



NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER - DECEMBER 2015

CLAY TREE SOCIETY LAUNCHES EMPLOYMENT SERVICES



Any interested Party

*Is cordially invited to attend
the launch of*

**Clay Tree
Employment Services**

*At Clay Tree Society
838 Old Victoria Road
Nanaimo, BC*

*Monday November 23rd, 2015
6:30 - 8:30 p.m.
Presentation of our new
initiative.*

Refreshments will be served.

*Please R.S.V.P. to
susan.claytree@shaw.ca
Or 250-753-5322 ext 3*

www.claytree.org

Employment Mission Statement

To provide service for each individual with respect for informed, self-directed choice and connection to community.





I cannot believe that we are approaching the end of 2015 already, where has this year gone? As I listened to the sound of the pipes and drum from our friends at the Legion for our Remembrance Day service it seemed fitting that the theme of my last note of the year to you all should be about remembering.

Clay Tree is undergoing a transformation and 2015 has seen us take on so many new initiatives and responsibilities, to look back and remember how we set up each and every one.

What stands out in my mind from this year was the Gala in March with the VIU being transformed into a wonderland for the evening, then we started our unique Connections program with a lot of blood sweat and tears (and fingers crossed) and created something so needed in our community. We then ran a temporary group home during the summer which was a great experience for us and so worthwhile and now we are opening up the Employment Bureau on 23rd November 2015.

We also had a great turnout for Art from the Heart, the Flea market, and all the other great fundraisers that you attend so faithfully. We started the FACEBOOK page and have almost 400 followers (it means our families and friends from abroad can also keep in touch) and receive every week comments about how you love being up to date and informed with the latest news and photos of our clients.

The participants have their own goals each year but this year some of the staff also achieved their goals, some of these were getting all the clients from Estevan on an outing together (not an easy task), taking the less able clients in kayaks, re- starting the kickball challenge and hosting a big community dance where the Nanaimo community were welcomed.

So much to remember and be grateful for at the close of this year, but as you all know none of this happens without a huge effort from Management , supervisors and staff, members who keep the grounds looking great, fundraisers who bring in the much needed cash flow and the Board who meet each month overlooking our finances and my reports, our founder who still attends every Thursday, other volunteers and most especially the participants who love life to the fullest and are teaching us about what really matters every day of the year.

So my friends I would like to wish you good health & happiness to all your families and friends, let's see what 2016 brings for Clay Tree.....

Seasons Greetings,

Glenys Patmore
Executive Director



Glenys with her Mother Mavis Brailsford





REMOVING FINANCIAL BARRIERS FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES ON ASSISTANCE

British Columbians receiving disability assistance will be able to hold significantly more assets and receive financial gifts and inheritances with no impact on their monthly assistance thanks to changes being made by the provincial government.

Beginning Dec. 1, 2015, the amount of assets that people receiving disability assistance may hold without losing eligibility for assistance will rise to \$100,000 for an individual with the Persons with Disabilities (PWD) designation, and \$200,000 for a couple where both have PWD designation. Currently, the asset limits are \$5,000 and \$10,000 respectively.

And for the first time in B.C., persons with disabilities will be able to receive cash gifts with no effect on their eligibility for assistance. Under current policy, people receiving income and disability assistance can only receive one-time gifts without affecting their eligibility.

In the case of an inheritance, the higher asset limits will free up many clients from having to set aside that money in a trust.

Government is also changing the way trust payments are handled, giving people receiving disability assistance greater flexibility in how they use that money to lead more independent lives. The \$8,000 annual cap on trust payments is being eliminated.

These changes will allow people receiving disability assistance to enhance their financial security, while also giving their families, friends or community groups the opportunity to provide additional support.

The new policies build on changes government has already made to help people with disabilities lead fuller and more secure lives, including an increase in earnings exemptions, annual earnings exemptions, and the Accessibility 2024 plan to make British Columbia the most progressive place in Canada for people with disabilities.



Country Grocer receipts continue to come into the office and we truly appreciate your help in collecting the receipts for us! Did you know for each \$1,000.00 in Country Grocer receipts collected gets our Society a \$10.00 Country Grocer gift card? These gift cards have helped us supply food for our special events therefore making our profit rise as we have minimal food expenses.

holiday Craft Fair

Clay Tree Society is hosting a Christmas Craft Fair on Saturday November 28, 2015 at Clay Tree Society – 838 Old Victoria Road, Nanaimo. Time: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm. For more details please contact Darlene Trinkwon at 250-585-0516.

CHRISTMAS PARTY!

The Participant Christmas party is Friday December 4th – 5:00 - 9:00 at the Cavallotti Hall on East Wellington Road, Nanaimo. Clay Tree Participants have free admission. Guest tickets are \$15.00 each. RSVP & Ticket deadline is Friday November 20th. For more information please contact reception at Clay Tree 250-753-5322 ext 0.

Please note there will be no staff supervision for the evening of the party. .



**A very special Thank You to everyone
who has helped our Society this year.
The list is very big and so is our
appreciation for each of you!**

With Sympathy

**Warmest condolences to the families of
Margaret Evelyn Ferguson and Laurence Howard Goodman.**

**We have received donations in memory of your loved one.
Thank you for thinking of us in your time of need.**





CLAY TREE CLOSURE DATES:

Christmas Closure - Last day for the participants Tuesday December 22nd, 2015.

CLAY TREE RE-OPENS for the new year Monday January 4th, 2016


EVENT DATES:

Monday - November 23rd, 2015 - Employment Bureau Launch

**Saturday- November 28th, 2015 - Christmas Fair 10am - 4pm
Tables are \$15.00 each - please contact Darlene Trinkwon
for more details 250-585-0516**

Friday - December 4th, 2015 – Participant Christmas Party – Cavallotti Hall

Thursday - February 11th, 2016 - Art From The Heart - More details to come

Saturday - March 12th, 2016 - Springtime In Paris - Gala Event 

Don't forget to "Like" our Clay Tree Facebook page – please invite all your friends and family to "Like" our page as well.

Please help get us to 500 LIKES before year end.

CONTACT US:

838 Old Victoria Rd, Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 6A1
250-753-5322
claytree@shaw.ca

**Please send us your email address,
and we make certain you get a
copy of the latest Newsletter!
or you can view it online at:
<http://www.claytree.org/media>**



Looking for a unique Christmas gift?

Why not tickets to our Springtime in Paris Gala??

Early bird tickets are \$100.00 each up to December 15th, after that tickets will be \$125.00 each.

Purchase before December 10th

AND we will custom wrap this lovely gift for you!

For more details please contact Susan Easter at
250-753-5322 ext 3 or email your request to susan.claytree@shaw.ca

Clay Tree Society
PRESENTS



"Springtime in Paris"

Gala Event
at the
Coast Bastion

Downtown Nanaimo, BC
Saturday, March 12th, 2016

Enjoy a fabulous European Style
four course Dinner

As well as Dancing and
a Silent Auction

Early Bird Tickets \$100.00_{ea.}

After Dec, 15th 2015 Tickets
are \$125.00_{ea.}

For More Information
call: 250-753-5322

