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New Leaf Enterprises' trainee Bruce is shown working in the mailroom at the Nova Scotia Department of Community Services.



SPRING 2018

It has been six months since stepping into my role as CEO of Easter Seals Nova Scotia and there has not been a day where I have not been inspired and grateful for the opportunity to watch and listen to our trainees and program participants reach for their dreams with determination. Whether it be a conversation with a hockey dad after a Learn to Sledge game, who is thankful to watch his son play with such passion, or with a mom of a Camp Tidnish camper whose child came home exhausted after a week of camping fun; this organization is the holder of such wonderful memories for the folks living with disabilities who come through our doors every day, bringing with them the courage to be #UNSTOPPABLE.

Joanne Bernard
President and CEO

An Easter Seals Nova Scotia #Unstoppable Story

Kiera Sparks Lucas is one of Easter Seals Nova Scotia's Ambassadors, a Camp Tidnish camper, and grade 12 student at Auburn High School in Dartmouth. In her spare time she is a Ranger with the Girl Guides of Canada, a volunteer with her local Sparks group, a Nova Scotia International Student Ambassador at her high school, participates in an inclusive choir and enjoys cheerleading. And did we mention she is totally #unstoppable in her life?

Next year Kiera will attend NSCC's Achieve Program, to further her education; bringing her one step closer to helping individuals with disabilities have more opportunities to travel. Kiera plans to start a blog on accessible places to travel and how cities can improve accessibility. Eventually she plans to start a company that arranges trips and allows people with disabilities to have more experience travelling.

Kiera has big goals! And yes, she is #Unstoppable!!



Do you have an #unstoppable story to share?
Email us at easterseals@easterseals.ns.ca or
tweet us at [@eastersealsns](https://twitter.com/eastersealsns) #unstoppable

March is Easter Seals' Month! Let's Celebrate!

Participate in one of our upcoming events in March or beyond:



Paper Eggs at Participating Retailers: March 5th - April 1st

Have you seen our in-store Paper Eggs? For \$2 you can purchase your own Paper Egg in participating stores, like Lawtons Drugs, Booster Juice, Fabricville, The Old Warehouse Café, Giant Tiger-Amherst, or online at www.paperegg.ca and help support our programs!



Bunnyland at Mic Mac Mall: March 22nd - 31st

One of our most popular fundraisers is Bunnyland - get your picture taken with the Easter Bunny! We're always looking for hoppy volunteers for this event - if interested, contact Tanya (see below).



California Wine Fair 2018: Thursday, April 26th, 7:00 - 9:30 pm

Sample more than 350 premium wines from over 75 of California's top producers in support of Easter Seals Nova Scotia! Hosted by the California Wine Institute, the Consul-General of the United States, and the Society for American Wines. Tickets are \$65.00 and available at the Easter Seals Nova Scotia office or online at easterseals.ns.ca/events



Camp Clean Up Day: May 26th

Camp Tidnish will be holding their annual Camp Clean Up Day prior to welcoming this year's campers. Please contact Steven McCluskey, Camp Director for more information at camping@easterseals.ns.ca



Camp Tidnish Open House: July 15th, 2:00 - 5:30 pm

Calling all camp alumni, family and friends!! We will be hosting an Open House at Camp Tidnish to showcase our program! This event is open to the public and we would love to see former campers, camper families and members of the community come out for a visit. For more information please visit www.camptidnish.org



Drop Zone 2018: Registration Now Open!

On September 21st, take your fundraising to new heights and rappel 23 storeys from Halifax's tallest office tower with all of the funds raised supporting our programs for Nova Scotians with disabilities.

Visit our Drop Zone event page at www.easterseals.ns.ca/events to register or donate.

Interested in learning more about any of our events?

Contact Tanya Poulton at (902) 453-6000 x 220 or tanya.poulton@easterseals.ns.ca

Our Annual Kartbahn Go Kart Relay Race was held on November 2nd at Kartbahn Racing in Bayers Lake. Over \$19,000 was raised, with 7 teams participating. The Dirty Dogs team took the first place finish as well as being our top fundraising team for the evening. Congratulations to all teams for a great event. Thank you to everyone who supported this exciting event, including East Coast Mobile Medical Inc., our Presenting Sponsor.



We are grateful for the continued support of our Corporate and Foundation friends. If you would like more information on how your gift can impact the lives of Nova Scotians living with disabilities and the programs we support please contact John MacDonald at john.macdonald@easterseals.ns.ca



Top: New Leaf Enterprises clients and staff are shown with the freezer purchased through a donation from The Flemming Charitable Foundation; Left: Learn to Sledge Hockey participants take a break to accept a donation from GoodLife Kids Foundation.

New Leaf Enterprises Update

Christmas Baking and Pop Up Shoppe

Easter Seals Nova Scotia's skills training and supported employment program partner; New Leaf Enterprises had a busy few months leading up to Christmas. Our annual Christmas Baking had another successful year with thousands of cookies and sweets baked by our trainees, staff and volunteers. New this year, was the addition of our Christmas Pop Up Shoppe, located in the Scotia Square Mall. Our trainees were able to learn the ins and outs of retail work, while receiving over 100 hours of on-the-job training.

Thank you to everyone who supported us this holiday season!



L/R: New Leaf Enterprises trainee Coley displays some of the items sold at our Christmas Pop Up Shoppe, volunteers and trainees pitch in on the Christmas Baking Program, Jamesina paints one of the wooden crafts sold at our Christmas Pop Up Shoppe.

Learn to Sledge Hockey Program

Our Learn to Sledge Hockey Program has once again proven to be a popular weekend activity. Each weekend at the BMO Center in Bedford 15 participants plus volunteers and coaches take to the ice to give children and youth the chance to be **#Unstoppable**.

If you would like information on our Learn to Sledge Hockey Program, please contact samparsons@easterseals.ns.ca



Special Olympics Canada Summer Games

Antigonish, Nova Scotia will host the Special Olympics Canada 2018 Summer Games. The Special Olympics Canada Summer Games is a national sporting event for competitive athletes with disabilities. We will be cheering on our New Leaf Enterprises trainee Amy Caldwell, as she competes this summer in both individual and team aquatic events.



Legacy Giving

Have you considered giving a planned or legacy gift to Easter Seals Nova Scotia?

Considering a planned or legacy gift is an emotional experience. These gifts can range from relatively simple bequests made in a will, to gifts like charitable gift annuities and charitable remainder trusts that provide major gifts to a non-profit while at the same time returning income to the donor. Legacy or planned giving helps provide you with a unique tax advantage that eases the tax burden on your loved ones. With effective planning, they will not lose your hard-earned income or assets to fees and taxes.

Each year, Easter Seals Nova Scotia helps thousands of Nova Scotians living with a disability. Remembering us in your Last Will and Testament ensures that you leave a legacy that will make an impact on their lives beyond your lifetime. For more information please contact John MacDonald, Director of Development at 902-453-6000 ext. 224 or email at john.macdonald@easterseals.ns.ca

Introducing...

Welcome to Heidi Wallace who joined Easter Seals Nova Scotia in July as the Program Assistant for the Nova Scotia Wheelchair Recycling Program and to Sam Parsons who came aboard in January as our new Multi Program Coordinator.



Heidi will be fielding any equipment related inquiries and can be reached at wheelchairs@easterseals.ns.ca

Sam will take over running our Learn to Sledge Hockey Program, along with her other duties, and can be contacted at samparsons@easterseals.ns.ca



Off to New Adventures

Congratulations to Faye Joudrey, our Equipment and Client Services Coordinator, who will be retiring from Easter Seals Nova Scotia in March. Faye has been with the organization for 30 years, starting out as the Community Liaison Coordinator. "I'll miss the people I work with and the people we help. It's why we're here." Faye's dedication to the individuals that we serve will be missed.



Camp Tidnish Registration is Now Open!

Registration for Summer 2018 at Camp Tidnish is now open. Camp Tidnish is the only barrier-free, fully accessible camp for children, youth and adults with physical and/or intellectual disabilities in Nova Scotia. We strive to focus on the camper's abilities and inclusion in all of our activities. For our campers, it is the highlight of their year.



For more information on attending camp, or to join our amazing camp staff, please visit www.camptidnish.org

Camp Tidnish Has Her Heart!!

Camp Tidnish is a special place for Easter Seals Nova Scotia Ambassador Sonya Demone. Sonya first attended Camp Tidnish in 1991 when she was 12 years old. Since then, she's attended 12 times. "Camp was the first step to my gaining independence." When she heard that we were hoping to install a new fully accessible, barrier-free play space, she wanted to do her part to assist. All winter Sonya has been making and selling bracelets to help us reach our goal of \$50,000. We're not there yet, but every bit brings us closer to creating an improved play space for our campers.

