



IN THE NEWS

January 2022

Empowering people with disabilities since 1973.

A Message of Hope and Optimism

We almost can't believe we are entering another year where pandemic restrictions are a central part of our lives; yet, here we are!

While we've all experienced or witnessed challenges and struggles over the last year, we are determined to send a positive note because there truly is so much to be grateful for and so many reasons for hope and optimism. Here at Bonny Lea Farm, we had some extraordinary successes this past year. Here is just a glimpse:

- ◆ Staff who continue to show up for participants in so many beautiful and meaningful ways - emotionally, physically and mentally.
- ◆ Participant outings (when they could) including enjoying music and community at Picnic in the Park, ice cream cones at The Deck, picnic lunches in various communities and parks along the South Shore, spending time with horses at a few special staff members' homes, walks at Graves Island, and Special Olympic Swimming.
- ◆ Participants reaching goals - ranging from baking muffins and trying a new work crew to going for walks and singing karaoke.
- ◆ In-house activities resuming and day program re-opening. Participants were happy to get back to work and share our products with our customers. Some of our local contracts include being back at Gow's Home Hardware with our kindling and preparing cutlery packages for a number of restaurants.*
- ◆ Participants achieving 100% vaccination and hosting a vaccine clinic for participants at other disability support organizations.
- ◆ Community providing record attendance and funds raised by our Annual Benefit Golf Tournament and Drive-Thru Lobster Fundraiser! Thank you to all of the staff, volunteers and participants who help to organize and run this event.
- ◆ Experiencing our first ever Smile Cookie week hosted by the team at the Mahone Bay Tim Hortons. The participants loved the opportunity to serve customers and thank them for buying smile cookies!
- ◆ Installing our new automatic generator for 7 of our residences, as well as some new appliances and furniture, funded through donations.
- ◆ Welcoming our new Executive Director, one new participant, two new Board members and several new staff. All of whom seem to be settling in quite well!

We look forward to more to come in 2022. We are grateful that you are on this journey with us.

* WE CAN HELP!

If you have or know of a business that could use a little extra help in getting some of their day to day tasks done, reach out to us. We have expertise in packaging products, mailings and more. We may be able to help fill your gaps either on a temporary or longer term basis.



Using Zoom for his IPP meeting was a new experience for John. He was all smiles as his friends showed him their new puppy and cheered on his new goals.

This year, John is looking forward to growing tall sunflowers in the Greenhouse crew, celebrating his 50th birthday, and emailing friends/family using his iPad.



During his recent IPP, with his mom and care coordinator on Zoom, Bryan proudly discussed his successes of the last year, which included moving to a new house. Bryan happily told everyone he was back in the Barn full-time, and was working with a new partner to split slabs into kindling. He also shared his goals for this year: walking on the treadmill, visiting his cousin in New Brunswick, and participating in Special Olympic swimming & bowling.

PERSONAL DIGNITY & WORTH THROUGH PRODUCTIVE LIVING

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COMMUNITY CHAMPIONS



The team at Full Circle Realty

L-R: Chris Walker, Carlisle Norwood, Anika Rowland, James Boudreau and Brady Crewe.

Before Christmas we were thrilled to have three businesses approach us with ideas to build awareness and support for Bonny Lea Farm. We are inspired by their generosity and would like to thank them! We also thought that we would share a little bit about them:

CIBC Private Wealth Wood Gundy - Bryden Robertson, Investment Advisor

"When I was younger I spent 2 ½ years in a wheelchair. I experienced what it feels like to be marginalized, left out and made fun of. I know how frustrating and isolating it can feel if you are not asked or not able to do things. I know how important it is to feel included, involved and experience the satisfaction of doing something productive. It makes me happy to know that the participants at Bonny Lea Farm have the opportunity to have purpose, to be a part of something, to have meaningful work and be recognized for the contributions they can make."

What he did: Bryden hosted a wine & cheese social for clients and friends. He decided to suggest guests make a donation to Bonny Lea Farm. Many did!

Full Circle Realty - Carlisle Norwood, Owner

"My family has a long history with Bonny Lea Farm. I have always known about it and the great work it does. I want others to know about it too. I look forward to the next opportunity to support such a great charity."

What he did: Carlisle and his team at Full Circle Realty reached out to Bonny Lea Farm and created a Bonny Lea Farm Community Champion fundraising page. Carlisle spoke about Bonny Lea Farm at their Christmas Party and invited their 100 guests to consider making donations. Some of them did! Then they followed up with a piece in the Full Circle Realty January e-newsletter.

Black Harbour Distillers Inc. - Jaime Landry, Owner

"I knew when I started Black Harbour Distillers that I wanted to get to a position where I can give back to our community, even just a little. After speaking with the wonderful people at Bonny Lea Farm I became inspired by their mission & values and excited to do what I can to support this great organization."

What she did: Jamie hosted Friday night live music at Black Harbour Distillers with cover charge proceeds directed to Bonny Lea Farm. Due to Covid restrictions the series got cut short, but we look forward to a great year in 2022!

Photo Gallery



Jillian & Sonya preparing cards; Dan receives the Susie McClung award; Jillian receives the Powers award from Stacey; Amanda & Floyd; Bonnie with our Christmas tree donated by the Chester Basin, Chester New Ross Lions.

Together we make a difference.