



More than Able

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Easter Seals' President & CEO Joanne Bernard is shown with New Leaf Enterprises' trainee Jenna Bower working on one of the many products made by our Social Enterprise.



FALL 2018

BUILDING ON OUR ABILITIES

The Fall of 2018 represents a new beginning for Easter Seals Nova Scotia as we are now settled into our new and expanded facility with all programs in full production. This game changing move for us has opened up new opportunities for business contracts and paid employment in the community; increased social enterprise offerings through our commercial kitchen catering and baking program; plus the addition of our new woodworking production area.

We are all eagerly awaiting the opening of our on-site New Leaf Café where we will showcase our fresh homemade menu to our community. Our Take PART Program continues to grow as does our Assistive Devices and Wheelchair Recycling Program. It truly is an exciting time for all of us here at Easter Seals Nova Scotia as we serve persons with differing abilities in communities throughout the province. We believe that everyone is More than Able.

Joanne Bernard
President and CEO

An Update from Our Ambassadors



Kiera Sparks Lucas has been busy as our returning Youth Ambassador. She has just entered her first year at NSCC Akerley in the Achieve Program. This past year she has assisted at Bunnyland as well as representing Easter Seals Nova Scotia at events like the Century 21 Golf Tournament and Drop Zone.

We would also like to welcome two new Ambassadors, Youth Ambassador Gaby McNeil and Ambassador Derryck Bridgemohan. Gaby is 14 years old and a grade 9 student at Ecole du Carrefour in Dartmouth. Gaby has cerebral palsy and uses a wheelchair to get around. She enjoys music, movies and watching the Blue Jays, as well as spending time at Camp Tidnish. Derryck has been a client of New Leaf Enterprises for 21 years and is visually impaired. In his free time, he enjoys listening to audio books and relaxing at home. Derryck has already been busy as Ambassador; attending several cheque presentations in the HRM. We'll be keeping all three of our Ambassadors busy over the next year as they represent Easter Seals Nova Scotia and Camp Tidnish at various community events.



An Update From



Nova Scotia's only barrier free and fully accessible summer camp for children, youth and adults with physical and/or intellectual disabilities.

Camp Tidnish welcomed 269 campers this summer from all corners of Nova Scotia for a week long camp experience. Thirty-five of these campers were new to our camp. One first time family described camp as a life changing experience for their son who had never slept away from home before. Camp Tidnish provides campers and staff the chance to build confidence and create lasting memories all while having fun! Former Assistant Camp Director, Donna MacPherson, stepped into the role of Camp Director in August and preparations are already underway for 2019!



L/R: Counsellor Lauren Letcher & camper Cohen James make use of the accessible sandbox, counsellor Christina Burbine and camper Zachery McIlveen learn how to make food prep fun, counsellor Emma Jacobson gives camper Braden Creame a push on the accessible swing and Navigators Jacob Cherry, Rebecca Delaney, Morgan Chaisson and Jacob Thibault hang out at the accessible playspace at Camp Tidnish.

Scotiabank Supports Camp Tidnish



The Scotiabank Charitable Foundation presented Camp Tidnish with a cheque for \$50,000 as a part of their two year commitment.

“Scotiabank is committed to improving the lives of children in the communities we serve,” says Craig Thompson, Vice President Retail Banking, Atlantic Canada.

This gift will be used to support Camp Tidnish with the enhancement of existing programming as well as enabling the introduction of additional innovative programs.

Shown are Kiera Sparks Lucas, Easter Seals Nova Scotia Youth Ambassador; Joanne Bernard, President & CEO of Easter Seals Nova Scotia, Stacy O’Neill and Joanne Gibson from Amherst Scotiabank and Gaby McNeil, Easter Seals Nova Scotia Youth Ambassador.

Rotary Club of Amherst Always There

Since its opening in 1937, Camp Tidnish has been fully supported by members of the Rotary Club of Amherst.



Although Easter Seals Nova Scotia took over the operations of Camp Tidnish in 1987, the Rotary Club of Amherst has continued to help with maintenance and fundraising efforts.

Bob Janes, a long-time member of the Rotary group regularly stops by the camp and offers campers the chance to go on wagon rides or explore the Tidnish River on the pontoon boat.

For many campers, these excursions are the highlight of their week at Camp Tidnish.

Easter Seals Nova Scotia: Building on our Abilities

A year ago, CEO Joanne Bernard was tasked with the job of finding a new home for Easter Seals Nova Scotia. Extensive searching led us to 22 Fielding Avenue in Burnside. After months of renovations, we are now home. Our new space has increased our overall footprint from 8,000 to 12,000 sq ft and almost doubled the size of our catering kitchen and programming areas.



Easter Seals Nova Scotia Ambassador, Derryk Bridgemohan checks in with Kevin Wentzell of Lindsay Construction prior to move in day.



Dartmouth-Cole Harbour MP, Darren Fisher stopped by the New Leaf Café to help promote our delicious soups and sandwiches.



Lots of happy faces as we welcomed our trainees to their new home. Top: Tiffany Bonin, Coley Arnold, Joanne Bernard, Matthew Maxwell and Veronica Dale gather for a group hug. Bottom: Chermaine Clarke and Jennifer Davis check out the new space.



New Leaf trainee, Suzanne Hire stocks the shelves in our soon to be opened New Leaf Café



Representatives from all three levels of government were on hand to celebrate the announcement of our new building at 22 Fielding Avenue.

New Leaf Enterprises Update

New Leaf Enterprises, our Supported Employment and Skills Training Program, provides an opportunity for Nova Scotians with disabilities to participate in skills training in a social enterprise and work environment.

Our new Youth Employment Program; The Next Step, aims to help young Nova Scotians between the ages of 18-30 with disabilities find meaningful employment in the community.



Joe Hickling is shown with Premier Stephen McNeil at the Executive Council Office.

Joe Hickling has been with Easter Seals Nova Scotia since 2000, and currently holds two jobs in the community. Two mornings a week he can be found in the Executive Council Office of the Premier of Nova Scotia. He performs office related duties from preparing the ministerial meeting room, mail delivery and document shredding and recycling. He also works for Advanced Screen Printing, a local manufacturer of promotional apparel, two afternoons a week. The balance of Joe's week includes working at New Leaf's Cafe location at the NS Rehabilitation Centre or preparing direct mail contracts or products in the training centre wood shop.



The Next Step Participant; Alex Burke is shown at his first day of work as part of the janitorial team at Palooka's Gym.

Drop Zone 2018 raised over \$70,000

Drop Zone 2018 celebrated our 15th year hosting this incredible fundraiser. This year we had 36 rappellers, 11 teams, and over \$70,000 raised! Century 21 Trident Realty 'Mind Over Wall' Team once again won the honour of Top Fundraising team, as they raised over \$12,000. The Top Individual Fundraiser award went to seven time rappeller, Debby Chipman who raised over \$5,500, bringing her cumulative total fundraising to over \$30,000. A huge thank you to our National Sponsors - CREIT, Breakaway Experiences, Amway, Hello Fresh and Tacten. Another huge thank you to our rappellers for their hard work and courage and to all of our volunteers for spending the day with us!



Century 21 Trident Realty 'Mind over Wall' Team

Debby Chipman



Mary Burt and her daughter, Laura Osborne

Mary Burt rappelled for the first time this year after deciding to “do something big” for her 60th birthday. Together with her team, Team Unstoppable, she raised close to \$9,000! “Can you imagine someone who is afraid of heights willingly signing up to rappel off the tallest office building in Halifax?” Why? You ask. For her daughter, Laura. Laura has attended Camp Tidnish for five summers. “Laura has been blessed for so many years to attend Camp Tidnish, where, for once a year, she fits in and gets to be with others like her.”

Take PART



Take PART (Physically Accessible Recreation Today) provides Nova Scotians with disabilities an opportunity to participate in recreation and sport programs. Easter Seals Nova Scotia offers Learn to Sledge Hockey weekly at the BMO Centre in Bedford and Learn to Bocca in partnership with Northwood Halifax.



Driven to Give



Thank you to Steele Ford Lincoln for once again holding the Driven to Give fundraiser for us at Archway Insurance in Halifax in August! The event raised \$7,000 for our programs by having friends, family and supporters test drive the fleet of Lincoln luxury cars. Thank you to everyone who came out to support this great event.

Planned Giving

A planned or legacy gift can assist our programs for Nova Scotian children, youth and adults with disabilities now and in the future. These gifts can help fund important programs designed to break down barriers and make a difference for those living with a disability. A planned gift is made after deliberate consideration through a financial or estate plan and requires a legal document. Please consider making a lasting legacy by helping to ensure an accessible future for Nova Scotians with disabilities.

Contact John MacDonald at 902-453-6000 x 224 or john.macdonald@easterseals.ns.ca with inquiries.

Volunteers Needed!

We are always looking for volunteers for our fundraising events, inclusive sports and social enterprise programs, including our upcoming Christmas Baking Program.

Contact Tom O’Handley at 902-453-6000 x 220 or tom.ohandley@easterseals.ns.ca for more information.

Volunteers from the Sackville Photography Club take a break during this year’s Drop Zone event.



Donate