

# NEWSLETTER

JUNE 2016



*The 10th Annual Milk Carton Boat Race was hosted on Tuesday, June 7th by Nanaimo Supportive Lifestyles Ltd. at Bowen Park.*

Clay Tree Society Ventures program, brought home the Trophy for the category 'Team Boat- Anything Goes'! The guideline was that the boat must contain a milk carton and awards were presented to the fastest team boat and best of show. Congratulations to all of the participants who participated in the race!

Everyone had a wonderful time and are excited about next years event!



# A WORD FROM THE ED



Hello to all our membership and friends of Clay tree Society,

It seems very apt that I am compiling this to you on the first day of summer. The days are longer and we all seem in good spirits when the weather is warmer.

There is so much that has been happening at Clay Tree since the last newsletter and I hope that you have been keeping up with us on a daily basis on our Facebook page.

The annual Gala that we held in March was a wonderful success and I think it is fast becoming a Nanaimo tradition (I am not sure how long you have to do something before it becomes a tradition). I am happy to let you be the first to know that next year's Gala will be taking place on March 4th 2017 at the Coast Bastion and as Clay Tree will have been in service for 60 years next year, I will give you a hint that `Diamonds are Forever` may be a part of the theme. It will be a wonderful evening this year, so please be sure to get your Early Bird special priced tickets from Susan when they are launched in September.

A new initiative that has been recently launched is our staff training for new employees. Previously after obtaining the CSW certificate and starting work at Clay Tree, our new employees were given 6 days orientation and that was about it. When I looked at all the CARF regulations and our own policies and procedures it became clear that this just was not enough. Kelly Moore is heading a 4 week new trainee program that will operate up to 4 times each year and really give our new staff a taste of how we operate and what we expect at Clay Tree. We are now on our second training course and the feedback has been really positive.

On the Employment Bureau things are also happening with the new Pre-Employment Lifeskills course in operation and candidates having obtained work experience, interviews and some paid employment. Rachel Pearsall is heading this initiative so if you have any questions please don't hesitate to ask her, the Pre-Employment Lifeskills is being run by Linda Lobello and lasts 10 weeks and this includes adapted first aid, WHMIS and food safe along with all the other skills needed to be employed in the community.



Team Seed started the ball rolling to raise funds for our transformation of the Bridges program, as I write to you the work has begun on the kitchen and office area. Over the summer we are hoping that we will be able to have an `open house` for you to be able to see the new program area. The renovations are running at around \$20k at the moment and although we got a fantastic sum of \$5k in from Team Seed if you would like to make any donations towards this then please contact Susan Easter.

Thank you to all that attended the AGM this year.

The tour of our programs and the `Round The World` culinary delight theme was well received by all and the official meeting went very smoothly. After Kris Huberts (President) had completed

# A WORD FROM THE ED CTD.



his speech, I was very proud to introduce Elaine Manning to talk about our Practicum Policy and how much we are involved with all the local colleges/universities and that is an area that has really grown for us under the guidance of Elaine. Linda Lobello spoke about Lifeskills (both our regular program and pre-employment) and her passion for this always shines through. This was followed by Kelly Moore talking about the New Trainees and ended with Rachel Pearsall giving an update on Employment. The added bonus for myself was that my speech was very short and sweet and we wrapped the evening up with our newest Board member Ken Watson being voted in, all in all a great evening.

Recently, we entered the Milk Carton Boat race and did extremely well. Terry is looking forward to the Kickball Competition which he is organising with the help of Susan Easter, this will take place on the Sid Clarke Field on October 7th so come along and support, it should be a wonderful event. The Kayak day last year organised by my Michael Lee was so successful we are doing it all over again with the whole centre, this will be at Westwood Lake on July 15th and all are welcome.

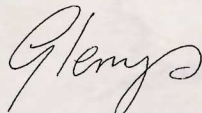
On September 2nd we are taking all our participants to Butchart Gardens for our annual picnic, it should be a fabulous day and as you know taking the whole of Clay Tree `On Tour` is no mean feat, if you have any questions then please contact Darryl Racine.



Clay Tree as you know is a charity that struggles each year with funding and it is difficult (impossible) for us to donate to other charities, however on Friday 17th June The Clay Tree Dragons entered into the Relay For Life Nanaimo organised by our Team Leader Elaine Manning for Cancer Research which is a charity close to Elaine's heart. The wonderful thing about this (apart from all the money we raised) was that our families could donate from abroad so we had donations in from England and Wales as they could place their offering online really easily. It was a very moving and fabulous event and apart from the team of runners (or walkers in my case) we had lots of support from friends and staff and although the Team was tired at the end I think everyone felt it was so worthwhile.

So much is happening here and the time just flies past, if you have any concerns or questions remember we have `Open Door` on Monday morning 8.30a.m.-9.30a.m. and again on Thursday 2.30p.m. - 3.30p.m. If you would like a more confidential appointment then just telephone reception and they will give you a 15 or 30 minute time slot at a convenient time for you.

All that is left is for me to wish you all a wonderful summer, keep watching the Facebook page and keep in touch.

Kindest Regards, 

# MAY 20TH AGM



Well before the Clay Tree Annual General Meeting, participants in the Connections program assembled passports for the event. Every passport had a designated page for each program to stamp.

Upon arrival at the AGM, guests were given a passport encouraging them to stroll through the buildings and see the displays that had been created to showcase the programs. As each program was representing a country, an appropriate stamp was placed in the passport to indicate they had indeed visited.



Guests who had their entire passport stamped were given a ticket for the door prize. Various appetizers and desserts were provided which also reflected the culinary tastes specific to that country.

Countries included Greece, France, Italy, Canada, Mexico, England and Aboriginal Cultures were also represented.

Congratulations to Derrick Moore who won the International Gift Basket.



Rachel Pearsall - Employment Specialist is very excited to announce that three of our job seekers have made progress in their search for employment. One gentleman secured employment doing lawn maintenance, and two others have recently been interviewed by Costco. We are looking forward to hearing back from Costco with their final decision.

Over the past two months, job seekers have also been taking our Pre-Employment Skills Program. Participants of this certificate program focus on skills such as manners, interview skills, time management, city transit, food safety, basic first aid, WHMIS and basic computer skills.

Our job seekers are excited for the opportunities that await them!

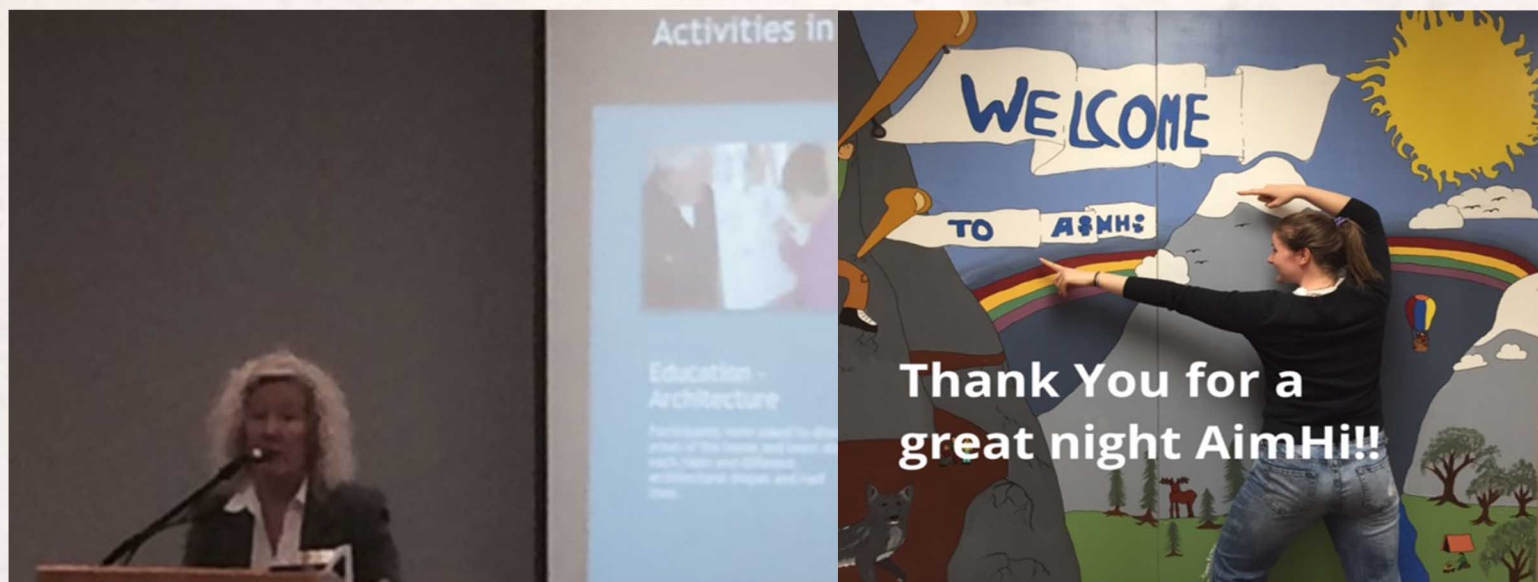


# INCLUSION BC



## IGNITE CONFERENCE INCLUSION BC

The venue for the conference this year was AimHi in Prince George and had many agencies and self-advocates represented there. The workshops were varied and very informative and our Executive Director, Glenys Patmore was asked to speak at the Transformational Talks during the Employment Summit.



After 3 days of learning and networking it ended with a great carnival night at AimHi who were fantastic co-hosts for this event (see Facebook for photos). If you or your client/family member would like to participate next year then please give us a call and we can give you the details. It is a great event and you will come away with great enthusiasm and a lot more knowledge. We do know that next years 2017 conference will be held at the Sheraton Hotel at Vancouver Airport.

# CLOTHING SWAP



*Concepts July 22, 2016*

In February, Janice was giving a lot of thought about a goal she wished to achieve. Elaine shared that you could see the joy in Janice when the program did a clothing swap in December last year. Janice was helping choose the perfect clothes for her peers by measuring the garment up against those who were interested.

Janice's goal was to host a clothing swap as well as be responsible for the promotion of the event. She sent out memos and created posters to generate interest.

When Janice was asked, 'How did it go today?' she replied with a big smile, 'It was fun!' Janice was also able to find a new outfit that fit her well. The event had everyone in the building coming to check out the clothing. It was a great atmosphere with people sorting through the items while listening to the music.

Janice is interested in hosting another clothing swap at Christmas. She is hoping that more men's clothing is available for the next one.



# SAVE THE BUS PASS



Raise The Rates: Leave our Bus Pass Alone!

Clay Tree Society were extremely active this year in protesting outside the Parliament Buildings in Victoria. The recent changes were a little confusing so we thought we would give you a full explanation. The Government has recently abolished the \$45 a year administration fee, we see this as a small first step, but it will not address the low rates or the abject poverty of people who rely on PWD in BC.

We are urging you all to write a letter or a postcard to Minister Stillwell, here is an example of what is being sent:- (cut on dotted line, sign your name below `Sincerely` and send)

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Honourable Michelle Stilwell,  
Minister of Social Development and Social Innovation,  
PO Box 9058 Stn.Prov. Govt.,  
Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E1

Dear Minister Stilwell:

I'm writing you today to urge you to reverse the changes your government made in February's budget to the way People with disabilities pay for transportation and restore the freedom, mobility and a sense of dignity and self-worth for tens of thousands of vulnerable British Columbians. I join with Inclusion BC and 160 other organizations in urging you to:

1. Bring back the \$45 per year bus pass for people with disabilities;
2. Eliminate the new \$52/month bus pass fee;
3. Allow everyone receiving PWD benefits to keep the \$77/month increase;
4. Bring back the Special Transportation Subsidy and introduce a rural transportation subsidy for those living outside the areas where the Bus Pass Program and Special Transportation Subsidy operate; and
5. Raise income and disability assistance significantly by October 1, 2016 to reflect the cost of living, and then index to inflation.

I respectfully ask that you leave these programs (crucial to the quality of life for People with disabilities) in place and provide a meaningful rate increase for all income assistance and disability assistance recipients.

Sincerely,

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# UPCOMING EVENTS



## Flea Market

Saturday August 20th  
8:30 AM- 2:30 PM

Please contact Darlene Trinkwon  
for a table (\$20.00).  
250-585-0516



## Car Wash

Friday August 19th  
11:00 AM- 2:00 PM

Saturday August 20th  
9:00 AM- 1:00 PM

Price- By Donation  
Please Support Clay Tree Society

# IMPORTANT DATES



## Closures:

- Friday - July 1, 2016 - Canada Day
- Monday - August 1, 2016 - BC Day
- Tuesday/Friday - August 2-5th, 2016 - Summer Closure
- Monday - September 5, 2016 - Labour Day
- Monday - October 10, 2016 - Thanksgiving
- Friday - November 11, 2016 - Remembrance Day

## Events:

- Friday- July 15, 2016 - Clay Tree Kayaking Day at Westwood Lake 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
- Saturday - August 20, 2016 - Flea Market from 8:30 AM to 2:30 PM  
(Tables are \$20.00, please contact Darlene Trinkwon on 250-585-0516 for more information)
- Friday - September 2, 2016 - Butchart Gardens Centre day trip
- Friday - October 7, 2016 - Kickball Tournament Sid Clark Field - Nanaimo All welcome to attend

Please Follow our Facebook page for more information on the above listed events.

Please don't forget to "like" our "Clay Tree Society" Facebook page. Please invite all your friends and family to "like" our page as well.

We have a goal of 1000 likes by the end of 2016 and your help getting us to the goal is greatly appreciated!! THANK YOU!!

### CONTACT US:

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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>

