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

November 2022

Inside:	
New Staff	pg 2
Bottle Drive News	pg 2
Bird Walk	pg 3
Nursery News	pg 4
New Shelter	pg 5
Stewardship Action	pg 6-7
Donate-A-Car	pg 8
A New Logo	pg 8
Thank You All	pg 9-10
Forms	pg 11
Bottle Drive Poster	pg 12



The Return to the New Normal

As the year winds its way to a close, and the emergency of the pandemic seems to have calmed this past while, we reflect on what we've been through and what is on the horizon.

In late September we added a new team member to our staff, Emily Wharin has taken on the role of School Water Stewards Program Coordinator (see page 2).

Our Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery volunteers have been resilient throughout the tumult, keeping the nursery going and adding to capacity with the nearly completed outdoor classroom/shelter. For more news on the nursery, including Christmas Trees for sale or rent (see pages 4 and 5).

For news from our Stewardship Manager, Linda Brooymans, check out her update on various stewardship activities (pages 6 and 7).

Not to be outdone, our Administrative Assistant, Nanette Leather, has begun a renewal of the NALT brand including logo, website and more (page 8).

We have an exciting new avenue for donations to NALT via the Donate-A-Car Canada organization. Thanks to the suggestion from some of our members, we have already begun to receive significant funds through this program (page 8).

We are collectively keeping our fingers crossed that the COVID variants remain relatively mild in their reach and effects. If infection severity continues to trend downwards, we plan to meet again, in-person in the new year, to share information and experiences on many conservation topics.

NALT staff will continue to work with our community partners in meeting rooms, and in the creeks and meadows of our community in support of biodiversity and resiliency in the face of climate change. We will continue to build a culture of stewardship.

The NALT Office Will Be Closed December 24th - January 2nd.
The Nursery Will Be Closed December 24th, 28th and 31st.

Best Wishes to all for the Holidays and a Happy and Harmonious 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, Charitable tax #:

893193771 RR0001

Staff

Executive Director:
Paul Chapman
Administrative Assistant:
Nanette Leather
Stewardship Manager:
Linda Brooymans
School Water Steward Coordinator:
Emily Wharin

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

Marni Brown
David Drakeford
Nina Locke (Co-Chair)
Dean Gaudry (Co-Chair)
Denis Hughes
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 www.nalt.bc.ca

New To NALT

Emily Wharin has joined our team, taking on the role of School Water Stewards Program Coordinator.

Emily graduated from UVIC in 2021 with a Bachelor of Science in Biology and Environmental Studies. She is an aspiring naturalist, passionate about conservation and biodiversity. She has field work experience with environmental non-profits working on invasive species removal, nature interpretation, and conservation land management. As the new School Water Stewards Program Coordinator, Emily is excited to gain experience in environmental education by delivering water stewardship lessons at schools in School District 68 and School District 69.



Emily and friend

Bottle Drives Past and Future

On October 15th, on a warm and sunny day during a stretch of unusual unseasonably dry weather, NALT volunteers gathered for a bottle drive. Fittingly, the funds raised were in support of NALT water stewardship initiatives and activities.

Thanks to the folks that donated their refundables and the good work and good humour of our volunteers we raised \$1,350 on the day. Well done everyone!

Our next bottle drive will be on January 7^{th} between 9 am -2 pm. The winter event is held in the parking lot behind the NALT office (140 Wallace Street) so that we can keep our volunteers warm between waves of donations (see poster page 12).

We'd like to thank the folks that dropped off their refundables on October 15th, thank the Country Club Centre and Lucky's Liquor Store for hosting us, and thanks to the volunteers for all their hard work.

Bird is the Word!

Buttertubs has delivered yet again! On a somewhat chilly November day 15 hearty bird enthusiasts gathered to see what the marsh had to offer.

There was action immediately after entering the trail from the south side. From Towhees to Juncos to Sparrows the count was on. The walk was led by Bernard Schroeder and Guy Monty. Guy has been birding in Buttertubs since the 1990's and is a font of knowledge and history. With two spotting scopes and several sets of binoculars our group stopped in several vantage points. The first spot was fantastic for ducks and such. The ever-gorgeous Wood Duck was joined by Mallards, Widgeons, American Coots and the Pie-billed Grebe. As we re-assembled on the north side of the marsh, we were treated to a short visit from two Tundra Swans. They provided us with enough flight time so all could see before landing. Most spectacular. As we moved along a Downy Woodpecker was busy hunting and undeterred by humans only a few feet away. Red-winged Blackbirds abounded as we began our last leg around the marsh. Bushtits became the order of the day along with Cedar Waxwings.

By the time our two-hour sojourn was complete we had spotted 39 different species! The full list is below. Big thanks to Bernard and Guy for the learning opportunity.

Canada Goose (Branta canadensis)

Tundra Swan (Cygnus columbianus)

Wood Duck (Aix sponsa)

American Wigeon (Mareca americana)

Mallard (Anas platyrhynchos)

Ring-necked Duck (Aythya collaris)

Bufflehead (Bucephala albeola)

Hooded Merganser (Lophodytes cucullatus)

Pied-billed Grebe (Podilymbus podiceps)

Anna's Hummingbird (Calypte anna)

American Coot (Fulica americana)

Killdeer (Charadrius vociferus)

Short-billed Gull (Larus brachyrhynchus)

Iceland Gull (Larus glaucoides)

Glaucous-winged Gull (Larus glaucescens)

Great Blue Heron (Ardea herodias)

Bald Eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus)

Downy Woodpecker (Dryobates pubescens)

Northern Flicker (Colaptes auratus)

Common Raven (Corvus corax)

Chestnut-backed Chickadee (Poecile rufescens)

Bushtit (Psaltriparus minimus)

Ruby-crowned Kinglet (Corthylio calendula)

Golden-crowned Kinglet (Regulus satrapa)

Pacific Wren (Troglodytes pacificus)

Marsh Wren (Cistothorus palustris)

Bewick's Wren (Thryomanes bewickii)

European Starling (Sturnus vulgaris)

American Robin (Turdus migratorius)

Cedar Waxwing (Bombycilla cedrorum)

House Sparrow (Passer domesticus)

House Finch (Haemorhous mexicanus)

Fox Sparrow (Passerella iliaca)

Dark-eyed Junco (Junco hyemalis)

Golden-crowned Sparrow (Zonotrichia atricapilla)

Song Sparrow (Melospiza melodia)

Spotted Towhee (Pipilo maculatus)

Red-winged Blackbird (Agelaius phoeniceus)

Yellow-rumped Warbler (Setophaga coronata)





News from the NALT Native Plant Nursery November 2022

Welcome fall – a great time to plant trees and shrubs

Many trees and shrubs are in glorious colour. We've been planting seeds August through October, and now some small plants in the greenhouse are emerging. We'll water and tend these small wonders until they are ready to be sold in the spring.

Last week we finished winterizing plants in pots and other plants growing on the nursery grounds. We have an abundance of large beautiful crimson maple leaves, so after each plant is fed and mulched, many get maple leaves. This is their winter coat.

Once the soil is well saturated, December through February will find volunteers propagating cuttings, salvaging, and continuing to water the germinating plants.

<u>Holiday Plans</u> "Dig Your Own Christmas Trees" was a big hit last year. Volunteers dug trees that customers could rent or buy at the Nursery. We also sold a lot of seeds.

This year, we are sad to report that we will not have as many trees to sell as previous years, and most are 4 feet or smaller. There are two reasons – first, the long, dry summer stunted growth or damaged some trees. Secondly, the local elk herd, that we so enjoy sighting regularly, has used numerous trees to scratch their antlers. Some we've been able to protect, but some are damaged.

Beginning December 10th

You can <u>dig your own tree</u>, and we'll provide shovels, soil, pots, and support. You can expect smaller trees and less selection than last year. Volunteers will dig and pot selection of trees for purchase or rent. Small table-top trees will be included. There will not be many trees taller than 4'.

Native seeds are popular at holiday season (think stocking stuffers) and year round. They are available again this year. The seeds are stored away from the chilly, damp nursery to make sure they are protected. To purchase seeds, look at the inventory on the website at nalt.bc.ca. then email plants@nalt.bc.ca and list the types and number of seeds you want to purchase. Please also list where you will pick them up either at the Nursery (Wednesdays 10 – 3 or Saturdays 11 - 3) or at the NALT office) Monday - Friday at 140 Wallace Street) It's best to call ahead at 250 714-1990 to ensure staff will be available since they are sometimes in the field. We'll confirm that your seeds are in stock, then your seeds will be waiting for you. Payment is by cash.



cheque, e-transfer, or credit card. All seeds are \$4.00/ packet.

Our *Natural Abundance* Nursery is happy to work with individuals and community groups to provide plants and seeds for a wide variety of projects. Right now we need <u>1" white aluminum venetian blinds</u>. We use a lot of blinds to make plant labels and they are becoming scarce. You could bring discarded blinds to the nursery or the NALT office. Thank you NALT supporters!

We wish you a happy fall into winter season. The Nursery is open year round, and visitors are always welcome.

Submitted by Susan Fisher for the NALT Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery

Vank Multipurpose Shelter Completed at the Nursery



Getting the roof done in the sun. Photo: Deryck Cowling

Over the past several months a number of volunteers have put in over 100 volunteer hours to construct a multipurpose shelter next to the nursery at the *Van Kerkoerle Conservancy*. The shelter can be used as an outdoor education area as well as a staging area for events such as picnics.

The project was initiated by the nursery volunteers to honour the legacy of the Anneke and Peter Van Kerkoerle who generously provided a piece of their property as a home for NALT's *Natural Abundance* Native Plant Nursery many years ago as well as recently donating their beautiful 40 acre property to NALT as a conservancy.

In addition to volunteer labour, much of the materials used to construct the shelter were donated while the remaining

expenses were covered by a grant from the nursery. Dave Johnson donated his tractor and time to dig out the foundation while <u>Van-Isle Aggregates Ltd</u>., owned by the Greenaway family, supplied the gravel base. Steve Stupich generously cut the beams and posts used in the construction. Finally Robbie Baker of <u>Onpoint Roofing</u> provided the metal roofing and labour to install it.

Project manager, David Cowling of <u>Shining Knight Construction Inc</u>. designed the structure and guided the volunteers in the construction process. Other volunteers included James Taylor, Denis Hughes, Wayne Morgan, Paul Chapman and Deryck Cowling.

The shelter will be formally opened and dedicated in the memory of the Van K's at a date to be announced.







Stewardship Activities

It has been a busy season for stewardship projects at NALT! Here is a quick summary of many of our activities organized by project.

Bowen meadow monitoring

We finished up our first season of monitoring at the Bowen meadow. All in all, we recorded 23 native species in the meadow, which was a happy surprise! In future years we will try to map out the plant community and distribution in the meadow. Look for our report on the first monitoring season on our website in the next few weeks. Our sincere thanks to Julie Devereux for her dedication to this project and enthusiastic appreciation of native plants.



NALT Pollinator Paradise Project

The NALT Pollinator Paradise project had a great first season, with lots of interested residents visiting our website, asking for assistance on what to plant as forage in their gardens and how to provide nesting habitat, as well as adding their gardens to our Pollinator habitat connectivity map. If you haven't had a chance, please add your garden to our map. Once we have sufficient data contributed to the map, it will help us track pollinator habitat connectivity and overall habitat quality in our region and help to plan out future habitat enhancement projects. We also launched our Mid-Vancouver Island Pollinator Project on iNaturalist. We currently have 134 species recorded from over 550 observations! Our project is tracking pollinators and their plant associations, so which pollinators are observed visiting which plants. We would love more participants to help us with data. NALT will host a mini-seminar in the spring on how to use this app to help monitor and track biodiversity in our community. Our project data is visible on iNaturalist but will also be summarized on our website in the coming months.



Native plants seed workshop

In November NALT hosted a workshop on starting native plants from seed with VIU Biology professor Caroline Josefsson. The workshop was a huge success and we would like to offer it again next fall for those who couldn't make it to this one.

Walley Creek Restoration

In August Walley Creek Streamkeepers, working in partnership with Snuneymuxw First Nation (SFN) and the City of Nanaimo completed our first phase of in-stream restoration, adding two large woody debris installations in Morningside Park, which is reach 2 of the stream. We are very grateful to have Kevin Brydges from the City of Nanaimo, and Andrew McNaughton, consultant with SFN, lead us in planning and implementing this work. Like many urban creeks, Walley Creek has numerous challenges, but there is community determination to eventually restore this creek. The next step in this project is riparian planting, which will happen this fall as we collaborate with Ecole Hammond Bay students to add over 250 native shrubs and trees to the area.



Stewardship Activities

Lake Monitoring at Diver and Long Lakes

The beginning of September saw the end of the second season of lake monitoring at Diver and Long lakes. This project has required a significant amount of volunteer time, heading out to each lake every two weeks to collect samples and send them by courier to the lab for analysis. NALT is grateful for our volunteers, primarily Sharon, Eric and Lana, who first approached us as part of the Wellington Action Committee regarding their concern for the health of these two urban lakes. We have one more season of monitoring as part of the provincially run Volunteer Lake monitoring program, and then we will receive a report from the province analysing our data. If you would like to assist with this important work, we could really use the help next season! We are working towards our long-term goal of protecting the health of these urban lakes, and baseline data is a first step in doing that.

Bat Monitoring

Starting in June, NALT collaborated with Scott Wilson, a wildlife research biologist for Environment & Climate Change Canada, with gathering data about bat populations in the mid-Island region. We set out Songmeter recorders to capture bat calls at a number of sites that have all the markers of good bat habitat, and Scott

used specific software to interpret calls for species identification. Our plan is to map out this data and use the NALT website to share with the public – there are some interesting findings that we are excited to be able to share! Once again, baseline data is crucial to being able to work towards conservation and protection of species. If you know of any places where bats are roosting, please share that information with us, as this is another important way we can track some of our bat populations.



Volunteers planting plants for pollinators in Linley Valley

Linley Valley Meadow Enhancement

In October NALT was in the Linley Valley, one of Nanaimo's most treasured green spaces, to enhance a meadow adjacent to Cottle lake as pollinator habitat. This project is funded by a generous grant from Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. These meadows are old clearings made by a local farmer for pasture, and the plant community in the meadow shows it: there are virtually no native species present in these meadows. Meadow restoration is tricky work – there are many factors that make success a real challenge. Under the advice of Kristen Miskelly, a meadow restoration specialist, we planned to do a meadow restoration that seeks to add native plants to the existing array of plants in the meadow. Completely removing all the non-native grasses and forbs is just too costly and time intensive for this site, so the results of this project will guide future meadow restoration planning depending on the outcome.

We are grateful to the City Parks, Recreation and Culture Department and to Parks Operations crews for their partnership in meadow and watershed restoration projects.



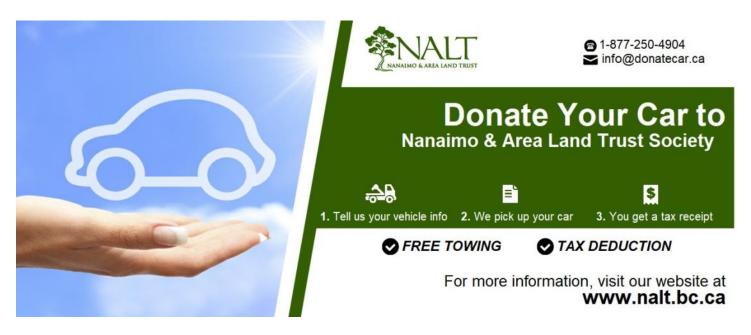
Many hands make light work when enhancing pollinator habitat.

A New (Old) Vehicle to Donate to NALT

You can now donate the value of your old car to NALT through Donate-A-Car Canada

Are you planning to upgrade to a hybrid or electric car? If so, you might consider donating your old car to NALT via Donate-A-Car. You can turn your vehicle donation into generous dollars in support of NALT. Working on our behalf, Donate-A- Car Canada will accept your vehicle for donation -- running, or not! Old or new!

There is no cost to you and the process is incredibly easy. Donate a Car Canada will facilitate all aspects of your car donation from the pick-up to the final sale, ensuring that your vehicle will be sold for the highest sale outcome possible. Your donated vehicle will either be recycled or sold at auction (depending on its condition, age and location). Donate a Car Canada looks after all the details. Then they forward the net proceeds on to NALT and you will receive a tax-deductible receipt within 2 weeks of us receiving your donation.



NALT's New Look

You may have noticed a change in appearance on the pages of this newsletter. NALT has updated its logo to reflect the elements of our mission statement – to support, promote and protect the natural values of land and water in our area. NALT staff member Nanette Leather was the first to ask the question – where is the land and water in our logo? Our new logo better reflects where we live by bringing water into the design and adding some prominence to land by including mountains too.

This refresh of NALT's look is growing and will include a rethink of our website and a refresh of our newsletter, both coming soon.



Nanette is taking on the redesign along with her Administrative Assistant duties with NALT. Standby for updates as we roll-out the new look.

~ 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).

July 10th to November 17th

Individual Donations & New Memberships – NALT: Anonymous1, Anonymous2, Emily Barnewall, David John Blackbourn, Tony & Gwen Burton, Iain Colquhoun & Kathryn Doyle, Estate of Dawn Dunphy, John Candy & Carol Elder, Linnea Flostrand, Lisa Fodor, David Forrest, Ross Fraser, Sara Frisch and Joan Stelling, Janice Furevick, Kathryn Goldsmith, Nancy Henry, Tibor & Magda Jando, Janice Johnson & Zane Dmytruk, Robyn Kemp, Gayle Kosh, Janeane MacGillivray, Dave & Maureen Kirk, Mary & Helmut Mark, Derek Menard, Karen Mullen, Arla Jean Murch, Mary Myers, Anne & Roger Northwood, Dennis & Gail Otto, Howard Redekopp, Frank Shoemaker, Ian & Ruth Thorpe, Brian Woodruff

Donations – Donate a Car Canada: Jeffrey Christenson, Scott Wilson

<u> Donations - Westwood Ridges - Mt Benson Acquisition Phase II:</u>

Donations – Nanaimo River Property Acquisition: Janeane MacGillivray,

Donations – Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable: Mosaic Forest Management

<u>Donations – In honour of:</u> Michael Clements from Kathryn Goldsmith, Nina Locke & Bruce McKnight from Vera Rosenbluth & Robin Hanvelt; Nina Locke & Bruce McKnight from Deborah Burns, Leanne McIntosh & June Harper; Nina Locke & Bruce McKnight from Cornelia Hermus-Buys; Nina Locke & Bruce McKnight from James Tupper

<u>Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery - Donations and In-kind Goods:</u> Ruth Caspell, Carol Elder, David Fisher, Dean Gaudry, Elise Hoy, Dave Johnson, Janice Johnson, Patrick Littlejohn, Carol Matthews, Lisa Munro, Derek Rundell

New Pre-authorized Contributions: Dave & Maureen Kirk, Derek Menard

The NALT Office Will Be Closed December 24th - January 2nd The Nursery Will Be Closed December 24th, 28th and 31st



SUITE 203 - 321 WALLACE STREET, NANAIMO, BC V9R 5B6 • WWW.AQUAPARIAN.COM
Tel (250) 591-2258 Email SBONAR@AQUAPARIAN.COM | CZAMORA@AQUAPARIAN.COM

~ 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).

July 10th to November 17th

Volunteers since July 10, 2022:

Lynne Alton, David Anderson, Salah Baker, Mac Barrera, Holly Blackburn, Doug Bogle, June Bogle, Linda Brooymans, Marni Brown, Ryan Brown, Joel Canfield, Paul Chapman, Trudy Chatwin, Joe



Volunteers at the bottle drive in support of water stewardship

Clark, Iain Colquhoun, David Cowling, Deryck Cowling, Clara Croft, Dave Cutts, Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society Volunteers, Adrienne Danielescu, Pat Donaldson, David Drakeford, Tina Fabbro, Bob Fenton, Susan Fisher, Dean Gaudry, Melissa Griswold, Lindsey Haist, Meghan Hill, Pat Hogue, Theresa Hood, Kevan Hudson, Denis Hughes, Peter Jeremy, Dave Johnson, Janice Johnson, Caroline Josefsson, Alex King, Anne Kerr, Hitomi Kimura, Amanda Kletchko.

lan Knipe, Adam LaForest, Nina Locke, Janeane MacGillivray,



Rivers Day volunteering

Alex Maddison, Bill McMillan, Sandy McMillan, Guy Monty, Wayne Morgan, Linda Nichol, Janice Porteous, Leslie Raines, Mark Raines, Arthur Reid, Hector Reid, Mika Reid, Colleen Rohde, Harriet Rueggeberg, Bernard Schroeder, Louise Shuker, Gary Smart, Steve Stupich, James Taylor, Jack Tieleman, Nikki Toxopeus, Judith Tye, Coco vanZyl, Norm Wagenaar, Erik Warners, Jenny Webb, Wally Wells, Linnea Wiggers, Lucy Wiggers, Paul Wiggers, Fraser Wilson, Janet Wright

"Volunteerism is the voice of the people put into action.

These actions shape and mold the present into a future of which we can all be proud."

- Helen Dyer



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please return completed form to NANAIMO & AREA LAND TRUST

1.	EMAIL:
	admin@nalt.bc.ca

2. PRINT & POST:

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

	Nanaimo, BC V9R 5B1	
I WOULD	LIKE TO:	
	Renew my membership	
	Begin a NALT membership	
	O Senior/Low Income/Student \$10	
	O Individual/Family \$20	
	O Business \$50	
	Make a one-time donation of \$	
	OR	
	Become a Monthly Donor	
	(for monthly donations, complete SECTION B	
	to set up a Pre-Authorized Contribution)	
Online o	otion is available at: www.nalt.bc.ca	
MAKE CH	HEQUE PAYABLE TO: Nanaimo & Area Land Trust	
<u>OR</u>		
PLEASE C	HARGE MY VISA/MC CREDIT CARD:	
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Please ☑ or Email)	your preferred 'Point of Contact' (Address, Phone	
Would you prefer to remain anonymous? yes		
Nanaimo & Area Land Trust is a Registered Charitable		
Organization and 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 USE	ONLY: DM DTV	

□ NL

date

□ POC



MONTHLY DONOR

PRE-AUTHORIZED CONTRIBUTION (PAC) Includes Annual Membership

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

	become a monthly donor.		
YES, I au	uthorize NALT to automatically withdraw		
	bank account on the: (select one)		
	anna 🎉 ranna - ma		
a month	ly donation of:		
	\$10		
	\$20		
	\$30		
	\$40		
	Other amount \$		
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<u>OR</u>			
	uthorize NALT to charge my VISA/MC credit		
card on t	the: (select one)		
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	Other amount \$		
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Signature			
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WOULT to be	Egiii dollation.		
	may change or cancel your contribution at		
any time by sending written notice to NALT.			
Please note: You will receive one tax receipt for the total amount of monthly gifts after the end of each tax year.			
amount of monthly gifts after the end of each tax year.			
THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!			

Bottles for NALT



Saturday Jan.7th, 2023 9:00 am to 2:00 pm

Drop off refundable drink containers of all sizes at the

NALT Stewardship Centre #8 – 140 Wallace Street, Nanaimo

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

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)