

NEWS RELEASE

Distributed November 27, 2015

Calling all Poets for Nanaimo's Poetry Map

Let's celebrate poetry and get creative about Nanaimo!

Summary

Inspired by Nanaimo's Poet Laureate, the Nanaimo Poetry Map has been created as a way for residents to rethink and re-know their city. A map, generally speaking, imposes a system of knowledge upon a place as it shows the official names of streets and buildings and basically assists the reader to find a particular location. This map is different, it asks the reader to explore the city through poetry, to understand the spaces within it differently because of the poems.

We are currently seeking poetry submissions for addition to the map. Poets will contribute works that are in some way related to a particular point on the map or site in Nanaimo. The poems are not intended to be descriptions of places rather they are impressions of them.

Readers of the map and poems have an opportunity to gain a new understanding of the spaces that we might think we know so well. Perhaps the poetry here will provoke us view and think about Nanaimo differently.

This map will continue to grow and evolve encouraging people to return to it often.

Strategic Link: Ensure that Nanaimo will have a strong and vibrant culture which evolves with a coordinated and collaborative effort leading to greater popularity as a place to visit, live, work and play.

Key Points

- This map is intended to ask the reader to explore the city through poetry, to understand the spaces within it differently because of the poems.
- Poets can submit their poems for Nanaimo's Poetry Map at callingallpoets@nanaimo.ca. One poem a month will be chosen by a selection panel and added to the map.

Quotes

"The Poet Laureate's Poetry Column, that ran for 18 months in the Nanaimo Daily News, published many wonderful contributing poems. I reread the collection of poems from time to time, and it occurred to me that some were so site-specific that they drew my interest to the spot they were describing. If they attracted me to further explore the place they covered, I reasoned that those poems might well encourage others to explore Nanaimo, their hometown. "Why not put them on a map," I thought."

Naomi Beth Wakan
Nanaimo's Inaugural Poet Laureate
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Continued... Calling all Poets for Nanaimo's Poetry Map

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