



CLAY TREE

Newsletter

SEPTEMBER 2026



www.claytree.org

A MESSAGE FROM ALEXANDRIA ~

Join Us for the Clay Tree Society AGM!

Our Annual General Meeting is Monday, September 28 at 5:30 pm. It's a good chance to reflect on the past fiscal year together. Everyone is welcome: members like participants, families, caregivers, and other stakeholders can join us online through Microsoft Teams.

The agenda is straightforward: we will review the financial report, appoint our auditor, and present the Chair and Executive Director reports. Members in good standing can vote. RSVP to Reception@claytree.ca by noon on Friday, September 25. We will email a Teams link that afternoon. Let us know if we can offer accommodations that will make it easier for you to participate.

Participants make up the largest group of Clay Tree Society's members, and that matters—this is their Society, and their voices and votes carry a lot of weight. Civic engagement belongs to everyone, regardless of ability, and it's our duty to make sure it's accessible. Speaking of which—we'll be voting in a Provincial Election on Saturday, October 24, and don't forget the Municipal Election on Saturday, October 17. Local decisions really shape our day-to-day lives yet these elections often see the lowest voter turnout. So make your voice heard at City Hall too!



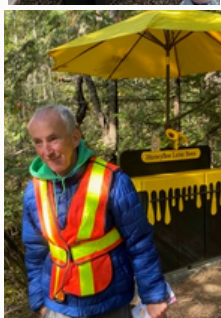
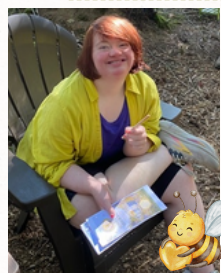
WOOD SHOP - NEW ROOF!



We're excited to share another improvement at Clay Tree!

Our Wood shop has a brand-new roof, helping to keep our space safe, comfortable, and ready for many more years of activities, laughter, learning, and memories.

Investing in our building means investing in the people who use it every day, and it's wonderful to see these important improvements taking shape.



CLOSURE DATES

Sept 30

Truth & Reconciliation
CLOSED

Oct 12

Thanksgiving
CLOSED

Nov 11

Remembrance Day
CLOSED

PURPLE ROOM AT HONEYBEE LANE

PLEASE VISIT OUR FACEBOOK PAGE FOR MORE INFO ON THESE OUTINGS

RED ROOM AT THE MALAHAT SKYWALK



You Said, We Did

Super-sized edition from the Meet the Board session on August 26, 2026

Communication

You said: Give us more notice when plans change, especially same-day cancellations.

We did: Email notice now goes out by the end of the day for changes in the itinerary (sooner if we know earlier).



Staffing

You said: We're concerned about staffing levels, especially one-to-one support.

We did: Actively hiring 30-hr/week roles for one-to-one support. We've made progress fine-tuning scheduling and staffing in the last six months, and that work continues.

Programming & Structure

You said: More structure, less repetitive/unstructured time; more informal social connection opportunities.

We did: Our programming is built to meet community inclusion standards. We're asking participants if they'd like informal social time at day's start, end, or lunch.

Interest Groups

You said: We want better-matched activities and more say in the process.

We did: We meet personally with participants on their selections to match interests with support needs.

We'll keep refining the communication and sign-up process each session. Interest Groups will continue 3 days/week into 2027.

Social Opportunities

You said: We want more dances, movie nights, and weekend gatherings.

We did: We don't have capacity to run these ourselves right now, but we're glad to help promote and coordinate anything families want to organize.

Facility

You said: Questions on cleaning, repairs, the roof, the woodworking building, and room names.

We did: New bi-weekly cleaning service is in place. We're working through a long list of maintenance and repairs, and are happy to share the roof over the wood shop has been replaced!

Stay tuned for news on our planned multi-sensory /indoor recreation space.

HOPE Council is gathering input from Participants on room naming.

Auction

You said: Why was the auction cancelled, and what's next?

We did: Only one volunteer came forward to help, and a live auction needs a lot more than that so we cancelled rather than risk a poorly run event. We're exploring an online auction, and would reconsider an in-person event if there was a strong volunteer commitment.

Volunteering

You said: There's interest in helping but we're unclear what's needed.

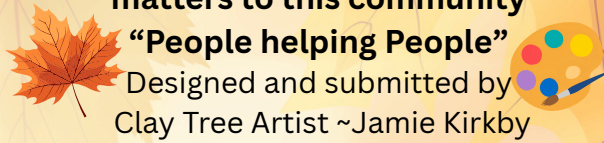
We did: We'll start posting specific requests by email and on Facebook. Current need: painters for the Blue and Yellow rooms—let the front office know if you're in!

Thank you to everyone who joined the conversation and spoke so honestly—this is exactly how we keep getting better. Questions or more feedback? Reach out any time.

— Alexandria Stuart, Executive Director, Clay Tree Society



Showing through Art that Inclusion matters to this community



"People helping People"

Designed and submitted by
Clay Tree Artist ~Jamie Kirkby

A little over a year ago I made this canvas poster board and gave it as a present to Clay Tree Society to show the gratitude behind their care, support, encouragement. The way they worked with me to feel included, safe but most of all respected as a human being and given the chance to work towards becoming the best version of myself.

When asked if I would paint the door this previous project is what brought my inspiration out to create the very colourful door that now sits in the main office for all to see. I chose to put Clay Tree Society in the heart because to me hearts represent care but also I believe it represents how much staff

love their job, how happy you can see the participants be it if they are out in the community or at Clay Tree Society themselves.

The words surrounding the heart such as judgement free zone and Independence encouraged I chose them because they really represent the staff, participants, families, caregivers and everyone else that makes Clay Tree Society a very inclusive place to be. And so, by putting all these designs and words together on the background of all the colours that represent the room colours of the day programs that happen here at Clay Tree Society I created a project to show everyone who Clay Tree Society is and how they are an amazing society that plays a big part in helping people become the best version of themselves and how much they matter to this community!



VIEX This weekend!

Clay Tree participants will be entering their art work in the VIEX Home Arts exhibit! Please visit our table to see all of the great work that is on display!



THANK YOU!



Clay Tree Society

Inclusion
Choice
Respect
Belonging
A Brighter Tomorrow

People Helping People ♥

We Are Hiring!

Join Our Team!



BCGEU Membership Required



**Wage Grid 10
\$27.53**
starting rate.



Full Time Benefits & Municipal Pension Plan
with passed probation period.



Class 4 Driver's Licence (Unrestricted) Required for Employment



Please send letter of intent and resume to
Program Manager Am Abernethy
Am.Abernethy@claytree.ca



838 Old Victoria Road
Nanaimo, BC



To learn more please visit our website at
www.claytree.org

Together we build a more inclusive community. ♥

Your Voice Matters

At Clay Tree Society, we are committed to providing quality services and making sure everyone feels heard, respected, and supported. We understand that sometimes concerns or disagreements may arise. These could involve programs, services, communication, planning, facilities, participants, staff, management, or other areas related to the supports we provide.

Our Complaints Resolution Process explains how you can raise a concern, how Clay Tree will work toward a timely resolution, and your opportunity to receive a decision in writing and appeal a decision if you disagree.

For complete information or to access the complaint form, please visit www.claytree.org and go to:

Contact → Complaints Resolution Process & Form

If you need assistance completing the form, a Clay Tree staff member will be happy to help.

Your voice matters to us. We are here to listen.





People Helping People ♥



COMMUNITY

INCLUSION

FRIENDSHIP

FUN

Hop Aboard
with Clay Tree!
♥

CLAY TREE IS SHUTTLING RIDES

from the
NORTH TOWN MALL
(SEARS SIDE)
to the

VIEX FAIR GROUNDS

Every 15 to 20 minutes!

FRIDAY

September 25th, 2026

3:30 p.m. to
11:30 p.m.

SATURDAY

September 26th, 2026

11:30 a.m. to
11:30 p.m.

SUNDAY

September 27th, 2026

10:00 a.m. to
6:00 p.m.



Pick up at the fair is by the
Beban Log House side.

Watch for "Shuttle Signs"!



The shuttle rides are **FREE!** ♥

See you at the Fair! ♥