



IN THE NEWS

Spring 2024

Empowering people with disabilities since 1973

We hope that this message finds you well. It has been quite a while since we sent our newsletter. We hope that you find it enjoyable to read. Your ongoing interest and engagement with Bonny Lea Farm is important to us and your feedback is welcome.

We want to thank you for your support for Bonny Lea Farm. Every small action makes a significant difference in the lives of those who live and work at Bonny Lea Farm. By joining forces with us as part of the Bonny Lea Farm family, you contribute to creating positive change in your community and beyond.

Through our various initiatives, we strive to empower people living with a disability to have dignity, choice and the tools they need to build a better future.

With your help, we have an even greater impact. Your generous donations enable us to implement new projects such as our Home to Stay, create new opportunities such as our Community Crew and The Shop on Central, and continue to offer our residential program, social enterprises and daily activities.

We believe that people with disabilities should have equal opportunities to learn, grow and succeed. And, we all need to work together to make our communities more inclusive to ensure their voices are heard and their contributions celebrated. Everyone has the power to make a difference, regardless of their background or circumstances.

That is why we appreciate your assistance in spreading the word about our work. By sharing our message with your friends, family, and colleagues, you can help us raise awareness and grow our community. Together, we can inspire others to take action and become catalysts for social change.

Sincerely,

Your Friends at Bonny Lea Farm



This week is National Volunteer Week. We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their time. Every moment matters. Together, we are creating a better future for those with disabilities and building a more compassionate society. Thank you for joining us to be part of the change. Together we make a difference.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

April 29—May 6—SMILE COOKE WEEK

Bonny Lea Farm will receive proceeds of all cookies sold at the Chester Tim Hortons during Smile Cookie Week.

Tuesday, July 23 - Picnic in the Park - 6:00-8:00pm

Bonny Lea Farm Community Celebration & BBQ
With live music by the Parsons Brothers
Lordly Park, Chester

Sunday, August 4 - Annual Lobster Fundraiser

Featuring 1 cooked lobster, roll, herb butter & sweet treat
Drive-thru at Bonny Lea Farm.

Sunday, September 8 - Annual Benefit Golf Tournament

Chester Golf Club

A Voice and A Purpose - Participant Profile

On any given day there are 37 participants ranging in age from 21 to 74, waking up in one of our 9 homes and getting ready for their day.

They may be going to work in one of our social enterprises or participating in an activity at day program, getting picked up for their shift with the Community Crew or The Shop on Central, heading out for a medical appointment or a day full of activities of their choosing.

Imagine the excitement and trepidation of moving to a new home. Now, consider arriving as the newest housemate in a home with five other people, coupled with starting a new job.

All of this is what Angela did just over two years ago. We recently checked in with her and her Mom, Alicia, to see how they feel things are going.

"I am settled and happy. I am glad I came to live at Bonny Lea Farm."

- Angela

If you drop by the Shop on Central in Chester on Tuesdays, you will meet Angela working behind the counter and serving customers. She is always ready on time and is very



capable of running the shop. On Wednesdays, she works in the laundry at Sensea Spa where she folds towels and robes for their clients. She has also been a part of the team who cleaned the washrooms at the Chester Curling Club three times a week throughout the winter. As a part of giving back in the community, she volunteers at SHAID and the VON.

After Angela's recent annual meeting, her mother Alicia shared the following with us, her friends and her family:

"We are almost at the two and a half year mark for my daughter Angela, since moving to Bonny Lea Farm. It is an amazing experience to watch her blossom, accept, grow, lead, develop, meet, travel, laugh, share, learn, help others, and use her own voice."

Every accomplishment has WOWED me and all of the people who love her and support her. She is exceptional and beyond amazing, proving to us and herself everyday that her future is bright.

To see so many Bonny Lea Farm peers at her yearly meeting. Listening to all of their positive comments and seeing their pride for her, filled my heart beyond! She has great purpose and greater things coming. Wow!

Being accepted in the Bonny Lea Farm community is the best thing that happened in our lives. I'm so grateful for you all."

- Alicia, Angela's Mom

Out & About



The Community Crew and Seniors' Group have been busy. From the top: Angela, Kathy, DJ and Anton walk the Mahone Bay waterfront; Kathy, Joanne and Sue visit Peggy's Cove (we love the new accessible area!); and DJ and Adam ham it up at Saltscapes.

Together we make a difference 

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Here We Grow!

Update on our new homes

Our dream Home to Stay is taking shape!

The exterior walls and roof are up. The roof is shingled. The windows are in. The siding is going on. Seeing the progress is very exciting for all of us!

If you would like to stay up to date on the project just visit: www.bonnyleafarm.ca/hometostay to view our photo gallery of the project from groundbreaking through to the most recent photos. Or give Liz a call at 902-277-0986. She'll be happy to answer any questions you may have.

So far you have helped us raise just over \$4.1 million towards our capital campaign goal of \$4.5 million.

The photo top right, shows Board Members Colleen Fitzgerald, Bruce Flinn and Jane Rafuse touring the new home and construction site.

Within the last couple of weeks work has also begun on our new home in the village of Chester!! Site prep has started and we expect the foundation slab to be poured in May.

In the photo bottom right, are Anton Voegele, Adam Gummesson and DJ Vincent stopping by the site of our new construction on Peterson Lane in Chester, on their way home from work in the Community Crew.



We All Belong Here

Long-time staff member Bonita Church holds a copy of *We All Belong Here*, Bonny Lea Farm's new book, which features the story of her involvement with Bonny Lea Farm over the last 50 years.

Every good story begins with "once upon a time," and so does this one. Once upon a time, a group of people imagined a place where children with differing abilities could thrive-where they could live productive, dignified lives.
- excerpt from *We All Belong Here*

So begins *We All Belong Here*, our book launched in celebration of our 50th Anniversary. The book written by author and Bonny Lea Farm Board Member, Catherine Collins, shares stories, photos and more to tell the story of not just Bonny Lea Farm, but the history of people with disabilities in Nova Scotia. Available for purchase at The Shop on Central and our front office at Bonny Lea Farm.

Photo credit: Keith Corcoran, LighthouseNow

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It Takes a Village - Sponsorship Spotlight

PHARMASAVE®

Chester Pharmasave has been a supporter of Bonny Lea Farm for over 30 years and a sponsor of our popular Lobster Fundraiser for ten years.

Most recently, they have also stepped forward to support our dream Home to Stay Capital Campaign.

We are grateful to have such an amazing business community here in Chester. #supportlocal

Are you or someone you know looking for Meaningful Work? We are Hiring!

We have a range of opportunities available.

Contact us at 902-275-5622 or check [Indeed.com](https://www.indeed.com) to learn more.

Remember to search for:

“South Shore Community Service Association (Bonny Lea Farm)”

Imagine knowing without a doubt that you have made a difference in the lives of other people?

You have more power to make a difference than you realize.

By giving even a small portion of your estate to charity in your will, you can make a significant impact on the causes you care about, and still support those you love. In short, you can do both.

To learn more about how a donation in your will can benefit you and your family, as well as your favourite causes visit [willpower.ca](https://www.willpower.ca) and click on *Learn & Plan* or call Liz at 902-275-5622 ext 241.



Coming soon!

SMILE COOKIE WEEK

APRIL 29-MAY 6 @
CHESTER TIM HORTONS



Empowering people with disabilities since 1973
Learn. Grow. Succeed.
[bonnyleafarm.ca](https://www.bonnyleafarm.ca)

At Work & At Play



On right from the top: A number of participants have started playing pickleball in the community and here at Bonny Lea Farm. Douglas really enjoys it. Ronnie and the team at The Shop on Central serve up great coffee and fresh baked treats from our kitchen; Joanne often bakes at home; Hansi has been working with our Maintenance Team cleaning at Day Program; Laurie-Anne and Sonya bake up delicious treats in the kitchen; Debbie regularly goes horse-back riding at a local barn.

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