

VOL. 23, ISSUE 3 • AUGUST 2026

what'shappening?

Official Newsletter of  **NACL**
Nanaimo Association
for Community Living



The SUMMER Scoop

From Angela...

BY ANGELA TRIMBLE, CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

“PRIDE OF AGENCY”

There's a nice double meaning in the phrase “pride of agency” for an organization like ours — pride in the Agency we've built together, and pride in the agency of the people we support to live the lives they choose. Both have been on full display this summer, and both are exactly what our Strategic Plan is asking us to keep building on.

Speaking of the Strategic Plan, we're now moving from the planning table into the doing. Operationalizing it across all seven goals isn't a project for one department or one committee — it genuinely counts on everyone at NACL contributing in their own way. A support worker adjusting a routine to give someone more say in their day. A team lead flagging a process that could run smoother. A manager connecting a goal on paper to a decision made this week. None of that shows up as a single dramatic headline, but stacked together across every home, program, and office, it's how a strategic plan stops being a document and starts being how we actually work. Thank you to everyone who's already leaning into that - it shows.

It's also been impossible to miss how good this summer looked on social media. Excursions, outings, new experiences, big smiles - the kind of content that doesn't need a caption to explain why we do this work. Every one of those posts represents someone getting out, trying something new, and being supported to do it on their own terms. That's pride of agency in action, and it's worth celebrating loudly.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE➡➡

In this issue >>>

The Summer Scoop from Angela	1
Save the Date	2
Let's Talk Communications	3
Celebrating 40 Years	4
Cathers Lake Respite Home Update	5
Seafeld Outreach Update	6
Toss the Boss	7
Foxglove Home Update	8
Employment Services Update	9
Child/Youth Respite Services Survey	10
Maxey Road Home Update	11
OH&S News	12
Oceanside Outreach Update	13
Indigenous Relations Team Update	14
Strawberry Pancake Brunch	14
Long Lake Home Update	15
Quality Assurance Report	16
Portsmouth Road Home Update	17
Jingle Pot Home Update	18
Evanmorr Acres Home Update	19
Harvest Dinner	20
Westwood Lake Home Update	22
AGM Notice	23
Virtual Fitness Classes	24
Thank You Randy	25
Social Media/Birthday Wishes	26

Happy Reading



The SUMMER Scoop

continued...



...and there's more to look forward to. As summer winds down, our attention turns to fall programming at the farms, with Empress Acres front and centre. Between the seasonal farm activities and the excitement building toward our inaugural Harvest Dinner fundraiser on September 26, the farms continue to prove themselves as one of the best expressions of what NACL is about: community, purpose, and people showing what they're capable of when given the room to shine.

Here's to a strong finish to summer and an even better fall - and to everyone across NACL who keeps showing up and making the plan real, one contribution at a time.

Thank You



FLOWERS AT EVANMORR ACRES



Save the Date



We have several events coming up into 2027, so keep your calendars clear for these dates - and stay tuned for more details to follow on each!

OCTOBER 8, 2026

NACL's 3rd Annual "SquashTober" **Empress Acres Farm**

Celebrating the harvest season at our newest farm. Timeframe and more to be shared soon!

DECEMBER 19, 2026
(TENTATIVE)

Michael Patrick's Christmas Fundraiser **The Queens**

NACL is deeply honoured to once again be chosen to receive all proceeds from this fun night of music and more!

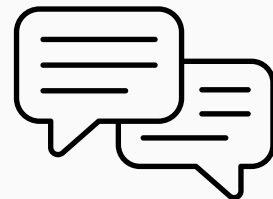
FEBRUARY 10, 2027

Teatro La Plaza's Hamlet **The Port Theatre**

NACL is the proud sponsor of this play, where "Peruvian director Chela De Ferrari intertwines the text of Shakespeare's Hamlet with the lived experiences of a young ensemble of eight actors with Down Syndrome."

More to come on this in the November issue of "What's Happening?"





Hi everyone! Hope you've all had a fabulous summer full of fun, connecting with those who mean the most to you! Fall is fast approaching, and we'll soon be into the days of longer sleeves, socks, and pumpkin-spiced everything!



That also means our focus is starting to shift towards things like our **Annual General Meeting (AGM)**, which is happening Monday, September 28th - so ahead of that, our **2026/2027 membership campaign** has fully launched!

If you **haven't been a NACL employee within the last two years** (sorry, our Bylaws don't allow employees to be members), you're **19 years of age or older**, and you're **willing to uphold our Constitution and Bylaws** (found on both the Membership and Resources pages of our website), for just a **minimum \$1 donation** (see the graphic below for payment methods) you can apply for NACL membership!

Membership gives you **voting privileges at our AGM plus any Special Membership Meetings** that may be called throughout the year, you'll automatically **receive this newsletter**, we'll **invite you to special events**, and more!

Our **membership application form** (available in both **fillable PDF and Word formats**) can be found here:

www.nanaimoacl.com/membership

We always have **hard copies at the office** too, if you'd rather come see us in person!

The **deadline to apply** (and pay) for memberships in order to have voting privileges at this year's AGM is **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, September 13th** - which is not far away! I'll be sending out the AGM package on Monday, September 14th.

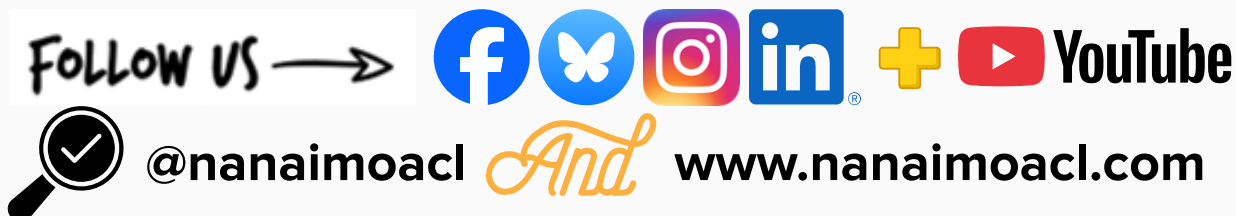
So **if you're interested in becoming a member** and meet the criteria, **don't delay and join today!** Being a member enables you to **have your say and be even more deeply connected with NACL...**

Please **contact me** if you have any questions or would like more information - my **work cell** is **(778) 268-2022**, my **office line** is **(250) 741-0224, ext. 224**, and you can reach me by **e-mail** at **marlena.stewart@nanaimoacl.com**. I'm always glad to guide you through the process!

Much of my last half of August and first half of September is spent on **membership processing** and **AGM prep work** - so by all means, please keep me extra-busy processing YOUR membership, if you qualify!

Make sure you **keep checking NACL's socials** for reminders about our membership campaign and AGM and even more importantly, further **visual evidence** of how both the **lives of those we serve** and our **organization itself** have been **THRIVING** this summer and beyond!

In the meantime? Have fun soaking up the sun while we have it, and we'll catch up again later this fall!



Celebrating 40 years...



What a party!



July 22, 2026 was significant for us because on that very day, 40 years earlier, NACL was “born” (incorporated as a non-profit society) from the vision of several parents of (at the time) adult children with developmental disabilities. Today, we hope we’ve done them proud as we’ve grown by leaps and bounds to serve people ages six and up in a wide variety of programs and services to fulfill our current vision - where “all people with developmental disabilities thrive.”

Hugest thanks to all who made our celebratory BBQ an amazing success (see the list on the left!), with a HUMUNGOUS shoutout to Leona Multari - who expertly masterminded the event right down to the finite details - including those extra-special touches (activities and entertainers) that made this BBQ our best yet!

1986-2026



Introducing... CATHERS Lake Respite Home

By Nicole Wright, Director of Child and Youth Services



Well, we got so busy filling up our respite home that we forgot to announce it to you all! Cathers Lake Respite Home opened in July 2025, and we've kept our dedicated team busy with the eight children and youth currently accessing this service.

Respite is a bit different than full-time care - our main goal is to provide our youth and their families with a bit of a break so that they can refresh, reset, and reconnect after their stay. The youth come to us for a few nights at a time, and we fill their days with whatever fun activities they can dream up! We've been busy this summer with fishing, kayaking, visits to the SPCA, trips to Vancouver, playgrounds, and afternoons on the trampoline.

We're having so much fun that one of our kids even refers to his respite stay as "going to his vacation home!"

FUN



WHAT'S
NEW?

...at *Seafield* OUTREACH

By Michele Westwood, Program Coordinator



HELLO!

We have had a busy and exciting spring and summer filled with new experiences, community connections, and lots of fun activities.

We participated in the Pride Festival and joined the parade for the first time, which was a lot of fun! We have enjoyed taking part in the Thursday night Social Club activities at NACL and listening to live music, thanks to Who's Driving?

Several people have joined the Gender and Sexuality Alliance group where they have built friendships, connections, and a stronger sense of community. We enjoyed the BBQ hosted by the Get Out and Mingle group at Bowen Park, and joined the Uplands Outreach Dinner Club for good food and great conversations.

We have also enjoyed some unique experiences, including looking after horses while at the Day Program, participating in the Silly Boat Regatta, and celebrating together at the Strawberry Pancake Brunch.

Seafield Outreach currently supports 13 people, and we are looking forward to welcoming 10 more people once the new apartment building is complete. We are excited for all the new opportunities, friendships, and memories ahead!

We hope everyone has a wonderful rest of the summer!



Enjoy
Life



MAKE
memories



She's
falling for it.
AGAIN



Mark
YOUR
Calendar

She's brave, she's bold, and she actually regretted not having been one of our jumpers last year - so we're proudly welcoming our Director of Home Share, **Brianna Otto**, back as NACL's featured boss "taking the fall" to support our friends at the Nanaimo Brain Injury Society (NBIS) at this year's **Toss the Boss** event happening **Friday, October 2, 2026!**

We only have a short time to help Brianna **fundraise at least \$1,000** to make the jump - so please scan the QR code above or go to the link below to donate - and we thank you in advance for your support!

Funds raised help the NBIS support, educate, and advocate for adults with acquired brain injuries and their families, and provide community awareness and education about concussion and brain injury.

You're also more than welcome to **come to WildPlay Nanaimo (35 Nanaimo River Road)** on October 2nd to cheer Brianna on - we'll find out exactly when her "toss time" will be (watch our socials for specifics), but we know it'll be **sometime between 1:00-5:00 p.m.** that day!



nbis

NANAIMO BRAIN
INJURY SOCIETY
awareness • support • connection



Brianna Otto

nbis **GETS TOSSED!** WildPlay NANAIMO



Scan to donate!

AGAIN
TOSS THE BOSS

 **NACL** **OCT 2, 2026**
Nanaimo Association
for Community Living

Help us raise \$1000 to toss our boss from
WildPlay's 150ft Bungy Bridge!

[tosstheboss.ca](https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/team/nanaimo-association-for-community-living)

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/team/nanaimo-association-for-community-living>





AT



FOXGLOVE home

By Nicole Wright, Director of Child and Youth Services
and Max Miles, Senior Residence Worker



Welcome to Foxglove Home, NACL's newest staffed home for adults!

We moved here in March 2026, and have had two young adults living in our basement suite. We're looking forward to expanding into the rest of the home soon!

We're feeling very fortunate to be where we are. Located on Empress Acres Farm, our newest farm property, the opportunities are endless!

Life at the farm is in full bloom. Sunflowers sway in the breeze, pumpkins are filling out, and the blackberries are ripe.. Feel free to come and visit! We're at 2974 Haslam Road in Cassidy. 😊

BZ and CW keep busy working on life skills like cooking and budgeting, and we've just started working on the farm by helping out with some watering tasks.

With all this space, we've created our own mini bike shop. Check out that picture of CW dismantling (and soon rebuilding) an old dirt bike!

We're in a prime location for watching the airplanes come and go, too - get the best view!

Summer has been flying by – bike shops, thrift shopping, weekly car meet-ups, and tending to our resident cat, Odie – plus lots of drives for a cold milkshake.

See you in the fall – hopefully with some new housemates!

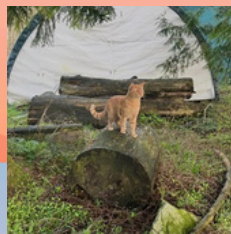
EXPLORE



have
FUN!



Adventures
Await



LIVE
YOUR
BEST LIFE





2026

EMPLOYMENT WORKS: COWICHAN

Conference

Employment professionals from the Central and North Island are invited to attend this **FREE** one day conference.

? Live in a remote community? Ask us about mileage and hotel accommodations.

Please Share!

MARKETPLACE | INDIGENOUS STORYTELLING | CATERED BREAKFAST & LUNCH | SNACKS

SELF
EMPLOYMENT

L.I.F.E
SERVICES

SELF
ADVOCACY

Khowutzun Heritage Center
 200 Cowichan Way
 Duncan, BC

Questions?

 Shannon@communityroots.ca



NACL Employment Services is gearing up for an exciting fall. In collaboration with the fine folks at Clements Centre in Duncan and Community Roots in Langford, NACL staff have been hard at work planning a free day of learning for job developers across the Island.

The event is scheduled for Monday, September 14th in Duncan, and will feature amazing presentations on culturally-safe employment, mental health, marketing in the age of artificial intelligence, the L.I.F.E.. service, and so much more.

These events, called Employment Works, are happening at locations throughout the province thanks to funding support from the BC Employment Network and Inclusion BC. As the job market slows and job developers face new challenges in connecting job seekers with meaningful employment, opportunities to share knowledge and network with our peers are more important than ever.

It's also especially important to acknowledge the work behind the scenes that makes it all happen, which is why we want to shout out to our own Jocelyn Gamble, who's done such amazing work to put together an engaging day of programming. We also want to acknowledge Libby Searles from Clements Centre for her work in setting the stage and sorting through the logistics to make sure everyone has a great experience, and Shannon Brower from Community Roots who's handling all the registration processes.

Keep your eyes on the next Bulletin too, as we look forward to sharing photos from the event!





Your input is wanted!

We're doing a survey about what your youth respite service needs are!

<https://forms.gle/dkrMQMmh96ALgbKi9>
(See link in post or bio)

Deadline to reply - September 4th at noon



NACL
Nanaimo Association
for Community Living

NACL wants to hear from YOU! We're exploring piloting new services for children and youth with developmental disabilities, including a weekend daytime respite program, accessible services geared towards children and youth on our farm property, expansion of our existing overnight respite services, and connection for parents and families of children with developmental disabilities. We'd love input from as many families in our community as we can - your feedback will help shape the direction of future service expansion.

Thanks for taking 10-15 minutes to complete this anonymous survey by noon on September 4th, letting us know what services you truly want/need. Please spread the word, too!

<https://forms.gle/dkrMQMmh96ALgbKi9>

Please reach out with questions, and we really appreciate your input!

In collaboration,
Nicole Wright, Director of Child and Youth Services
Courtney Peters, Director of Community Inclusion





Maxey Road Home has been enjoying everything the summer has to offer so far – including the late sunsets and warm summer nights...

Over the past few months, Maxey has been going through some exciting new changes. We have been under construction with PH's new suite coming along wonderfully, and we recently have undergone a complete paint job throughout the whole house. It has been a welcome transformation, and the end product is stunning to say the least. SV and MG enjoyed helping pick out the main color for the house.

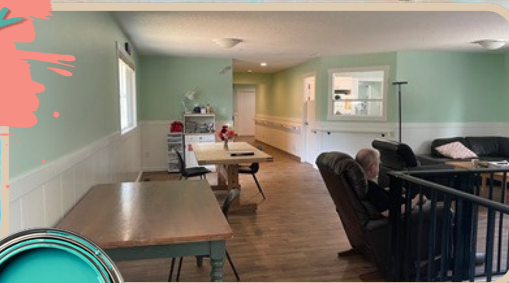
We have enjoyed lunches out on patios and evening events in the community. Between the Pride Parade and Canada Day events, we have enjoyed a fun-filled summer.

BS recently went on a trip to Grouse Mountain and the Vancouver Zoo – it was full of smiles and laughs. SV and MG are off to the AC/DC concert in Vancouver and are so excited to experience the music together.

We have a lot to look forward to in the coming months. The cooling and beautiful colours of fall, and Halloween will be right around the corner. We will be welcoming PH and her staff back to their home when the build is complete. Maxey has really been making the most of this amazing summer, and we are welcoming fall with open arms.

*FRESH
paint*

I ♥
SUM
MER





By: Peter Letts,
Director of Quality Assurance

The OH&S Committee has only met twice since the last Bulletin due to the summer break, but the Association's efforts around health and safety never stop.

We continue to improve our systems around returning to or staying at work after injury. Managers have been very successful in ensuring return-to-work plans are in place and accommodate the needs of the staff so they can stay involved, but return at a pace that works for them. New WorkSafeBC regulations lay out the responsibilities of both employers and employees in this process, so that everyone knows what's expected. We're also supported by the Disability Management Institute (DMI), who are contracted to assist employees and employers in the return-to-work process. This may include help with graduated return-to-work plans. Research shows that if employees are away from work for too long, there can be lasting effects on connectedness to the workplace and a person's mental health. Therefore, it's very important that employees stay connected and are supported after an injury.

This fall, the OH&S Committee will be seeing some changes in membership, as NACL has reorganized its management team. The Director of Adult Staffed Homes and the Director of Community Inclusion will now sit on the committee to provide leadership perspectives and help steer key initiatives. With the bulk of the Association employees working in these areas, it will help the Directors stay on top of health and safety issues in their departments. The employee representatives will remain, which is very helpful to ensure continuity of the committee. The committee begins its 2026-2027 season with a meeting on September 9th. We look forward to continuing the great work that the committee has been doing.

*Stay connected
and supported...*





AT OCEANSIDE OUTREACH



By Jeremy Green, Program Coordinator



We have had a nice summer here at Parksville Outreach. There is so much to do in the local area, from Beachfest with the sandcastles, bands and other events, night markets on Craig Street, the Coombs Fair was on, and the three pictures with cars are from the Coombs Car show - to mention a few. There have been hikes and walks too (see pic!), enjoying the local area in a more quiet environment. Our people served have also been going away/out with family, house sitting, enjoying other local programs, building PCs, gaming with friends, and lots of other things...

People that have moved on from Parksville seem to be doing well in new places, and our new people at the program are now getting on with life in their new surroundings! 😊

On August 15th, Parksville Beachfest had the sandcastles glowing with lights and fireworks were scheduled that night. There are other events coming up in Parksville before the end of the summer too, like the Rocky Mountain Express at the Museum. This is a movie about the train that runs through the Rockies!

Thanks for reading, and that's a wrap from the Oceanside team for now!



make
GOOD
Memories



Hello
Summer!



INDIGENOUS RELATIONS

Team

UPDATE



By Sean Enns, Associate Director of Quality Assurance



Stay Tuned

It might just look like a pile of logs, but these trees signify something really exciting happening at NACL.

They're currently being kept at Empress Acres. Plans are in place for an amazing collaboration—watch this space as we reveal details in the coming months!

A great time was had back on June 18th for our **2nd Annual Strawberry Pancake Brunch** at Evanmorr Acres Farm, which was a great way to celebrate having just completed our 3-day accreditation survey with CARF!

Attendees enjoyed berry picking, the wildflower garden beds and forest trails, live music from A Touch of Grey...and of course some absolutely SCRUMPTIOUS pancakes topped with our very own (infamous) strawberries, which were grown on-site!

Special shoutouts need to go to the Lions Club for preparing and serving the pancakes for us plus everyone who helped with setup, takedown, and traffic control/parking!

We also can't forget Emma Hobson (our Director of Adult Staffed Homes), who took charge of organizing the event and ensuring everything was in place to make it the tremendous success it was - especially with it being such a hot day!

Events like these get better and better each time we do them, especially as we figure out logistics and keep working to improve infrastructure at both of NACL's farms - so stay tuned for more expanded event announcements to come in the future!



THAT WAS Sweet





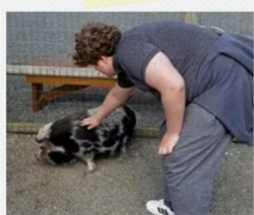
It's been a wonderful summer at LLH! This year we have been thrilled to welcome two new individuals to the house, and they've settled in beautifully alongside another youth in the home and with our staff team.

The whole house has been making the most of the sunny weather with some great outings — Hemer Park in Cedar, Superior Farms Petting Zoo in Lantzville, Transfer Beach, and even a bit of cave exploring in Ladysmith! Our three guys have loved every minute of it, from beach days and trail walks to getting up close with some animal friends and spelunking through the local caves.

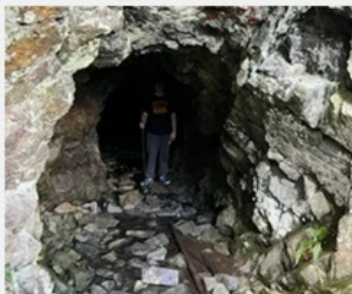
July was full of fun, August is going great, and we are looking forward to what September has in store!



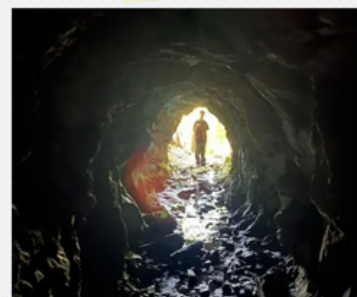
Beach walks



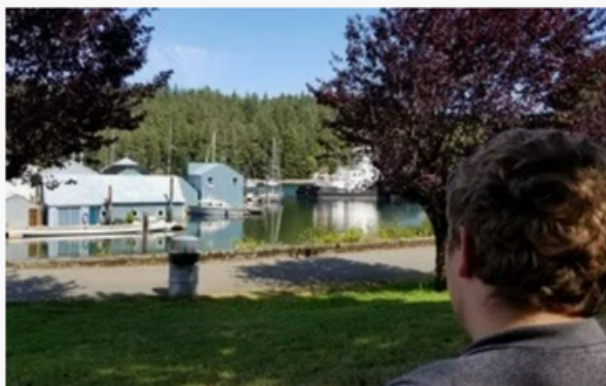
Petting zoo



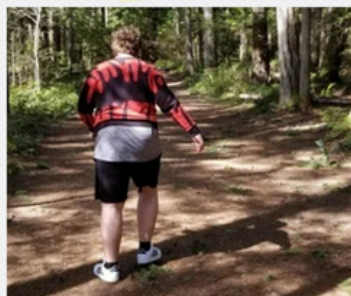
Caving



More caving



Waterfront views



Hiking

HELLO
SUMMER





report



News & Updates

By Peter Letts, Director of Quality Assurance

The QA Team has been busy this summer, with several big milestones happening...

The big event of the year for the QA Department was the CARF Survey. It occurs every three years. Due to the pandemic and two remote surveys in a row, 2026 was the first time in nine years that NACL underwent an in-person survey. Surveyors were actually present on-site and in the programs, rather than online. It was nice to get back to being in-person.

This was the eighth survey that NACL has undergone, as we have been accredited since 2005. Once again, we were awarded a 3-year accreditation. The survey team had wonderful things to say about NACL, and heaped praise on the organization. However, there was room for improvement - the lead surveyor was very detailed, and made eight recommendations. These were in the areas of Leadership, Governance, Strategic Planning, Finance, Health and Safety, and Human Resources. They all were about the details, and will be easy to address. There were only two recommendations under the program standards, and these will also be easy to address. Check out the Resources page of NACL's website (www.nanaimoacl.com/resources) if you'd like to see the letter and/or report.

Another big milestone was an addition to the QA Department. This summer, we welcomed Sean Enns as the Assistant Director of Quality Assurance. Sean is supporting the work we do, and is doing a great job.

A key aspect of the work Sean has been doing, and another big milestone for the Department, is the use of artificial intelligence to help us generate our annual Performance Analysis and Outcomes Management Report. Microsoft's Copilot has been invaluable in helping us speed up the process, and enhance our reporting to include more detailed analysis and visual graphics. The publicly available and shorter Performance Review document will be available for the Annual General Meeting in September.

Next up, we will be generating our Quality Improvement Plan (QIP), which includes recommendations for improvement and an action plan to achieve our goals. We look forward to another year of quality improvement!

**WELCOME
SEAN!**



**FOLLOW
THROUGH**

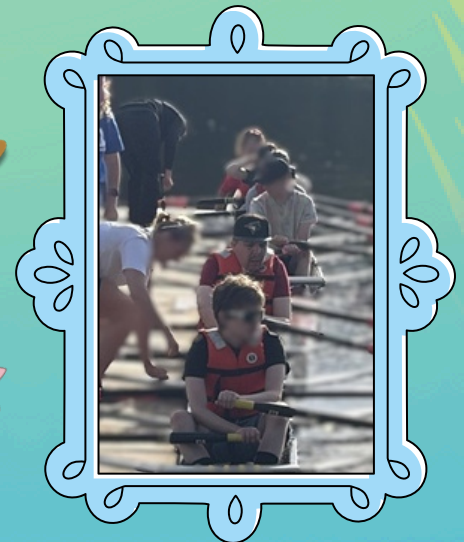




best
Wishes



BEYOND
Van Gogh
The Immersive Experience



Portsmouth has been busy as always, rain or shine! We've gotten to enjoy the Beyond Van Gogh exhibit, try rowing through the Canucks Autism Network, go to a Whitecaps game in Vancouver, hit up the NACL 40th anniversary BBQ, had a birthday party, catch some films at the movie theatre, and enjoy some of the live outdoor plays and performances that Nanaimo puts on every year.

We're enjoying the Actions summer closure and finding ways to fill our time being outdoors, going camping with family, going to the Malahat Skywalk, trying out go-karting, and heading out to Saysutshun Island. We are also planning on enjoying the Sidney Aquarium, taking the train at the Duncan Forest Discovery Centre, exploring Butterfly World in Coombs, and hopefully attending Special Woodstock! We also have a backyard firepit and are hoping to set it up soon for cozy fire nights in our backyard.

Everyone at Portsmouth is trying to soak up summer before we blink and it's over again!





Hello everyone - we wanted to share a little glimpse into some of the wonderful experiences and adventures happening at JPH! It has been an exciting time, with our persons served enjoying opportunities to get out, explore, try new things, and most importantly, have fun and create lasting memories.

Vancouver Aquarium

As you can see from the photos, we recently enjoyed a fantastic day at the Vancouver Aquarium. It was a wonderful opportunity to explore, experience something new, and enjoy a fun day out together.

Exciting Adventures Ahead

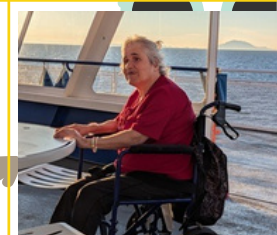
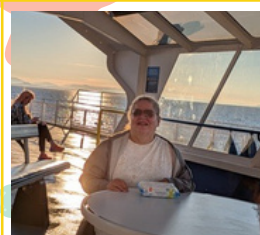
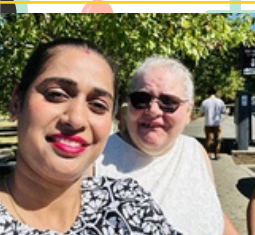
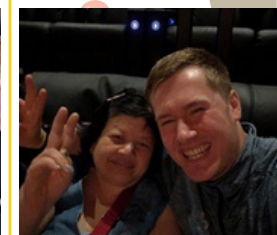
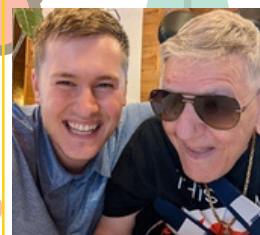
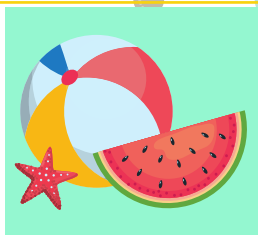
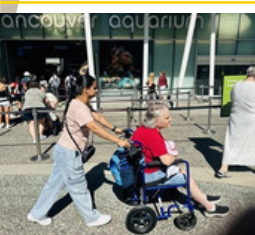
Our adventures don't stop there! We are currently planning an exciting outing to FlyOver Canada in Vancouver. We are also thrilled that two of our person served will be taking to the skies in a seaplane! We are incredibly excited for this experience, and will be sharing photos with you in September after this special outing.

Movies, Meals, and Community Experiences

We've also been enjoying plenty of other opportunities to get out into the community, including fun meals at local restaurants, trips to the movies, and simply spending quality time together.

At JPH, we believe that meaningful experiences come in all forms. Whether it is an exciting new adventure or something as simple as enjoying a favourite meal or movie, each opportunity allows us to build connections, encourage independence, make choices, and create memories. We are looking forward to all of the adventures still to come, and can't wait to share more with you!

Warmly,
The JPH Team
Creating experiences, making memories, and enjoying life to the fullest!



WHAT'S NEW?

...at Evanmorr Acres Home!

By Basil Kandamalil-Joseph, Senior Residence Worker



Summer is in full swing at Evanmorr Acres Home, and everyone has been making the most of the sunshine, adventures, and time spent together!

JC

...has been busy exploring the south end of Vancouver Island! His summer adventures have included fascinating visits to the **BC Aviation Museum**, the beautiful **Victoria Butterfly Gardens**, the historic **Kinsol Trestle**, the **Parksville Sandcastle Competition**, and a relaxing day discovering **Glass Beach**.

QI

...helped celebrate his mom's birthday with a wonderful meal at **Cedar Frames Indian Restaurant**, joined by friends from Evanmorr Acres Home. It was a great opportunity to enjoy delicious food, good company, and a special family celebration!

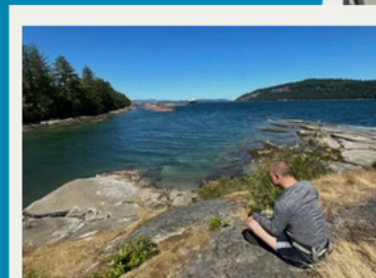
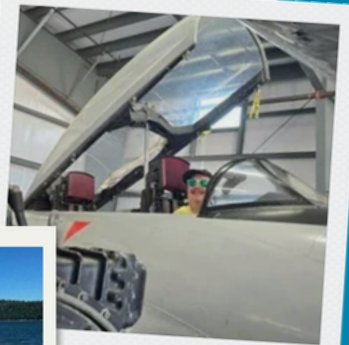
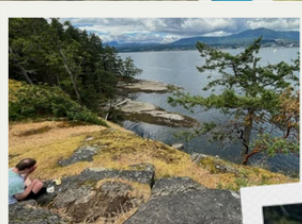
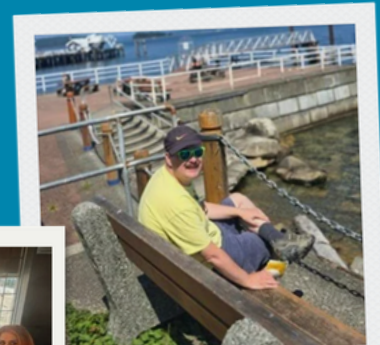
DD

...continues to enjoy the simple pleasures of summer, taking regular relaxing **walks around the farm** and exploring nearby **local parks**. His familiar routines provide plenty of opportunities to get outside and enjoy the beautiful surroundings.

LL

...has been having a great time participating in **recreation sessions** with Bianca at the farm. And one of the highlights? **Golf cart rides!** LL has been having a blast getting out and about and enjoying the fun of a ride around the property.

It's shaping up to be a wonderful summer at Evanmorr Acres Home, filled with adventure, connection, recreation, and plenty of opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors!





The Harvest Dinner

An Evening of Food, Music, and Community



Nanaimo Association for Community Living (NACL) warmly invites you to The Harvest Dinner, a meaningful evening dedicated to celebrating community, inclusion, and local agriculture, while supporting the continued growth of NACL's farm initiatives at Evanmorr Acres Farm and Empress Acres Farm.

Event Details

Date: Saturday, September 26, 2026

Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

Location: Empress Acres Farm (2974 Haslam Road, Nanaimo, BC)

Tickets

\$100 per person.

Your ticket includes a thoughtfully curated four-course farm-to-table dinner, live music, and the opportunity to support inclusive, community-driven agriculture.

The Experience

Enjoy a delicious four-course meal prepared by COCO Café, a vibrant social enterprise nestled in the heart of Cedar, BC. COCO Café is known not only for its exceptional food, but also for its commitment to inclusion, creating meaningful employment and training opportunities for individuals with diverse abilities. Their collaborative, welcoming approach makes every meal truly special.

Live Music

The evening will feature live performances by:

- Mike Bauche – a Vancouver Island-based singer-songwriter whose solo work carries the warmth and intimacy of folk music, inspired by the sweeping Prairies and the wild beauty of the Pacific coast. His songs reflect themes of resilience, connection, and finding your way home.
- Wellington Jazz Band – an award-winning high school jazz program based at Wellington Secondary School in Nanaimo, showcasing exceptional young local talent.

Why It Matters

NACL's farm initiatives represent a powerful step forward in building a more inclusive and sustainable community. In 2023, NACL purchased Evanmorr Acres Farm, a 52-acre property that launched a vision for community-based agriculture focused on employment, education, sustainability, and inclusion.

In 2026, NACL expanded this vision with the purchase of Empress Acres Farm, a 69-acre property in Cassidy. This new addition creates opportunities for future agricultural programming, community events, agri-tourism, employment opportunities, animal husbandry, food production, and expanded community engagement.

Through these initiatives, individuals with developmental disabilities gain meaningful opportunities to learn, work, and connect, while contributing to a thriving local food system.

Join Us

The Harvest Dinner is more than a meal; it's a celebration of what's possible when community comes together with purpose. By attending, you are directly supporting programs that create inclusive opportunities and strengthen our local community. Come share an unforgettable evening of great food, inspiring music, and meaningful impact.

Click either link below to purchase tickets:

NACL Harvest Dinner Fundraiser

<https://www.zeffy.com/en-CA/ticketing/nacl-harvest-dinner-fundraiser>



Harvest Dinner

An Evening of Food, Music & Community

A fundraiser for Empress Acres and Evanmorr Acres

SATURDAY,
SEPTEMBER 26TH, 2026

5:30 PM – 8:30 PM

EMPRESS ACRES
2974 HASLAM ROAD
NANAIMO, BC

Welcome to
our
Harvest Dinner

Join Nanaimo Association for Community Living (NACL) for a special evening celebrating the people, partnerships, and vision behind the future of Empress Acres and Evanmorr Acres.

Celebrate the land. Connect with community.



SEASONAL
FARM-TO-TABLE
DINNER
prepared by
Coco Café



LIVE
MUSIC
surrounded by
the beauty
of the land



INSPIRING
STORIES
of NACL's vision
for Empress Acres
and Evanmorr Acres



SUPPORT
A MEANINGFUL
INITIATIVE



FARMSHIP



GROWERS CO-OP

All proceeds support NACL's farm
initiatives Empress Acres and Evanmorr Acres.

For more information contact
leafestsociety@gmail.com



WHAT'S Shakin'?

...at Westwood Lake!

By Dawn McKee, Integrated Services Manager
and Denise Myers, Senior Residence Worker



There is something truly special about summer at WLH, where we get to spend our days with three absolutely wonderful kiddos who make every day at the home bright and fun. With school just around the corner, we have been soaking up every ray of sunshine while we can!

Our days have drifted between various adventures, such as wandering along Transfer Beach to take in the petroglyphs, unwinding in the calm and quiet of NACL's Evanmorr Acres Farm, park and beach visits, and celebrating all things NACL along the way. (Happy 40th anniversary!)

Wherever we go, our community continues to welcome us, and the kiddos make the most of it while thriving day by day!





Where "all people with developmental disabilities thrive."

SINCE 1986

membership
questions?

CONTACT

Nanaimo Association for Community Living
c/o Marlena Stewart, Executive Assistant
#201 – 96 Cavan Street
Nanaimo, BC V9R 2V1
Office: 250-741-0224, ext. 224
Cell: 778-268-2022
Fax: 250-741-0227

WEBSITE

www.nanaimoaccl.com

SOCIAL MEDIA

Facebook: facebook.com/nanaimoaccl
Bluesky: [@nanaimoaccl](https://bsky.app/profile/@nanaimoaccl)
Instagram: [@nanaimoaccl](https://www.instagram.com/nanaimoaccl)
LinkedIn: [linkedin.com/company/nanaimoaccl](https://www.linkedin.com/company/nanaimoaccl)



QR CODE TO JOIN AGM

notice of 40th annual general meeting



You are cordially invited to attend NACL's
40th Annual General Meeting:

Monday, September 28, 2026 – 7:00 p.m.

To be held online, using Zoom:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88976641095>

Meeting ID: 889 7664 1095

or bit.ly/NACLAGM2026

Passcode: 092826

(All you need is an internet connection,
and/or to download the Zoom app for free.)

Hope to see you there!

(Zoom "Waiting Room" for check-in will open at 6:45 p.m.)

Per NACL Bylaws, to be in good standing and have voting privileges,
memberships must be paid by **11:59 p.m. on Sunday, September 13, 2026.**

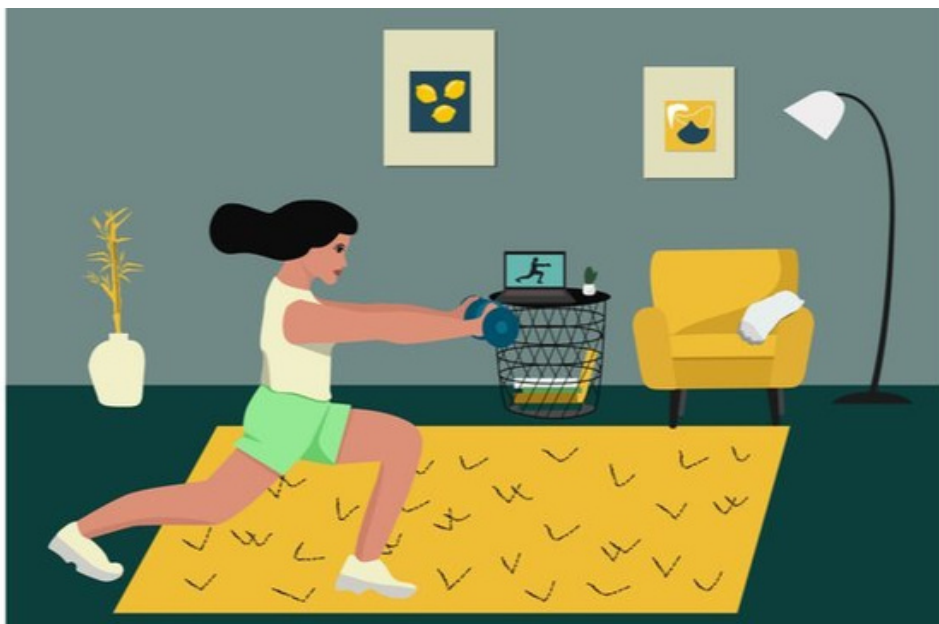
Contact Marlena Stewart (Executive Assistant)
for details and/or assistance at
(778) 268-2022 or
marlena.stewart@nanaimoaccl.com.

thanks
for your
support

OUR
MISSION

"To actively support as many people with developmental disabilities as possible in their journey to lead thriving lives by delivering high-quality services and supports with integrity."





GET FIT & Feel Good FOR FALL

join our **Free**
**VIRTUAL FITNESS
CLASSES**



TUESDAY & Thursday
4:45 PM - 5:45 PM

<https://bit.ly/NACLFitnessClass>

Password: 860722



All classes led by certified instructor (and former NACL employee) Jennifer U'Chong!

RELAXATION session



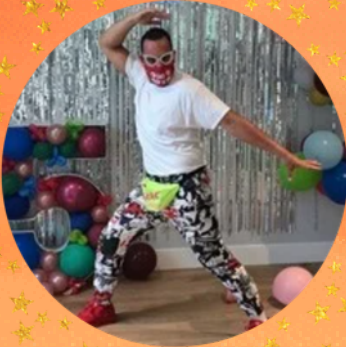
FIRST and THIRD Tuesday of every month!

#EVERYONEWELCOME

For more info, contact Marlena at
(778) 268-2022 or marlena.stewart@nanaimoacsl.com



Thank You RANDY



DON'T LET
anyone
EVER
DULL YOUR
Sparkle

SHINE
BRIGHT
LIKE
a
Diamond

There are certain people who make a lasting impact once they enter your universe.

For nearly half of NACL's history, Randy Humchitt was woven into the fabric of our organization. Starting in 2006 as a Community Support Worker, Randy quickly moved up in the organization - eventually joining our Management Team - and kickstarted and/or supported so many of the initiatives that NACL is involved with today - including our home share program and child and youth services. In 2015, he became NACL's first Deputy Executive Director.

Randy's level of care was always generous and genuine, and his effervescent and charismatic personality (and well-known theatre background) made him the perfect spokesperson to promote and celebrate NACL's innovative and creative spirit! He connected with people on an emotional level, and persons served and staff alike were drawn to his enthusiastic, empathetic, and passionate energy.

Randy was most certainly our "social butterfly" (despite his love of Oscar the Grouch!) - and you could always count on him to be first one on the dance floor at our staff appreciation parties while also MC'ing them, of course!

As we all know, seasons change - and sometimes that leads us in new directions...

...so now? Randy is bringing his sparkle to another organization.

We wish Randy all the best as he embraces his new role as Director of Operations at the Comox Valley Child Development Association.

...and needless to say, when looking back on how far NACL has come since Randy was with us? We won't ever forget the glitter he left behind.



SEND COMMENTS TO:
Graham Morry, CEO
graham.morry@nanaimoacl.com

CREATED/EDITED BY:
Marlena Stewart, Executive Assistant

Your

FEEDBACK

is welcome...

We're on



Make sure to follow NACL on social media so you can keep up with all the cool, fun things we're doing—plus articles/links of interest we often post! Check us out at:



www.facebook.com/nanaimoacl
(or search for us by name)



[@nanaimoacl](https://twitter.com/nanaimoacl)



[@nanaimoacl](https://www.instagram.com/nanaimoacl)



www.linkedin.com/company/nanaimoacl
(or search for us by name)



YouTube

<https://bit.ly/3oAxhCS>



NACL

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fax >>>

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e-mail >>>

info@nanaimoacl.com



Thanks to all in our NACL family who currently receive our What's Happening newsletter by e-mail.

If you've been getting it in paper format and would like to help us “GO GREEN,” please e-mail:

marlena.stewart@nanaimoacl.com



HAPPY
Birthday!

We'd like to extend our **HAPPIEST BIRTHDAY WISHES** to all persons served, employees, and home share providers who have celebrated or will be celebrating birthdays since our last Bulletin. There are so many people in our NACL family now, it would take pages to list you all!

Just know that even though we're not listing you by name here, you're all very special to us and are very much appreciated – NACL wouldn't be what it is without each and every one of you!



Celebrating

40
YEARS

1986-2026

