

NEWSLETTER CLAY TREE SOCIETY

"People Helping People"



A message from Alexandria...

As we welcome the official start of Summer, there's a lot to report from here in the administration offices at Clay Tree.



When we close the centre to participants on Monday June 29th we'll be busy making plans for after the August closure and beyond. This is our time to get creative with ideas for home room activities as well as the next round of Interest Groups. (Those will be running three days each week on Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays.

We're grateful to the City of Nanaimo for helping us get a LEAP (Leisure Economic Access Pass) card into the hands of every single participant at Clay Tree. This means free access to City-owned recreation centres like swimming pools and skating rinks.

The City is also giving LEAP card holders a free visit to the Beyond Van Gogh and Beyond Monet exhibit downtown at the Conference Centre. On Wednesday July 29th all of our participants will have a chance to take in this immersive art experience. Then they'll spend some time exploring downtown after lunch.

A group of caregiver volunteers is working on a makeover proposal in Sage. We're so grateful for their keen eyes and design tips. Can't wait to share the results with you!

Please don't hesitate to call or send me an email if you have questions or requests:
Alexandria.Stuart@claytree.ca



Celebrating Pride at Clay Tree

Clay Tree was proud to celebrate Pride Month with participants and staff by coming together for a day of connection, inclusion, and fun. We enjoyed a special lunch, sweet treats from Lickity Dripity Ice Cream, and everyone received a custom Clay Tree Pride t-shirt to show their support for diversity and belonging.

At Clay Tree, we believe every person deserves to feel seen, valued, and celebrated for who they are. Thank you to everyone who helped make the day so special!



JUNE 2026

www.claytree.org



JUNE 23, 2026

CHANGE TO TRAFFIC FLOW *at Clay Tree*

We hear from a lot of caregivers who drop off and pick up participants that traffic doesn't move so well here at busy times. When I asked staff why it's done this way I learned that it's a relic from the Covid days when we needed to keep people safe in their bubbles. Happily, we don't need to work that way anymore.

So, we're changing that starting now. If you're dropping off or picking up a participant who is safe to walk in to the building on their own, please feel free to use the upper driveway: turn off Old Victoria Road and pull up in front of the building to let them out.



- If you're in this **LOADING ZONE**, please don't leave your vehicle.
- It's best if you wait and watch them get in the door.
- A staff member will be in the Common Room to meet them.
- And then you're on your way! (Carefully of course—it's hectic at those times so take it slow and watch out for people moving between cars.)



You're still welcome to use the lower driveway at the back of the building, but now you have another option. If you choose to drop off in the back, please move carefully on your way out through the front driveway—this area will be busier now.



And if you care for a participant who takes the HandyDART, nothing changes!



Thank you

Thanks to everyone who has been patient while we work these things out!



Don't hesitate to call or email if I can help with anything.



You Said, We Did

You said:

“The traffic at drop-off and pick-up is too much to bear!”

We did:

Reopened the upper driveway for drop-off and pick-up (traffic is still one way only please).



Alexandria.Stuart@claytree.ca



250-753-5322

Take care, Alexandria Stuart, Interim Executive Director





From the Board Table Travis Sippel, Board Chair

Summer is in full-swing at Clay Tree with many exciting events and outings for the participants! The Board has approved funding for an external painting and landscaping project and thanks those volunteers who are helping spruce up the building. We also are in the process of purchasing a new bus under the guidance of our fantastic Interim Executive Director, Alexandria. We hope everyone has an enjoyable summer!

REMINDER - The next meet the board night is August 26, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.



Please watch our Facebook page for more tasty fundraisers coming up!



CLOSURE DATES

JUNE 29, 2026

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

JULY 1, 2026

HAPPY CANADA DAY!



AUGUST 3 - 7, 2026

SUMMER CLOSURE

AUGUST 24 & 25, 2026

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

PERSON CENTERED

THINKING



WINTER CLOSURE

LAST DAY PARTICIPANTS

DECEMBER 22, 2026

Closed Dec 23, 2026 to Jan 3, 27

FIRST DAY BACK

JANUARY 4, 2027

Staff Training - Kat Strandberg

At the end of May, staff at Clay Tree participated in the first-ever Naloxone training. Staff learned how naloxone works, what the signs of an opioid overdose are, and how to support someone who is experiencing a drug overdose. In addition, we also learned how to administer the drug both nasally and via injection. The training session was a big success, and the Society is very proud to have been able to offer Naloxone training to our staff.

Interested in learning more about Naloxone?

Visit: <https://towardtheheart.com/>

Upcoming training sessions that have been planned for the summer include topics such as "Bullying and Harassment Prevention" and "Suicide Prevention". In addition to this, Clay Tree will be closed on August 24th and 25th so that all staff may attend a training session on "Person Centered Thinking". Person Centered Thinking (PCT) focuses on giving staff members the skills needed on how to help develop plans that better reflect the wants and needs of people supported.





Interest Groups

By: Am Abernethy - Program Manager

We are in our 3rd month of interest groups, and they have done some fun things! The VICE group went to the Malahat Skywalk which was a huge hit with the group!

Around the world cuisine has been exploring counties and making their national foods from each one.

The photography interest group has been busy taking pictures of beaches, farm animals, butterflies, each other and lots more!

We started the scrapbooks of our collection of pictures, filling them with stickers, washi tape, and write-ups on ourselves.

Health and fitness have been swimming and enjoying the beautiful weather we have been having and spending lots of time outside too.

Treasure hunters have been going to all the thrift stores around town and have also gone to Gabriola Island too.

Fishing and nature have started their own worm bait which has been a great hit with the participants.



