

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

July 2025

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Syūwén'ct elementary school students identify invertebrates found in Northfield Marsh. School Water Stewards in action.

School Water Stewards - Catching Bugs

The School Water Stewards program had a busy season, delivering lessons from Ladysmith to Bowser, and everywhere in between. Students from kindergarten to grade 7 learned about things like water quality and watersheds, salmon habitat and stream health, and had fun with hands-on activities - all designed to encourage an interest in water stewardship. One of our favourite lessons to deliver is the Aquatic Macroinvertebrate lesson, and it has been a hit with all ages of learners.

Have you ever looked past the fish and frogs to see what other things are living in your local streams and wetlands? Did you know that the kinds of invertebrates you find there can tell you about the quality of the water in these places? Some bugs can tolerate a little pollution, and some cannot! 16 classes of students from districts 68 and 69 came out this spring to local streams, ponds and marshes to discover who was swimming in their neighborhoods.

They are always surprised by how many things are in the water when they start looking closely. When you're accustomed to a world of instant information, watching those tubs of water and waiting for something tiny to swim by can be a challenge, but once the kids spot that first insect, they are hooked. Students work together to find the different invertebrates in the collection tubs and then look at each creature with the digital microscopes, photograph them and then try to identify them. Each class keeps track of their finds on a Macroinvertebrate Pollution Tolerance Index, and this will help them rate the water quality. Citizen science data collection in action! We keep that data, and because of all these keen kids, we have water quality information for 12 different places, and close to 350 young people are now inspired with a stronger interest and understanding of the world, and water, around them. All from one season of lessons!

What do we do if students discover that the stream or wetland near their school isn't as healthy as they thought it was? We talk about what they can do to change that, and new school stewardship projects are born.

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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
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893193771 RR0001

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**We acknowledge financial support
from the Province of British
Columbia, the City of Nanaimo, and
the Regional District of Nanaimo**

30

YEARS
1995-2025



SUPPORTING, PROMOTING & PROTECTING NATURE

Passages

With sadness, we share that two former members of the NALT Board of Directors recently passed away.

Allan Hawryzki served on the NALT Board from 2009 - 2019. Allan applied his knowledge, experience and expertise as a botanist to NALT's growing involvement in the Nanaimo River watershed and other initiatives during his term on the Board. Allan was always thoughtful in consideration of issues and impacts. He was truly a gentleman. <https://www.arbormemorial.ca/en/sands-nanaimo/obituaries/allan-ronald-hawryzki/144181.html>



Allan at the Nanaimo River symposium in 2011



Jim raising funds for Mt Benson

Jim Young served on the NALT Board from 2006 - 2016. Jim was very involved in the campaign to save Mount Benson as a park. Jim guided many hikes up the mountain to promote its qualities as a park. Jim's enthusiasm was infectious and he was always ready with a funny quip when called for. He will be missed. <https://www.nanaimobulletin.com/obituaries/james-jim-henry-young-8107282>

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Stewardship Update - Western Painted Turtle Project

Mid-July usually marks the concluding weeks of the Western Painted Turtle nesting season at our known nesting sites in the Nanaimo region. At Buttertubs Marsh Ambassadors have been coming out every night since May 22 to survey for nesting turtles. Their dedication has paid off: We currently have 11 Western Painted Turtle nests recorded with protective caging placed over the nests to give those eggs a chance to develop. We expect at least a few more nests to be laid over the next week or two. In some cases, that will mean some female turtles at Buttertubs will have laid three separate clutches of eggs! This is a smart strategy of not 'putting all your eggs in one basket' so to speak.



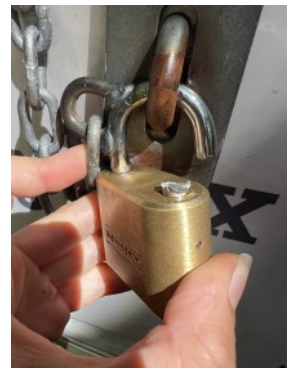
A turtle blends in to the surroundings while looking for a nesting site.

Our ambassadors were kept busy over the season with one particular female who came out along the dike trail and started digging a nest hole before abandoning it almost a dozen times! There are several reasons why a female might do this: she could be disturbed while in the process of digging by people or dogs walking past or loud voices, or she could decide that the specific location she chose is not optimal. This could be because she came across a big rock that she can't shift with her hind legs, or the substrate is too dry/ wet or hot/cold, or there is too much root matter at that site. The turtles at Buttertubs are currently very restricted in choice for nesting spots, and so sometimes they struggle to find a site to their liking. This data, plus our data on clutch success (i.e. how many baby turtles survive to hatching and emerging from the nest) is helpful to us in determining areas where nesting habitat could use improvement and what kind of improvement is required. We are learning so much thanks to our ambassador program and the team of volunteer ambassadors that help us collect this data!

This year we have added brochures about our project available to the interested public at both Buttertubs entrances. We can tell by the number of brochures we have supplied to these boxes (over 120) that Buttertubs Marsh Park users are as interested in our native turtle as we are!

We are very thankful for the efforts of our Western Painted Turtle Stewardship Project Assistant Kaitlyn Watson. Funding from the Canada Summer Jobs wage subsidy made it possible to hire Kaitlyn.

Unfortunately, on Saturday July 13th the lockbox that was provided to us by the City of Nanaimo, and that contained all of our important data collection tools and our nest protection equipment, was broken into. We had our iPad stolen as well as the power banks that kept the iPad charged, as well as the small sledgehammer that we use to drive in the large nails that secure our predator protection caging over the nests. Two of our wildlife cameras were also stolen from the dike trail. This is a setback that seriously complicates the data collection process for us and threatens the viability of the project as a whole. We are determined to carry on, as we are seeing so many areas where our work is achieving great things, but this was definitely a monkeywrench that we could do without!



Updates from Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery

The busy and boisterous spring season is behind us. Accompanied by bird songs and what at times was so loud and energetic it felt like bird yelling, walking the woods enjoying the peeks of sweet fawn lilies, western starflower, monkeyflower, camas and other lovely spring flowers amongst the Oregon grape and ferns instills a sense of gratitude for the work that NALT and the nursery does. June's warm weather on the east coast of Vancouver Island, and the attentive care from the steadfast team of volunteers have produced a beautiful array of healthy native plants at the nursery. Do come by and see our full, lush sales tables. We have moved into the next season – blossom and berry time, so watch for the ripening fruits and flowers on your walks through the woods.

May was busy with the NALT 30th Anniversary Picnic taking place at the nursery grounds, with walks and talks and music. In June we hosted an interpretive walk through the Parnassian Woods property with The Office of Indigenous Education and Engagement at VIU, and a tour of the nursery. If you are interested in scheduling an interpretive walk for your group, please see the <https://nalt.bc.ca/native-plant-nursery/> website.

As we move into the next warm months, we will be collecting and preparing seeds for both planting and packaging to sell. The nursery volunteers collect seed by hand from the Parnassian woods and elsewhere with permissions, never taking more than our fair share. We clean and store them, save them for planting and packaging. If you purchased seeds from the nursery, thank you for supporting us and shopping locally!

You can see what's available on our inventory of plants and seeds at www.nalt.bc.ca, as well as information about plants, pollinator gardens, and a variety of other plant related materials under the RESOURCES tab. We invite you to visit on Wednesdays 10 - 3 or Saturdays 11 - 3 at 3145 Frost Road.

Natural Abundance
NATIVE PLANT NURSERY

30 YEARS 1988-2018
SUPPORTING, PROMOTING & PROTECTING NATURE

Plant Sale

Small Pots 5 for \$20

regular \$5 each

Wednesday
July 30
10 am - 3 pm

Saturday
August 2
11 am - 3 pm

Native Plant Nursery
3145 Frost Rd
Nanaimo, BC

MORE INFORMATION plants@nalt.bc.ca nalt.bc.ca/native-plant-nursery/

Wishing you all a happy summer from the NALT Native Plant Nursery crew.

Submitted by Barb Mortell

Look closely at nature. Every species is a masterpiece, exquisitely adapted to the particular environment in which it has survived.

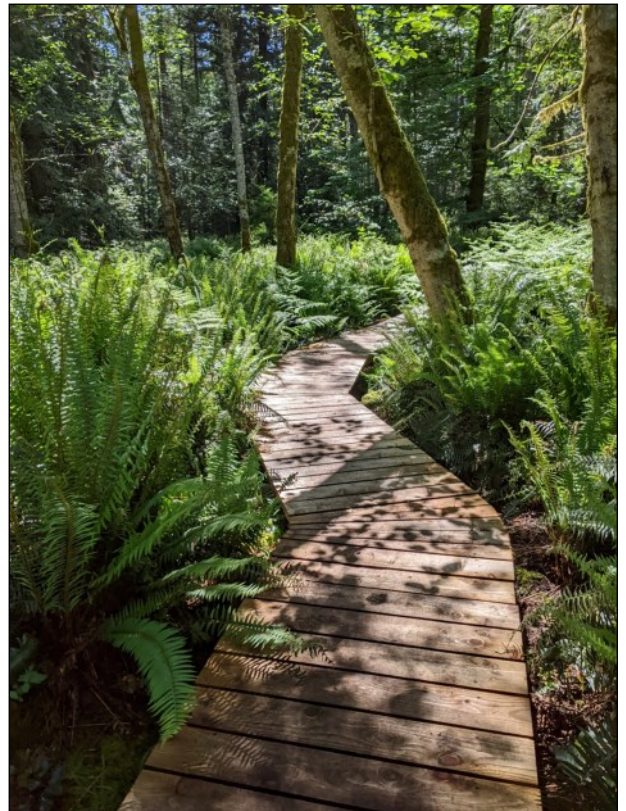
-E.O. Wilson

Conservation Covenant Monitoring Update

NALT currently holds 13 conservation covenants that are located between the Cowichan Valley and Lasqueti Island. 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. To ensure that these conservation priorities are upheld, we partner with multiple different covenanting agencies so that most of these properties have two covenant holders. Covenants are visited annually to record the status of the land and to verify that the terms of the covenant have been upheld.

On Gabriola Island, we hold two covenants that are both owned by the Island's Trust Conservancy (ITC). NALT works with the Gabriola Land & Trails Trust (GaLTT) as the co-covenant holder for S'ul'hween X'pey – Elder Cedar Nature Reserve (SXNR). SXNR is a beloved protected area located on North Road. SXNR is a popular walking area for locals due to the fairly level loop trail that takes you by large, old growth Western redcedar trees and seasonal wetlands with skunk cabbage and lady ferns. Children enjoy walking on the stepping stone bridge that crosses a seasonal creek. There is also an option to connect to a multi-user trail system that goes along the north end of the covenant for those who like longer walks. Within SXNR, there are three small restoration areas. The oldest restoration area is just north of the loop trail and aims to promote the growth of native species to shade out the invasive Reed canarygrass. Near the two large Western redcedar trees, small cages have been installed around native plants that were planted and/or already established to protect these plants from being browsed by deer. There is also a larger fenced area within a meadow where some native plants were planted, also to shade out Reed canarygrass. GaLTT volunteers have been active in SXNR by maintaining the trails and controlling invasive plants. The general public is welcome to enjoy this special place by staying on trails and keeping their dogs on leash.

The second covenant that NALT holds on Gabriola Island is Coats Millstone Nature Reserve where the Gabriola Historical and Museum Society (GHMS) is the co-covenant holder. This small covenant is the site of an old millstone quarry. Large pieces of milled sandstone are still present as well as large holes in the sandstone with standing water. There have been reports that egg masses from the endangered red-legged frog have been found here. During the annual site visits, monitors collect garbage and hand pull invasive plants such as Scotch broom. This property is closed to the general public due to the steep cliffs and the old mining hazards.



A new boardwalk was recently installed at S'ul'hween X'pey Nature Reserve by Gabriola Lands and Trails Trust (GaLTT).

AGM Recap

On June 17th, NALT Members gathered in person and online to attend and participate in our 30th Annual General Meeting. The full report is available here: <https://nalt.bc.ca/annual-report-2024/>

The first report was from Board Treasurer Fraser Wilson on the 2024 Year End Financial Report. Fraser noted that the revenues and expenses both increased by a substantial amount as a donation from the Cliff Jackman estate, for the purpose of acquiring “ecologically sensitive land”, was received and then placed in its own allocated account to be used for the purpose of the donation. Exclusive of that donation, the income and expenses were very similar to the previous year with only a slight increase of both. The year ended with a deficit of \$855 on revenues of \$564,419. The motion to approve the year end statement was carried unanimously. Fraser made special note of the difficulty in fully funding our programs and that we have relied on large donations for the past few years to deliver initiatives like the School Water Stewards (<https://nalt.bc.ca/school-water-stewards/>).

Co-Chairs of the Board, Dean Gaudry and Nina Locke, gave an overview of NALT’s efforts in 2024 with emphasis on ongoing work to protect the Harewood Plains (<https://nalt.bc.ca/harewood-plains/>) and the diversity of activities NALT undertakes. Dean took time to mention the retirement of long serving Native Plant Nursery Coordinator Susan Fisher and her excellent qualities as a coordinator and a person. Dean also connected the 30 years of NALT with its modest beginning in Barbara Hourston’s dining room to successful land acquisitions like Mount Benson Regional Park and the scope of NALT outreach, education, and stewardship opportunities.



Students in the School Water Stewards program collect invertebrates from the Parksville Wetlands.

Paul Chapman added to the theme of the range of NALT activities when he mentioned the geographical area of operations spans across four regional districts: the Regional District of Nanaimo, quathet Regional District, the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, and the Cowichan Valley Regional District. Paul also spoke of NALT’s partners in conservation in the community, with other stewardship organizations, and government agencies.

In 2024, NALT benefited from the contribution by 211 volunteers, donating 3,758 hours valued at \$75,167. All these numbers associated with NALT’s volunteers continue an increasing participation spanning back to at least 2015. In the 30 years of NALT’s existence, volunteers have donated more than 75,000 hours.

The Conservation Covenants report mentioned that in addition to the 13 covenants that NALT holds with our covenanting partners, we are actively negotiating three more. Paul noted the excellent work of Emily Barnewall managing the covenants portfolio.

AGM Recap continued...

Stewardship Manager Linda Brooymans offered insight into a broad range of activities including Western Painted Turtle Conservation and Ambassadors; Pollinator Paradise Project, Stream Stewardship on a number of local waterways; Bat Conservation; and Coastal Cutthroat Trout monitoring. Linda mentioned the invaluable assistance of students and contract staff.



An old growth Western redcedar tree with boardwalk and small restoration cages at S'ul-hween X'pey Nature Reserve. As seen while conducting annual conservation covenant monitoring.

Linda also delivered the School Water Stewards Report. Eighteen schools participated in the program in School Districts 68 and 69. School Water Stewards continues to be offered at no cost for students to participate. Linda thanked the Regional District of Nanaimo's Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Program for partial funding of the program and the City of Nanaimo's Community Watershed Restoration Grant and the Pacific Salmon Foundation for partial funding of capstone restoration projects taken on by various classes.

For the *Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery* report, members were introduced to Barb Mortell and Mika Reid who have taken on the Nursery Coordinator role from Susan Fisher. Barb and Mika spoke of Susan's mentorship, the self-sustaining operations of the nursery and the incredible contribution of 1,722 hours by Nursery Committee volunteers.

Dean Gaudry, Linda Nichol and Fraser Wilson offered to continue on the NALT Board while Sarah Anning joined them as a new candidate. The four were acclaimed elected unanimously and join David Drakeford, Nina Locke, Jack Tieleman, Norm Wagenaar and Wally Wells on the Board.

The evening concluded with a presentation by Linda Brooymans on NALT's ability to support local conservation groups to participate in stewardship training and funding while also bringing greater detail to provincial scale initiatives by activating volunteers in surveys to identify habitat health and species presence and abundance.

Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much.

- Helen Keller



with gratitude!

Thank you 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.

~ April 2 to July 15, 2025 ~

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Anonymous, Charles Alton, Sarah Anning, Bill Bailey, Connie Baird, Mike & Jennifer Barry, Connie Lou & Michael Bickford, Daisy Blumensaat, Linda Brooymans, Paul Chapman, Ruth Caspell, Danielle Cosgrove, Blake Drummond-Hay, Alison M. Estok, Bob Fenton, Inge Fleet, Norah Forrest, Margaret Fraser, Dr. Sara Frisch & Dr. Joan Stelling, Gina Gall, Barbara Lee Grimmer, Gillian Guy, David Haley, Kim Hogg, Marilyn Huffman, Magda & Tibor Jando, Hunter Jarratt, Reta Johnson & Jim Bell, Ian Knipe, Joe Kraskin, Nanette Leather, Bo Staffan Lindgren, Jessie Longo, James Magus, Mary & Helmut Mark, Gail Matt, Linda McCullough, Bianchi Monteiro, Barb Mortell, Gareth Myden, Lance Nordstrom, John Peterson, Brenda Pilon, Patrick & Christine Pisani, Sharon Preston & Eric MacNeill, Tamara Rae, Mika Reid, Julia Roberts, Steve Romanik, Nichollas K. Saucedo, Kathryn Sawyer, David Stanley & Ria de Vos, Albert & Marjorie Stewart, Emma Swanson, Ingrid Janse van Rensburg, Dorothy Wallace, Erik & Bobbie Warners, Janice Weir, Judy Wickland, Naomi Woods

BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION DONATIONS

Mid-Island Co-op - Earth Day Coffee on the Coast

DONATIONS - HAREWOOD PLAINS CAMPAIGN

Lee Grimmer

DONATIONS - SCHOOL WATER STEWARDS PROGRAM

School District 68 Retirees

DONATIONS - NANAIMO RIVER PROPERTY ACQUISITION

Gail Matt in honour of Janeane MacGillivray

DONATIONS - IN MEMORY OF

Kathryn Sawyer in memory of Dr. Peter King
Johnston Franklin Bishop in memory of Cassandra Seidel

DONATIONS - DONATE A CAR CANADA

John Peterson

NATURAL ABUNDANCE NATIVE PLANT NURSERY DONATIONS & IN-KIND GOODS

Mike & Jennifer Barry, Ruth Caspell, John Deasey, David Haley,
KTX Pots, Nanaimo Fish Hatchery, Tamara Rae, Eileen Williamson



and many thanks ...



to the more than **160 members** that have joined the **NALT MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM**. This represents over \$45,000 a year that NALT can count on – which is a significant portion of the NALT annual programs budget!

**A MONTHLY DONATION ALSO ASSURES
THAT YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS RENEWED INDEFINITELY**



**IT'S EASY TO JOIN THE
MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM**

Contact us to pre-authorize a tax deductible, regular withdrawal from your account or credit card for as little as \$5 a month! Or if you prefer, complete our PRE-AUTHORIZED CONTRIBUTION (PAC) FORM and mail it to our office. On-line sign up also available at: <https://nalt.bc.ca/memberships-donations>

NEW MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM DONORS since April 2025
Lynne Alton, Doug & June Bogle, Julie Devereux, Allison Lougheed

INCREASED MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM DONATION since April 2025
Eric Grossman & Karen Skarpnes, Theresa Hood,
Geoffrey Mumford, Fraser & Patricia Wilson



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
April 1st, 2025 - July 5th, 2025**

**N.B. Turtle Ambassador Volunteers will be included
after the end of the monitoring season.**

Sarah Anning, Emily Barnewall, Holly Blackburn, Doug Bogle, Linda Brooymans, Doug Cardwell, Ruth Caspell, Paul Chapman, Iain Colquhoun, Justice Cook, Ted Cook, Justice Cooke-Hickman, Deryck Cowling, John Cusick, Dave Cutts, Kathy Doyle, David Drakeford, Rob Dykstra, Chuck Easton, Maggie Estok, Bob Fenton, Susan Fisher, Dean Gaudry, Tammy Goodall, Lee Grimmer, Robert Haist, Jean-Michel Hanssens, Kayla Harris, Bernie Heinrichs, Pat Hogue, Dan Hooper, Michael Hooper, Noel Hornby, Kevan Hudson, Denis Hughes, Cody Jensen, Mandi Jensen, Peter Jeremy, Bev Kay, Alex King, Bob Kissinger, Sherry Kissinger, Bill Konsorado, Donna Konsorado, Robert Lachance, Sarah Lane, Peter Law, Nanette Leather, Ailsa Lenk, Wayne Linehan, Jen Lindley, Nina Locke, Ashley Lockyer, Jeff Lott, Miho Matsuo, Laura Mcleod, Bianchi Monteiro, Barbara Mortell, Geoff Mumford, Linda Nichol, Janice Porteous, Brian Prince, Arthur Reid, Mika Reid, Harriet Rueggeberg, David Rusch, Nicholas Saucedo, Chris Scolah, Briane Sharp, Debbie Sifton, Eric Sifton, Gary Smart, Jessica Stockholder, Pat Sullivan, Stan Sullivan, Harry Tassell, Jack Tieleman, Jay Till, Nikki Toxopeus, Lynn Tourond, Arlene Tucker, Judith Tye, Norm Wagenaar, Danna Whitson, Wally Wells, Judy Wickland, Craig Wightman Fraser Wilson, Judy-Anne Wilson, Les Yamada.

***"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

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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

I WOULD LIKE TO:

- Renew my membership
- Begin a NALT membership
- Senior/Low Income/Student \$10
- Individual/Family \$20
- 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 option is available at: www.nalt.bc.ca

MAKE CHEQUE PAYABLE TO: Nanaimo & Area Land Trust

OR

PLEASE CHARGE MY VISA/MC CREDIT CARD:

Credit Card # _____

Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

CONTACT INFORMATION:

Name _____

Address _____

City/Prov/PC _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Please your preferred 'Point of Contact' (*Address, Phone or Email*)

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:

_____ date

M TY

NL TR

D POC



MONTHLY DONOR

PRE-AUTHORIZED CONTRIBUTION (PAC) *Includes Annual Membership*

SECTION B - 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: *(select one)*

- 1st of the month
- 15th of the month

a monthly donation of:

- \$10
- \$20
- \$30
- \$40
- Other amount \$ _____
- I have enclosed a cheque marked VOID

OR

YES, I authorize NALT to charge my VISA/MC credit card on the: *(select one)*

- 1st of the month
- 15th of the month

a monthly donation of:

- \$10
- \$20
- \$30
- \$40
- Other amount \$ _____

Credit Card # _____

Expiry Date _____

Signature _____

Month to begin donation: _____

You 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.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT!

Bottles for NALT



Drop off refundable
drink containers of all
sizes at

Lucky's Liquor Store

parking lot at the Country Club Centre



**Saturday
October 18th**

9AM - 2PM


Can't make it?

When you take your recycle
donations to one of the Regional
Recycling Depots, ask the staff to
"PUT IT ON THE NALT ACCOUNT".

2375 Hayes Road or
839 Old Victoria Road

For more information

Nanaimo & Area Land Trust

 250.714.1990
www.nalt.bc.ca