News from NALT

Our Mission: to support, promote and protect the natural values of land and water in our area.



Newsletter of the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust Society

March 2023

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The Waters of March

As we begin to see the end of winter and emerge into spring, we are reminded of the role water plays in our lives and in the ecology of our home place.

Water held high on the mountains as snow, melts and slowly releases to seep into the ground and find its ways into our lakes and rivers. Our wetlands fill to the brim as birds return from their long journeys to feed, breed, fledge and fly again. From the fragile ephemeral pools unique plants begin to show themselves to those who are patient enough to see. Before too terribly long, our City's flower, the Hosakia pinnata (formerly Lotus pinnatus), will begin to be seen amongst the colourful bounty of the Harewood Plains.

Our native plants, our native pollinators, and the creatures large and small that make up the intricate web of connections that provide our feeling of place depends on this pattern of vernal flows. But the pattern is changing.

It is said that in relation to climate change, mitigation is all about carbon—lowering carbon contribution and capturing it from the atmosphere; while adaptation is all about water.

Inside this newsletter you will read about how we seek to create the conditions in our gardens and landscapes to ensure abundance and connectivity between our built and natural areas. We engage our youth in stewardship of the waterways and watersheds where they live. We work to learn more about what is here and how to protect our natural values before they are further diminished.

We are building a culture of stewardship.

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

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Administrative Assistant:
Nanette Leather
Stewardship Manager:
Linda Brooymans
School Water Steward Coordinator:
Emily Wharin

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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
www.nalt.bc.ca

Bottle Drive

The rain may have soaked everyone and everything, but it didn't dampen the spirit of volunteers or donors to NALT's January 7th bottle drive.

Held at the NALT office so that we can offer our volunteers a warm dry place to seek respite from the weather, the January event tends to be a bit more subdued than other bottle drives during the year. Even with the lower visibility site, and the torrential rains, we managed to raise \$920 in support of water stewardship activities. Thanks to the folks that stopped by to donate their bottles and dollars, thanks to Paul Shorting and the team at Regional Recycling, and thanks to our buoyant volunteers. Well done everyone.

Our next bottle drive will be on April 15th (the Saturday after the Easter long weekend) beside Lucky's Liquor Store at the Country Club Centre.

Thank you for your support.

Streamkeepers April 1st—2nd

We are happy to let you know, NALT will be presenting a Streamkeeper Course on April 1-2 in Nanaimo.

This is an opportunity to learn about the indicators of stream health, citizen stewardship of creeks and ways to assess fish habitat. With the enthusiastic instruction of well-known biologist and fish champion Dave Clough, you will take the lessons learned into the field (or in this case the stream) and connect with a local watershed.

Thanks to NALT fundraising such as bottle drives, we are able to offer the course for free although there is a cost recovery charge of \$20 for the workshop manual.

Want to better understand the ecological importance of your local creek? Looking to gain the knowledge needed to up your stewardship skills? This is the workshop for you.

This two-day workshop will be a blend of in the classroom and in the creek learning. Saturday will run 10 am - 4.30 pm, Sunday 9 am - 4 pm (approximately).

There are a few spots remaining so don't delay. To register please reply to paul@nalt.bc.ca or call 250-714-1990.

Annual General Meeting

Save the date. NALT's next Annual General Meeting will be on June 22nd. The time will be between 5:30 pm—8 pm location to be announced.

Formal notice will be sent in accordance with NALT's bylaws.

Staff and committee reports, the 2022 Year-end Financial Report, and Board election information will be sent prior to the meeting.

Hope to see you there!

The Climate Crisis is Here. What Can I Do to Help?

The Nanaimo Climate Pledge encourages individuals and households to take action to tackle the climate crisis. Forest fires, floods, drought, extreme weather events: the signs of the crisis are all around us, and if not addressed will have an increasingly devastating effect on our land, water, community, and each of us individually.

But it's not too late to act.

Three quarters of Canadians think Canada should be a global climate leader, and yet our personal emissions are among the highest in the world, on average more than 14,000 kg per person per year, with many people feeling unsure what they can do to help.

Our project aims to fill this gap.

The Nanaimo Climate Pledge includes the 12 most important actions that individuals and households can take to make a difference, including changing how we eat, travel and heat our homes; how we vote; and how we invest and bank our money. It takes less than ten minutes to complete and serves two purposes: it is a commitment towards a better future by the Pledge taker, and it provides us with important data to learn how best to engage our whole community. Once we learn what works, we plan to launch the project throughout the Greater Nanaimo region (Ladysmith to Qualicum Beach to Port Alberni and Gabriola Island).

At www.NanaimoClimatePledge.ca you can:

Take the Pledge

Learn about each action we recommend

Download our brochure

Review our data sources

Sign up to become a Community Climate Connector

Find links to available rebates

Discover the facts about climate myths



The only known cure for climate anxiety is climate action. Together, we can have a real impact. People around the world, including millions of our fellow Canadians, are taking action.

Will you join us?

Please visit www.NanaimoClimatePledge.ca to learn more and take the Pledge.

The Nanaimo Climate Pledge is a project of the Nanaimo Climate Action Hub. Funding has been provided by the City of Nanaimo, the Government of Canada's New Horizons for Seniors Program, and the Royal Society for the Arts (UK). In partnership with the University of British Columbia.

News from the NALT Native Plant Nursery March 2023

<u>Welcome spring!</u> Trees and shrubs are budding. Small plants in the greenhouse are starting to emerge from the ground. Hopefully the snow days before Christmas and the end of February are behind us. Every week, we notice new signs of spring, a busy and lovely time of year. Our sales tables will soon be stocked with spring plants. You can see what's available on our inventory at www.nalt.bc.ca or visit any Wednesday 10 - 3 or Saturday 11 – 3 at 3145 Frost Road.

Sunday March 5th was Nanaimo's Seedy Sunday. The Nursery was happy to be part of the return of a favorite annual spring welcome to gardening.

Native Seeds for Sale

Over 50 varieties of local native seeds are ready for sale. They will be available to purchase at the nursery as soon as the risk of damage by damp, cold weather is past. We'll post on the website when seeds are again available for browsing and buying at the nursery. If you need your seeds sooner, just email plants@nalt.bc.ca. Varieties are listed on the NALT website inventory, and you can currently pick up your seeds at the NALT office, the Nursery, or by mail order. All seeds are \$4/ packet. With the trails cleared, damaged trees removed, and the bridges



Woodland skipper on Douglas' aster.

Photo: Lynda Stevens from NALT's new pollinator note card series.



Purplish copper on yarrow. Photo: Lynda Stevens from NALT's new pollinator note card series.

renewed, we are glad to again offer interpretive nature walks on the Parnassian Woods property. The first groups "booked" their interpretive walks for April 26 and 29. If your group is interested, email us at plants@nalt.bc.ca. A visit to the nursery is included.

New volunteers are welcome and needed at our small and unique native plant nursery. Gerry Davis joined our friendly group of dedicated folks to learn more about native plants, seeds, and landscapes. If you are interested, e-mail us or come by the nursery to take a look. Visitors are welcome every Wednesday and Saturday.

A <u>new shelter</u> has being constructed to offer a place to hold nursery classes and NALT gatherings. It is located across the entrance road from the nursery's Edible Native Plant Gardens. There is a commemorative plaque

to Peter and Anneke Vankerkoerle, who would have loved it. Many volunteers made the shelter happen, some recognized in the last newsletter. This month we'll thank Peter Hentze for his recent donation of prime red cedar planks. Many volunteer hands and backs made this project successful.

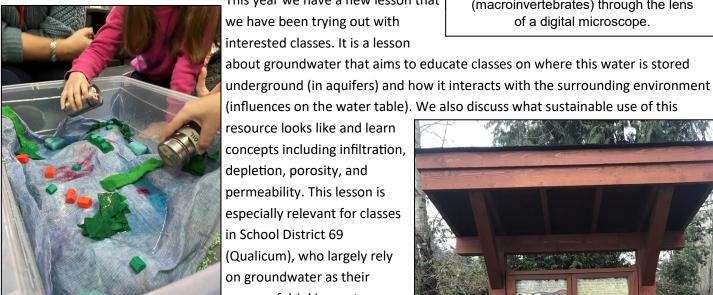
Much in need of another seed rack, Blair Matheson stepped up to the plate and constructed a lovely, functional seed rack. We appreciate Blair's skill and effort.

Coming up this spring into summer, the RDN Drinking Water and Watershed team will attend many community events, educating folks in our community around sustainable water practices. Our *Natural Abundance* Nursery is happy to support this great RDN project.

submitted by Susan Fisher

School Water Stewards

The School Water Stewards Program has been busy visiting our 13 participant classes this winter session. During these past few colder months, we have been keeping warm indoors, learning about watersheds and designing our own mini watershed models. As the weather is becoming more pleasant, we have been venturing outside with classes to visit each school's local water feature including Walley Creek, Northfield Marsh, Chase River, Millstone River, and the Parksville Wetlands. We have been teaching lessons about stream health assessments and water quality/natural filtration to encourage a sense of stewardship towards these natural areas. We have also begun exploring what we can find in these freshwater ecosystems by looking at aquatic macroinvertebrates through digital microscopes. A few of our classes are now gearing up to participate in stewardship projects this month, including salamander monitoring, native plant propagation, birds counts, and plant phenology monitoring.



Making watersheds models in the classroom and seeing how natural systems and human activity influence each other.

This year we have a new lesson that we have been trying out with interested classes. It is a lesson

(influences on the water table). We also discuss what sustainable use of this resource looks like and learn concepts including infiltration, depletion, porosity, and permeability. This lesson is especially relevant for classes in School District 69 (Qualicum), who largely rely on groundwater as their source of drinking water. Thank you to Linda Brooymans (NALT Stewardship Manager) for developing this fun new

lesson.

Thank you to our funders who make this program possible and accessible (free!) to classes in School District 68 and 69. This includes the RDN's Drinking Water & Watershed Protection Program, who provide partial funding for this program.

If you are, or know any K-7 teacher in SD68 (Nanaimo) or SD69 (Qualicum) who might be interested in participating in the School Water Stewards Program, please contact us at sws1@nalt.bc.ca



Students study aquatic insects (macroinvertebrates) through the lens of a digital microscope.



syuwenct School Water Stewards share their artworks and thoughts in the new kiosk at Northfield Marsh Park

Stewardship Activities

Western Painted Turtle Ambassador Program

NALT Is excited to share a new Western Painted Turtle project that we are launching this year with our partners in the City of Nanaimo's Parks, Recreation and Culture department, the provincial ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship and Nature Trust. Our Western Painted Turtle Ambassador program will get community members involved in stewardship of this threatened species, while at the same time helping us to collect valuable data on turtle population dynamics and nesting at Buttertubs Marsh.



Western Painted Turtle at Buttertubs Marsh.
Photo: Warren Cronan

Currently, little is known about the state of our Western Painted Turtle population at Buttertubs. How many turtles are there? Are their numbers holding steady, increasing, or declining? Are they able to successfully nest, and are there enough hatchlings surviving into adulthood? In the past, the use of wildlife cameras set up by the province, and visual surveys done by Nature Trust field crews have provided us with a bit of a picture into the activities and behaviours of the turtles. For example, we have learned higher numbers of turtles prefer to nest on the Buttertubs dike compared to the nesting beach on the decommissioned trail at the northeastern edge of the marsh. A study done in the summer of 2012 by VIU student Stephanie Thorpe also

indicates that there are greater numbers of the invasive Red-Eared Slider than there are our native Western Painted turtle at Buttertubs, though this might be due more to the tendency of the Sliders to outcompete the Painted turtles for use of basking logs, forcing the Painted Turtles to bask on shoreline vegetation and making them difficult to spot.

In 2021 we launched our volunteer-based basking survey program, where volunteers went out to possible turtle habitat sites during basking season and checked for presence of Western Painted Turtles. We went to locations where the public had submitted observations to the province, but those observations were not confirmed by qualified professionals, usually due to a lack of photographic evidence, or the quality of submitted photos not allowing a confirmation of species. This work has resulted in the confirmation of WPT at Sywash marsh in Lantzville, as well as the confirmation of nesting happening at that site.



A Western Painted Turtle hatchling.

As we continue the basking survey work with our small but dedicated team of volunteers, we determined that additional data collection on nesting is needed to better assist with planning potential habitat restoration activities. Our Ambassador program is eager to recruit volunteers to help us collect this data, so **please send an email to stewardship@nalt.bc.ca if you would like to get involved**. The program will have volunteers to walk Buttertubs Marsh during the nesting season (mid-May to late July) at peak nesting hours (approximately 6:30 – 8:30), collect data on any nesting activities that are observed, and place caging to prevent predators like raccoons and crows from getting to the nest. A training session will be held on Sunday April 23.

Stewardship Activities continued

Pollinator Paradise Project

NALT is entering our second year of the Pollinator Paradise project. We are hoping to add more gardens to our Pollinator Habitat map to help us understand habitat quality and connectivity – if you haven't already added your garden to our map please consider doing so. You can find the link to the map at our pollinator project website: naltpollinatorproject.ca

Pollinator ID Workshop

On Saturday May 20 we will be hosting a Pollinator ID workshop with Dr. Tim Goater and entomology graduate student Genevieve van der Voort. Check your inbox for a NALT email detailing more information on the workshop and how to sign up in the coming weeks.



Striped sweat bee on Douglas' aster. Photo: Lynda Stevens from NALT's new pollinator note card series.



Echo Azure on camas species.

Photo: Lynda Stevens from NALT's new pollinator note card series.

Pollinator Census

We are also encouraging gardeners to do a pollinator census of either a patch of their garden, or even a specific plant in their garden. Join us on these pollinator census dates to track our local pollinators so we can better understand what pollinators are present in our region, and what plants they like to visit: Sunday May 07, Sunday June 11, and Sunday July 16. You can submit your data through iNaturalist on our Mid-Vancouver Island Pollinator Project page. New to iNaturalist? We will be hosting an introduction to iNaturalist on April 29. It will teach you how to set up a user account, how to join projects, and add observations.

Pollinator Note Cards

Thanks to the generous donation of wonderful pollinator photographs provided by Lynda Stevens, NALT is offering a series of note cards for purchase of native pollinators buzzily doing their thing. We have bee flies, bristle flies, calligrapher flies, miniscule carpenter bees, sweat bees, long-horned bees, bumble bees as well as the more elegant Echo Azure, Purplish Copper and Woodland Skipper butterflies and an adorable Anna's hummingbird. Cards are \$3.00 each or 4 for \$10.00. Proceeds will support pollinator stewardship projects.



Fuzzy wuzzy was a fly! A woolly bee fly at self heal.

Photo: Lynda Stevens from NALT's new
pollinator note card series.

Rob Lawrance Award

The Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC has created an award to honour the life and legacy of Rob Lawrance, a former Environmental Planner with the City of Nanaimo. After a more than 20 year career with the City, Rob was enjoying a new life just south of the border in Washington State, newly married, new professional opportunities and making the best of his retirement from the City when he died suddenly during a mountain bike race event.

From the words shared at Rob's memorial event last June, it was clear that he was a valued friend and co-worker and a positive influence on the culture at the City. He was also a valued friend to the community, collaborating with conservation groups and neighbourhood associations to combine passion with capacity and achieve some very important watershed and wetland conservation milestones in Nanaimo. Beyond the City of Nanaimo, Rob was a foundational member of the Watershed Moments Team, working together to present symposiums and seminars on Water Stewardship on Vancouver Island in a Changing Climate.

The first recipient of the Watershed Moments Award in Honour of Rob Lawrance is Kate Miller, the Environmental Services Manager with the Cowichan Valley Regional District.



Presentation of the Watershed Moments Team Award to Kate Miller at the January 26th meeting of the Cowichan Valley Regional Board. From left to right: Paul Chapman (Chair, Watershed Moments Symposia Series), Aaron Stone (Board Chair and Mayor, Town of Ladysmith), Kate Miller, and Kim Stephens.

In the background, and looking over their shoulders, is the late Rob Lawrance.

~ 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 have begun a monthly pre-authorized contribution (PAC).

Nov 18, 2022 to March 1, 2023

Individual Donations & New Memberships – NALT: Anonymous, David & Lenora Baker, Joseph Basnett, George Beadle, Connie Lou & Michael Bickford, Michael & Darlene Booth, Lori Brothers, Linda Cole, Kelsy Cramer, Gerry Davis, Frances Deverell, Alison Estok, Christian Evans, David Forrest, Meg Fraser, Sharon Fulton, Gary Gauthier, Robert Gilchrist, Mike Gilmour, Barbara Lee Grimmer, Kathleen Harder, Cheryl Headey, Peter Hentze, Jennifer Jenkins, Beryl Johnson, Bruce Joiner & Marilyn Metcalf, Nanette Leather & Steve Howie, Joan Maltby, Bryony Manders, Linda Nichol & Ross Cameron, Ann & Roger Northwood, Bruce Patterson & Siobhan Wagner, James Philip, Cyndi & Julius Pitvor, Sharon Preston & Eric MacNeill, Julia Roberts, Douglas Roszmann, Gary Smart, Hally Swift, Jack Tieleman, Roberta Veenstra & Dave Hendrickson, Graham Wallace, Wendy & Bruce Ward, Donna Warren, John Wells

<u>Donations – Donate a Car Canada:</u>

Donations - Westwood Ridges - Mt Benson Acquisition Phase II:

Donations – Nanaimo River Property Acquisition: Frances Deverell

<u>Donations – Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable:</u> Mosaic Forest Management

<u>Donations – In honour of:</u> Christian Evans in honour of Nina Locke

<u>Donations – In memory of:</u> Meg Fraser in memory of Diane & John Wardle

<u>Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery - Donations and In-kind Goods:</u> Peter Hentze, Bruce Patterson & Siobhan Wagner, Mika & Dan Reid

Business & Organization Donations - NALT: Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society



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Tel (250) 591-2258 Email SBONAR@AQUAPARIAN.COM | CZAMORA@AQUAPARIAN.COM

Volunteers since Nov 18, 2022:

Salah Baker, Emily Barnewall, Holly Blackburn, Linda Brooymans, Erin Chaba, Paul Chapman, Joe Clark, Iain Colquhoun, Deryck Cowling, Dave Cutts, Gerry Davis, Pat Donaldson, Kathy Doyle, David Drakeford, Blake Drummond, Jennifer Ellis, Tina Fabbro, Bob Fenton, Susan Fisher, Dean Gaudry, Michael Geselbracht, Lee Grimmer, Sylvie Hawkes, Basia Henoch, Pat Hogue, Kevan Hudson, Denis Hughes, Hunter Jarratt, Peter Jeremy, Dave Johnson, Alex King, Ian Knipe, Adam Laforest, Evangeline Laforest, Nanette Leather, Nina Locke, Mel Lockhead, Bryson Marks, Kaleigh McGinnis, Wayne Morgan, Momoka Morimoro, Linda Nichol, Janice Porteous, Arthue Reid, Mika Reid, Jim Roberts Jr., Colleen Rohde, Harriet Rueggeberg, Gary Smart, James Taylor, Jack Tieleman, Nikki Toxopeus, Coco van Zyl, Norm Wagenaar, Wally Wells, Emily Wharin, Fraser Wilson, John Young, Susann Young.

A Special Thank You to NALT's 2022 Monthly Pre-authorized Contributors:

Suzanne Andre, Gary & Valerie Ansell, Patricia Ansell, Aquaparian Environmental Consulting, Doris Arndt, Ian & Gwen Bailey, George Beadle, David Bean, Mark & Leslie Beaulieu, Judith Beer, Jeff Bellinger, Doreen Besharah, Diane Bestwick, Holly Blackburn, Shauna Blair, Deborah Blenkarn, Valerie Booth, Richard & Lynne Bowen, Claudia Boyce, Dan Brady, Richard & Mary Cabell, Stanley & Sharon Cameron, Darlene & Wolfgang Carolsfeld, Paul Chapman, Trudy Chatwin, Chris Cameron MD Inc., Doneal Cohen, Linda Cole, Kelly & Adam Compton, Deryck Cowling, Dave Cutts, Jennifer & Allan Davidson, Sarah Davies, Jeff Hawker & Janet Delgatty, William & Kara Derby, Michelle Fairbanks & Jeffrey Dickinson, Andrew & Melanie Digney, Robert & Sandra Dobson, Carol Meekes & Geoffrey Donnelly, David Drakeford, Diana Dugas, Equinox Environmental Group, Jacob Etzkorn, Carys Evans, Tina Fabbro, Susan Fisher, Dr. Sara Frisch, Ian Gartshore, Dean Gaudry, Inger Gidska, Lee Grannon, Terry Grantner, Alison Graves, Greenrock Liquor Store, Lee Grimmer, Eric Grossman & Karen Skarpnes, Douglas & Doreen Halfyard, Jean-Michel Hanssens, Peter Harris, Allan Hawryzki, Clive Hetherington, Jerry Hinbest, Theresa Hood, James Hudson, Kevan Hudson, Joy Hunter, Timothy Huntsman, Trish Jennings, Peter Jeremy, Lawrence Johnson, Marianne Johnson, Anne Kerr, Peter & Sandra King, Dave & Maureen Kirk, Gerald LaPorte, Margaret Litch, Dr. Robin & Deidre Love, Dale Lovick, Glen Macdonald & Ann Rainboth, Candice Morgan & Ian MacDonald, Anne MacMillan, Hugh & Rosemary MacNaughton, Mike & Becky Mann, Margaret Mann, Peter & Kerry Mason, Craig McCracken, Robert & Barbara McDonald, Joan McIntyre, Harry McLeod, Richard McNicol, Janet McVicar, Derek Mennard, Scot Merriam, Carol Milo, Patricia Mitchell, Ann-Marie Monahan, Geoff Mumford, Emma Peck, Betty Penston, Peter Mason Geomatics, Dr. Keith & Arlene Phillips, Kulbinder Rai, Noella Rickaby, Harriet Rueggeberg, Rosina Schmidt, Maureen & Charles Shier, Roblyn Hunter & Jeffrey Solomon, Cynthia Spencer, Martin Spencer, Kate Stefiuk, Al & Marjorie Stewart, Brenda Stewart, Gilbert Stuart, Andre Sullivan, Emma Swanson, Mary Thiess, Jack Tieleman, Arlene Tucker, D. W. Vann, Vicki Voros, Annette Whiteley, Dr. Joris Wiggers & Elizabeth Herman, Fraser & Patricia Wilson, Mary Winder, Dr. Lawrence & Robyn Winkler, Marina Wright, Jim & Sharon Young, Diana Young, John & Susann Young, Audrey & Gary Zolob

A Noteable Thank You to Members who have increased their PACs in 2022:

Paul Chapman, Linda Cole, Susan Fisher

"We have lived our lives by the assumption that what was good for us would be good for the world, We have been wrong. We must change our lives so that it will be possible to live by the contrary assumption, that what is good for the world will be good for us. And that requires that we make the effort to know the world and learn what is good for it."

- Wendell Berry





MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please return completed form to NANAIMO & AREA LAND TRUST

1.	EMAIL:	
	admin@nalt.bc.ca	a

2. PRINT & POST:

#8 - 140 Wallace St, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5B1

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I WOULD LIKE TO:				
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PRE-AUTHORIZED CONTRIBUTION (PAC) Includes Annual Membership

SECTION B - Complete this section <u>ONLY</u> if you want to become a monthly donor.

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THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUES SUPPORT				
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Bottles for NALT



Saturday April 15th, 2023 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Drop off refundable drink containers of all sizes at the

Lucky's Liquor Store

parking lot, at the Country Club Centre

For more information call The Nanaimo & Area Land Trust (NALT) at 250-714-1990 or <u>www.nalt.bc.ca</u>

Can't make it? Just drop your refundables, ask the staff to "put it on the NALT account" when you take your recycle donations to one of the Regional Recycling Depots.

(2375 Hayes Road, & 839 Old Victoria Road, Nanaimo)