

Fundraising for the Island Trunk System

The North Island Amateur Radio Society (NIARS), successfully organized a work bee over five days in August, focusing on the maintenance of the Island Trunk System (ITS) on the north Island.

More than 25 members of the amateur radio community from various clubs across Vancouver Island participated in this important initiative, visiting key ITS sites to conduct annual maintenance. Maintenance work was carried out at the Woss and Shelly Mountain repeater sites, as well as the relay station in Port McNeil.

During the visit to the Shelly Mountain site, it became evident that the batteries, which are approximately 30 years old, require immediate replacement. Additionally, it was found that the 12 aging batteries at the northern ITS hub are no longer functional and also need replacement. Fortunately, a recent gaming grant has covered 10 of the 12 batteries. The ITS provides significant benefits to both the Amateur Radio Service and the residents of Vancouver Island. Large portions of Highway 19 north of Campbell River lack cellular coverage, making the availability of amateur radio in that region especially valuable. The extensive VHF/UHF



coverage offered by the ITS is also utilized by boaters and outdoor enthusiasts. While grants assist with equipment maintenance for the ITS, they do not cover all expenses. Therefore, NIARS is seeking your consideration of a donation to help support this important cause.

Our initial fundraising target is \$3,000, primarily aimed at procuring two additional batteries for the new battery bank, as well as a new Maximum Power Point Tracking (MPPT) charge

controller to be installed at Newcastle. In addition to these expenses, any excess funds will contribute to establishing a contingency fund for the replacement of repeater and power supply equipment, essential for ensuring the continued operation of the repeaters and sites. We appreciate your consideration of a contribution, as even a small amount can make a significant difference. Thank you for your support, NIARS.

Donations can be sent to:

- **E-Transfer to:** niars8594@gmail.com
- **PayPal:** <https://niars.ca/donations>

All donations will be recognized by NIARS on our website and acknowledged on a plaque at the Shelly Mountain site.