

NEWSLETTER

July 2019



we've got
BIG
NEWS



Summer Newsletter



Executive Director Glenys Patmore announced at the AGM that we have paid off the property!

**PAID
IN FULL**

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Clay TreeED

Welcome to all our friends and members of Clay Tree Society. How wonderful that the lovely warm weather has started to appear and our outings can become easier and more comfortable during the summer. It is a pleasure to let you know that we have paid in full now for the land that we purchased almost 2 years ago, with the constant fundraising from the volunteers and the marketing department, this huge task has only taken us 21 months and we are so proud of that, just think of the possibilities that almost 6 acres of residential land could produce for our community.

We also hope you are enjoying our facebook page and now have our new website up and running at www.claytree.org please check us out and let us know what you think about it.

The summer is filled with plans for all the interest groups and we have just had our summer party with a dedication of two memorial benches made by Eggy Rosacker leading the woodshop group to remember our dear friends Earl Weir and Richard Ollenberger, be sure to come along and have a look (and maybe a rest) at the wonderful work that was completed. Thanks to Pastor Fraser for leading the dedication of the benches.

We are also starting to have evening Pizza Parties with honest conversations on friendship, dating and close relationships, if you have any questions at all please speak to Joanne Cottle on 250 616 4720 and she will be very happy to talk to you about this much needed topic of conversation.

If you see Darryl around be sure to ask him about his new position in the Society as he is working towards retirement but at this rate he is not slowing down but speeding up towards it, also please chat to Rachel about her college course and Susan with any questions about the new website. Linda is the Lifeskills supervisor and Elaine wears many hats with one of them being the practicum Mentor. Brenda Booth is heading the SAGE program and any of the staff would love to tell you about the interest groups they are leading.

The Connections program has been running again on certain weekends in the summer and will be starting up full time from September onwards so be sure to look out for that on the facebook page and the website.

CARF is coming in the autumn to do an accreditation for the society and this will be the 6th accreditation the society has received. We are all working to make sure we pass the accreditation with flying colours the dates are the 4/5/6/ September.

We were runners up in the Inclusive Employment category that the Chamber of Commerce ran recently and were pleased to be nominated.

We have been attending many resource fairs and Darryl is also on the committee of the EAT (healthy eating Nanaimo).

Be sure to check in with Julie or Craig if you would like an appointment to see any one of the administration team and they will arrange a time that is convenient for you.

I would like to thank all the participants, staff family members and caregivers along with volunteers and students that make every event special and such a great place to be.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and hope to be seeing you at one of our events soon,

Kindest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Glenn".





Service Pin Ceremony



Dawn S. - 30 Years

30 years! Where has the time gone? Congratulations Dawn! Dawn plays an active part at Clay Tree with her involvement in the HOPE Council. Dawn has been reporting back to her peers in the Blue Room after the HOPE Council meetings, to let them know about the good work that is being done there. Dawn is such a good sport, is great fun! -we have fun teasing her and she gives it right back, tenfold!

Dawn has a keen awareness of the importance of exercising, and makes sure that her commitment to her own routine is upheld. Dawn has enjoyed the Sewing Program with Linda and often Linda can be heard to say, "It's too bad that Dawn didn't come today ... will you say hello if you see her?" another fun moment with Dawn

Jody J. - 25 Years

What an achievement-25 years! Jody is with us only on Mondays and Wednesdays now. This quarter Jody is exploring her interest in gardening. Crystal tells Jody that we need to turn her wheelchair into a monster truck for navigating the rough terrain in the garden area. Jody does everything she can to help out. Jody is also enrolled in the Job Readiness Program on Wednesday afternoons and is gaining knowledge about what employers are looking for. She has years of volunteering experience with the Salvation Army. Jody fits a lot into those two days and we all enjoy seeing her and catching up, and continuing the friendships we have grown to cherish over the years. Jody is another lady that pokes fun and is often seen giving the Handi Dart drivers a hard time!





Service Pin Ceremony



Brittany P. - 15 Years

Oh Brittany! You are amazing! You are always so willing to help, you have empathy for others and you are a joy in our groups. Brittany is enjoying the groups offered, has done all day transit training, has made her own scrap book and has enjoyed attending Animal Husbandry. Brittany

has a keen love of animals so the outings to farms, pet store and kennels has been right up her alley. Britt has a great sense of humour and enjoys "friendship times" in her Home Room. She attends the Sunshine Service each week and enjoys the company of our visitors. Music is another love for Brittany, as well as the twice weekly visits from the Literacy Reader, Penny.

Sandrita A. - 10 Years

We tease Sandrita when we see her coming, "Here comes Trouble, with a capital T!!" but it is all in fun because Sandrita is well loved here at Clay Tree and keeps us all laughing. It seems hard to believe that we first met Sandrita 10 years ago! When we first met her Sandrita was quite an acrobat on the floor at the old Estevan. Challenges and changes in Sandrita's life have served to make her stronger. She is a resilient individual and has established some strong friendships here at Clay Tree both with participants and staff.





Service Pin Ceremony

Donnie S. - 5 Years

Donnie has attended Estevan/Blue program and now attends the Sage/Green Seniors program. Donnie loves to sing a variety of old musical tunes and is a big fan of Kenny Rogers. Donnie can be seen wearing a variety of seasonal hats and waving and saying "hello" to everyone.



Arden B. - 5 Years

Arden, you are always happy with the biggest smile on your face. Arden really enjoys volunteering at Loaves and Fishes and he is an active member of the Clay Tree participant council called HOPE which stands for Helping our People Excel. He is one of ten council members, and makes sure everyone at clay tree gets a birthday card. One of Arden's favorite segments of HOPE council is Clay Tree News. Arden calls it HOPE news, I think this is a much better name for it because we are always hoping for good news.

The bottom line is Arden is enthusiastic in everything he does, he is happy to come to Clay Tree and at 2:30 he announces in a cheerful voice "Papap's here" he is happy to go home too.



Glenys P. - 5 Years

Presenting (and taking) the five year service pin to/from Glenys is Richard C.

We wish to thank Glenys for five excellent years as Executive Director. The amount of work put in by you is appreciated and will never be forgotten.





Congratulations Rachel!

As many of you may know, I have been attending UVIC over the past two years working on my Business Administration Certificate. I have taken courses to help build my skills in Human Resources, Change Management, Employment Law and Labor Relations, Business Management and more.

The training has been invaluable to my work at Clay Tree as the Operations Manager. Following one of my courses on Change Management, I brought back the information and led a staff training day on how to navigate the challenging waters of change.

Multiple courses helped me understand the various styles of human behavior and how important it is to consider this in the workplace. I thoroughly enjoyed my time taking these courses, and after two years of hard work and dedication, I'm proud to announce that I graduated with an "A" average on June 12, 2019.

I would like to extend a huge Thank You to Glenys Patmore for all the mentorship and support over the past few years, and a big Thank you to everybody who supported me during this time!

-Rachel Pearsall





BENCH CEREMONY:



A few months ago Glenys Patmore met with Eggy Rosacker to talk about the construction of custom made benches.

It was decided that two benches would be built in loving memory of two Clay Tree participants. Richard Ollenberger and Earl Weir.

Eggy, Julie and a crew of participants built and stained the benches and Glenys purchased personalized plaques to be placed on the benches honouring the two participants.

On July 25, 2019 Clay Tree hosted a bench dedication ceremony. Special thank you to Eggy, Julie and the crew for all their hard work on this memorial and a heartfelt thank you to Pastor Fraser for the kind words and prayer at the ceremony.



Richard and Earl – As you live on in Heaven you live on in our hearts forever.



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SUMMER CELEBRATION:



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Summer Celebration:



Clay Tree participants, staff and guests had a fabulous day at our Summer celebration.

BIG thank you to board member Dan Dube and his band members of the “South Island Rhythm Kings” everyone loved dancing to the music you played!

Thank you to the Tiger Lily farm – The farm animals were a great addition to the summer celebration.

We celebrated Margaret Gaskills 90th birthday surprising her with a big cake and lunch was served to everyone that attended. The day was perfectly planned and a great time was had by all.

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Closures:

Monday - August 5, 2019 - BC Day

Tuesday - Friday August 6-9th - Summer Closure

Monday - September 2, 2019 - Labour Day

Monday - October 14 2019 - Thanksgiving

Monday - November 11, 2019 - Remembrance Day

Friday - December 20, 2019 - Last day for Participants

Thursday - January 02, 2020 - Clay Tree Re-opens. First day back for everyone

Thank you to Steve & Sons

Anthony & Eric Flowers celebrated their birthdays in May.

Special hand crafted birthday party invitations were designed and were given to their friends with the suggestion of Donations to Clay Tree in their honour rather than birthday gifts.

The two young birthday boys along with their Father were very pleased to deliver \$126.00 in donations to Clay Tree! Thank you to everyone that donated and a very special thank you to Anthony & Eric for your gift to Clay Tree!



Check out our re-designed web site!
www.claytree.org

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