

L'Arche Avalon gets involved at the Well-Being Fair

Sarah, Sheilah, and I hosted an information booth for L'Arche Avalon at the Community Sector Council NL Well-Being Fair, held at Jack Byrne Arena on June 4 from 12:30 to 19:00. Maureen and her friend Janelle also assisted us during part of the afternoon. The admission was free of charge. L'Arche Avalon was one of 65 booths at the fair, which brought together community groups promoting programs and services that support well-being for people of all ages. I believe the event was a worthwhile investment of our time and energy. We shared information about our organization through a continuous PowerPoint presentation, a display board, and brochures. Marilyn also provided "good wish" cards featuring the L'Arche Avalon logo on the back, which visitors received very positively. One person staffing the AA booth was especially enthusiastic about the card reading "One day at a time," a phrase



connected to that organization's motto. Our booth drew the attention of VOCM, which published a short interview with me. The fair also gave us a valuable chance to visit other community booths with related mandates. Through Sheilah's interaction with visitors to our booth, I came to appreciate how well-known our Chair is in the community. Sheilah later wrote a brief report sharing our impressions of the fair and commending the organizers for a well-run event. The main concern was accessibility: people with mobility issues may have been unable to attend or participate because no wheelchair access was available. The

organizing committee acknowledged this concern during the fair. Overall, visitors seemed genuinely interested in our project and recognized the importance of our work. When we registered, we were invited to make a town-hall-style presentation, but we declined because we would not have been ready in time to take this on. In my follow-up communication with the organizer, I committed that, if the event takes place again next year, we will be prepared to offer a presentation.

Overall, the fair was well worth the effort. It helped us educate the public, connect with related organizations, and make L'Arche Avalon more visible. My only regret as project lead is that I did not invite all our members to help cover the booth and take part in promoting the project. If the event is held again next year, we will be better prepared to make an even stronger impression.

~Michel



Stronger Together



Annual Yard Sale!!!!



This year's L'Arche Avalon Yard Sale took place on Canada Day, July 1. It was a spectacular success. The weather cooperated. So many volunteers showed up to help with everything: transporting the items, setting up, manning the tables and the cleanup at the end. Crowds of customers came and got good bargains. It was a great community event.



Accessibility for all

A Celebration at the Lantern

On June 4, 2026, several members of L'Arche Avalon joined other community organizations at The Lantern to celebrate its acquisition of a new lift making both floors of the building accessible. L'Arche's own Maureen McKinnon was the ribbon-cutter.



Annual General Meeting

L'Arche Avalon held its 2026 Annual General Meeting at The Lantern on June 14, 2026. Committee Reports were read updating members on events and activities of the past year. Because the annual financial report was unavailable, it was decided that there would be a short reconvening of the AGM at the September Gathering to approve that document. All members of the Board offered to serve for another term; however, there was a nomination from the floor. A vote was held and Board positions remained unchanged. The meeting was followed by a short social with refreshments.



Stronger Together



Music Circle with Vera Perlin Summer Camps

Four years ago, I got an email from an education student who was hired as a coordinator with one of the Vera Perlin Summer Camps in St. John's, Newfoundland. The summer camp programs are offered all day, every day, throughout the summer and I've always been impressed with the love and energy from the summer leader team members (most of them MUN students!) Jessica knew me from her learning journey in the School of Education at Memorial and knew that I loved offering singalongs with the L'Arche Avalon group. "Would you come and offer a singalong with Camp Curiosity, Jan?" I enthusiastically replied and we set a date. The next day, there was an email message from another facilitator at a different Vera Perlin Summer Camp! She also wanted me to visit and mentioned that she'd been speaking with Jessica. We set up another date and the fun began. I'll never forget those first visits...walking into the school gymnasium to be greeted by 35 smiling faces and wonderful hugs and welcoming hellos. Colourful artwork made by the campers covered the walls, and there were activity centres around the room. A large circle of chairs is always ready for us when we arrive, and we sing for a solid hour. Now every year, the facilitators of the Vera Perlin Summer Camps have contacted me to return. I'm often joined by Barry and Gail (two keeners with the L'Arche Avalon group), and we always leave with our hearts filled to the brim with the joy and music-making that unfolds.

I honestly believe that some of the finest teachers on the planet are 5 or 6 or 7 years old. If we listen to their stories, we'll discover that they have much to teach us about getting along in this oh-so-busy world.



~JBuley thinking aloud one day recently



Jam Circle!!!



We love getting out with friends!!!

