

## DREAMS FROM THE SPOOKY TO SPIRITUAL

Imagine walking into the Board Room and screaming in fear. That's exactly what happened last fall, when Tom's dream of making a haunted house came true. Tom and his friend Josh worked with staff to create spooky decorations and 'scare' participants who visited the space.

Floyd knows he needs spiritual nourishment. Attending church with his family and enjoying gospel music are among his goals. This past year we helped him realize these goals by driving him to visit with his family and assisting him to attend a Nova Scotia Mass Choir Concert.



## **HOLD IT! I'LL FOLD IT!**

You know the sense of accomplishment you feel when you finish preparing your Christmas cards and you have a stack of pristine envelopes, lovingly stuffed, addressed, stamped and sealed? OK, well, maybe you don't send cards anymore. But, you can imagine, right?

For Joanne, Laurie-Anne, Floyd, and Liz the feeling is real. And, they love it. In addition to their regular day jobs here at Bonny Lea Farm, they like to help prepare our monthly newsletter mailing, our thank you letters and receipts, and our annual campaign mail-out.

## **EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES**

One of our organizational goals has been to increase opportunities for day program space. We currently have 8 participants who come for the day at different times during the week. While we did not increase our numbers, we did increase the amount of time they are able to work each week. That's growth too!

## **Providing Dignity & Aging in Place**

### **WE'VE GOT PLANS**

None of us are getting any younger. That is why we are planning how we will continue to support participants as they age. Most of them have told us that they want to stay here, at home, at Bonny Lea Farm.

Over the past year we have met with participants, staff, and board members to identify what they would like to see in a new home, which we would like to build here at Bonny Lea Farm.

The resulting plans are very exciting.

Stay tuned for more information about this cutting edge initiative.

**20**

**PARTICIPANTS ARE OVER 50**



# Acting for Empowerment

## EVERYONE HAS DREAMS

Bonny Lea Farm's person-centred model, means that we shape our supports and programs around the needs and wants of the participants who live and work here.

We strive to remind others that everyone has dreams and a place in the community.

Many participants identified drama as a goal in their annual Individual Program Plan.

To fulfill this dream for participants, we applied for and received a Building Vibrant Communities grant from the Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage and partnered with the Chester Playhouse Theatre.

The results exceeded our expectations and had an immeasurable impact on participants, staff and the community.

## CAST QUOTES

“The play helped me share my story.”

- Ben Porter, Actor

“I got to play my dream job.”

- Anton Voegelé, Actor

“I got to feel like an actress!”

- Anonymous, Actor

“I got outside of my comfort zone and tried something new. I feel more confident.”

- Laura Glazier, Actor



Local playwright Cynthia Myers shaped the play, "Something's in the Air", by working with participants to develop their own characters, costumes, bios, and props. When asked what their dreams were, many participants felt empowered to act out their "dream jobs" on stage, including an RCMP officer, radio host, rapper, basketball player, chauffer, and cowgirl.

## Acting for Empowerment, had **10 GOALS** including:

- ♥ Showcase the many abilities of people living with disabilities
- ♥ Ask employers to consider using our skills in their organizations
- ♥ Create five new work placement partnerships
- ♥ Build on employable skills & develop new skills
- ♥ Empower participants to share their dreams with others
- ♥ Public to realize people living with a disability have dreams, goals & relationships.



## DID YOU KNOW?

The idea of a play came from the participants' interest in drama.

The play was written by local playwright, Cynthia Myers, based on interviews with each of the actors.

Each actor helped design their costume.

Our workshop crew made props and set pieces for the show.

For many participants, this was their first time on stage.



## Learning & Growth

Before getting on stage, participants:

- ◆ Memorized lines, demonstrating their ability to accurately learn and remember detailed information
- ◆ Built props, designed costumes, folded programs and baked cookies, showing their ability to create, build and perform hands on tasks
- ◆ Prepared bios, highlighting their likes and skills..

We all learned that participants are capable of so much more than they are often challenged with and are willing to enhance their skills exponentially. This project highlighted the importance of being able to take risk, be challenged, fail and learn from mistakes.

~

## AUDIENCE QUOTES

“She’s grown from not using her voice to being in the spotlight on stage!

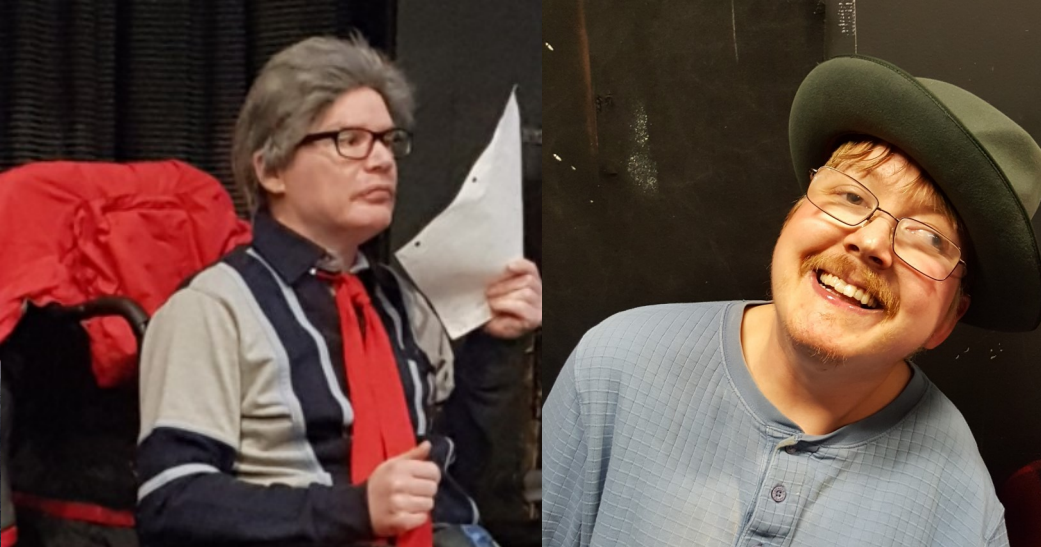
Family member

“I’m glad to have witnessed, to see and feel, the energy in the Playhouse. What a wonderful thing for all of Chester. Thank you.”

Doug Ross

“You had real stars on stage last night.”

Laurel Darnell



# Immeasurable Impact

The impact and benefits of the play are lasting and immeasurable.

The play gave participants an opportunity to feel empowered and equal. It built their confidence in their abilities.

It educated family, friends, potential employers, and supporters, about the desire of people with disabilities to have the same things in life as others. Everyone has dreams.

The community showed up and filled the 176 seat theatre two nights in a row. They cheered, they laughed, some even volunteered with the production.

We wowed prospective employers. One of our actors was offered a weekly radio spot by a local radio station.

We developed a new partnership with the Chester Playhouse.

“The folks back stage were so involved, focussed and having such an extraordinary time... They glowed with fulfillment and with renewed assurance of their capabilities.”

Gavin Flinn

“Fun and talent. A true joy to be in the audience!”

Jeanne and Ned Nash

“The participants were such shining stars. It’s the most positive piece of theatre I’ve ever seen.”

Anonymous

“What a special and moving show. It was a magical performance for us. Thanks for doing this for Bonny Lea and the community.”

Janet Creaser

## FUN FACTS

### 24

participants became actors

### 2

nights on stage

### 352

people saw the show

### 1

actor has been offered a regular radio spot on a local station

### 1

actor now volunteers at the Chester Playhouse Theatre





# Meet Dan. Dan has Hope.



**THANK  
YOU!**

**\$52,500**  
ANNUAL  
CAMPAIGN

**\$52,000**  
EVENTS

**\$35,000**  
SPONSORSHIPS

**\$331,000**  
GRANTS & OTHER

**\$100,000**  
BEQUESTS

**\$21,000**  
MEMORIAL  
DONATIONS

## You Give Hope

Bonny Lea Farm has been giving hope to for 45 years thanks to you!

Hope for a home. Hope for meaningful work. Hope for a welcoming community.  
Hope for independence. Hope for new friendships.

For many participants this experience would not have been possible without  
Bonny Lea Farm and you.

### **IN CASE YOU HAVEN'T MET HIM, MEET DAN**

When Dan finished school in 2017, he had always lived at home with his Mom. He and his Mom came to Bonny Lea Farm for a visit. They hoped to find a place where Dan would feel at home. They hoped to find a place where Dan could learn and grow. They hoped to find a community that would engage and empower him. Their hopes aren't so different from yours and mine.

Dan now lives in one of our group homes with four other participants. He is learning new life skills, making decisions and gaining independence. He is also making friends.

At first, Dan adjusted to his new work routine in our Transition Program area. This provided him with an introduction to the work of each of our social enterprises, and a quieter setting to help make the transition to work a successful one! He now works in the workshop for part of the day and was an actor in our recent play, Something's in the Air.

We know there is a bright future for Dan here at Bonny Lea Farm and we are thrilled to be able to offer him and others this opportunity now and in the future. Thanks to you.

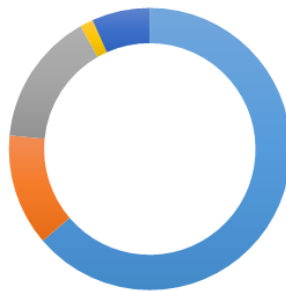
# Financial Overview

Ensuring quality of life, making dreams come true and delivering our unique programs is possible because of your support - from program staff salaries to electricity and insurance.

Our residential program and a portion of our day program are funded by the Department of Community Services. The balance of day program expenses are paid through donations, events, sponsorships and grants - most significantly our capital and operating grant from the Pew Charitable Trust.

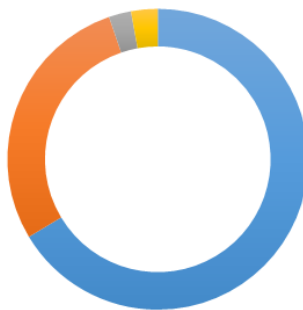
Our 2018-2019 revenues were just over \$4.5 million, while our expenditures were just over \$4.4 million. We finished the year with a \$105,000 surplus.\*

## Revenues



■ Government - Residence ■ Government - Day Program ■ Grants & Other  
■ Social Enterprises ■ Fundraising & Events

## Expenditures



■ Residence ■ Day Program ■ Fundraising ■ Transfer to Foundation

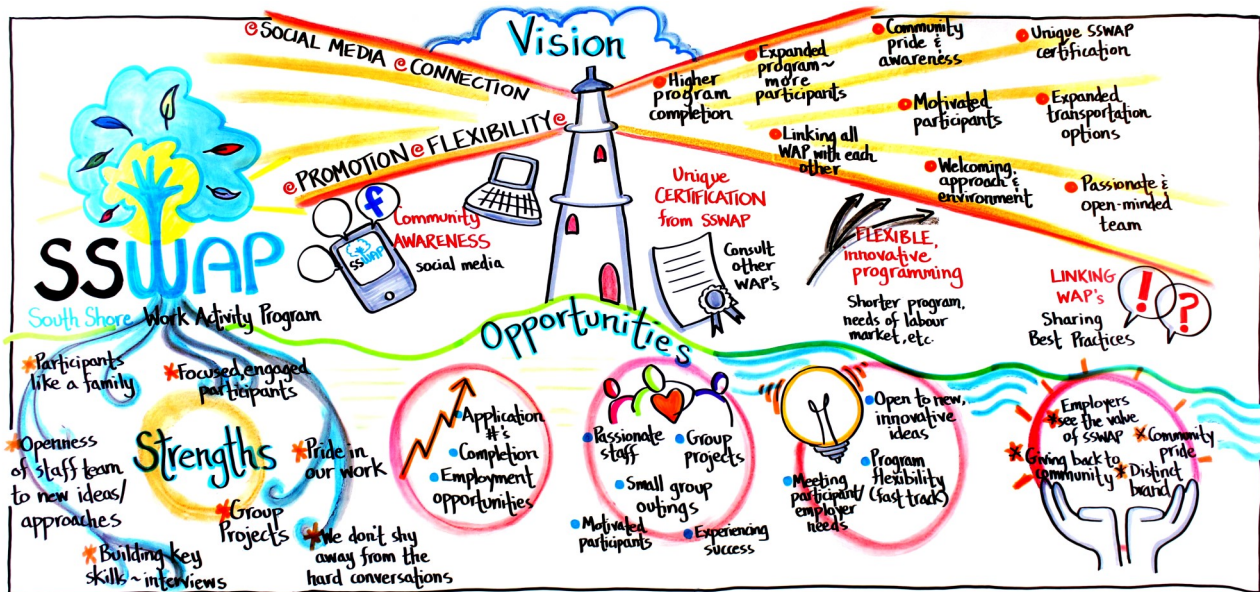
# \$4.4m

## THE PRICE OF DREAMS

& OTHER  
NECESSARY  
NITTY GRITTY

- ♦ PARTICIPANT TRAINING WAGES & STAFF SALARIES
- ♦ UTILITIES, HEAT & INSURANCE
- ♦ REPAIRS, MAINTENANCE & ACCESSIBILITY
- ♦ VEHICLES, GAS & MAINTENANCE

\*Complete 2018-2019 audited statements are available on request.



## Turning Abilities Into Opportunities

Each year brings new opportunities and new participants to the South Shore Work Activity Program, or SSWAP as it is commonly known. We work with participants in-house and through work placements to assist them in building and practicing skills so they are ready to explore work options, gain, and maintain employment. We continue to adapt our programming to best meet the needs of participants and potential employers in our community, through strategic planning (above).

This year, 50 participants from Lunenburg and Queens counties engaged in our diverse and supportive program, focusing on employability skills like teamwork, motivation, accountability, presentation, adaptability, stress management, problem solving, as well as personal success skills, computer skills and workplace essential skills.

Participants are provided with a program that exposes them to a variety of work areas in customer service, food services, woodworking, and environmental/janitorial services, followed by a work placement with one of our 25 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.



## Tammy's Dream

Tammy had tried our program before. This time she came with unwavering determination to complete it. It was her dream. She even wrote a poem about it. Throughout the program, Tammy gained more confidence in her abilities and skills. She recognized the value of applying these abilities through her work placements. With exemplary resolve she worked through the program, completing it in March 2019. To top it all off, Tammy was hired by her work placement host employer in her home community. Way to go Tammy!



## Josh's Success

When Josh started the SSWAP program he did not have any work experience and was not sure what he wanted to do for work. He had an excellent work ethic, which he demonstrated in each of the work exposure areas. He explored work possibilities that matched his interests and built confidence in his skills as an employee through work placements. Josh was pleased to be hired by one of his work placement hosts and has been working steadily since leaving the program.

“My goal when I first started was to get a job. By the end of the program, I completed that goal. Thanks to all of the staff at SSWAP for helping me.”  
- Josh

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

Ian's Automotive · Bonny Lea Farm (Maintenance and Residential Office) · Chester Home Hardware · Shopper's Drug Mart, Bridgewater · The Dawson Daisy · Foodland, Chester · Dollarama · Sweet Spot Farm · Chester Variety Store · Lunenburg Hardware · Pharmasave, Chester Basin · Bridgewater Day Care · Wendy's · Petite Riviere Winery · Chester Service Centre · Foodland, Lunenburg · Sobeys · A1 Pizza · White Point Beach Resort · Dani's Laundromat · Hillside Pines Nursing Home · Curry Express · Elaine Collicutt & Sons



# In Memoriam

During 2018-2019, we said goodbye to a number of members of our "family". Each of them helped to shape what we are today. Their contributions will be remembered.

**Kevin Healy** - Kevin touched many lives here at Bonny Lea Farm. We feel a combination of sadness for his passing and gratitude for having known him.

He was a long-serving Board Member, past president of the Board and a faithful volunteer. Many would recognize his face from our Lobster Lovers' Feast and our Annual Benefit Golf Tournament.



**Lois Stackhouse** - Lois was a part of the Bonny Lea Farm family from our very beginnings, back in 1973. She was a faithful behind the scenes advocate of our work with her husband Joe, and a dear friend of founder, Alberta Baker.



**Holly Van Barneveld** - Holly was a treasure who lived everyday to the fullest and on her terms. Nobody or anything, not even her mobility challenges were going to stop her from having a grand life.

She got along with all of us here at Bonny Lea Farm where she loved to share with whomever would listen, her love of theatre. (written by Laura Glazier)

Holly was a ray of sunshine and we are so happy that she shared her sparkle with us.

# Our Boards

We are grateful for our volunteer Boards and Committees who guide us in delivering our missions.

## South Shore Community Services Association Executive

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

## Bonny Lea Farm Board of Directors

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

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

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

## Bonny Lea Farm Quality of Life Committee

Barbara Carthew, Chair	Liam Clancey	Philippe Degraeve	Catherine Robar
Mary Ellen Clancey	Eve McDermott*	Karen Lake	
Barbie Nunn-Porter	Vanessa Pareek	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
Barbara Carthew	Norman Countway	John Tatlow, Treasurer
Judy Connolly	Michael Dockrill	David Outhouse

\* no longer serving

# “What Bonny Lea Farm means to me”

A Happy  
Place to  
Work  
every day!

Making  
good friends.

Adam G.

Spending time  
with friends  
+ many happy  
memories.

Janice

My association with  
Bonny Lea Farm  
this past forty years  
has been one of the  
greatest joys of my  
life. I am deeply  
grateful to all the  
wonderful participants, staff,  
and volunteers. Love  
- Jim

Bonny Lea  
is a place  
of possibilities  
and a welcoming  
community  
Suzanne

Thanks for giving  
me hope - Here's to  
a grand future!

- Laura



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[www.bonnyleafarm.ca](http://www.bonnyleafarm.ca)



(Facebook)



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