



Merry Christmas

Many thanks to all those who supported the Chrysanthemum, Purdys Chocolate, and Paradise Island cheese fundraisers. With the monies raised we were able to purchase two TVs!



LETTER FROM THE E.D.

NOVEMBER 2018



Clay TreeED

What a wonderful autumn we are having, fingers crossed the beautiful weather stays for a few more weeks.

Clay Tree is very busy at the moment as we work towards the end of the year and all the excitement that comes with the Christmas season. Over the next few weeks we have a super theatre day planned and one of our very own participants, Joanna Steele will see her goal realized of having her play performed at the Theatre, the whole centre will be watching and I know she will have a great day.

We have an In Service day booked for our clients on December 12th and Elaine Manning and Julie Wallace have been busy arranging all the interesting items on the agenda for that day, lunch will be provided by a team of volunteers and we are all looking forward to it.



December 17th is the Grand Finale of the year with a wonderful Gala for the participants at the Coast Bastion Hotel. The wonderful reaction we received last year from both participants and caregivers made us want to recreate it again this year. We will be having a live band for the dancing after a wonderful festive meal and maybe a visit from a surprise person.

On November 9th we took the whole centre to see Small Foot at the movies and thanks to Landmark Theatres for all the attention to detail we received on that special day.

Office wise we are making great strides with the Focus group that is meeting regularly and making field trips out to look at what other agencies in the region have done after they have purchased land, also having plenty of in house talks and really trying to make progress on what will benefit Clay Tree and the wider community, I will keep you all updated on the progress.

I hope you are all enjoying the better communication now that we have someone answering the telephone during the day, we listened to your comments and hope that you appreciate the more efficient service. Always remember that at any time Craig will make appointments for you if you would like a private meeting and Darryl/Rachel have open door every day from 3:00 & 3:30 p.m. This leaves me to say that I hope you and your family have a wonderful Christmas and that 2019 will be a Healthy and Happy New Year for you all,

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glenys".

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Movie Day





CLAY TREE LIFE SKILLS FALL 2018

Life Skills is proud to have been in operation for nearly 5 years. Nearly all of the participants have gone through the program. We have offered manners development classes at the center and everyone at the Coast Bastion Hotel remarked at how gracious we were at last year's formal Christmas Dinner.

The past 4 months have been very exciting and everyone has learned something new. We have concentrated on meal plans that can be done at home. All participants have taken part in the preparation of food from where it is grown to how it is prepared.

The group has made bread and shared it with their parents and caregivers, entered in the VIEX, learned basic budgeting and home management. Our plan this Christmas is to spend a day making 3 varieties of cookies and presenting them as gifts to loved ones.

Happy New Year from everyone in Life Skills

CLAY TREE SEWING AND ALTERATIONS

2019 has been our busiest year in the sewing room. We have had 3 fashion shows with guests coming from the community, learned how to make an apron, shower caddy, table runner and lavender sachet.

We are proud to announce the introduction of a basic alteration and garment repair afternoon. Any participant with a button missing, hem down, pocket with a hole or seam that is torn can bring the washed garment to the Sewing Room on Wednesday afternoons. This is a service is for any participant at Clay Tree that needs a little help to look their best.

We are looking forward to a great 2019 with lots of great activities.





Celebrating 75 Years

Having seen a lot of changes in the past three-quarters of a century, Richard has a passion for life and an endless array of stories to share. Richard began attending Clay Tree 8-years ago and is our most senior participant.

At the time of Richard's birthday, World War II was underway, a new car was \$700 with gas costing .10 cents a gallon, a new home \$3800 and the movie's that claimed fame were The Wizard of Oz and Gone With the Wind.

Richard has fond memories of growing up in Vancouver and will openly share numerous experiences with anyone who will listen. His love of music incorporates all genres and he is an asset when it comes to trivia regarding actors and movies.





Hope Council:

The Friday Morning HOPE Council is still going strong. This is a Clay Tree Council run by our participant advocates. One of our goals is to make sure nobody's birthdays or special occasions are forgotten, everyone gets a card from council members.

Apart from Old and New Business we also have two other segments to our weekly meetings one being CT News where the council members are the first to hear the exciting developments within our society. And we have special interest presentations, these have included information from Elections BC, we learned how to vote and with an actual voting booth held a mock election.

We have learned about different levels of government and talked about the candidates for our local election. We have read from the book "Safe and Secure" seven steps on the path to a good life for people with disabilities and held a discussion regarding these topics. We were honored to receive copies of the book "Snapshot of a Soul Place, The land of special needs" kindly donated Rick Scott and his family.

Darryl gave us a presentation on new contracts and how Clay Tree is evolving. We came up with some great ideas for our upcoming participant in service day. We have helped Julie with archiving and rolled penny's that had been forgotten in the archive room.

We look forward to the New Year where we will be organizing the service pins ready to be awarded at our AGM





HOPE COUNCIL



Ed



Arden



Joanna



Tina



Terry



Dawn



Megan



Janice



Kathleen



Lacey



George



Goals Met:

Jayleen attended the gardening interest group where she enjoyed growing and tending to the tomatoes we purchased from the Clay Tree tomato fundraiser.

The interest group had abundance of tomatoes so we made spaghetti sauce with as a gardening group fundraiser. With the extra tomatoes that were left over Jayleen made salsa as her goal.

She and staff picked out a delicious recipe online then went to the grocery store and purchased our ingredients. Jayleen did all the washing and chopping of her ingredients with staff assistance then stirred the salsa in the pan on the stove.

We then let the mixture cool in the fridge over night before putting it in the Mason jar so she could take home to enjoy with her family.



- **green tomatoes**, chopped small (as you prefer for salsa)
- **6 yellow onions**, chopped (4 cups)
- **3 jalapenos**, chopped with seeds (1/2 cup)
- **4 large red bell peppers**, chopped (2 cups)
- **6 garlic cloves**, minced
- **1 cup fresh cilantro**, chopped
- **1 cup lime juice**
- **1/2 cup vinegar**
- **1 tablespoon salt**
- **1/2 tablespoon cumin**
- **1 tablespoon dried oregano leaves**
- **2 teaspoons pepper**
- **1/4 teaspoon cayenne** (optional, to taste)
- **1-2 teaspoon sugar**





JACKSON FREEMAN

My name is Jackson Freeman and I am currently a volunteer here at Clay Tree. I am part of a program called Katimavik which is a government funded program that takes several 18-25 years old and places them in communities across Canada to do various volunteer work to help better those communities. The program is 6 months long. For the first three months I was in Winnipeg Manitoba volunteering at Festival Du Voyageur. I am now currently volunteering here at Clay Tree until december 20th. I joined Katimavik because I wanted to do good in communities across Canada as well as gain some great experience while doing so. Before katimavik I started my apprenticeship to become an instrumentation technician. While I was still in high school through the RAP (registered apprenticeship program) I essentially earned hours towards my apprenticeship working full time instead of going to high school for my last semester.



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After I finished a semester of that I took a year off after high school during which I worked landscaping full time. At the end of that year I got into Katimavik and it has been one of the best experiences of my life so far. After Katimavik I plan on going to school and continuing my apprenticeship for instrumentation. On a personal note I have played lacrosse since I was 5 years old and I will likely continue to have lacrosse as a big part of my life for years to come. Last season I played goalie for the Jr. Fort Saskatchewan Rebels until i left early to join Katimvik, a decision that has been amazing and life changing.



Katimavik



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Annual Info and Emergency Kit Updates



RESPONSE REQUIRED

Just a quick reminder that it is a CARF (our Accreditation) requirement that all information is reviewed on a yearly basis at least so in January the new information packs will be sent home and we would ask they be returned by January 31st at the latest. We really do need this information to be kept updated to be able to continue giving the best service possible.

The emergency response kits will also be sent home during December before the closure and again if they could be checked over by yourselves, and medication and or/out of date food be replaced and sent back by January 31st 2019.

Craig McCarthy in reception will be responsible for the collection, monitoring and storage of these kits, any questions please telephone Craig.

**ACTION
REQUIRED**





Thank you !



Clay Tree Society would like to thank Country Grocer for their continued support of various interest groups and activities conducted by Clay Tree Society throughout 2018.

A special thank you to St. Paul's Lutheran church of Nanaimo for their extraordinary fund raising efforts with the Country Grocer receipt collection.

The grand total raised to date by St. Paul's Lutheran church of Nanaimo is : \$154,280 in receipts for a Country Grocer cumulative gift card donation totalling: \$1,542.00

Clay Tree Society - No Gift Policy

Please be aware, Clay Tree Society has a no-gift policy (7.3) whereby staff are not permitted to accept gifts, in a non-profit agency this is a conflict of interest.

To demonstrate our commitment to these standards and behaviour, all employees must abide by the no-gift policy requirement.

No gifts of any kind, that are offered by parents, caregivers or participants, no matter the value, will be accepted by any employee, at any time, on or off the work premises.

However we do accept donations as a Society and of course are happy to hear of any staff members that you feel deserve recognition.





Competition Time:

As you are all aware during 2017 we changed the way our programs work and instead of having different programs i.e. Arbutus etc we all became Clay Tree Society and now offer over 50 different interest groups for our participants to make their own choices about what they would like to do.

Each morning they start off in their "Home Room" and go back for lunch and then again at the end of the day, whilst during the day they meet all the different participants and staff in the varied interest groups.

We would like to re-name our "Home Rooms" in acknowledgement of this and would like you to help us. So if you think they should be different trees or herbs or colours then please send your suggestions to Susan at susan.claytree@shaw.ca

Thank you and the winner will be announced before the New Year !!!!!!!!!!!



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Closures:

Friday - December 21, 2018 to Sunday January 06, 2018 - Holiday Closure



Important Dates:

Wednesday - December 12, 2018 - In-Service day for Participants

Monday - December 17, 2018 - Participant Christmas Gala at the Coast Bastion

Thursday - December 20, 2018 - Last day for Participants

Monday - January 7, 2019 - First day for Participants

Monday - January 07, 2019 - First day for evening Connections

CONTACT US:

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

