



# NEWS FROM NALT

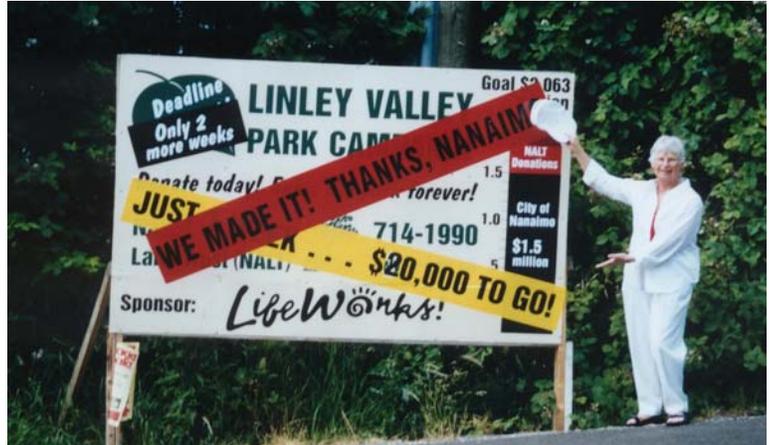
## (Nanaimo Area Land Trust)

Newsletter of the Nanaimo & Area Land Stewards Society

September, 2003

## WE MADE IT! THANKS NANAIMO

That was the jubilant message on the banner pasted on the first of July across the five large Linley Valley Park Campaign signs in Nanaimo. For the previous six months, commuters travelling to work and back watched as the thermometer on the signs slowly crept up towards the goal of \$2.063 million. Of the total amount, the City of Nanaimo had agreed last October that it would commit \$1.563 million – if, and only if, the Nanaimo Area Land Trust was able to raise the final \$500,000.



The 11<sup>th</sup> hour success was the climax of a two-year long roller coaster ride for NALT, and for the thousands of Nanaimo citizens who supported the acquisition of the 145-acre Section 13 in the middle of the Linley Valley for a natural City park. The first acquisition campaign ever undertaken by NALT was officially kicked off on July 6<sup>th</sup>, 2001. The main focus of the first year was to raise public awareness, to collect signatures supporting the acquisition, to begin collecting pledges towards a goal of \$500,000 for the acquisition, and to persuade the City of Nanaimo to contribute the difference required, and to purchase the property.

*(Continued on page 2)*

## NALT ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

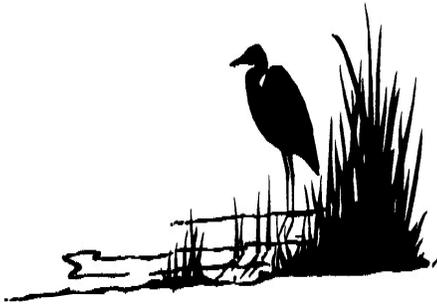
**TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30th, 7:00 pm,  
Bowen Park Activity Room #1**

**Bill Turner, Executive Director, and Alison Spriggs, Campaign Fundraiser,  
from The Land Conservancy in Victoria**

**will speak on the role of land trusts, the successes of TLC, its relationship with  
NALT, and helpful hints on fundraising for future projects**

**at the AGM, Board Members will be elected for a two-year term; nominations are invited**

*(Continued from page 1)*



By the fall of 2002, with more than 5,000 signatures collected endorsing the campaign and the purchase price, and with \$200,000 in pledges from several hundred local donors, the Nanaimo City Council came on-side – giving NALT just 6 months to raise the remainder of its \$500,000 commitment. These six months stretched into nine with an extension. In the final week, more than \$50,000 came in, putting the campaign over the top and giving us all - staff, Board, and volunteers - a great sense of relief and accomplishment.

When the dust settled, more than 1,100 donors, almost all of them local, had contributed to this campaign. The largest two (a local couple and a developer) gave \$100,000 each. Other major donors contributed from \$1,000 to more than \$40,000, and many hundreds of individuals gave personal donations of \$20 to \$100. Local walking groups, bridge groups, environmental groups and neighbourhood associations pitched in with whatever they could afford. In the final weeks, the corporate sector, small businesses and local service clubs sent sizable donations. Perhaps most touching was a seven-year old boy who contributed small amounts from his allowance over several months – for a total of \$33.45.

The Linley Valley, situated right in the middle of the city, with a total area of about 1,000 acres, is the last large area of mostly undeveloped land within the boundaries of the City of Nanaimo. Section 13 is the largest privately owned property within the Valley, and is perhaps the most strategic. Located in the middle of the valley, it contains a mix of mature Douglas fir forest with many old-growth trees, open meadows and woodland, sun-drenched bluffs, and hidden wetlands. At the centre of the property lies tranquil Cottle Lake, home to cutthroat trout and migratory waterfowl. The valley supports an abundance of wildlife, including some of the rarest songbirds in the Nanaimo area. Several kilometers of informal walking trails allow hikers and cyclists to observe and enjoy this beautiful area.

Protecting the Linley Valley has always been a top priority for NALT. When NALT was incorporated as a society in 1995, many of the founding members had previously been members of the Linley Valley Park Committee. For 10 years, these folks maintained communications with the owners of Section #13 and with City Council, and waited for the right time to work with both parties to ensure that the property would be protected as parkland. “In the spring of 2001, that time finally came to pass” says Barbara Hourston, founding member of NALT. “The campaign has been a wonderful outcome, resulting from the persistence of many community people who have recognized the importance of securing this large area as natural park.”

What about the remainder of the 1000 or so acres in the Linley Valley? The eastern boundary of Section 13 borders a 260-acre parcel of provincial crown land called District Lot 56. This is the property where NALT and a team of volunteers built two bridges last winter, and will be the focus of trail upgrades and other activities during the coming year. Already talks have begun between NALT, the City and our two local MLAs. If DL 56 is added to the 145-acre property that is now secured, we will someday have a woodland park of more than 400 acres in the middle of Nanaimo.

## NALT PROBING SUPPORT FOR A NEW CAMPAIGN: THE PRESERVAION OF MT. BENSON

NALT has been approached by several interests in Nanaimo to somehow "save" the top of Mt. Benson. This small but significant mountain forms the backdrop to the City and surrounding rural areas, and has been a destination for local hikers, mountain bikers, and backcountry skiers for decades. Now, the owners of a 523-acre property on the top of Mt. Benson, including the summit and the north-east or "front" side of the mountaintop, have begun logging. They plan to take out all the marketable timber over the next 18 months, and then develop the property into 20-acre "view lots".



NALT is currently trying to determine the feasibility of a campaign to preserve the property before logging progresses any further. In a recent meeting with the owners, Pennclan and Eastbourne Companies, it was determined that they are willing to sell the property instead of logging it. But, NALT believes that their asking price of \$1.6 M is high, and certainly beyond the capacity of NALT to raise without significant help from another major player.

Preserving Mt. Benson before it becomes "Mt. Baldy" would prevent:

- a threat to wildlife values and a break in the Vancouver Island wildlife corridor
- the loss of recreational values in an area that has great potential to become a future destination for eco-tourism
- the loss of a stand of old-growth forest
- the deterioration of the view of the mountain from the Nanaimo area
- a negative impact on the Millstone River watershed.

Given the limits of the local economy, a "senior partner" of some kind would be essential to carry off an initiative of this magnitude. To that end, NALT is approaching all government levels to determine whether any assistance might be forthcoming. The response from the Regional District of Nanaimo was that there is "no money" - all funds designated for RDN park acquisition have been earmarked for the next three years. NALT representatives recently met with provincial MLA Mike Hunter, who suggested methods of preserving the property other than outright purchase as a park. A brief meeting with federal MP David Anderson raised hopes, but offered no guarantees; a further meeting is planned.

In the interim, the NALT Board has decided to appeal to sources that might be able to assist with the costs of an appraisal and timber cruise of the property \*. The property owners have set a deadline of September 15<sup>th</sup> for NALT to reply to their offer, and some firm values need to be determined by that time, or an extension negotiated.

\* Flash: at its September 9 meeting, the RDN Board voted unanimously to approve the \$5545 required for the appraisal and timber cruise.

What do you think? Let us know whether you support this campaign;  
Phone, write, or email us at the NALT Stewardship Centre with your ideas.

## THE NALT *NATURAL ABUNDANCE* PLANT NURSERY



As fall rain clouds begin to move in from the Pacific, it's time to think ahead to fall and winter landscaping. Once the rainy season arrives, the sooner that plants get into the ground the better, so their root systems can become established before the next dry summer. This year, think about including more native species in your landscape design.

### **Why Native Plants?**

Native plants are more drought and disease resistant, require less care, and can eliminate the need to use harmful pesticides. They'll provide food and habitat for bees, butterflies and birds. Native plants are beautiful, whether you mix them in among your imported plants, or create a special "native plant corner".

### **About the *Natural Abundance* Nursery**

In the fall of 2000, NALT began collecting native trees and plants for use in restoration projects. As we salvaged plants and received donations from various sources, we decided to start a native plant nursery to help NALT develop a source of ongoing revenue. In the first months, the plants were kept in the backyard of our office in the heritage house on Skinner Street.

In 2001, we needed to find a larger site for our nursery, so we approached Peter and Anneke VanKerkoerle and asked if we could use a part of their property in Cassidy. The VanKerkoerles agreed, and since then, the nursery stock has grown in both size and volume, thanks to seasonal work crews made up of volunteers and summer staff.

Some of our plants have been salvaged from areas slated for demolition and development, and from private properties that have surpluses of certain plants. Other plants have been donated by individuals, companies, and government agencies. We also propagate plants from seeds and cuttings that have been collected or donated.

### **What's in Stock this Fall**

We carry a large variety of **Trees**, excellent for newly developed property or rehabilitation of areas such as streamsides: Douglas fir, Grand fir, Western red cedar, Red alder, Sitka spruce, Western hemlock, Garry oak, Bigleaf maple, Pacific dogwood.

**Flowering shrubs** add colour to your garden, and attract birds and butterflies. We regularly carry: salmonberry, thimbleberry, snowberry, elderberry, wild roses, willows, Red-osier dogwood.

**Other plants** that add a special touch include: ferns, lupine, bleeding hearts, columbine, miner's lettuce, star flower, pearly everlasting, alum, sedum and other rock plants.

We are constantly expanding our stocks, so please ask about new species or that particular something you have been trying to find. Phone or email the NALT Stewardship Centre to place an order, arrange a visit to the nursery, or to donate your surplus seedlings and seeds.

**Plant Sale: Saturday, Oct. 18, 10 am - 2 pm**  
**G.R. Paine Horticulture Centre, 2324 East Wellington Road**

# BUSINESS STEWARDSHIP PROJECT UPDATE

*Sarah Bonar - Project Coordinator*

The goal of this continuing project is to work with the business sector in the Long Lake/ Diver Lake/ Beaver Creek watershed to reduce stormwater pollution through introducing Better Management Practices.

This summer was very busy for the Business Stewardship Project! We now have 21 businesses participating in the project, and 15 of them have earned stewardship plaques. On September 12, we will be hosting a breakfast information meeting and plaque presentation at The Pantry Restaurant. Businesses involved in home and garden supplies are invited to come and learn about the project.

The project was involved with several public events this summer during Earth Day and Environment Week including:

- A storm-drain marking session and information display at the Bowen Road Co-Op. A group of mentally challenged adults from Clay Tree Enterprises came out to help mark the storm drains in the parking lot. This group has also been busy throughout the summer marking storm drains on a regular basis – thanks gang!
- A class for Grade 2 students and 10 adults participated in a watercourse pollution demonstration, using the interactive stormwater pollution model, followed by a guided walk up the Millstone River.
- An educational display including the Interactive Stormwater Pollution model at the Earth Bazaar.

Congratulations to the following seven businesses who will be awarded Stewardship Plaques at the next presentation ceremony: **Dairy Queen, Kelsey's, Pizza Time, Subway, The Pantry, Swiss Chalet, and Montana's.**

If you would like to get involved in this project, we need volunteers to help mark the storm drains in the watershed with yellow fish. The storm drain marking program is a Fisheries and Oceans initiative to help raise awareness around storm water pollution. Painting yellow fish next to storm drains indicates that the water goes straight to the nearest watercourse carrying pollutants with it. If you would like to participate in storm drain marking please call Sarah at the NALT Stewardship Centre. If you would like to learn more about pollution prevention around your home, drop by the Centre and pick up information pamphlets, or talk to our staff.

The project is nearing completion and is scheduled to wrap up at the end of October. We would like to thank our project funders and supporters without whom this project would not be possible:

## **Funders:**

*EcoAction – Environment Canada  
TD-Canada Trust, Friends of the Environment  
Foundation  
Georgia Basin Ecological Initiative  
Woodgrove Centre Promotional Fund*

## **Supporters:**

*The City of Nanaimo,  
Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection*

## WATER, WATER, EVERYWHERE

The value and availability of H<sub>2</sub>O, locally and globally, is a hot topic these days. Here are some interesting facts selected from the Environment Canada Website, [http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/e\\_quickfacts.htm](http://www.ec.gc.ca/water/en/e_quickfacts.htm):

- A single lawn sprinkler spraying 19 litres per minute uses 50% more water in just one hour than a combination of ten toilet flushes, two 5-minute showers, two dishwasher loads, and a full load of clothes.
- During the summer, about half of all treated water is sprayed onto lawns and gardens.
- Water consumption usually drops 18-25% after a water meter is installed.
- Worldwide water withdrawals from water bodies have risen from 250 cubic metres/person/year in 1900 to over 700 cubic metres today.
- One litre of oil can contaminate up to 2 million litres of water.
- Toilets (while consuming nearly one quarter of our municipal water supply) use over 40% more water than needed.
- Many homes lose more water from leaky taps than they need for cooking and drinking.
- Less than 3% of the water produced at a large municipal water treatment plant is used for drinking purposes.
- Residential indoor water use in Canada: toilet – 30%; bathing and showering – 35%; laundry – 20%; kitchen and drinking – 10%; cleaning – 5%.
- Glacier ice over 100 000 years old is found at the base of many Canadian Arctic ice caps.
- Freshwater lakes, rivers, and underground aquifers hold only 2.5% of the world's water. By comparison, saltwater oceans and seas contain 97.5% of the world's water supply.
- Over two thirds of the earth's fresh water exists as ice in the form of glaciers and ice caps.
- Of the total world's freshwater supply, about one third is found underground.
- About 7.6% of Canada is covered by fresh water in lakes and rivers – 755 165 square kilometres.
- Canadians are the trustees of almost 25% of all of the world's wetlands, currently covering 16% of the land area of Canada.
- Canada holds 20% of the world's fresh water, but has only 7% of the world's fresh renewable water.

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## COMING EVENTS

**NALT Annual General Meeting:** Speakers Bill Turner and Alison Spriggs, from The Land Conservancy. Tuesday, September 30, 7:00 pm, in the Bowen Park Activity Room #1.

**Native Plant Sale:** Trees, shrubs, flowering plants. Saturday, October 18, at Malaspina's G.R. Paine Horticulture Centre, 2324 East Wellington Road, 10 am - 2 pm.

## LINLEY VALLEY CONTRIBUTIONS

NALT is still receiving donations for the Linley Valley Park Campaign, donations that are needed to cover various outstanding campaign debts and expenses. Gift certificates are still available, and tax receipts will be provided for donations of \$20 or more. Also, colour maps of the valley showing trails through Section 13 and District Lot 56 are available for \$5.00.

Again, NALT would like to thank the more than 1100 donors(!) who are making the natural park in the Linley Valley a reality. Look for an upcoming notice in the Nanaimo newspapers listing and thanking these generous individuals, groups, and companies.



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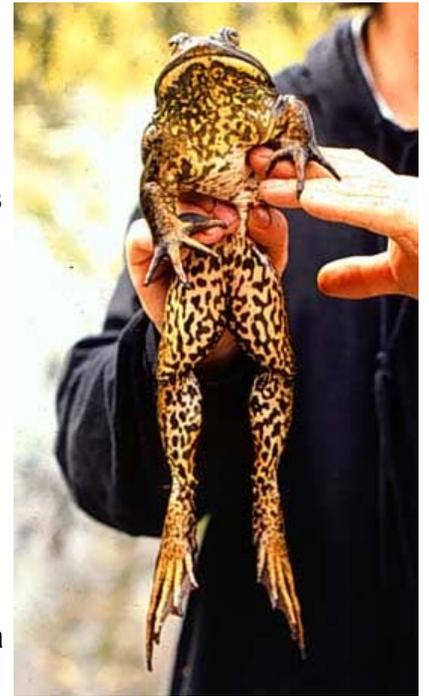
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## BULL FROGS AGAIN

Malaspina Biology faculty member and NALT Board member Holly Blackburn reports that the giant bullfrogs that are threatening North American ponds and streams are being used for dissection in the first-year zoology labs. The department buys the frogs from a person who has a permit from the government to do so (otherwise, capturing and transporting these frogs is illegal). Students find all manner of creatures in the stomachs of these frogs: birds, snakes, rodents, and other frogs.



More information may be found at:

<http://web.uvic.ca/bullfrogs/page3.htm>

P.S. As promised in the last newsletter, we do have a frogs-legs recipe for you:

1 kg / 2.2 lb of fresh frogs legs  
400g / 14 oz garlic  
100 g / 2 oz flat leaf parsley  
60 g / 1.5 oz unsalted butter  
500 ml of goose fat  
A bowl of plain flour mixed with salt and ground black pepper

Full instructions can be found at:

[http://www.pilot.co.uk/Planet\\_Food/france\\_frogslegs.html](http://www.pilot.co.uk/Planet_Food/france_frogslegs.html)

## FALL FIR SPECIAL!

NALT's *Natural Abundance* Plant Nursery (see article on page 4) is overstocked with hundreds of 3-year old Douglas fir trees, and they are growing too fast! Huge discounts for large orders! Make us an offer.

Phone or email your order to the NALT Stewardship Centre, or come to the **Native Plant Sale** on Saturday, October 18, at the Malaspina University-College G.R. Paine Horticulture Centre, 2324 East Wellington Road, 10 am - 2 pm.

## GOOD WITH A SHOVEL?

Now that Section 13 in the Linley Valley is secured as a natural city park, NALT is continuing its efforts to ensure that the adjoining 260-acre, crown-owned District Lot 56 is preserved for the use of the community as well. As part of our interest in D.L. 56, teams of volunteers built two foot bridges across Cottle Creek last winter, with the required approvals from government departments and the financial support of *Trout Unlimited*. These bridges were necessary to protect the creek and its resident cutthroat trout population from the soil erosion caused by walkers as they forded the creek at these points.

This winter we will be continuing the program of trail upgrading in D.L. 56, and will be calling for outdoorsy volunteers who are not afraid of a little rain and mud. Let us know if you are interested by phoning or emailing the NALT Stewardship Centre.



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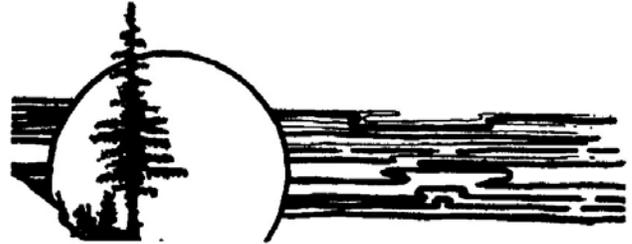
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***The Mission of the Nanaimo Area Land Trust is to identify, preserve, and foster the stewardship of areas of natural beauty, valuable wildlife habitat, and urban green space in the Nanaimo area***

The Nanaimo and Area Land Stewards Society was registered as a B.C. Society in 1995, and subsequently was granted charitable tax status (# 893193771 RR0001) and the right to hold conservation covenants.

Executive Director: Gail Adrienne

Board of Directors:

Michelle Bigg	Ken Lyall (newsletter editor)
Gillian Butler	Erica McClaren
Holly Blackburn	Mike Mann
Dean Gaudry (co-chair)	Harriet Rueggeberg (co-chair)
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Contact us at:

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