

# NEWS FROM



Newsletter of the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust Society

December 2021

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## At Year's End

2021 has been a year of challenges. Pandemic, heat dome, wildfire, smoke season, atmospheric rivers and flood.

On a personal level, NALT and our community lost Anneke VanKerkoerle, a community member who was a cornerstone of caring and stewardship (page 2).

For a second year in a row, we will not be in the malls raising money and meeting people at the NALT table. We have decided once again to cancel the January Bottle drive due to the difficulty of providing a safe and warm space for our volunteers. Our meetings and presentations are online, we have limited staff presence in the office as remote working becomes the new norm.

But through all the challenges we move forward.

Our indefatigable Stewardship Manager, Linda Brooymans continues to support Streamkeeper and other stewardship groups and initiatives in our watersheds, woods and gardens (pages 4 - 5), our newly minted Water Stewardship Educator, Sarah Spencer is transitioning the School Water Stewards from pilot project to ongoing program (page 3). Our Nursery Coordinator, Susan Fisher and a cadre of dedicated volunteers continue to provide native plants and advice for landscaping and restoration installations as well as living trees for seasonal cheer (pages 6 - 7). On a regional basis we participate on the Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable, the Mid-Island Stewardship Caucus, and the Trail Users Summit. Inter-regionally, NALT chairs the Watershed Moments symposia series.

NALT will continue to deliver even through the tumult of challenges we all face.

Our path toward resiliency leads through parks and natural spaces, near wetlands and healthy creeks, into neighbourhoods that have embraced restorative development practices to return to water balance. Our resilient communities will respect and protect our natural systems and understand that our health is directly related to ecosystem health.

We are a part of, not apart from.

***All the Best of the Season and a Happy and Healthy New Year!***

NEWS FROM NALT  
is published by the  
Nanaimo & Area Land Trust

NALT's Mission is:  
*to support, promote and protect  
the natural values of land and  
water in our area*

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

#### **Staff**

Executive Director:  
Paul Chapman  
Administrative Assistant,  
Volunteer Coordinator:  
Ava Breakwell  
Stewardship Manager:  
Linda Brooymans  
School Water Stewardship  
Education Coordinator:  
Sarah Spencer

#### **Contractors**

Nursery Coordinator: Susan Fisher  
Conservation Covenants Manager:  
Emily Barnewall  
Financial Manager: Cyndi Pitvor  
Cleaning Services: Jen Wilson

#### **Pro-bono Services**

Lawyer: John Manning  
Investment Management:  
Andre Sullivan

#### **Board of Directors**

Dan Brady  
David Drakeford  
Nina Evans-Locke (Co-Chair)  
Dean Gaudry (Co-Chair)  
Linda Nichol  
Jack Tieleman  
Norm Wagenaar  
Wally Wells (Secretary)  
Fraser Wilson (Treasurer)

#### **Contact us at:**

The NALT Stewardship Centre  
Madrona Building (lower floor)  
Suite #8, 140 Wallace Street  
Nanaimo, B.C. V9R 5B1  
phone: (250) 714-1990  
email: [admin@nalt.bc.ca](mailto:admin@nalt.bc.ca)  
[www.nalt.bc.ca](http://www.nalt.bc.ca)

## **Anneke VanKerkoerle**

A champion of the environment Anneke VanKerkoerle passed away in the morning of Saturday, November 27<sup>th</sup>.



With her husband Peter, Anneke settled in Cassidy on 40 acres that they loved and stewarded for more than 50 years. Over the years they hosted many meetings, gatherings and celebrations. They supported social justice and environmental causes with their money, energy and time.

Both originally from Holland, Peter and Anneke met and fell in love while they were living in Kitchener, Ont. They moved to Nanaimo in 1967 and purchased the large property in 1968.

Through the years, Peter and Anneke supported NALT in many ways: financially, as hosts of our summertime picnics, and as a home to the *Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery*. They also sought ways of ensuring the protection of the environmental values of their land which ultimately led to them [gifting the property to NALT in a life estate agreement.](#)

The nursery continues to be a focal point for volunteer activities and community engagement. Currently NALT is developing a plan for invasive plant species control on the property to protect the forests, flower meadows so lovingly cared for by Anneke and Peter.

Anneke was predeceased by Peter in 2019.

A celebration of life for both Peter and Anneke will be scheduled at a time best for friends and family.

We honour their commitment to caring for the community and the environment and the legacy they have gifted to NALT.

They will be missed.

## **Thanks to All who have supported NALT's School Water Stewards project**

For the past year, the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust's (NALT) School Water Steward project has been getting students out of the classroom and into their boots, muddybuddies and rainpants to explore their local watershed!

No matter the weather we have been out with students at their neighbourhood creeks, marshes and puddles to measure, observe, and explore where their water comes from, where it goes, and how it connects with plants, animals and the landscape along the way. Students have evaluated the impacts we have on our watersheds, and learned ways to assess if their local creeks and wetlands are healthy or sick. Our goal is to teach students the many ways they can actively steward their watersheds.

**NALT will be continuing this project as an ongoing program and cornerstone initiative to build a culture of conservation in School Districts 68, 69 and beyond!**

Thank you to the staff and students of Coal Tyee and Nisaika Kumtuks elementary schools for helping to guide and deliver the project. Thanks also for project funding provided by the Government of Canada and the Province of British Columbia, and the Nanaimo Foundation.



This program is funded by the Government of Canada  
and the Province of British Columbia.



### **Sarah Spencer—School Water Stewardship Education Coordinator**

Sarah came to NALT as part of the School Water Stewards Project in the fall of 2020 with a great team of three other people. Sarah has been hired on as School Water Stewardship Education Coordinator to continue the delivery of the program to new schools in SD68 & 69. The program is place-based and involves hands-on, experiential learning across a variety of topics.

Sarah graduated from Vancouver Island University with a Bachelor of Science, Major in Biology, where she focused her studies on ecology and organismal biology. She first gained experience in science outreach through a job with Nanaimo Science immediately upon graduation. Sarah enjoys sharing her interest and passion for the diversity of life we have in our area with younger generations in hopes they too will develop a great appreciation for nature. Sarah's love for biology and science began in her childhood on the west coast of Vancouver Island in the small village of Bamfield. It was here that she was introduced to the biological sciences and beautiful intertidal and forest ecosystems.

We are pleased to have Sarah as part of our NALT Team.



## Stewardship Updates

It is always a joy to connect with neighbors and other nature enthusiasts about observations they've made while out on walks or hikes in their neighbourhood green spaces. This kind of data is invaluable for enhancing our understanding of many native species. For example it is from 'everyday citizen' reports to the BC Bats website on bat activity during the winter months that has led biologists to change their understanding of coastal bats' winter activity. Through these reports we have learned that it is not uncommon that some species of bats such as the California or Silver-haired myotis can be out for a drink or even foraging in broad daylight during mild winter days! Finding ways for people to share their observations and get involved in stewardship projects that they care about is an important part of my job as stewardship coordinator for NALT. Here is an update on some of the projects I've had the pleasure to work on in the last few months.

### **Cat Stream**

The recently-formed Friends of Cat Stream has been busy with data collection and restoration projects and the group has slowly been building engagement with creek neighbours, local schools and other concerned citizens. We have been lucky to partner with Snuneymuxw First Nation on some restoration projects and look forward to building that partnership.

If you are interested in assisting Cat Stream group with water quality monitoring during the Summer or Fall five week monitoring seasons, please connect with me, Linda Brooymans, at [stewardship@nalt.bc.ca](mailto:stewardship@nalt.bc.ca), or if you would like to assist in planning and organizing Cat Stream restoration projects, please connect with Ian Knipe at [lan@shaw.ca](mailto:lan@shaw.ca).



Volunteers remove invasives and plant native plants along the Cat Stream

### **BC Community Bat Program**

In September I took on the role of regional coordinator for the Mid-Island region of the BC Community Bat program. This program aims to engage with and educate people about bats as well as to assist with citizen science efforts to collect data so that more is known about bat populations in the area. In October NALT hosted a Bat presentation in Nanoose which was attended by many interested and engaged local residents. We hope to host two more events – one in Oceanside and another in Nanaimo – as our first step in engaging with and educating community members about local bat populations and ways to be involved in bat conservation efforts. If you are interested in getting involved in bat conservation, or if you know of areas where you have seen bats, please connect with me at [stewardship@nalt.bc.ca](mailto:stewardship@nalt.bc.ca)



Walley Creek  
Cutthroat  
Trout

### **Western Painted Turtles**

Last Spring NALT formed a partnership with BC's Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) to assist in their efforts to gather data on Western Painted Turtle presence and nesting behaviour in the Nanaimo region. Our capabilities were hampered by the third wave of Covid which coincided with the best time to do visual surveys for basking turtles, but some excellent new discoveries were made – proving the value of citizen science yet again! A public presentation of our findings, and of lessons we have learned in our pilot year of this project will be hosted in the new year. NALT remains committed to Western Painted Turtle conservation and we will be gearing up for a new season of surveys in the early spring. If you are interested in participating please contact me, Linda Brooymans, at [stewardship@nalt.bc.ca](mailto:stewardship@nalt.bc.ca) as we are certainly interested in getting more community members involved. In particular, if you live near either Diver Lake, Doumont/Legacy Marsh or Buttertubs Marsh areas and walk there regularly we could use your help!

### **Volunteer Lake Monitoring at Diver and Long Lake**

In April of last year NALT, partnering with members of the Wellington Action Committee, began monitoring Diver and Long Lake as part of a province-wide program run through the provincial Ministry of Environment to gather baseline data on lakes. We went out every two weeks from April to September collecting samples for lab analysis on phosphorus and chlorophyll and gathering data on temperature and dissolved oxygen at depth. A public presentation of this data will be held in the new year, where Dr. Eric Demers will give us a crash course in lake ecology and give us a preliminary interpretation of our data. It is hoped that, as more data is collected, a restoration or pollution mitigation plan will be developed. If you are interested in participating in this monitoring work, or have ideas for other lakes where monitoring might be valuable, please connect with me.



Water monitoring on  
Diver Lake

### **COMING SOON - NALT Pollinator Paradise Project**

NALT is very excited about the upcoming launch of our Pollinator Paradise project, which will focus on ways that we can enhance pollinator habitat in our own backyards! More details will be shared in the coming months.

*Submitted by Linda Brooymans*

**AQUAPARIAN**  
**Environmental Consulting Ltd.**

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## News from the Nursery

We are saddened by Anneke's death. Anneke and Peter were stewards of a magnificent property where about 20 years ago they invited a nursery to be developed. Then, over the next nearly 20 years, they supported the nursery operation and nursery volunteers. For many years, Peter and Anneke were part of our weekly Wednesday lunches and always went with us to the traditional Crow and Gate Christmas gathering. Their ongoing love, support and advice was invaluable.

We are so happy, as Anneke and Peter would be, that the Parnassian Woods property, including the nursery, withstood the recent heavy rains. The fall months have found nursery volunteers busy gathering native seeds, then planting those seeds and packaging them for sale. Trees and shrubs were trimmed, and all plants were fed and mulched for the winter. We worked to prepare a large order for Pacific Gardens Co-housing which will help protect the Cat Stream that runs through their property. We made in-kind donations to 5 community organizations, and taught a class at the nursery for another. Now at the end of fall, we are gearing up to sell trees and seeds for the holidays.

### Live Christmas Trees for Sale

We are trying a new kind of live tree sale. No trees will be sold at the NALT office this year. You can select and dig your own tree, or you can place a reserve ribbon on a tree of your choice, then return to dig any Wednesday or Saturday. Volunteers will be available to help, but we ask that you dig your own tree *for half price*. There will be a small number of small already potted Christmas trees (about 1 – 5') for sale at the nursery. Hours of sale are Wednesdays 10am – 3pm and Saturdays 11am – 3pm.

### Native Seeds for Sale


Over 50 varieties of native seeds are ready for sale. They do not live at the nursery during the damp weather, but they are easily available. Just e-mail [plants@nalt.bc.ca](mailto:plants@nalt.bc.ca) Varieties are listed on the [NALT website inventory](#). Please let us know how many of which varieties you want. All seeds are \$4/ packet. Also please let us know where you want to pick up your seeds – at the nursery on Wednesday or Saturday, at the NALT office, or mailed out with a \$1 fee for postage.

With the trails cleared, damaged trees removed, and the bridges renewed, we are glad to again offer interpretive walks on the Parnassian Woods property. Two groups have already “booked” their interpretive walks for spring. If your group is interested, email us at [plants@nalt.bc.ca](mailto:plants@nalt.bc.ca) A visit to the nursery is included.

New volunteers are welcome and needed at the nursery. It's a friendly group of dedicated folks and a good way to learn more about native plants and landscapes. If you are interested, drop us an e-mail or come by the nursery to take a look. Visitors are welcome every Wednesday and Saturday.

Wishing you all a happy holiday season!

*submitted by Susan Fisher for the Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery crew*



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# **Live Christmas Trees for Sale**


**At the NALT Native Plant Nursery**

*Choose a small one in a pot or dig your own*

***Available December 1 to 22, 2021***

***3145 Frost Road (off Spruston Road, Cassidy)***

***Wednesdays 10am - 3pm and Saturdays 11am - 3pm***



***You can select and dig your own tree,  
or you can place a reserve ribbon on a tree of your choice,  
then return any Wednesday or Saturday to dig.  
Volunteers will be available for assistance,  
but we ask that you dig your own tree.***

***There will be a few small already potted Christmas trees  
(from 1 - 4 ft. tall) for sale at the nursery.***

***Call 250-714-1990 for details***  
***[www.nalt.bc.ca/native-plant-nursery](http://www.nalt.bc.ca/native-plant-nursery)***



***No Trees will be sold at the NALT office this year***

## ~ THANK YOU ALL ~

*Many thanks to all the individuals, organizations and businesses who have donated their time and skills as volunteers, contributed items or services, made financial donations, renewed or started a membership, or begun a monthly pre-authorized contribution (PAC).*

*September 16, 2021 to December 1, 2021*

**Individual Donations & New Memberships – NALT:** 5 Anonymous, Sher Anderson, Lynn Barnstead, Laura Beck, Jeff Bellinger, Connie Lou & Michael Bickford, Tony & Gwen Burton, Dan Brady, Trudy Chatwin, Iain Colquhoun & Kathy Doyle, Janice Dunn, David Forrest, Robert Gilchrist, Kathryn Goldsmith, Tibor & Magda Jando, Janice Johnson & Zane Dmytruk, Robyn Kemp, Ambrose Knobel, Mary & Helmut Mark, Peter & Kerry Mason, Lynda McCullough, Carol Milo, Arla Jean Murch, James Philip, DN Pettipas & TP Polkinghorne, John Shelbourn, Frank Shoemaker, Gary Smart, David Stanley & Marie de Vos, The Estate of Jean Burbidge Thomson, Wendy & Bruce Ward, Donna Warren, Brian Woodruff

**Donations – Departure Creek Project:** Departure Bay Neighborhood Association

**Donations - Westwood Ridges - Mt Benson Acquisition Phase II:** 2 Anonymous, Joseph Basnett

**Donations – Nanaimo River Property Acquisition:** 1 Anonymous

**Donations – Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable:** Mosaic Forest Management

**Donations – In honour of:** Michael's birthday from Kathryn Goldsmith & Robyn Kemp

**Donations – Endowment Fund:** Barbara Hourston Legacy – the Hourston Family

**Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery - Donations and In-kind Goods:**  
Madeline Clarke, Judy & Fred Ebdrup, Marilyn Hand, Sharon Kofoed, Lynda McCullough, Colleen Rohde

**Business & Organization Donations – NALT:** Nanaimo Community Foundation

**New Pre-authorized Contributions:** Jeff Bellinger, Dan Brady, Trudy Chatwin, Carol Milo

**Volunteers since September 16, 2021:** Holly Blackburn, June & Doug Bogle, Deb Bowser, Dan Brady, Ava Breakwell, Linda Brooymans, Paul Chapman, Madeline Clarke, Iain Colquhoun, Denis Cote, Deryck Cowling, Jennifer Davidson, Kathy Doyle, David Drakeford, Nina Evans-Locke, Susan Fisher, Alfred Fraser, Dean Gaudry, Geoffrey Genge, Michael Geselbracht, Lee Grimmer, Jean-Michel Hanssens, Nadene Henderson, Pat Hogue, Noel Hornby, Kevan Hudson, Denis Hughes, Brigid Idenburg, Peter Jeremy, Anne Kerr, Andrew McNaughton, Wayne Morgan, Geoff Mumford, Linda Nichol, Cyndi Pitvor, Colleen Rohde, Doug Roszmann, Harriet Rueggeberg, Chris Scoriah, Louise Shuker, Gary Smart, Susan, Dom, Ali & Griffin, Bernie Taylor, James Taylor, Jack Tieleman, Nikki Toxopeus, Colton Van Der Minne, Coco van Zyl, Norm Wagenaar, Erik Warners, Wally Wells, Fraser Wilson, Inger Wyatt, Les Yamada

**The NALT Office Will Be Closed From December 24th - January 3rd.  
Happy Holidays!**





## NALT MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please send this completed form to:

**Nanaimo & Area Land Trust**  
#8-140 Wallace St. Nanaimo, BC V9R 5B1

I would like to:

a) ☐ **Renew my NALT Membership**

b) ☐ **Begin a NALT Membership**

(Check the rate that applies to you)

\_\_\_ Senior/Low Income/Student - \$10

\_\_\_ Individual/Family - \$20

\_\_\_ Business- \$50

c) ☐ **I would like to become a monthly donor:**

(Please see Pre-Authorized Contribution PAC form)

OR

d) ☐ **I would like to make a one time donation of:**

\$ \_\_\_\_\_

Make cheque payable to: Nanaimo & Area Land Trust

OR

Please charge my Visa or Mastercard:

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date : \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY

Circle 'Point of Contact': email / mailing address / phone

name \_\_\_\_\_

mailing address \_\_\_\_\_

city \_\_\_\_\_ Postal code \_\_\_\_\_

telephone \_\_\_\_\_ email address \_\_\_\_\_

Would you like to remain anonymous? ☐

*Tax receipts will be issued for contributions of \$20 or more.*

**NALT does not sell, trade or loan our database of donors, members or**

**contacts to individuals or other organizations**

**Thank you for your continued support!**

OFFICE ONLY: TR # \_\_\_\_\_



## Pre-Authorized Contribution (PAC)

**Includes Annual Membership**

*Complete this section ONLY if you want to become a monthly donor.*

Yes, I authorize NALT to automatically withdraw from my bank account on the 1st of each month beginning

This date \_\_\_\_\_ (yr/month/day):

☐ \$10.00

☐ \$20.00

☐ \$30.00

☐ \$40.00

☐ Other amount: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ I have enclosed a cheque marked **VOID**.

**OR**

Yes, I authorize NALT to charge my Visa OR MasterCard the 1st of each month:

☐ \$10.00

☐ \$20.00

☐ \$30.00

☐ \$40.00

☐ Other amount: \_\_\_\_\_

Visa ☐ M/C ☐

#: \_\_\_\_\_ Exp: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Beginning: (Month) \_\_\_\_\_, 20 \_\_\_\_\_

You may change or cancel your contribution at any time by sending NALT written notice.

*Please note: You will receive one tax receipt for the total amount of monthly gifts after the end of each tax year.*

*Your membership & monthly contribution are greatly appreciated.*

*Thank you for your continued support!*

**Donation/Pledge Form**  
**THE MOUNT BENSON CAMPAIGN II**



**DONOR CATEGORIES**

\$50,000 or more	Ultimate Benefactor of Benson
\$10,000 to \$49,999	Benefactor of Benson
\$5,000 to \$9,999	Hero of Benson
\$3,000 to \$4,999	Grand Champion of Benson
\$1,000 to \$2,999	Champion of Benson
\$500 to \$999	Patron of Benson
\$100 to \$499	Friend of Benson
less than \$100	Sponsor of Benson

My donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed  
 cash, cheque or credit card (check one) **AND/OR**

I would like to pledge \$\_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_ (#)  
 payments made monthly/annually/other\_\_\_\_\_

*If the Mt Benson II acquisition campaign cannot be completed, then the funds will be held in an Acquisitions Account to be used for another acquisition campaign.*

**Make cheque payable to NALT- Mount Benson Acquisition.**

**Circle 'Point of Contact': email / mailing address / phone**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

(for tax receipt)

Please record this contribution in the name of :

(if different) \_\_\_\_\_

*I would like to remain anonymous (Check Here) ☐*

My street address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ postal code \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your continued support!**

OFFICE ONLY: TR # \_\_\_\_\_



**Nanaimo River Donation Form**

I wish to donate to the Nanaimo River Project,  
 to assist with the costs of developing a Nanaimo River  
 stewardship strategy

**Donation Categories**

\$5,000 to \$9,999	Benefactor
\$1,000 to \$4,999	Hero
\$500 to \$999	Champion
\$100 to \$499	Patron
\$25 to \$100	Friend
less than \$25	Supporter

**My donation of \$\_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed as cash, cheque  
 or credit card (circle one)**

Cheques should be made payable to **NALT – Nanaimo River  
 Strategy Project** OR provide credit card info

VISA/ MC# \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Charitable receipts will be issued for all donations of \$20 or more. TO  
 receive your tax receipt and be on our contact list, please fill out the  
 section below.

*NALT's charitable tax # is 893193771*

My Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_



Email Contact: \_\_\_\_\_

If this donation is being made in the name of someone other  
 than yourself, please give their contact information

Their Name \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City/ Town: \_\_\_\_\_

Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to remain anonymous on all NALT thank you  
 and recognition lists **NO / YES (circle one)**

**NALT Thanks You for Your Support!**

(OFFICE ONLY) TR# \_\_\_\_\_