



More
than Able

Easter Seals Nova Scotia Spring Newsletter

Did you know that March is Easter Seals' Month? Each year, we dedicate the month of March to increasing awareness of the experiences, challenges, and contributions of children, youth, adults, and seniors with disabilities.

At Easter Seals Nova Scotia, we are proud of the impact we make in the lives of these inspirational people. For over 90 years we have provided programs and services that help our clients develop greater independence and confidence so they can take on the world in their own unique way.



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Nova Scotia

takePART

Take PART (Physically Accessible Recreation Today)

In January of this year, our Take PART program expanded to Yarmouth running the Learn to Sledge and Learn to Wheel programs for children and youth with disabilities as well as Learn to Bocchia for adults and seniors. We are excited to bring more accessible programming to Nova Scotians across the province with this expansion.

"The programs offered through Easter Seals are truly inclusive and without them Cooper's development would not be as bright and shiny as it is today. For us as a family, inclusive means Cooper can participate in an activity that defines participation as being able to be involved as who he is."

Bernie Van Doninck, Cooper's Dad





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campTIDNISH

Camp Tidnish

86 years of Camp Tidnish magic! As we head into our 86th year, our Camp Director is busy planning for another fun filled summer. Staff recruitment began in the fall of 2022, and we're delighted to have a record number of Camp Tidnish staff returning for the 2023 season. Our camper registration began to open in January and our Camp Tidnish Scholarships are now accepting applications. If you are looking for more information on camp, either to register or join our summer staff team, please visit our website for more information at www.camptidnish.org.

Current Camp Tidnish Scholarship Opportunities:

- **The Durham Laporte Memorial Scholarship** is established in memory of Durham Laporte, who was a Camp Tidnish Counsellor that suddenly passed away at the young age of 25.

To honour Durham and his love of Camp Tidnish, his family has created this scholarship, which will be awarded to one camper per year and will cover the enrollment fee for a one-week session at Camp Tidnish for an adult over the age of 19 with a disability who is living in a Residential Care Facility. Applications for the Durham Laporte Memorial Scholarship are open until March 30th each year, and the recipient will be announced mid April.

- **The Finley Mills Memorial Scholarship** is established in memory of Finley Mills, who was born with Down Syndrome and passed away at the tender age of 3.5 months old. To honour Finley, his family created this scholarship which will be awarded to one camper per year and will cover the enrollment fee for a one-week session at Camp Tidnish.

Terms of Reference for the Finley Mills Memorial Scholarship: Awarded to an individual of any age with Down Syndrome, preference will be given to those applicants who demonstrate financial hardship, applicants must be residents of Nova Scotia.

Applications for the Finley Mills Memorial Scholarship are open until March 31st each year, and the recipient will be announced mid April. The Scholarship winner will be selected by a committee comprised of Easter Seals Nova Scotia representatives in conjunction with Finley's family.

- **Kim Wry Bursary for Camp Tidnish** is provided by The Zonta Club of Amherst Area and is established in memory of Kim Wry. Members of the Zonta Club of Amherst Area look forward to joining Easter Seals Nova Scotia and the Rotary Club of Amherst in supporting a woman (19 years +) from Cumberland County to attend Camp Tidnish with its wonderful programs for individuals with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Applications for the Kim Wry Bursary must be submitted by April 15th.

**For more information on how to apply visit
www.camptidnish.org/scholarships**



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new LEAF



New Leaf Enterprises

New Leaf has had a busy start to 2023! Clients participated in a Transit Training program offered by Halifax Transit which teaches individuals how to navigate bus routes, terminals and plan trips using public transportation. After a few workshops based in our center, clients had the opportunity to plan a trip and put what they learned into practice. A small group of our clients decided they would take the ferry over to Halifax and bus back to Dartmouth, stopping along the way to tour the bridge terminal and practice calling 311 to ask for bus times. When they arrived back to Dartmouth, they celebrated with hot chocolate! We're looking forward to planning more outings and community experiences as we get into the warmer months.

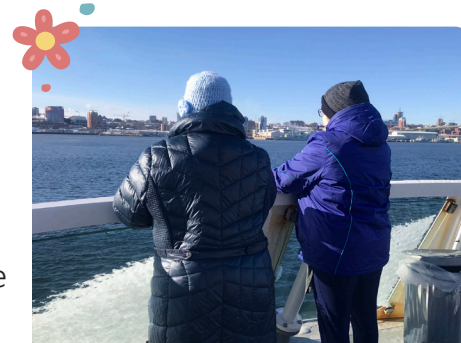
In addition to going out into the community we've also had an in house presentation from DivertNS and have been working on our reoccurring contracts with local businesses.

The Next Step

The Next Step Employment program has continued to help our clients ages 17 to 30 reach their employment goals. We have been facilitating workshops to help strengthen employability skills. Most recently, we have been sharing information with schools in the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) and hosting Reverse Job Fairs, which have proven to be successful as several clients have obtained employment. When employment has been secured by the client, they receive a period of on-site job coach support. The goal of the program is to promote independence so the job coach will gradually phase out. To date, we have secured 25 employment opportunities for our clients.

New Leaf Cafe & Catering

The clients and staff who work in our industrial kitchen as part of New Leaf Enterprises continue to produce wonderful products. Whether it be putting good knife skills to use, or using the scale to weigh dry ingredients, our clients use their acquired skills daily and are key contributors to all aspects of kitchen life! Together, with staff we produce a diverse list of items for breakfast, breaks, lunches, hot and cold items as well as a wide variety of items for our catering customers!



Tiffany and Coley taking the Ferry across to Halifax.



Mikhail working at the Department of Communities, Culture, Heritage and Tourism.



Coley and Ian making Mac & Cheese Bites in the New Leaf Kitchen for one of our Weekly Specials.



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assisted
MOBILITY



Assisted Mobility

The Assisted Mobility Program is undergoing some exciting changes this year. We started the year off by opening a satellite office, the first one for Easter Seals Nova Scotia, in Yarmouth. This expansion will allow a greater reach and increase response times for our clients in the Western region of the province who use our programs and services. It will also increase our inventory capability, which in conjunction with our new streamlined equipment offerings will provide a quicker application and delivery of equipment process.

Our Assistive Devices program will be starting a new grant program on **April 1, 2023**, allowing clients to apply for funding of custom assistive devices that are typically not covered under any programs in Nova Scotia. The ability to fund these devices, which range from communication devices to custom orthotics will allow clients to improve their independence, and reach their goals, as access to appropriate equipment must be the first step in an inclusive community.



March Monthly Giving Opportunity

The benefits of monthly donations to Easter Seals Nova Scotia are immeasurable. Monthly donations allow us to remain focused on our mission by having the ability to plan future projects and initiatives, knowing that dedicated funding is available.

As a donor, a monthly recurring donation allows you to spread the financial impact of your donation across the entire year in small increments, making a big difference. During the month of March, CanadaHelps is offering a one-time \$20 donation to Easter Seals Nova Scotia for every new monthly donor of \$20 or more, that signs up through our website*.

www.easterseals.ns.ca/donate-online.

Please consider becoming a monthly donor to increase the impact of your gift.

*Your monthly donation must be made online through our website to qualify for the \$20 donation from CanadaHelps.

Upcoming Events

Shoot for Inclusion

Shoot for Inclusion is Easter Seals Nova Scotia's first fun-filled corporate pool tournament in support of Nova Scotians living with disabilities. Players get to challenge their colleagues and other teams in this friendly competition!

WHEN: Saturday, March 18th from 10:30 am – 7:00 pm

WHERE: Dooly's Burnside – 121 Ilsley Avenue, Dartmouth, NS

To register your team today contact our Special Events Coordinator, Shauna at events@easterseals.ns.ca or 902-453-6000 ext.228.

#Unstoppable Paper Egg Campaign

From March 13th to April 9th, retail locations across Nova Scotia encourage customers to purchase and write their names on a Paper Egg for a donation of \$2. Funds raised through this campaign directly benefit Nova Scotians living with disabilities.

Find Paper Eggs in stores at: Booster Juice, Smitty's, Lawtons Drugs, Payzant Home Hardware, Giant Tiger, Home Hardware Building Centre, Nine Locks Brewing Company and Mastermind Toys.

Bunnyland

Bunnyland is a fun annual fundraising event where you can bring your family, friends and neighbours to take a photo with the Easter Bunny at Mic Mac Mall!

WHEN: March 24th – 26th, and March 31st – April 8th, 2023 (Closed Friday, April 7th for Good Friday)

TIME: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm, Monday to Saturday, 12:00 pm – 5:00 pm on Sundays

WHERE: Mic Mac Mall, Level 1, next to the Winners entrance.

Drop Zone Halifax Registration is Now Open!

Save the date, Drop Zone Halifax is Friday, September 15 this year! Challenge yourself and change lives this September by rappelling from the top of Halifax's tallest office tower 1801 Hollis Street in support of Nova Scotians living with disabilities!

Register online today at easterseals.akaraisin.com/ui/dropzonehalifax2023

Easter Seals Nova Scotia **Shoot for INCLUSION**



Join us for Easter Seals Nova Scotia's first Corporate Pool Challenge "Shoot for Inclusion!"

SATURDAY, MARCH 18TH, 2023
10:30 A.M. - 7:00 P.M.

DOOLY'S BURNSIDE - 121 ILSLEY AVENUE, DARTMOUTH, NS



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To register contact our Special Events Coordinator, Shauna at events@easterseals.ns.ca or 902-453-6000 ext. 228



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The #Unstoppable Paper Egg Campaign is March 13 - April 9

Your support funds life-changing programs and services for Nova Scotians living with disabilities.



For more information visit www.easterseals.ns.ca/paper-egg

