

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

October 2025

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Let's Save Hamilton Marsh!

Protecting Hamilton Marsh is a decades-long dream almost come true. We can make it come true together. Hamilton Marsh has long been on NALT's radar as a conservation priority. NALT's first Executive Director, Gail Adrienne, mentored a community group concerned with protecting the Marsh and maturing forest. That group has coalesced into the Hamilton Wetlands and Forest Protection Society, one of our acquisition partners .

Hamilton Marsh is part of the French Creek watershed. The 360 hectares of surrounding forest and marsh complex support the conditions for natural water balance, providing water for natural and human uses such as groundwater recharge, base flows to the creek during times of dry and drought, and storm water retention.

The Marsh and forest are within the Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) ecological zone, the most imperilled eco-zone in BC with the highest number of species at risk. What is the CDF zone? CDF is typified by Douglas firs, red cedars, broad-leaf maples, ferns, mosses, Garry oak meadows, and wetlands. To sum it up, the CDF is where we live.

Most of the CDF on Vancouver Island exists on private lands, either in our communities, in the woods and open spaces, on undeveloped lands, and Private Managed Forest Lands. Unlike the mainland, or the west coast of the Island, we are surrounded by privately owned land.

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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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Stewardship Assistant: Joe Clark
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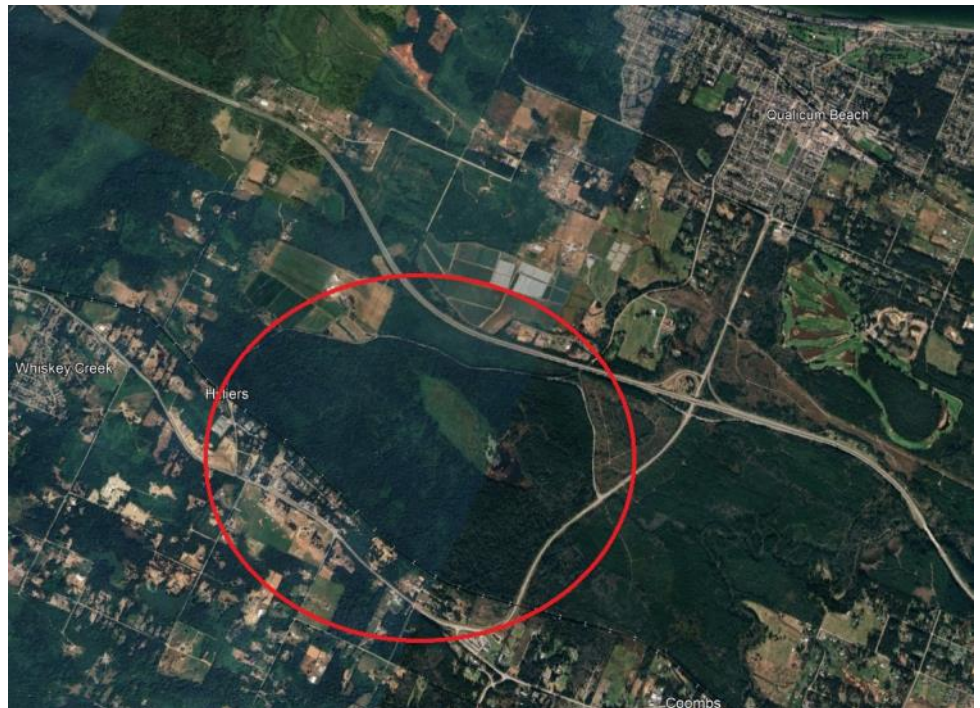
Contact us at:

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Madrona Building (lower floor)
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www.nalt.bc.ca

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

Let's Save Hamilton Marsh—continued

If you live in a community on the west coast, when you look at the forested hills beyond your town, and at the rising mountains behind those hills, you are looking at public (crown) lands. In Nanaimo, or Parksville, or Qualicum Beach, when you look at the forested hills beyond your town, and the rising mountains beyond them, you are looking at private land, predominantly Private Managed Forest Land. This reversal of the normal balance of public to private land is a legacy of the E&N Land Grant, where one fifth of the area of Vancouver Island, all of it on the east coast of the Island, was transferred to private ownership for the promise of a railway being built. From Comox to Esquimalt, our home landscape is privately owned.



We have many tools to protect private land, each method effective in the appropriate context. To secure Hamilton Marsh and its connected forest lands, we are going to need to buy it.

Hamilton Marsh and the surrounding forest (360 hectares) is owned by Island Timberlands. The Regional District of Nanaimo (RDN) has entered into a conditional agreement to purchase the 360 hectares. The price to purchase is \$30 million dollars, of which the RDN will secure 22.5 million. The condition is that the remaining funds can be secured by the end of January 2026. The RDN is in discussions with provincial and federal scale organizations and funding agencies to secure the lion's share of the \$7.5 million.

NALT's contribution to this effort is a fundraising campaign for \$250,000 by the end of January. We launched the campaign on September 15th and have raised over \$15,000 at the time of publication.

(Continued page 3)

Let's Save Hamilton Marsh—continued

We are in the midst of a matching funds campaign where a pledge of \$15,000 of matching funds has been made for all donations up to October 8th. When the matching funds began, we already had almost \$5,000 raised. If we make our goal by October 8th, we'll have raised \$35,000! An excellent start that we can build on.

For information on how to donate to the campaign, links to some of our acquisition partners, and information about Hamilton Marsh click here: <https://nalt.bc.ca/hamilton-marsh/>



**HAMILTON
MARSH**

"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 difference you want to make."

— Jane Goodall



SUPPORTING, PROMOTING & PROTECTING NATURE



Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery

Greetings from the Natural Abundance Native Plant Nursery where over the summer our crew of volunteers worked hard carrying out some changes to the nursery we're excited to share with you. Throughout August and into September we shifted the location of many of our plants to better meet their needs as well as to continue offering an enjoyable shopping experience for our customers. We've built three new seed beds on the south side of our greenhouse and are working on a new garden bed at the entrance to our larger demonstration garden.

Early Autumn is a wonderful time for planting, as the still-warm days and more frequent rainfall allows plants' roots to develop before the cold sets in. If you have a garden or restoration project you're working on, we would love to chat and see how we could help.

For anyone curious about propagating native plants from seed, the nursery will be hosting a Seed Starting workshop on November 22 with Linda Brooymans, NALT'S Stewardship Manager. Please stay tuned for further details.



Pat shows off new signage at the Parnassian Woods.



Mika and Barb promote the nursery at the City of Nanaimo's Park(ing) Day.

Finally, we would like to formally welcome three volunteers who have been joining us on Saturdays for the past few months: Bea, Nico and David. We appreciate their enthusiasm, energy, and passion for native plants. We'd also like to thank KTX Pots for their lovely donation of ceramics.

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

-E.O. Wilson

School Water Stewards

Fall is here, and we are back at school! Or at least in the forests near them. We took advantage of a sunny September by getting students outside to learn about native & invasive plants, and how healthy riparian areas help keep our rivers and streams happy. After seeing what is growing in their neighbourhoods, some classes have been inspired to help their forests out by signing up to do some invasive plant removal work. We are happy to get back out there and see stewardship learning turn into stewardship action.

We have a busy year lined up, as well as our regular lessons, we are offering schools a chance to take part in a new program we are piloting – The Junior Streamkeepers Club! This program is designed to help teachers keep enthusiastic students involved in learning about and caring for the streams or wetlands near their schools. We had our first club meeting at a school this week and had 17 students spend their recess doing a One Square Foot biodiversity survey next to the creek by their school.

The warm days have been lovely, but we are happy to see the water coming back to some of our favourite lesson sites, and we're going to need that rain for a new lesson that is coming soon. It's all about stormwater, what goes with it down the drain, and where it ends up. Do you know where the storm drain on your street leads to?



Western Painted Turtle Project

2025 was a great season for our turtle project. We had an excellent project assistant, Kaitlyn Watson, who was hired for the summer under the Canada Summer Jobs program. Kaitlyn monitored activity at our 4 known nesting sites, managed our data from our volunteers, field surveys, and wildlife cameras, and fielded reports from the public on turtle activity. She was very busy, and we are grateful for her dedication and enthusiasm for this work!

Our 2025 nesting season ended in late July. Once again, we had an excellent team of volunteer Turtle Ambassadors who surveyed Buttertubs Marsh every evening during peak nesting season. Ambassadors recorded data on turtle activity, protected nests from predation with special cages that we built and shared information about our project and how to help our native turtle species with park users. This year we also had a small team of surveyors at Diver Lake who did surveys a few times a week and we installed signage to ask the public to let us know when they see turtles nesting. This effort more than doubled the number of known nests at Diver Lake, allowing us to better track nesting success at this site.

This year we recorded 11 Western Painted Turtle (WPT) nests at Buttertubs Marsh, 9 Western Painted Turtle nests at Diver Lake (as well as 3 nests from either a Red-eared Slider or a Western Painted Turtle), and one Western Painted Turtle nest at Cather Lake. Thanks to Kaitlyn's field surveys, this summer was the first time that we have observed 2 Western Painted Turtles at Cathers (Kaitlyn also observed over 50 invasive Red-eared Sliders there!). We are keen to see if the Cather Lake nest produces hatchlings!

Our signage soliciting public reports of turtle activity was very successful: Kaitlyn fielded 46 calls/texts and 48 emails, which resulted in 27 specific turtle observations (sometimes she would receive calls and texts from people about the same turtle)!

NALT is working in partnership with Nature Trust of BC and the City of Nanaimo Parks on habitat enhancements for our native turtle at Buttertubs marsh, expanding and enhancing nesting habitat and adding more basking logs. We are also partnering with Coastal Partners in Conservation to conduct a population study on the Buttertubs WPT population using mark recapture methods. This work with CPC will take years but will give us a much clearer picture on the status of that population.

To enhance our capacity with this project we also created an advisory committee developed by some of our long standing ambassadors that help us to further our outreach, fundraising, and ambassador program efforts. If you are interested in helping out with this project, please email stewardship@nalt.bc.ca.



Turtles young and old on a basking log at Buttertubs Marsh

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
July 6th - August 31st, 2025**

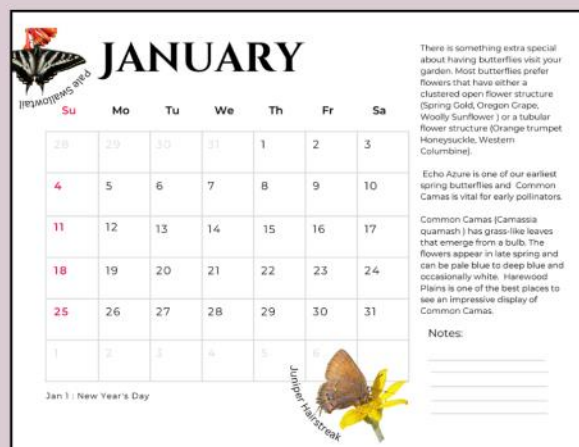
Josie Aartsen, Gillian Adam, Enid Angelstad, Sarah Anning, Holly Blackburn, Shauna Blair, Daisy Blumensaat, Linda Brooymans, Megan Buers, Mikhayla Canning, Anna Cappiello, Paul Chapman, Lyn Clark, Shaelyn Clark, Celine Coschizza, Deryck Cowling, Marie Daigneault, Catherine Dawn, Lianne DeSouza, Julie Devereux, Jennifer Dodd, Kathy Doyle, David Drakeford, Maggie Estok, Nicole Ethier, Bob Fenton, Yuan Gao, Dean Gaudry, Catherine Gauthier, Erin Gibbs, Andrew Gray, Jessica Guarisco, Pat Hogue, Megan Hulme, Jarratt Hunter, Daley Jenkins, Peter Jeremy, Jeremiah Kennedy, Violet Kirtin, Ian Knipe, Helena Kreowska, Noah Kumada, Peter Law, Nanette Leather, Joe Leger, Maisy Leger, Ali Loewen, Nina Locke, Keisha Long, Laura Mcleod, Caleb McRae, Bianchi Montiero, Barbara Mortell, Doug Mosurchak, Jan Mosurchak, Linda Nichol, Cheryl Nixon, Kelly Nixon, Veronica Nixon, Alisa Peleshytyk, Lyndsay Peters, Brenda Pilon, Janice Porteous, Tess Raithby, Mika Reid, Emma Richardson, Chelsea Rothkop, David Rusch, Nicholas Saucedo, Roxanne Schiefer-Rolph, Brent Scrivens, Tash Sergio, Louise Shuker, Sherron Soo, Debbie Sifton, Melanie Stapleton-Shepard, Jack Tieleman, Nikki Toxopeus, Lynn Tourond, Ragnhild Troseth, Arlene Tucker, Judith Tye, Abby van de Brand, Norm Wagenaar, Emma Wallace-Terry, Kaitlyn Watson, Natalie Webber, Peter Webber, Jan Weir, Wally Wells, Danna Whitson, Judy Wickland, Craig Wightman, Bob Williams, Jill Williamson, Fraser Wilson, Nicole Winters, Naomi Woods.

**COMING
SOON**



**WITH PHOTOGRAPHS AND INFORMATIONAL TEXT
IN COLLABORATION WITH LYNDA STEVENS**

**KEEP AN EYE ON YOUR INBOX FOR THE LAUNCH OF
OUR 2026 CALENDAR**





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.

~ July 16 to October 1, 2025 ~

INDIVIDUAL DONATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS

Emily Barnewall, Oona Barrera, Cheryl Bancroft, David Blackburn, Jackie Bolen, Bronwen Brice, Linda Brooymans, Gordon Buckingham, Michael Chapman, Christina Chociolko, Justine Clarke, Sheryl Cooper, Tiggy Cooper, Derede & Fran Dalziel, Richard Daykin, Nancy Dickinson, Darrel Drab, Eric Drixler, Jennifer Duggan, Betty Feick, Jane Glover, Brenda Grice & Douglas Anderson, David Haley, Sheila Harrington, Pat Jacobson, Dorothee Kieser, Connie Kuramoto, Don Lawseth, Martin Litchfield, Jerrolyn MacVittie, Jason McCormick, Carol Milo, Kari Nelson, Thomas Osborne, Jeanie Paterson, Ceri Peacey, Lyndsay Peters, Carol Petersen, James Philip, Cheryl Redquest, Susan Richardson, Ben Rosnau, June Ross, Jim Senka, Jessica Snider, Cynthia Spencer Fund, Martin Spencer, Mike Stefanyk, Glenys Stuart, Hally Swift, Lynne Tourond, Rose von Schilling, Madison Wagenaar, Mollie & Don Walls Gift Fund, Jenny Webb, Susan Wilson

BUSINESS & ORGANIZATION DONATIONS

Island EcoScapes – Eugene Touchette, BC Public Service Employees (PECSF)

DONATIONS - IN HONOUR OF

Anonymous for Rosie & Henry
Nanette Leather & Steve Howie for Hazel, Tove & Helena
Glenys Stuart for Rita P. Stuart

DONATIONS - IN MEMORY OF

Oona Barrera for Susan Crayston
David Haley for Maxine M Haley

NATURAL ABUNDANCE NATIVE PLANT NURSERY DONATIONS & IN-KIND GOODS

Joy Emmanuel, Pat Donaldson & Susan Fisher, Sarah Ronald

and many thanks ...



to the more that 160 members that have joined the **NALT MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM** and were formally recognized in the April 2025 newsletter. This represents over \$45,000 a year that NALT can count on – which is a significant portion of the NALT annual programs budget!



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 July 2025

Lindsey Cowie, Geanine Robey

INCREASED MONTHLY GIVING PROGRAM DONATION since July 2025

Jack Tieleman



HAMILTON MARSH ACQUISITION DONORS

WE'RE GOING TO PROTECT THE WHOLE 360!

How to donate to Hamilton Marsh:

- 1) Online at: nalt.bc.ca/hamilton-marsh
- 2) if you prefer, contact our office via email at admin@nalt.bc.ca or phone at 250.714.1990.

Cheques payable to:

"NANAIMO & AREA LAND TRUST"

Credit Card: call our office at 250.714.1990

Etransfers: admin@nalt.bc.ca (auto deposit)

Add memo "for Hamilton Marsh"

DONORS HELPING TO SAVE HAMILTON MARSH!

Anonymous, Andrew Boxwell, Ben Rosnau, Betty Feick, Brenda Pilon, Bronwen Brice, Carol Milo, Carol Petersen, Ceri Peacey, Christina Chociolko, Connie Kuramoto, Cyndi & Julius Pitvor, Darrel Drab, David Haley, Deryck Cowling, Don Lawseth, Dr Robin R Love Inc, Faith Takishita, Geanine Robey, Glenys Stuart, Gordon Buckingham, Hally Swift, Harriet Rueggeberg, Jack Tieleman, Jackie Bolen, James Hudson, James Philip, Jane Glover, Janice Porteous, Jason McCormick, Jennifer Duggan, Jerrolyn MacVittie, Jessica Snider, Jim Senka, June Ross, Justine Clarke, Kari Nelson, Linda Cole, Lynda Stevens, Lynne Tourond, Madison Wagenaar, Martin Spencer, Mike Stefanyk, Nancy Henry, Nanette Leather & Steve Howie, Oona Barrera, Pat Jacobson, Paul Chapman, Rick Daykin, Rose von Schilling, Sheila Harrington, Sheryl Cooper, Susan Richardson, Susan Wilson, Susana Michaelis, Thomas Osborne, Tiggy Cooper



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!

THANKSGIVING TOURS

HAMILTONWETLANDS.COM/TOURS

WE HAVE PARTNERED WITH NALT:
THE NANAIMO AREA LAND TRUST
DONATE TO LAND
ACQUISITION
[HTTPS://NALT.BC.CA/
HAMILTON-MARSH/](https://nalt.bc.ca/hamilton-marsh/)

Sunday October 12th, 12-3pm

Tickets:

\$10 per individual

\$15 per Family

OR

in person BY DONATION



SCAN QR CODE TO BOOK
YOUR SPOT!



**HAMILTON
WETLANDS
AND FOREST**
Preservation
Society

QUESTIONS?
INFO@HAMILTONWETLANDS.COM
MAP IS AVAILABLE ON OUR
WEBSITE!



With thanks to
MOSAIC
FOREST MANAGEMENT

Timberland Manager for  



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