



IN THE NEWS

October/November 2019

Empowering people with disabilities since 1973.



Name these three!

A rarely captured image of some of Bonny Lea Farm's leadership, taken at the Grand Opening of The Shop on Central.

John Biebesheimer, Board Chair;
David Outhouse, Executive Director;
Joe Stackhouse, Life Member / Founder



The Joy of Nature

If only newsletters came with sound!

Many of the participants enjoy going to visit with the ducks at the Woodlands Garden Park duck pond in Bridgewater.

Not only is the walk on the trails enjoyable, visitors are rewarded by the warm welcome they receive by the ducks when they arrive at the large duck pond.

Recently Bonnie went to the park.

If you have Facebook, we invite you to visit our page to hear the sheer joy Bonnie felt when the ducks came to her.

In fact, Bonnie says a few of the ducks followed her to the car and tried to get in so that they could come home with her.

Just talking about it brings a huge smile to her face.

THANKFUL

Your support gives people like me the chance to achieve long term goals

yours truly,
Laura

A Letter from our Board Chair

Thankful!

That one word sums up how we feel. For more than 45 years Bonny Lea Farm has been making a difference in the lives of people with a disability. We are grateful that you, as a supporter of our work, have been a part of our journey.

This past year was one of celebration as we looked back over the last 45 years. Some of our participants have been with us the whole time, while others have come to Bonny Lea Farm more recently. They all have grown, gaining independence and building lasting friendships and employable skills.

This past year was also one of firsts. We staged our first theatre production at the Chester Playhouse. This experience was one of fulfilling the dreams of our participants. Dreams to be on stage. Dreams to be a singer, a chauffeur, a radio announcer. We saw the confidence of the participants grow as they became comfortable in their roles and heard the laughter and applause of the audience. To hear it from them, they did things they never thought were possible.

Within the last few months we opened The Shop on Central. This new gift shop and café provides a new community-based work opportunity for participants, increases our visibility in the community, and sells products from our workshops and those of other social enterprises across the province. Participants are enjoying the new challenge.

That is what Bonny Lea Farm is really about. Empowering people with disabilities to dream big and realize life changing goals. In fact, just this past week the Honourable Kelly Regan, Minister of Community Services recognized Bonny Lea Farm in the legislature for our work.

If you haven't already read DREAMS, our 2018-2019 Annual Report, take a look. It's on our website (<http://bonnyleafarm.ca/about-us/annual-reports/>) or call Liz at 902-275-5622 ext 241 and she will send you your own copy.

It is our story. But, it is also your story.

Thank you,

John Biebesheimer | Chair of the Board of Directors



What do these six people have in common?

They have all achieved goals that they set for themselves, with the support of Bonny Lea Farm.

Left to Right, top row- Laura, Bonnie, Laurie-Anne, Bottom row: Nancy, Bonnie and Lacosta.

Stepping Stones for Success

Ever set a goal that seems huge? Have you tackled a large project?

Now think of the feeling you have when that goal is reached or that project is complete.

Confidence? Elation? Satisfaction?

People with disabilities are the same. Except many of the things others may take for granted are often only achieved by people living with a disability after overcoming obstacles or barriers placed in their way. At Bonny Lea Farm, the more we can make day to day activities achievable and enjoyable the better.

Sometimes achieving that goal requires that much more work, planning, and time.

Here are a few of the goals that participants have recently achieved:

- Laura's goal was to learn reception/administration skills, and work in the front office reception area.
- Bonnie's goal was to buy and use a bath bomb.
- Laurie-Anne's goal was to learn to make smoothies in the kitchen crew.
- Nancy's goal was to go on senior community outings.
- Bonnie C.'s goal was to play basketball in the gym with our adaptive lifestyle program.
- Lacosta's goal was to continue working in small contracts doing paper prep (taking staples out of paper for shredding).

If You Like Us—Come work with us!

We are currently hiring for a number of positions. Learn more at www.bonnyleafarm.ca/careers

Good Times Gallery

October is for Thankfulness, Pumpkins and Costumes. This month we have had all three!



TOP to BOTTOM: Executive Director, David Outhouse with the Honourable Kelly Regan, as Bonny Lea Farm was recognized and thanked for 45 years empowering people with disabilities; Tom and Sonya roasting pumpkin seeds; Larry carving his pumpkin; and Brett all decked out for the Halloween Dance; Some of The Shop on Central Team—Karen, Kathy, Hannah, Adam and Carol thanked everyone for coming to the Grand Opening.

For more about what is happening at Bonny Lea Farm visit our website at www.bonnyleafarm.ca or our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/bonnyleafarm