

Easter Seals Nova Scotia Summer 2023 Newsletter



Welcome Back Camp Tidnish!

Everyone here at Easter Seals Nova Scotia, are over the moon excited to be re-opening Camp Tidnish this summer and welcoming campers back starting in June!

For more than 85 years, Camp Tidnish has provided a fully accessible and barrier-free residential summer camp experience for children, youth and adults ages eight to 65 living with physical and/or intellectual disabilities. Each summer up to 270 campers stay at the fully accessible, barrier-free camp to enjoy a safe summer vacation filled with fun, games, laughter, renewed and new friendships.

The goals of Easter Seals Nova Scotia's Camp Tidnish are:

- To provide an opportunity for children, youth, and adults with disabilities to participate in a residential camping experience.
- To encourage emotional and physical independence among campers.
- To accentuate a sense of responsibility, self-esteem and acceptance for the campers by encouraging active involvement in all daily activities.
- To provide an opportunity for respite to the parents and caregivers of the campers.
- To lessen social isolation for individuals living with disabilities through their involvement with Camp Tidnish.

Those who have spent time at Camp Tidnish know that it can be a time of incredible physical, emotional, intellectual and social development. For those with disabilities who may have never enjoyed swimming in a pool or sitting around a campfire before - these experiences have the potential for an even greater impact.



Camp Clean Up Day!



The first session of Camp Tidnish is on June 4th, 2023. In order to get ready for the rapidly approaching camp season, staff from all of Easter Seals Nova Scotia's programs traveled to Camp Tidnish to help Roxy, our Camp Director, clean and prep the camp before it opens for the summer!



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assisted
MOBILITY



Assisted Mobility

The Assisted Mobility program's new **Adaptive Support Fund** has approved nine applications in its first month! We have been able to provide equipment that will help members of our community interact and participate in their daily activities more easily. **One of our applicants, Holly, a non-verbal three-year-old with Autism is receiving a communication device which will help her learn how to communicate with her family.**

We have had significant changes occur in our **Nova Scotia Wheelchair Recycling Program** and are very excited. With hard work and great support from the Department of Community Services we have reduced wait times from last year's nine to 12-month waiting period to a wait time of only two weeks for Nova Scotian clients of the department to receive funding of their new or refurbished wheelchair.



Holly, one of our recipients of the Adaptive Support Fund



Take PART

Take PART is currently getting ready for our week-long Learn to Ride program in July and for the fall sessions of Learn to Wheel & Learn to Sledge. At this time we are excited to share that we were able to purchase 26 new sledges and sticks to support the Learn to Sledge program in the Halifax Regional Municipality, Yarmouth, and Cape Breton areas!

At the start of May, Mabel, our Learn to Dance instructor from the Maritime Conservatory – School for Dance brought the first of eight dance lessons to the clients of New Leaf Enterprises. These lessons were adapted to be accessible to those using mobility devices and is a fun way to incorporate movement and exercise, which is important for everyone, but especially for those with limited mobility.

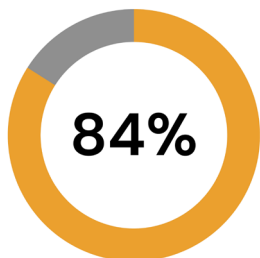
We would like to thank our wonderful volunteers from the School of Health and Human Performance at Dalhousie University! Throughout the Fall and Winter sessions of our Take PART programs Dal students from the program have joined their professor and Easter Seals Nova Scotia Board Member, Dr. Sarah Moore to volunteer their time.

The students also provided us with the results of a participant survey they created and analyzed. This data will help us move forward and improve on our Take PART program!

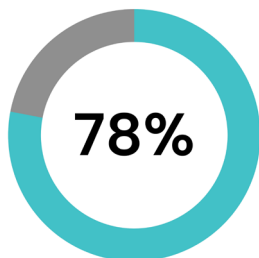


Mabel teaching a Learn to Dance class to the clients of New Leaf Enterprises

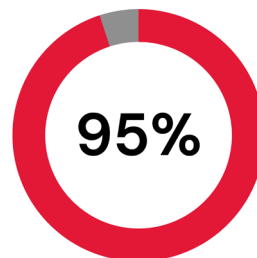
Did You Know?



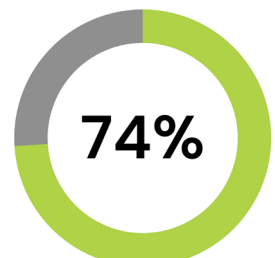
Participants reported enjoyment and happiness while participating in their program.



Participants reported experiencing feelings of belonging and engagement in the physical activity.



Participants reported excitement, before, during, and/or after the program.



Participants reported development of social skills among peers as well, as an opportunity to learn new skills.



Easter Seals

Nova Scotia

new LEAF

New Leaf Enterprises



With the onset of Spring weather our New Leaf Clients have been busy starting seeds and watching them grow! In addition to the usual peas, peppers, carrots, and tomatoes that we plant each year, we've also planted watermelon and eggplant, and hope to have a successful harvest come fall. Several clients and staff have also spent time cleaning up the garden beds at the front of our building and are looking forward to planting more flowers as the weather warms up.

We held a spring coffee house, and everyone enjoyed an afternoon of music hosted by Carlton, our Supportive Employment Manager and accompanied by two of our clients, Bradley and Suzanne.

The Next Step

The Next Step Employment Program continues to facilitate workshops to strengthen employability skills and job retention, and complete intake assessments with new clients. We have been working hard with students to assist in the transition from high school to the work force. **We have plans to host our fourth Reverse Job Fair in October 2023.** This event has proven to be successful and hopefully will continue in that direction. We have had clients hired at Events East, Atlantic Superstore and Aramark Food Services through the Reverse Job Fair.

The Next Step is also participating in networking events with the goal of securing more inclusive employers. **If you are interested in becoming an inclusive employer, please reach out to Carlton at c.mcdonald@easterseals.ns.ca.**

New Leaf Cafe & Catering

Our New Leaf Kitchen continues to be a busy place and we have welcomed many new customers in both our Café and Catering business over the last few months! Word of mouth, referrals, and genuine enjoyment of the delicious food we create and who we are has helped expand our business and we are very grateful to all our customers!

Summer will bring with it lots of tasty sweets, treats, and lunch options! Make sure to follow New Leaf Enterprises on social media to stay up-to-date on all our selections!

If you're looking for catering information, please email Gretchen Snow at catering@easterseals.ns.ca.



David working as a House of Assembly Page



Michael and Ashley making pizzas for the clients at New Leaf



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