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 2023

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The view of southern Lasqueti Island and the Salish Sea from the summit of Mount Trematon. (see *Covenants* page 6)

Photo: Emily Barnewall

Counting Our Blessings

The Nanaimo & Area Land Trust has a lot to be thankful for in our community. We continue to receive the strong support of our donors and volunteers (page 7 and 8). Even through the challenges of drought, we have trees for sale or rent this Holiday season (page 3). We continue to carry out collaborative stewardship actions with our partners (pages 4, 5, and 6).

Although we won't be in malls this year sharing information and selling NALT merchandise, we welcome folks into our office to share their concerns, information about our initiatives and to find that just-right-gift for family and friends.

And we are thankful to our core funders and stewardship partners BC Gaming, The City of Nanaimo and Regional District of Nanaimo.

All this support helps us to continue to work to identify and undertake environmental stewardship projects necessary and dear to our collective wellbeing and to our sense of place, our home landscape. Our home.

The challenges we face are daunting. Action is the antidote to despair. And the application of efforts at the local level is where we kindle hope.

All of us at NALT send our wishes for Peace, Hope and Harmony this Holiday Season and for the New Year.

News from NALT

is published by the Nanaimo & Area Land Trust

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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:
Nanette Leather
Stewardship Manager:
Linda Brooymans

Contractors

Nursery Coordinator: Susan Fisher Conservation Covenants Manager: Emily Barnewall Stewardship Assistant: Joe Clark WPTurtle Project: Mandi Jensen Financial Manager: Cyndi Pitvor Cleaning Services: Jen Wilson

Pro-bono Services

Lawyer: John Manning Investment Management: Andre Sullivan

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www.nalt.bc.ca

Harewood Plains Update

As you read in the press release shared in the July NALT newsletter, NALT is collaborating with a working group, including Nature Nanaimo, to explore avenues for greater protection of the Harewood Plains even as the ecological integrity of the plains is threatened by a subdivision proposal recently presented to the City of Nanaimo. On April 18th, an application was submitted for the area of the plains that lies within the city boundary.

NALT is in communication with all levels of authority and large funding entities to explore what options are available to achieve that greater protection.

Harewood Plains is home to three federally listed species at risk: Hosackia pinnata (E), Epilobium densiflorum (E) and, Carex tumulicola (E). Hosackia pinnata (aka Bog Birds-foot Trefoil) was formerly known as Lotus Pinnatus and is Nanaimo's official floral emblem. The Harewood Plains is critical habitat for 66% - 85% (with more recent surveys suggesting as much as 98%) of the Canadian population of this species.

We are committed to protecting the unique natural values of this area.

Bottle Drive Results

On October 14th, under the guiding hand of NALT's Stewardship Manager, Linda Brooymans, under skies that threatened but never quite produced rain, our volunteers gathered to sort bottles, cartons and cans donated by our supporters.

Thanks to the efforts of our volunteers and the donations of refundable drink containers we raised \$1,220.20 in support of water stewardship. Well done everyone!

Thanks also to Lucky's Liquor Store and the Country Club Centre for hosting the event and to Nanaimo Regional Recycling for the invaluable support.

Our next Bottle Drive will be at the NALT office on January 6th, 9am—2pm.

Seasonal Office Hours

The NALT Office Will Be Closed December 23rd - January 1st.

The Nursery Will Be Open December 23rd and Then

Closed December 24th - January 2nd.

News from the NALT Nursery

Nursery volunteers are preparing for winter since our Nursery stays open year round. Each plant gets fed and mulched, and the greenhouse is prepared for snow.

This is a very good time to plant trees and shrubs. The Nursery has a good selection of plants native to our region. Drop by Wednesdays and Saturdays, or check the plant and seed inventory on the website at www.nalt.bc.ca

Volunteers are busy collecting, and preparing seeds to plant and sell. Seed planting is nearly done, next comes stem cuttings. If you are interested in buying some of the 40 varieties of native seeds, you can come by the nursery to see what's available or check out the www.nalt.bc.ca website. Please email plants@nalt.bc.ca which seeds you want, then pick them up at the Nursery, the NALT office, or by mail.



Elk-proofing the nursery inventory.

Photo: Nikki Toxopeus

The local herd of elk has generally left the nursery alone except for occasional toppled plant pots and heavy hoof prints. This fall we discovered a larger number of elk had visited the grounds to sharpen their antlers on many of our trees, causing considerable damage. Trees were already weakened by the lack of summer rainfall. Our creative volunteers placed rope around the perimeter with some colorful ribbon that "spooks" the elk, so they have stayed away.

<u>Holiday Trees December 9 – 20</u>, Wednesdays and Saturdays. As a result of low rainfall last summer and elk use, the Nursery will have fewer trees for sale and rent this year. Also, we usually welcome "dig your own", but this year the number of trees is very limited. You are welcome to look for a tree to dig, but the pickings are slim. This is our garden changing over time.

We like to share interpretive walks and tours on the legacy property that Peter and Anneke Vankerkoerle gifted NALT. The FoodShare Cultivating Abilities program came to the Nursery for a tour of the Indigenous Edible Garden and an interpretive trail walk through the Parnassian Woods. Thank you, FoodShare, for this opportunity to share the property with such an appreciative group! Contact the Nursery if your group would like to consider an interpretive walk and tour.

Each year the Nursery donates \$50 value in plants and seeds to 5 community groups. This year's recipients include FoodShare Seedy Sunday, Cowichan Careers and Dual Credit program, Dover Bay School Indigenous Plant Garden project, The Native Plant Garden of Beban Community Garden Society.

Every year the City of Nanaimo offers holiday skating at Frank Crane Arena. In the past the Nursery has donated a tall tree for decoration. This year there will be a Winter Wonderland that looks like a forest. The Nursery is happy to once again supply trees. Many will be "Charlie Browns", just like in a natural forest. The trees will be in pots so they can be returned to the nursery ground after holidays. They'll get a second chance to grow.



Walking with Foodshare.

Photo: Angie Bisset

Thank you for your ever loving support of the NALT Native Plant Nursery.

Western Painted Turtles

If you have been out walking around Buttertubs Marsh since this summer you may have seen some strange wire caging and rock 'formations' placed in various spots along the trail. What are those wacky things? Well, they are the product of our efforts at protecting Western Painted Turtle populations in our region. In partnership with the provincial Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, the City of Nanaimo's Parks, Recreation and Culture department and the Nature Trust of BC, and with a generous grant from the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, NALT has launched a series of initiatives to protect Western Painted Turtle populations at four sites in the area.

The coastal population of Western Painted Turtle (Chrysemys picta belli) is federally listed as 'threatened' and is red-listed in BC. There are four locations where we know this species occurs locally: Diver Lake, Cathers Lake, Sywash (or Legacy) Marsh in Lantzville, and Buttertubs Marsh. At all four locations we have either confirmed or anecdotal reports of nesting, but beyond that there is very little known about these populations. With our partners we have worked to enhance habitat and gather more data on our native turtle species. At Buttertubs and Diver Lake we added basking habitat in March of this year, and in the Spring, we launched our pilot year of the Ambassador program.



Western Painted Turtle nesting at Buttertubs Marsh.

Starting in mid-May our team of 19 dedicated volunteers started nightly shifts at Buttertubs, walking along the trails and watching for nesting turtles. Turtles typically lay clutches of 12 – 20 eggs during the late afternoon and early evening. They dig the nests with their hind legs, lay the eggs and rebury them; a process that can be as short as 90 minutes depending on what material they are digging in. The eggs will usually hatch in the fall, though the hatchlings generally stay in the nest over the winter and emerge and head to the wetland or lake in the spring. When the ambassadors spotted a nesting turtle they would ensure that the turtle wasn't disturbed by park users, and then would record the date, time and location of the nest as well as adding protective caging over the nest to keep predators away.

While it is premature to say very much about the results of our first season of data collection, there were a few surprising results that are already worth noting at this point. Firstly, the rate of predation of nests at Buttertubs is very high. If nests were not protected immediately after being laid, they would be depredated within 24 hours, and often within hours during the same night. Our original caging method required significant changes, as the raccoons found clever ways to get around and underneath the caging and at the eggs.

Western Painted Turtles

(Continued from Page 4)

Another surprising discovery was how popular the housing complex beside the marsh at Buttertubs Drive was as a nesting location for the turtles. Residents were very helpful and supportive of our efforts, with one resident becoming an honorary ambassador and reporting to our incoming volunteer crew each evening with his observations. Conservation is a community effort!

In total we recorded 31 turtle nesting efforts at Buttertubs Marsh, including those caught on our wildlife cameras and reported by local residents. Of those 31, five were abandoned by the turtle without laying any eggs and seven nests are confirmed to be depredated. Our ambassadors did not observe any Red-eared Sliders nesting, which was a big surprise since this invasive species does occupy the marsh and are usually more visible than the Western Painted Turtle.

Our next steps will be to follow up on the nests that we know of and find out how many turtles have hatched. Visual basking surveys in the years to come will give us a picture into how many of those hatchlings make it to adulthood. Continued nest protection efforts through our Ambassador program and enhancement of data collection with our partners will give us a better sense of the reproductive population size.



Western Painted Turtle Ambassadors Ian Knipe and Bob Williams during a monitoring shift at Buttertubs Marsh

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All of this would not be possible without the dedication of our Ambassador volunteer team. We are so grateful for their support, interest and all of the time they have given from their busy lives towards protecting this vulnerable species. If you would like to become a Western Painted Turtle Ambassador, email stewardship@nalt.bc.ca to join the team. If you would like to support our turtle conservation efforts but do not have the time to give to be an ambassador, donations are always appreciated.

2023 Conservation Covenant Monitoring

NALT currently holds 13 conservation covenants that are as far north as Lasqueti Island and down to the Cowichan Valley. A conservation covenant is a voluntary, legally binding written agreement between a landholder and an authorized covenanting agency such as a land trust. The purpose of a conservation covenant is to protect the ecological values of a property in perpetuity. Our co-covenant partners and landowners include the Island's Trust Conservancy (ITC), Gabriola Land & Trails Trust (GaLTT), Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy (LINC), Cowichan Community Land Trust (CCLT), The Nature Trust of BC, The Land Conservancy (TLC), and private landowners. One responsibility of a covenant holder is to monitor each covenant at least annually to record the status of the land to verify that the terms of the covenant have not been breached. This update will cover the covenants on Lasqueti Island.

On Lasqueti Island, NALT is involved with four covenants that are owned by the ITC. These are Salish View Nature Reserve (NR), Mount Trematon NR, John Osland NR, and Kwel NR. They are called Nature Reserves as the land is fully owned by the ITC. ITC is very active in managing their land for conservation value and implement detailed

management plans. They work closely with the local land trust, Lasqueti Island Nature Conservancy (LINC), for management.

Due to intense browsing pressure from feral sheep and deer, three of their covenants have purpose-built, fenced exclosures. These exclosures have been enhanced by the planting of native species that were selected by biologists. The enthusiastic members of LINC maintain these exclosures and hand water the plants in the summer. This is no small feat as they have to drive on bumpy gravel roads and hike several kilometres to access these sites!

The newest and largest exclosure was installed on Mount Trematon in 2021. A browsing experiment was designed where native species were planted inside and outside the exclosure. A local biologist | Submerged exclosure and high-water levels due to beaver dam at will compare the growth and survivability between the plants grown inside and outside the exclosure. Early results suggest that those plants within the exclosure are larger and had a higher survival rate



John Osland Nature Reserve.

Photo: Emily Barnewall

in comparison to those outside the exclosure. There are two trails to the summit, but access is limited as you need to cross private land to enter the NR.

At John Osland, there have been issues with beavers. In 2020-2021, beavers created a dam that has increased the water levels in the reserve. To adapt to the changing water levels, a newly created trail was re-routed to go around the northern side of the lake. Exclosures had to be moved upslope as they were becoming submerged. The submerged trees are becoming stressed from being waterlogged, and some locals are concerned. There were reports that someone removed some of the dam as they were curious how long it would take the beavers to repair it. The beavers started to repair their dam that very night! There are no plans to remove the beavers, as ITC prefers to let natural processes take place.

Salish View Nature Reserve can be accessed via a trail from Squitty Bay Provincial Park. A public trail was built in 2021 by LINC. It leads you through the provincial park, takes you through a stand of veteran Douglas fir trees, to the summit where there are stunning views of the Salish Sea. In 2020, an exclosure was installed around a water retention pond and native vegetation has been added. A new kiosk sign was installed this year.

The fourth Nature Reserve is Kwel, a 21 ha parcel where public access is restricted. This property is co-held with The Land Conservancy of BC.

It has been wonderful working with the ITC, LINC, and TLC on these amazing properties on Lasqueti Island. We look forward to our site visits each spring. Since a large portion of the land on eastern Vancouver Island are privately held, conservation covenants are an important part of protecting land.

with gratitude!

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, started or renewed a membership, or have joined our Monthly Giving Program.

~ July 27 to Nov 10, 2023 ~

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Anonymous, Caitlin Atkinson, Jessica Beaubier, Tony & Gwen Burton,
Paul Chapman, Iain Colquhoun & Kathryn Doyle, David Forrest, Ross Fraser,
Dean Gaudry, Kathryn Goldsmith, Nancy Henry, Jerry Hinbest,
Janice Johnson, Lisa Lambeth, Mary & Helmut Mark, Genesta Newell,
John Popkin, Marina Rispin, Frank Shoemaker, Nicole Slater, Dr. Joan Stelling,
Estate of Jean Burbidge Thomson, Eleanor Voegeli, Norm Wagenaar,
Jenny Webb, Reid Wilson & Amber Pikula, Graham Wallace,
Catherine Watson, Holly Wells

NEW MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM MEMBERS

Jessica Beaubier, Lisa Lambeth

DONATIONS - HAREWOOD PLAINS CAMPAIGN

Karen Barry & Eric Demers

DONATIONS - IN HONOUR OF

Caitlin Atkinson in honour of Alicia & Michael Genesta Newell in honour of Gordon Edgar Silversides

DONATIONS - IN MEMORY OF

Coast Distributors Nanaimo in memory of Alex Guy Coast Distributors Kelowna in memory of Alex Guy Kathryn Goldsmith in memory of Michael Clements

BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION DONATIONS

"Helping Hands" WorkSafeBC Employees

NATURAL ABUNDANCE NATIVE PLANT NURSERY DONATIONS AND IN-KIND GOODS

Ruth Caspell, David Fisher, Carol Rawlings, Harriet Rueggeberg, Lionel Tanod



NALT relies on volunteers to fulfil our mission—to support, promote and protect the natural values of land and water in our area. Volunteer contributions Aug 1st - Oct 31st

Lynne Alton, Sarah Anning, Salah Baker, Holly Blackburn, Daisy Blumensaat, Linda Brooymans, Ruth Caspell, Paul Chapman, Joe Clark, Ken Clark, Trudy Clark, Iain Colquhoun, Deryck Cowling, Dave Cutts, Gerry Davis, Julie Devereux, Pat Donaldson, Kathy Doyle, David Drakeford, Victoria Drakeford, Blake Drummond, Cori Eastman, Maggie Escot, Bob Fenton, Susan Fisher, Chris Fluit, Yuan Gao, Dean Gaudry, Mike Gilmour, Tony Green, Lee Grimmer, Sierra Harvey, Pat Hogue, Gary Howie, Kevan Hudson, Peter Jeremy, Ian Knipe, Gayle Kosh, Nina Locke, Janeane MacGillivray, David Mackenzie, Maureen Manning, Laura McLeod, Tif McNaughton, Lillian Molgatt-Thomas, Wayne Morgan, Geoff Mumford, Linda Nichol, Kelly Nixon, Janice Porteous, Ian Powell, Sharon Preston, Rey Priest, Simon Priest, David Quigg, Howard Redekopp, Arthur Reid, Mika Reid, Lionel Richard, Harriet Rueggeberg, Louise Shuker, Debbie Sifton, Gary Smart, Valerie Smith, Mike Stefanyk, Linda Stevens, Karen Sugiyama, Jack Tieleman, Wylie Thomas, Nikki Toxopeus, Chloe Truswell, Coco VanZyl, Alanna Vivani, Bonnie Wacholtz, Norm Wagenaar, Cole Wangen, Jan Weir, Wally Wells, Emily Wharin, Judy Wickland, Lucy Wiggers, Bob Williams, Fraser Wilson.

What Does Your Support Mean to NALT?

NALT's School Water Stewards Program, at no cost for student participation, provides opportunities for elementary school students to learn about water balance, and function of wetlands and streams in their local watershed and taking part in stewardship activities in those watersheds. It costs NALT approximately \$20/student to deliver this program to elementary schools in School Districts 68 and 69.

Your financial support enables NALT to deliver this and other initiatives in our community.

In 2023, 19 volunteers donated 319 hours in support of NALT's Western Painted Turtle Ambassador Program. These volunteers observed and reported turtle nesting sites so that protective mesh could be placed over the nests to prevent predation by racoons and other animals. The volunteers also engaged in conversations with curious passersby to share information about turtle behavior and the program.

Your financial and volunteer support is key to stewardship success. Thank you.

Would you consider giving the gift of a NALT membership to friends and family this year to help us spread our stewardship message and increase our stewardship impact?



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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.



Donations of Stocks and Shares

In recent years, NALT has been very fortunate to receive generous support through donations of stocks and shares. A donation of stocks or shares to a charitable organization offers a relatively new tax break for investors—one that was announced by CRA in July 2006. There is a greater opportunity for tax savings when you donate property (stocks, bonds or real estate) than if you donate cash to a registered charity. The donor selects stocks from their portfolio that would generate very high capital gains if cashed in and, instead, donates them directly to the charity. No capital gains are triggered, the donor receives a tax receipt for the full value of the stocks at the time of transfer, and the charity gains a significant donation.

When a donor gives an "in-kind" gift of property to a charity, he or she must still pay tax on any capital gains, but it is reduced to 25% instead of the usual 50%. The donor will also receive a tax receipt for the full market value of the donated property.

Giving shares does cost money, but it also helps the donor in three ways:

- (1) It avoids capital gains taxes on shares which have increased in value over time.
- (2) The charitable tax receipt lowers one's federal and provincial taxes.
- (3) For those who are have to pay quarterly income tax installments, the lower tax payable means the quarterly installments due the following year are also lower.

An example: Judy has shares that are now worth \$100,000. She paid \$20,000 for the shares several years ago so her adjusted cost base is \$20,000. Judy has decided to donate the \$100,000 to a charity. She could sell the shares and donate the cash, or she could donate the shares directly. Her decision will have a significant impact on the amount of income tax she will have to pay for the current year. If Judy sells the shares, she will trigger a \$40,000 taxable capital gain (50% of the \$80,000 capital gain). If, instead, Judy gives the charity the shares as an in-kind donation, her taxable capital gain will be just \$20,000 (25% of the \$80,000 capital gain). And, she will benefit from the tax receipt for a \$100,000 donation.

It is then up to the charity to decide how to handle the donated shares. They may choose to sell them immediately, or choose to hold them for further growth in value.

We who work at NALT are not tax experts. The above information was compiled from advice given to NALT by several financial advisors. Everyone's situation is different. We recommend that you talk to a financial advisor of your choice if you decide to consider giving a donation this season.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

Please return completed form to NANAIMO & AREA LAND TRUST

1. EMAIL: admin@nalt.bc.ca

2. PRINT & POST:

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	Nanaimo, BC V9R 5B1
I WOUL	D LIKE TO:
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	OR
	Become a Monthly Donor
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SECTION B - Complete this section <u>ONLY</u> if you want to become a monthly donor.

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YES. La	uthorize NALT to automatically withdraw
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	1 st of the month
	15 th of the month
	ly donation of:
	\$10
	\$20
	\$30
	\$40
	Other amount \$
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<u>OR</u>	
YES, I a	uthorize NALT to charge my VISA/MC credit
card on	the: (select one)
	1st of the month
	15th of the month
a month	ly donation of:
	\$10
	\$20
	\$30
	\$40
	Other amount \$
Credit Card #	
Expiry Date	
Signature	
Month to be	egin donation:
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Saturday
January 6th

For more information

Nanaimo & Area Land Trust



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