

Sharing the joy, achievements, and community spirit of Clay Tree Society.

www.claytree.org

CLAY TREE SOCIETY

"People helping People"



July 2026

250-753-5322

You Said, We Did

You said: "Décor in the rooms could use some pizzazz."

We did: Participants are working with staff to add personal touches (and some paint) to their rooms so Clay Tree feels a bit more like home-away-from-home.



Welcome to Clay Tree!

We are delighted to welcome Lan Baker to the Clay Tree team as our new Receptionist.

As the first point of contact for many of the people we support, their families, visitors and community partners, Lan will play an important role in creating a warm and welcoming experience for everyone who connects with Clay Tree.

Please join us in extending a heartfelt welcome to Lan! We are excited for the journey ahead and are grateful to have you on our team.

WELCOME
to the
TEAM!

Life at Clay Tree , Where everyday brings new opportunities to learn, connect and grow.

www.claytree.org



A message from Alexandria... Clay Tree's new Executive Director!

July was a busy month where we had three separate outings for the entire centre. At the beginning of July we attended the Fun Day hosted by Bonaventure. All of the community inclusion programs in Nanaimo came together for games and a picnic lunch. Last week Nanaimo Association for Community Living hosted their annual barbeque picnic at Maffeo Sutton Park. They're celebrating their 40th anniversary! Everyone enjoyed hamburgers and hot dogs and games. And this week everyone spent a morning at the Beyond Van Gogh and Beyond Monet exhibit at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. The City of Nanaimo was very generous and gave us free tickets to the exhibit for everyone with a LEAP card. Thanks to the City, to the staff at the Conference Centre, and the staff from the Port Theatre who took such great care of us. The staff from the exhibit told us they were impressed with the way that Clay Tree showed up, and how respectful the group was. I was blown away by the looks on everyone's faces as they were surrounded by massive projections of paintings with a beautiful classical music soundtrack playing in the background. Watch our page on Facebook for photos from this amazing day.

We all enjoy seeing friends and former Clay Tree staff members at these events. It's a great reminder that we're part of a warm and welcoming community in Nanaimo. These days are usually a little hectic. It's a big job to coordinate participants, staff, and transportation. It can be hard for participants to be out of routine, and hard for staff too. But we think it's worth it to take our Clay Tree light out and shine it in the community.

From the Board Table...

The Board of Directors is excited to announce the appointment of Alexandria Stuart as our new permanent Executive Director. For the past several months we have watched as Alexandria has tirelessly worked to advance the community inclusion programs at Clay Tree. She has brought with her a new life and energy to the centre and we are excited to see the continued transformation. Congratulations, Alexandria, on behalf of the Board.

Lisa Nissinen,
Board of Directors, Vice Chair



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

The next meet the Board night at Clay Tree is August 26, 2026 6:30p.m.

Auction!! View the catalogue online at www.claytree.org -upcoming events - Woodshop Auction

www.claytree.org



Clay Tree Woodshop Auction!
Saturday, August 22, 2026
Opens at 11a.m.
Bidding to start at 1p.m.

AUCTION



Our former woodshop is full of quality tools, equipment, machinery, workbenches, lumber, hardware, and shop supplies looking for a new home. Rather than letting these items sit unused, we're inviting our community to give them a second life while supporting Clay Tree Society.

With more than 130 auction lots, there's something for woodworkers, hobbyists, collectors, and anyone looking for quality shop equipment. Every bid helps us move closer to an important goal: replacing the roof on our building so we can continue providing meaningful programs and services for the people we support.

Whether you find the perfect tool or simply want to support our work, every contribution makes a difference.

If woodworking isn't your thing, you can still help by making a financial donation. Tax receipts are available for donations of \$20 or more. To receive a receipt, please include your full name and mailing address with your donation. To EFT a donation use the email address **susan.easter@claytree.ca**

Thank you for helping us raise the roof and invest in the future of Clay Tree Society. Together, we are strengthening a place where inclusion, connection, and community continue to grow.

Sensory room project
by: Tufwa Westberg
VIU MBA Program Intern

"Three months ago, I walked into Clay Tree Society for the first time, where I was immediately welcomed with warm smiles and an inviting atmosphere. My role here was to explore the feasibility of implementing a Multi-Sensory Environment (MSE), a space designed to provide calming, engaging, and individualized sensory experiences that can support participants' well-being, communication, and development.

Over the past three months, I have had the privilege of getting to know the organization, the incredible people who make it what it is, and the unique culture you have created together. It has been a truly rewarding experience.

I hope that my work has helped lay a strong foundation for bringing a Multi-Sensory Environment to Clay Tree Society. More importantly, I want to thank each of you for welcoming me into your community and for everything I have learned from you. Your openness, kindness, and genuine care for one another create an environment where learning, growth, and joy happen naturally.

Thank you for making my time here such a meaningful experience. I wish you all the very best as Clay Tree Society continues to grow, and I hope our paths cross again in the future.

With gratitude,
Tufwa Westberg"

THANK YOU





CLAY TREE SOCIETY is looking for New Members to join our Board of Directors



We are a local, Nanaimo-based non-profit that supports adults with developmental disabilities through community inclusion programs and services.



Learn more about us at www.claytree.org

We are committed to building a Board that reflects the people we support and the diversity of our community. We welcome applications from people with a variety of backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives.



We're looking for people who:

- Are committed to our mission and values
- Understand the importance of good governance
- Will participate in Board discussions and decision-making
- Build connections in the community
- Want to help Clay Tree Society grow and succeed

We are particularly interested in hearing from people with experience in:

- Self-advocacy
- Board governance
- Fundraising
- Business or land development
- Finance



Please submit your resume with a brief letter outlining the skills and experience you bring to the Board. **The application deadline is August 14, 2026.**



Attention: Alexandria Stuart
Executive Director, Clay Tree Society
Email: alexandria.stuart@claytree.ca



(250) 753-5322 ext. 1



Save
the
date

VIRTUAL AGM NOTICE

Monday, September 28, 2026 5:30p.m.
The link to the meeting will be emailed to all active members.

You must be registered as a member 30 days prior to the AGM to have voting rights.

Don't have a membership?
See below on how to become a member of Clay Tree Society.



Hats off to Honourary members
Mary-Anne & Ken Armstrong for
the beautiful floral planters!



Farewell to staff member
BROCK...
We will miss you at Clay Tree
& Wish you the best!



CLAY TREE SOCIETY Membership Drive

Sign-Up / Renewal Options

- Fill out the online form at <https://claytree.org/membership>
- Pick up a form from us at the office!

Please note that if you are signing up on behalf of someone else, their mailing address and contact information is required.

Payment Options

- Pay online at <https://claytree.org/support-us>
- E-transfer to susan.easter@claytree.ca (write "membership" in the memo)
- Drop off payment with your form in-office

If you have any questions, please call us at (250) 753-5322.



Dates to Remember...

August 3 - 7, 2026
SUMMER CLOSURE

August 24 & 25, 2026
CLOSED FOR STAFF PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

August 26, 2026
MEET THE BOARD AT CLAY TREE 6:30p.m.

September 7 & 30, 2026
October 12, 2026
November 11, 2026
CLOSED STAT HOLIDAYS

December 23, 2026 to January 1, 2027
WINTER CLOSURE
first day back Jan. 4, 2027

