

Turning over a new leaf

ZOËL BREAU

Former Community Leader/Executive Director

The spring season bears new opportunities for change and growth. Personally, I am concluding my time with L'Arche Saint John after five wonderful years.

With that, I am privileged to announce that our friend and member of L'Arche Saint John, Rachel Vander Vennen, has agreed to become the new community leader of our community.

As a leader, it is a luxury to be able to leave knowing that your successor is a person of Rachel's calibre. She carries a vision and love for L'Arche Saint John, and I look forward to continuing to see L'Arche grow and shine in this province.

After 45 years of working in L'Arche at the local, national and international levels, I still believe in the value and importance of the mission. It is my deepest hope that in the near future, L'Arche can become a place of belonging for more adults with intellectual disabilities in this province.

With your support, the future of L'Arche in New Brunswick is bright.

RACHEL VANDER VENNEN

Community Leader/Executive Director

It is my great honour and privilege to step into the role of Community Leader/Executive Director at L'Arche Saint John.

I look forward to working with our amazing team, members and partner organizations to build a more inclusive society where adults with intellectual disabilities are celebrated for their contributions.

I am convinced that the L'Arche values of inclusion and belonging are more crucial than ever in our society.

I am deeply thankful for you, our supporters, who help us build a brighter future for adults with intellectual disabilities. Gifts of any amount bring us that much closer to making our dreams a reality.

Your donation builds a more inclusive society for adults with intellectual disabilities.

Give today at www.larchesaintjohn.org/support or call us at (506) 672-6504.



Making space for NeW perspectives

MAGGIE HIGGINS

Artist & educator

Last fall, it was one of my greatest honours to be asked to assist in organizing Togetherness, an art exhibition hosted by the Lieutenant Governor of New Brunswick installed at Government House in Fredericton. The exhibition was a collaboration between Creative Connections of L'Arche Saint John and the Inspire Project of L'Arche Fredericton.

My job was a true pleasure. The prolific artists had a plethora of artworks to curate for the exhibit that encapsulated the theme. The opening was a smashing success; we were able to connect with the public, celebrate the artists, and sell many of their artworks.

To have an exhibition in such a prestigious institution is a huge accomplishment and the artists showed such gratitude and pride seeing their work in this space.

But I believe it is us, the viewers, who should be grateful. Yes, the art serves as an outlet for the artists, a way to voice their internal world.

Importantly, another purpose of art and specifically this exhibit, is the opportunity for the public to hear these voices. In a culture that often doesn't make space for the perspective of people with disabilities, especially in their own words, this exhibition did.

To the artists; When the public is exposed to the artwork of people with disabilities, you create compassion, connection and we all become less alone. When I see your work, I understand myself and our world with better clarity. You create togetherness in everything you make. Thank you.

Your gift helps make opportunities like this art exhibition possible.

Give today at www.larchesaintjohn.org/support or call us at (506) 672-6504.

Stacey's story: A life transformed

STACEY HOWE

Artist at Creative Connections

Winter months can be rough for me because I deal with depression. This past winter, though, my mental health improved thanks to increased attendance at Creative Connections.

I have been an artist at Creative Connections since its beginning, in 2016. Before Creative Connections opened, there wasn't another art program in the region. I was eager to try something new.

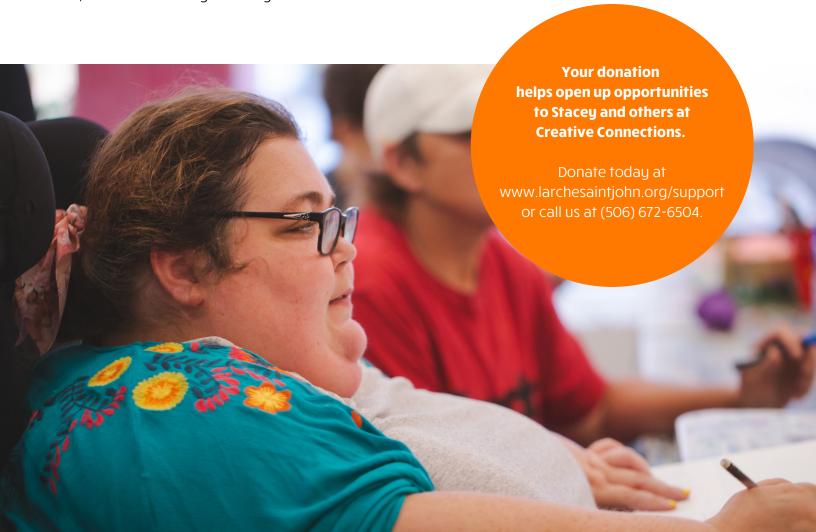
I can be shy sometimes, but when I first came to the studio, I immediately felt really comfortable. At Creative Connections, I feel a part of a community. The program is different and unique, in a good way. I feel seen for who I am, rather than for my disability.

I have cerebral palsy, which impacts my fine motor skills. Creative Connections has improved my fine motor skills. For example, several years ago, it was a struggle to make a circle. Last year, I painted a huge canvas with a detailed cityscape.

Now I can do different styles of art that I didn't think would be possible. My confidence in my art has grown. I hope to continue to grow and get better, and I have a dream of doing pottery on a wheel.

Creative Connections opens up our world to opportunities and connections.

Please support L'Arche if you can, because it is so authentic and needed.



Noteworthy updates





Support our Celebrate Spring fundraiser

We've curated a bundle for you (or a loved one): a handmade vase from local potters, a 10% off coupon to Galbraith Florist and a greeting card designed by artists at Creative Connections. Get your ticket by May 1 at

www.larchesaintjohn.org/celebrate-spring



New program set to launch early May

Our new program, L'Arche Connects, offering supported independent living and outreach is set to launch early May. Our thanks to partners, Saint John Non Profit Housing and Inclusion NB for their help making this pilot program a success for members like Shawna (left)!



Annual breakfast supporting L'Arche at O'Leary's Pub draws hundreds

On March 11, O'Leary's Pub hosted their annual St. Patrick's Day breakfast in support of L'Arche. Owner Kevin Ferguson (pictured left, with Stéphane of L'Arche) has hosted the breakfast fundraiser for 33 years.



Skip the line and donate your refundable proceeds to L'Arche

When you bring refundable materials to Golden Mile Redemption Centre in west Saint John or to Valley Redemption in Quispamsis, you can credit your refund to L'Arche Saint John's account! It's a simple way to support L'Arche at no cost to you.

CONTACT US

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