

NEWS FROM

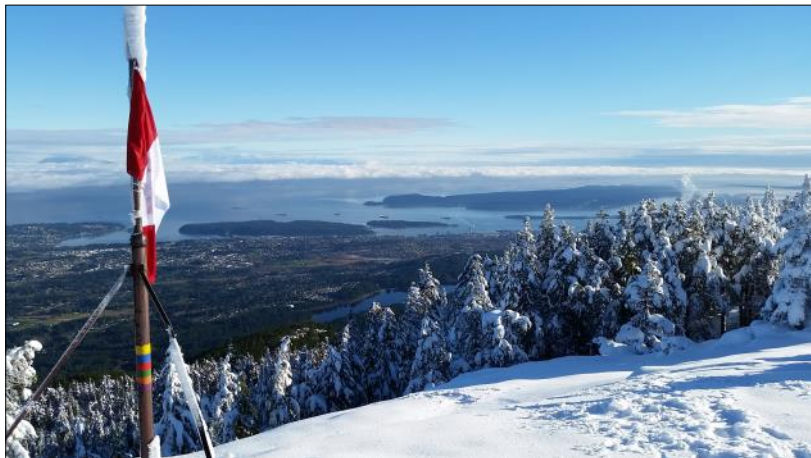


Newsletter of the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust Society

November 2020

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Year End Reflections

2020 has been quite a year.
Much has changed:

In recent weeks, NALT has lost two of its founders, Gail Adrienne and Barbara Hourston. Both Gail and Barbara were [pillars of our community](#) and the land trust movement in BC. They will be missed (see pages 2 and 3).

As with everything this year, our regular seasonal fun and fundraising activities have been curtailed by COVID-19. Where normally this message would include a report on our successful Wine & Cheese Soiree, we weren't able to hold the event this year. Past years we have announced our presence in local malls to share information and sell merchandise, this year we won't be in the malls and even our storefront sales have to be arranged in advance. There is no 2021 NALT Calendar to send to distant family and friends. There will **not** be a January bottle drive in 2021.

Much remains:

In 2020 NALT turned 25! The weather has been akin to the weather patterns of old. We experienced ample rain interspersed at intervals sufficient to inhibit wildfire conditions and provide a bounty of berries for wild things to browse. Indeed, if the pattern holds, we are building a snowpack that could supply our reservoirs, aquifers and rivers with abundance during the crucial weeks of early summer.

At the beginning of 2020 we declared we were going to make this year all about water stewardship – 20h2o! And while the tumult of the times caused a delay, we are pleased to announce the launching of a School Water Stewards project (see page 6), the [Water Stewardship in a Changing Climate 2020 Symposium](#) is being delivered online, [delegations to City Council](#) continue, and the [ongoing stewardship actions](#) and [support of Streamkeeper activities](#) on a number of creeks and streams in our area continues to build a culture of stewardship.

We are also happy that we will be able to offer native Christmas Trees for sale or rent at our nursery and office locations starting December 10th.

So, in this Season, as we gather as we can, in safe social groups or at a distance, let's be thankful for what sustains us, for the people we love and the places we hold dear.

We at NALT wish you all the best of the Season and a happy and healthy New Year.

Gail Adrienne, January 24th, 1944 – November 8th, 2020

On Sunday, November 8th, Gail Adrienne, NALT's founding Executive Director, passed away in her room at the Malaspina Gardens care home. We were all shocked when Gail suffered a fall and significant head injury in the late summer of 2017 that ultimately prevented her return to the helm at NALT. Prior to the restrictions imposed by concerns about COVID-19, Gail enjoyed visits with friends and family at Malaspina Gardens. Gail passed quietly and peacefully.

Gail's influence on NALT and our community has been profound, from the early efforts at watershed stewardship under Project 2000; the successful acquisition of the land that is now Cottle Lake Park in Linley Valley and then the fundraisers such as the *Music for the Mountain* music

festival to secure what is now known as the Mount Benson Regional Park; to support and mentorship of other land acquisitions like the Nanaimo River Regional Park and Moorecroft Regional Park; and the myriad other ways she worked to support, promote and protect the natural values of land and water in our area.

Inside this edition of the newsletter is the NALT 25th Anniversary Newsletter insert. For 22 of those years, for every initiative listed in the insert, Gail had her hands, heart and soul (and considerable will) invested in NALT's and our community's stewardship success. In the three years since her injury, her influence can still be seen in everything NALT does.

Gail's legacy lives on when people enjoy a walk in Linley Valley through Cottle Lake Park and the associated park lands added to this linchpin acquisition. Her legacy is felt when hiking Mount Benson or looking up at its seasonal snow-covered heights. Her work is reflected in B.C.'s thriving land trust movement. Her efforts inform the decisions made by the City's Environment Committee and are reflected in our Official Community Plan.

Gail was a force for nature.

May she rest in peace knowing she made a positive difference in our community.



Barbara Hourston April 17, 1933 – November 11, 2020

Barbara was an Emeritus NALT Board Director. This title was given to her on her retirement from the Board in 2011. Barbara's contribution to NALT and the land trust movement in BC cannot be overstated. Perhaps it is best summed up by Gail's remarks at the 2011 AGM.

Gail Adrienne on Barbara's contribution to conservation from the December 2011 AGM: *I met Barbara soon after I moved to Nanaimo in 1990, through another amazing woman—Gail McGee. Although I can't say we were close friends right away, our paths crossed often. Then came a day in 1991 that I ran into Barbara and she asked "What do you know about the Linley Valley?" I replied that I knew that my 15 year-old son, Andrew, homesick for the pristine outdoors of the Kootenays, was crazy about the area and had walked me through it.*

Soon after, Barbara and Andrew put their heads together and made a presentation about the valley to City Council. In 1992, Barbara organized the Linley Valley Park Committee, and they began collecting signatures on a petition. In 1994, she researched the concept of Land Trusts and decided that Nanaimo needed one. On her own penny, Barbara brought Tyhson Banighen, founder of Turtle Island Earth Stewards to Nanaimo from Salmon Arm. We held a weekend workshop at MalU (now VIU), where Tyhson taught us all we needed to know about starting up a land trust. Folks from up and down the island attended; and in the spring of 1995, not only was NALT born, but also the Cowichan Community Land Trust in Duncan and, soon after, the Habitat Acquisition Trust in Victoria. TLC came two years later and the Comox Valley Land Trust also got started in that timeframe.



Over the years, Barbara has been a tireless champion, worker, and personal supporter of NALT—both with her time and her donations. She has also become a good friend to me—a great support in times of need and she also doesn't hesitate to let me know if I'm getting out of line. That's what good friends are for.

Barbara was a steadfast happy warrior for the environment and a champion for our community.

Thank you Barbara, rest in peace.

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 and
Conservation Covenants Manager:
Ava Breakwell
Stewardship Coordinator:
Linda Brooymans

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Barbara Hourston

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

Buttertubs Bird Walk

The inaugural bird spotting walk at Buttertubs Marsh was a resounding success! A full compliment of eight NALT supporters saw and heard over thirty varieties of birds in two hours.

Birders count those species they hear!

An aerial exhibition by a female Harrier Hawk was a highlight as it swooped and dove across the marsh in search of small mammals. Bernard Schroeder and Dave Baird provided a wealth of information on the birds ranging from migratory patterns to explaining bird spotting techniques. Bernard even used a digital bird call and blue tooth speaker to conjure up the ever-elusive Virginia Rail. While the Rail did not appear, it was within a few feet of us based on its response to the call! The blustery day started with eagles darting across the sky and ducks abounding. We were treated to old friends like the Red-winged Blackbird, Dark-eyed Juncos, Glaucous-winged Gulls and the Spotted Towhee. Most excitingly we met the Wilson's Snipe for the first time! The duck world was well represented Friday as we spotted Mallards, Green-winged Teal, Wood Ducks, Buffleheads, Ring-necked Ducks and the Hooded Merganser to mention a few. A green breasted Anna's Hummingbird even dropped in to the party towards the end of our sojourn. These hummingbirds live here year-round.

Time flew by and the 120 minutes with our fine feathered friends left us in awe of what happens at Buttertubs and curious for more spotting knowledge!

Bottle Drive

On October 17th, a crack team of volunteers, gloved-up and masked, came together to sort refundable beverage containers donated by NALT supporters. Safely and steadily the volunteers worked to raise \$1840 toward water stewardship initiatives. The fair weather held, spirits were high, and everyone did a great job to conduct a safe and orderly event. Thank you all.

Thanks also to the Country Club Centre and Lucky's Liquor Store for hosting us.

Usually our winter bottle drive takes place at the NALT office so we can keep our volunteers warm. Unfortunately, we are unable to accommodate additional people safely in the office. Erring on the side of caution we have decided to cancel our January bottle drive.

The good news is you can still donate your refundable beverage containers to NALT. Just return them to any of the Regional Recycling locations listed below and ask the staff to "put it on the NALT account."

Nursery News

As we consider the huge contributions of esteemed leaders Barb Hourston, Gail Adrienne, Anneke and Peter VanKerkoerle, we appreciate being able to follow them in supporting a valuable community asset, the NALT Native Plant Nursery.

The fall has found volunteers preparing large orders, winterizing plants and facilities, and planting and packaging native seeds. We have been pleased with a healthy number of customers. Customers and volunteers follow the nursery's safety guidelines for health and safety in COVID times, as we have developed several iterations in compliance with public health guidelines.

Volunteers prepared plants for several large orders, including the Town of Ladysmith, a restoration project at the Salish View restoration site on Lasqueti Island, an RDN restoration planting at Pacific Gardens. We hosted Nanaimo Science 3rd and 4th grade science students on a special day in October. Special thanks to the Fanny Bay Salmon Enhancement Society for a donation of 80 native trees. Sharecost donated a generous supply of three types of potting and garden soil, a much needed and appreciated gift. Plants and gardeners alike love good soil.

As always, we are grateful for donations, in addition to pots, plants, or gifts found in the self-serve kiosk jar. And thank you to volunteers, NALT staff and Board for being part of the nursery team.

October brought our semi annual scrap burn and a day unique from previous years when we typically prepared and shared a common meal. Due to COVID-related safety considerations, we each brought our own lunches, while we ate outdoors and admired the new greenhouse roof.

As we move into winter, the nursery will continue to be open Wednesdays and Saturdays. We will be closed December 23 through January 5. Once again native potted trees will be available for sale or rent beginning December 10 up until Christmas. You can shop for trees at the nursery, 3145 Frost Road, or at the NALT office.

Also, we are offering Native Seeds in a different way this year as we won't be at the malls. You may purchase seeds at the nursery Wednesdays 10 - 3 and Saturdays 11 – 3, or ask to have your seeds mailed to you. Varieties available are on display at the nursery and on the NALT website inventory.

It's a perfect time of year to plant shrubs and trees, the soil is moist, it's not too cold. We welcome you to come by the nursery to select some plants. Trees are still half price for the digging. If you ever wanted to learn a bit more about propagation, you might consider joining our volunteers beginning in January when we'll be seeding and propagating cuttings of many native herbaceous forbs, shrubs and trees.

Happy holiday season from the NALT Native Plant Nursery Crew! We hope you all are keeping well.



Soil from Sharecost awaits shovelling by volunteers at the *Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery*.

Submitted by Susan Fisher

School Water Stewards

Nanaimo Area and Land Trust (NALT) is launching a pilot project to connect schools to their watersheds. Starting in late November, three project participants will work with project partners, the RDN Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Programs' Team Watersmart, to develop and deliver curriculum-based water stewardship lessons and activities to two schools, Nisaika Kumtuks Elementary and Coal Tye Elementary.

Linda Brooymans, NALT's Stewardship Coordinator, will be leading the team to provide hands-on learning to the students at nearby water features such as the Cat stream and Northfield Marsh. The project also involves connecting the schools' catchment communities to their watersheds.

Together with our project partners we are building a culture of stewardship.


The project runs from November 2, 2020 – October 31, 2021. NALT will seek sustaining funding to continue and expand the project into a program.

NALT is hiring!

View the job description here: <http://nalt.bc.ca/data/files/jcpswsparticipantjobdescription.pdf>



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



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~ 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 2, 2020 to November 19, 2020*

Individual Donations & New Memberships – NALT: 3 Anonymous, Sher Anderson, Emily Barnewall, Connie-Lou Bickford, David Blackburn, Doug & June Bogle, John Candy & Carol Elder, Trudy Chatwin, Blake Drummond-Hay, David Forrest, Mike Gilmour, Dave Hendrickson & Roberta Veenstra, Leonard & Sharon Krog, Beth LeBaron, Mary & Helmut Mark, Peter & Kerry Mason, Arla Jean Murch, Peter & Mary Myers, Peter Roddick, Maureen & Charles Shier, Christy Thomson, Ian & Ruth Thorpe, Bruce & Wendy Ward, Donna Warren

Donations – Departure Creek Project: Departure Bay Neighbour Association

Donations – In honour of: Michael's birthday from Kathryn Goldsmith

Donations - In memory of Gail Adrienne: 1 Anonymous, Joan Anne Roach

Donations - In memory of Barbara Hourston: 1 Anonymous, John Shelbourn

Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery - Donations and In-kind Goods:

Deryck Cowling, Fanny Bay Salmonid Enhancement Society, Jesse Gray, Donna Hammond, Lynda McCullough, Bruce Patterson, Colleen Rohde, Dave Stuppich, Dave Tech at Sharecost, Joan Wagner

Business & Organization Donations – NALT: Nanaimo Regional Recycling Depot, Peter Mason Geomatics, RDN Stewardship Seed Funding – Knarston Creek

New Pre-authorized Contributions: Maureen & Charles Shier

Volunteers since September 2, 2020: Holly Blackburn, Ava Breakwell, Paul Chapman, Madeline Clarke, Iain Colquhoun, Dalton Corbett, Deryck Cowling, Dave Cutts, Tareyn Dallamoe, Kathy Doyle, David Drakeford, Nina Evans-Locke, Susan Fisher, Anne Follows, Dean Gaudry, Mike Gilmour, Sarah Gourlay, Jesse Gray, Mona Heppner, Pat Hogue, Kevan Hudson, Trish Jennings, Peter Jeremy, Julia Jonkind, Yonas Jonkind, David Mackenzie, Jean Marie, Susanna Michaelis, Jamie Mollinus, Wayne Morgan, Geoff Mumford, Linda Nichol, Dan Parker, Colleen Rohde, Harriet Rueggeberg, Chris Scoriah, Jim Senka, Louise Shuker, Emma Simard-Provencal, Gary Smart, Jeramie Stables, Jeremy Stacey, Beth Stanley, Millie Strom, Harry Tassell, James Taylor, Jack Tieleman, Nikki Toxopeus, Coco van Zyl, Norm Wagenaar, John Wells, Wally Wells, Fraser Wilson, Bill Wolverton, Inger Wyatt, John Young, Susann Young

"You cannot get through a single day without having an impact on the world around you. What you do makes a difference and you have to decide what kind of a difference you want to make."

—Jane Goodall

25th Anniversary Special Feature



Extra! Extra! Read All About It! NALT Turns 25 in 2020

And, we could not have done it without your support
TWENTY-FIVE YEARS OF MILESTONES

The Lead-up

1991 – Barbara Hourston gathers a group of like-minded citizens who form the *Friends of Linley Valley*, later changed to *The Linley Valley Park Committee*, to search for ways to prevent development in the valley and secure parkland. Presentations are made to Nanaimo City Council and community agencies and interests.

OCTOBER 1, 1994 – The *Linley Valley Park Committee* organizes a workshop at Malaspina University. Tyhson Banighan of Turtle Island Earth Stewards takes us through the steps on how to set up a land trust. Several Vancouver Island groups attend.

1995 to 1997- Over the next two years, Cowichan Community Land Trust, the Nanaimo and Area Land Stewards (later changed to our present name), the Habitat Acquisition Trust (in Victoria), Comox Valley Land Trust, and The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC) are formed.

NALT is Born: The First 10 Years

APRIL 19, 1995 – NALT becomes a registered Society, is granted the authority to hold conservation covenants registered on a property's title; and shortly after, receives charitable status. First AGM is held in June 1995.

FEBRUARY 1996 – NALT hosts a second gathering at Malaspina

University, which attracts 32 BC land trusts, to form the Land Trust Alliance of BC (LTABC).

SPRING 1996 – NALT starts work to develop a campaign to preserve natural parkland in the Linley Valley.

FALL 1996 – NALT co-signs its first conservation covenant with the Rosewall-Bonell Land Trust, for a small but significant property in Errington, adjacent to Little Mountain. Over the next 19 years, NALT will sign off on seven more covenants (with two others pending), and two voluntary stewardship agreements within the Nanaimo area.

1997 to 2000 – NALT assists The Land Conservancy of BC (TLC) with fundraising for the purchase of South Winchelsea Island; and subse-



**Founding Board Director, Barbara Hourston,
Addresses NALT Members at an AGM.**



**The Project 2000 E-team Poses on a
Large Woody Debris Structure They
Installed in Departure Creek**

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

Nina Evans-Locke Receives the First PROJECT 2000 Stewardship Award



stewardship plaques to participating landowners. Funding sources include Environment Canada, Harmac, Canada Trust, Central Island Fisheries Partnership, and the Federal Summer Career Placement program.

September 28, 2007 - PROJECT 2000 organizes the first City-wide Rivers Day, with neighbourhood activities on Walley Creek, Departure Creek, the Cat Stream and Richards Creek.

October 1997 – NALT opens its first (very small) office on Victoria Road, to operate PROJECT 2000; Board meetings are still held in Barbara Hourston's front room and other locations donated by members.

April 22, 1998 – PROJECT 2000 organizes the first Earth Day event in Cappy Yates Park.

June 1999 – PROJECT 2000 leads interpretive walks to see the Chum salmon run along the Millstone River estuary as a celebration of Environment Week. More than 700 school children participate from Monday to Friday; more show up on the weekend with their families. Most-asked question: "*Is this the first time there has been a salmon run in the Millstone?*" Uh, not exactly... The walks are repeated in 2000.

1998-2000 – NALT assists TLC to fundraise for a 40-acre property on a lower reach of the Nanaimo River, followed by an adjacent 100-acre property, subsequently leased to the RDN for a Regional Park.



1999-2000 – NALT organizes a number of successful workshops and events, often in partnership with other organizations—including a *Fools for Nature* dance, with the popular band *Wunderbread*—to raise both funds and community awareness. We also participate in other community events, such as the VIEX and the grand opening of the Woodgrove Mall expansion.

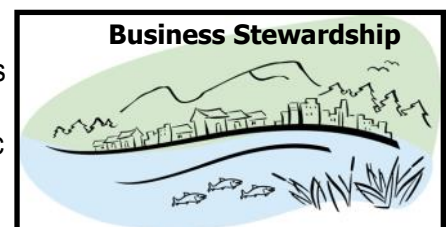
March 2000 – NALT moves to a more up-scale location—a heritage house on Skinner St—and opens a Stewardship Resource Centre.

July 2000 – NALT hosts its first annual summer picnic for members and supporters at the Van Kerkoerle property in Cassidy

quently signs on to co-hold a covenant on the island with the Islands Trust Fund.

July 1997 – Initial funding is approved to start PROJECT 2000, an ambitious stream stewardship initiative designed and coordinated by Gail Adrienne for NALT. This project, carried out over four years in partnership with the City of Nanaimo, will encompass 10 creeks and streams, and 4 lakes—from Bloods Creek in Lantzville to Richards Creek in Cinnabar Valley. In each watershed, it will include door-to-door information drops, followed by community information meetings, organizing stream stewardship groups and streamside activities, Streamkeeper and Wetlandkeeper workshops, and presentation of

PROJECT 2000 Cat Stream Stewardship Meeting





Barbara Hourston Helps to Serve up a BBQ Salmon Lunch at the Annual Summer Picnic

August 2000 –With a grant from Environment Canada, NALT begins a Conservation Covenants Project coordinated by Sarah Bonar.

January 2001 – NALT begins the Linley Valley (Section 13) acquisition process with an appraisal and an “option to purchase” agreement with the owners. An agreement in principle is reached in June, and the Linley Valley Acquisition Campaign is officially launched on July 6th, 2001. NALT’s goal is to raise \$500,000 of the purchase price. For the next two years, this becomes NALT’s main focus—collecting support signatures, financial pledges and some donations. Many public events and presentations are held, including the *Artists in the Valley* event in the spring of 2002—when 35 artists create and donate works depicting the valley, followed by a month-long touring art auction moving from Parkville to Ladysmith, and a grand finale in Nanaimo. It raises more than \$10,000.

Spring 2001 – NALT ‘s fledgling native plants nursery moves from the back yard of the Stewardship Centre to a portion of the Van Kerkoerle property in Cassidy; volunteers begin to expand stocks through propagation, salvage and donations.

October 2001 to September 2003 - With funding for the Covenants Project ended, NALT launches a new project: the Business Stewardship Project, with a focus on automotive businesses in the Diver Lake area, funded again by Environment Canada. Sarah Bonar is again hired as project coordinator. A second phase of this project will be funded for another year, beginning in September 2002.

March 1st, 2002 – The house on Skinner Street has been sold, and NALT moves again--to a generous sized utilitarian office space at 140 Wallace Street.



Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery Volunteers

October 2002 – The City of Nanaimo agrees to contribute \$1.563M towards the Linley Valley purchase of Section 13 if NALT raises the other \$500,000 by March 31, 2003. This deadline is later extended to June 30, 2003, and NALT achieves its goal by that date! This success gains NALT a reputation as a credible and capable organization—one that accomplishes what it sets out to do.

February to April 2003 – NALT and the RDN partner to carry out an abbreviated version of PROJECT 2000—raising watershed protection awareness on Haslam Creek that runs through Cassidy, and the creeks of Cedar, with community meetings in those areas.



Summer 2003 – As the Linley Valley acquisition campaign comes to a finish, hikers on Mount Benson become alarmed by recent logging near the summit, and appeal to NALT to “save” the mountain. NALT initially resists, still busy with final closure of the previous campaign; then agrees to take on the challenge to secure four lots totalling 523 acres of privately owned property near the summit.

Fall 2003 – NALT meets with the RDN, who agrees to cover the cost of two appraisals: a real estate valuation and timber valuation for Mount Benson. Both come in surprisingly low, and meetings with the owners begin.

Spring 2004 – A *Coalition to Save Mount Benson* (later changed to *the Mount Benson Legacy Group*), comprised of NALT and seven other local groups, is formed to develop strategies for acquisition of the properties; NALT agrees to take on the administrative role.



A Group of Hikers Pauses to Survey Recent Logging on Mt. Benson 2005.

April 2004 – With a small surplus from the acquisition campaign, NALT undertakes the Linley Valley Campaign Phase II, which is essentially watching DL 56 and other properties in the valley for opportunities to secure more parkland, while carrying out ongoing construction and maintenance of trail boardwalks and bridges in DL 56 (BC crown land). This work continues to the present day.

August 2004 – The Nanaimo and Area Land Stewards Society has an official name-change to Nanaimo & Area Land Trust Society (NALT).

October 20, 2004 – The NALT Board approves a motion to formally conduct negotiations with the Mt. Benson property owners, in consultation with others on the *Coalition*. Thus, begins a 3 1/2 year process of off-and-on negotiations—initially between *the Coalition* and the owners; later the RDN and the owners—until a purchase price of \$950,000 is finally agreed on. A formal agreement between the RDN and NALT includes the following key points: NALT and the RDN will each raise half the purchase price; the RDN will hold the property title and be responsible for park management; NALT will hold the conservation covenant on title and be responsible for annual monitoring and related costs. Logging continues on the property for another summer—until NALT insists that it halt or the offer will be withdrawn.

Coming of Age: The Second Decade

2005 – NALT begins a partnership with the Garry Oak Ecosystems Recovery Team (GOERT) to carry out a stewardship project over the next six years that will attempt to protect the last-known small flock of Coastal Vesper Sparrows on the BC coast, which is nesting at the Cassidy Airport. Sadly this project has to be discontinued in 2011, after some years of challenging communications with the airport. The airport expands, and changes its management practices—and the flock disappears.



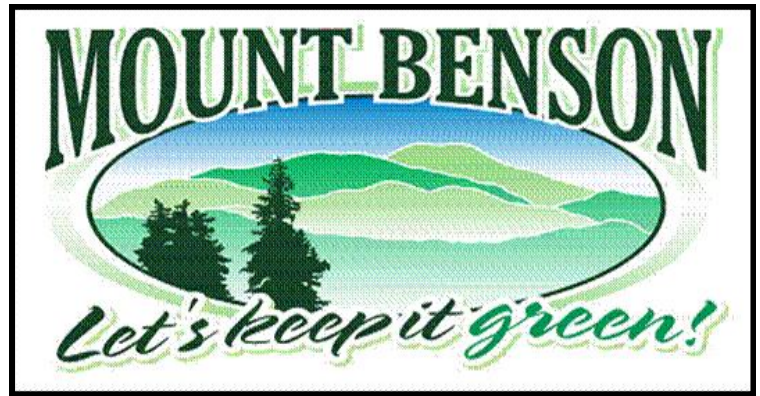
Volunteers of All Ages Pitched in to Build the Linley Valley Boardwalk



Vesper Sparrow and Nestlings - photo Suzanne Beauchesne.

February 2006 – NALT launches the Mount Benson Acquisition fundraising campaign at a community-wide gathering at Bowen Park Auditorium, which includes live music by local musicians featured on the recently-released CD titled *Ode to Mount Benson*, a nostalgic sharing of memoirs, anecdotes and archive photos, and an appeal for donations and pledges. This is the start of many events and activities devoted to raising NALT's portion of the purchase price for the properties--\$475,000. Some of the more ambitious fundraisers are noted here.

July 16, 2006 and July 29, 2007— With support from the City of Nanaimo, experienced community organizers, and more than 100 volunteers, NALT organizes two annual music festivals called *Music for the Mountain* to raise money for the mountain. The first is successful in every way, and nets \$15,000—plus a flood of donations. Unfortunately, the second event is not so successful, due a mix of factors—including poor weather and fewer ticket sales. It loses money, and we decide not to pursue this demanding venture any longer.



The Run for the Mountain has Raised Tens of Thousands for Mt. Benson Acquisition.



September 2006 – The 1st Annual Run for the Mountain, a 6 km walk/run around Westwood Lake organized by the Running Room's Manager Mike Thibodeau, raises about \$5,000 for the Mt Benson Campaign. That event has continued every year until the present, adding more funds each year to the Mount Benson Phase II account (now totalling more than \$100,000).

October 26, 2006 – The concept of an annual NALT calendar is launched at a Benson Beer & Burger night at the Windward Pub, with proceeds to go to the Mount Benson Acquisition campaign. The NALT calendar has been produced and marketed by NALT almost every year since—making a modest profit of \$2,000 to \$3,000 each year. In 2013, proceeds are re-allocated to a Nanaimo River initiative.

February 17, 2007 – *Mountain Moments*, a gala dinner and live and silent auction at the Coast Bastion Inn raises about \$20,000.

November 17, 2007 – Internationally renowned artist Fred Peters paints an original acrylic of Mount Benson before a gathered crowd, which is then auctioned off. Fred also provides 40 signed and numbered prints, which are sold by the gallery over the coming months and years, with all proceeds going to Mount Benson. Over time, all the prints are sold, raising a total of more than \$11,000 for Mount Benson acquisitions.

December 2, 2007 – A rally to save Moorecroft camp kicks off a campaign to raise funds, and NALT agrees to support and advise the newly-formed *Friends of Moorecroft*. NALT works with this group and with the RDN for three years, until the RDN takes the lead and moves into a partnership with the Nature Trust of BC.



This Photo of Mount Benson Towering Over Nanaimo's Harbour, Taken by Michael Vann, was Featured During the Month of August in NALT's Inaugural Calendar

December 2007 – By the end of the year, about \$325,000 of the funds NALT needs for the purchase Mount Benson has been raised.

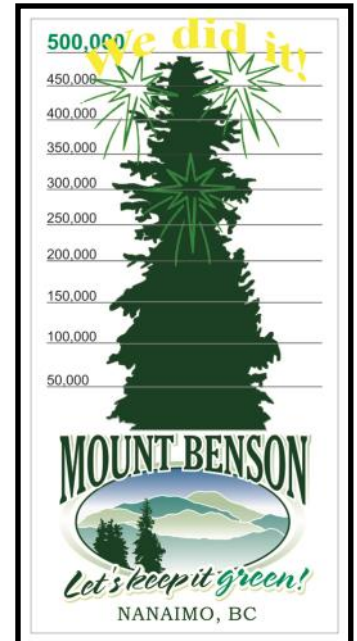


A NALT JCP Crew Builds Bridges at the Parnassian Woods

Spring 2008 – A NALT crew funded by a federal employment grant constructs an eco-friendly greenhouse, shed and office for NALT's *Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery* on the Van Kerkoerle property in Cassidy.

July 1, 2008 – With a \$50,000 grant from Mountain Equipment Co-op, NALT achieves its goal of \$475,000 for the acquisition campaign. An outdoor celebration is organized below the mountain, and the final installment cheque handed over to the RDN.

2008 and ongoing - NALT declares a Mount Benson Campaign Phase II, which begins with two federal employment grants that fund field crews coordinated first by Austen Scott, then Paul Chapman, to work on trail upgrades and signage; and continues to accumulate of funds through the annual run and donations, to prepare for further land acquisition to expand the park. This is an ongoing initiative, continuing to the present.



January 2009 and ongoing – NALT and RDN staff and Board representatives work together to develop and adopt a Park Management Plan, and subsequently, to develop and agree on the wording of a Conservation Covenant for the Mount Benson Regional Park.

August 16, 2009 – The annual NALT picnic at the Van Kerkoerle property is combined with a house-warming and tours of the new house built for Peter and Anneke after the home that they built with love and lived in for 40 years was destroyed by a fire in October 2008.

January 2010 – As a result of a letter-writing campaign to the Ministry of Lands and Forests spearheaded by NALT, DL 56 in the Linley Valley becomes one of five BC Crown land properties in the region featuring endangered Coastal Douglas fir habitat that are declared protected.

January 2010 – Barbara Hourston, a NALT founder and original Board Director, steps down from the Board but remains active with NALT.

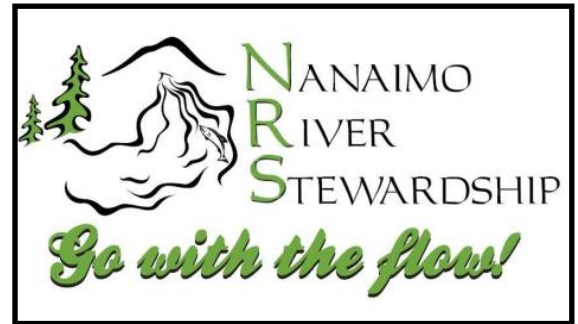
April 24, 2010 – NALT's 1st Annual Wild Greens Festival to celebrate and raise awareness of incorporating wild foods into our diet is organized by the Edible Native Plant Project and held at Bowen Park. It is wildly successful, with a crowd of 500 in attendance. That event is now in its 6th year, and attendance has reached 1,200 to 1,400 annually.



The First Wild Foods Festival Proved Wildly Popular and Has Resulted in an Annual Festival Which is now a Popular Right of Spring in Nanaimo

June 2010 – When Martha Warde dies at the age of 93, NALT is named in her will as heir to her 22-acre property in Qualicum Bay, with the provision that NALT honours her wish to keep the property in its natural, treed state. It is Coastal Douglas fir habitat. Since the ALR status of the property precludes a conservation covenant, NALT drafts a Voluntary Stewardship Agreement and co-signs this document with the estate executor.

January 2011 – The NALT Board moves Nanaimo River to the top of its priority list, and commits to a comprehensive baseline study of the state of the watershed and all of its values. NALT staff submit an application for a federal employment grant to organize a Nanaimo River Symposium in the coming months.



April 16, 2011 - NALT partners with the City of Nanaimo on the 2nd annual Wild Foods Festival, in tandem with Earth Day.



June 18, 2011 – At the official opening of the Moorecroft Regional Park, NALT presents a cheque of \$37,500 to the Nature Trust of BC – all the funds raised by *the Friends of Moorecroft*.

September 23-25, 2011 –The *Nanaimo River Symposium*, organized by NALT and partners and funded in part by a federal employment grant, takes place at Vancouver Island University. The symposium leads to the formation of a Nanaimo River Watershed Working Group.

Fall 2011 – NALT's financial crunch is eased by a large donation of shares from a local couple who are members. A portion of the funds are allocated to an account to begin a Nanaimo River Acquisition Campaign, with the goal to purchase property on the river.

February 12, 2013 – The first meeting of the newly-formed Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable (NRWR)—an outcome of the Working Group—is held at Beban Park complex, with 27 people representing 14 stakeholders in attendance. A first task identified is to expand that representation.

January 2014 – NALT's annual report to the RDN Board shows that for the combined yearly funding from the RDN and the City (a total of \$60,000) NALT gives back to those two jurisdictions an average financial return of between 7-8 to 1, plus many direct services.

June 5, 2014 – Title to the 22-acre Martha Warde property is transferred to NALT; NALT Board and staff travel to Qualicum Bay to walk the property, view the house, and enjoy an outdoor picnic with the tenant caretakers, Peter and Kerry Mason.

September 24, 2014 – NALT meets with TimberWest/Couverdon to begin discussion about acquisition options around their properties on the Nanaimo River. NALT drafts a proposal for purchase and sets up discussions with the RDN and VIU.

Fall 2013 to March 2015 – Betty Penston, former NALT employee, voluntarily undertakes the mammoth task of documenting NALT's key historical activities and turning points over the past 20 years. The resulting 24-page document is the basis for this *Milestones* handout.



March-April 2015 – NALT's 20th AGM is held on March 18th, with guest speaker Richard Hebda, curator of the Royal BC Museum talking about the implications of climate change; NALT celebrates its 20th anniversary on April 19th, with a special presentation by ethno-botanist Nancy Turner on the evening of April 21st, focussing on her book *Earth's Blanket*.

December 2015 - Anneke and Peter Van Kerkoerle transfer their Cassidy property, home to NALT's native plant nursery, with a Life Estate registered on title allowing Anneke and Peter to continue to live on the land they love.

January 2016 - Negotiations for the Conservation Covenant on the Mount Benson Regional Park are completed and, soon after, the covenant is registered on title, thereby protecting the natural features of the park in perpetuity.

March 2016 - NALT responds to renewed interest in Streamkeeper Workshops hosting two in 2016 and in subsequent year as well.

April 2016 - NALT's long time Conservation Covenant Specialist, Anne Kerr, steps back from her volunteer position and passes the baton to Bailee McColl.



Fall colours at the NALT nursery



The Mount Benson Regional Park Conservation Covenant ensures the natural values secured through the acquisition campaign.

November 2016 - Management Plans for the Parnassian Woods and Martha Warde properties are completed. Additional information will be added in subsequent years.

2016 - The Nursery Committee continues to expand NALT's Natural Abundance Nursery's profile in the community with workshops, restoration activities, landscaping consultation and plant sales.

March - April 2017 - Water to Earth Month is celebrated throughout the region in a series of events marking the month between World Water Day and Earth Day. With the City of Nanaimo, the RDN and other partners NALT organizes and delivers activities for the celebration.

2017 - NALT supports restoration activities on Departure Creek, Walley Creek and Plum Creek and assists several groups to participate in the RDN Community Water Monitoring Network.

August 2017 - NALT's founding Executive Director, Gail Adrienne, steps down due to injury. Paul Chapman is appointed Acting Executive Director.

Fall 2017 - Planning continues for the Nanaimo Water Stewardship Symposium with the City of Nanaimo, RDN and other partners.

March 2018 - Ava Breakwell is hired as Conservation Covenants Manager.

May 2018 - The NALT Strategic Plan is presented to the membership at the AGM. The plan directs conservation priorities and continuity and succession planning.

June 2018 - NALT's Conservation Covenants portfolio expands to include Siddoo Park and Link Island.



A fieldtrip to the Five Acre Farm as part of the 2018 Water Stewardship Symposium in Nanaimo

October 2018 - Paul Chapman is named Executive Director.

January 2019 - Through Job Creation Partnership funding, NALT hires a team to produce a video on the ecology, etiquette and safety of hiking and other outdoor pursuits—[Hiking - Safe and Sound](#). Completed in 2020, this video is available for community viewing at no cost and is a catalyst for a community discussion of how and why we access our natural spaces.



The well attended 2019 Water Stewardship Symposium in Parksville shared stewardship experiences from federal and local governments as well as the stewardship sector.

February 2019 - As part of a concerned group of community members and organizations, NALT begins to discuss strategies for the protection of privately held properties on the Westwood Ridges.

April 2019 - the Parksville Water Stewardship Symposium is the second in a series presented by NALT, the Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC and other partners. This symposium follows a successful event in Nanaimo in 2018 and sets in motion a series to explore the success and challenges of fresh water stewardship in the Nanaimo region and other areas of Vancouver Island.



Nanaimo City Councillors and Staff discuss Walley Creek stewardship with local Streamkeepers.

October 2019 - With the help of the Nanaimo Watershed Health Community of Practice, NALT organizes a tour of local Streamkeeper initiatives for City of Nanaimo Council and Staff. The tour included a visit at a Millstone River farm, an area of the Millstone where the Island Water Fly Fishers have worked to improve water quality, the site of the Walley Creek Streamkeepers recent restoration work and a tour of Departure Creek by Jena-Michel Hanssens of the Departure Creek Streamkeepers.

October 2019 - With RDN Team Watersmart, NALT delivers a wetland restoration workshop on the grounds of the Pacific Cohousing complex in Nanaimo.

November 2019 - NALT adds the Salish View Nature Reserve and Rainbow Island on Quamichan Lake to its Conservation Covenant protected properties.

February 2020 - NALT presents a lecture by Briony Penn, author of *A Year on the Wild Side*, as well as *Stories from the Magic Canoe of Wa'xaid*, her collaboration with Xenaksiala elder Cecil Paul, as part of the ongoing free NALT seminar series.



Attendees enjoy an evening of stewardship stories with author and renowned conservationist Briony Penn.

2020 - By March 2020, requirements to reduce the spread of COVID-19 have affected all aspects of NALT operations and all of the community as well. Throughout it all the NALT nursery remained operational, the NALT office was staffed and plans to produce a 2020 Water Stewardship Symposium, Rivers Day Celebrations, Beck Creek outreach to identify opportunities to improve water quality, stewardship activities on Departure Creek, Walley Creek, Knarston Creek and the Chase River continue. NALT is working with the City of Nanaimo and RDN to control invasive plant species, expand stewardship of wetlands and other fresh water bodies and to promote Team Watersmart activities in schools.



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

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# _____

Live Christmas Trees for Sale or Rent!

Starting December 10, on sale at the
Nanaimo and Area Land Trust office

#8 -140 Wallace Street, Nanaimo

Mon-Fri: 10am - 5pm

or self shop anytime (payment instructions on the door)
and at our

Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery

3145 Frost Road (off Spruston Road, Cassidy)

Wednesdays: 10am-3pm and Saturdays: 11am-3pm,

or self shop anytime

(see sign at the nursery for payment)

Call 250-714-1990 for details

Native Seeds available

See the NALG website Inventory of Seeds
or visit the NALG Native Plant Nursery

