

## NEWS RELEASE

Distributed June 25, 2018

### Nanaimo's Public Art Sculpture Stolen from Maffeo Sutton Park

*'Rock Dragon' illegally removed from park over night*

#### Summary

On Friday, June 22, 2018, a piece of temporary public art piece known as "Rock Dragon", was illegally removed from Maffeo Sutton Park overnight. The sculpture of an aluminium dragon that was mounted on top of a globe constructed of rock and steel. The sculpture stood approximately 4 feet tall and 5 feet wide. In 2018, eleven new projects were installed in City parks and public spaces.

The Temporary Public Art program has been animating Nanaimo's public spaces since 2010 with artworks visible to the public for a one year term. Each year new projects are displayed along the City's waterfront while former projects are returned to the artists. Artists from across Canada apply to the City of Nanaimo to have their artwork displayed in this beautiful City. Artworks are designed to withstand the elements and typical wear and tear for the year that they are on display.

To date, "Rock Dragon" is the first piece of public art to be stolen.

The City of Nanaimo is hoping the sculpture will be safely returned with no questions asked. If found, please bring it to any City of Nanaimo facility or directly to the RCMP. An image is attached to the online version of this news release.

Members of the community who have information regarding this theft, or who have information on the location of the missing dragon, are asked to contact the Nanaimo RCMP at 250-754-2345. If you wish to remain anonymous, contact Crime Stoppers at [www.nanaimocrimestoppers.com](http://www.nanaimocrimestoppers.com) or call 1-800-222-8477.

*Strategic Link:* Public art helps animate our public places and spaces, making them more welcoming, attractive, and contributing to cultural vitality.

#### Key Points

- The 'Rock Dragon' public art piece is missing due to theft.
- If you have any information regarding this theft or know the location of the missing dragon, please contact the Nanaimo RCMP at 250-754-2345.
- The sculpture may be returned to any City facility or the RCMP.

#### Quotes

"It was extremely disappointing to learn that someone has stolen this wonderful piece of public art. By removing the 'Rock Dragon', those involved have removed the opportunity for the rest of the community and our visitors to enjoy it. Anyone with information is strongly encouraged to contact the Nanaimo RCMP."

Chris Barfoot  
Culture and Heritage Coordinator  
City of Nanaimo

"I'm extremely disappointed that my dragon has been stolen and the citizens of Nanaimo cannot enjoy my sculpture alongside the 10 other temporary art projects installed in 2018."

Heather Wall  
Artist - Rock Dragon  
Public Art

## Quick Facts

- "Rock Dragon" was created by artist Heather Wall in 2018 as part of the City's Temporary Public Art program. The project was displayed in Maffeo Sutton Park for public viewing before it was stolen.
- The project was installed in the middle of June 2018.

-30-

### Contact:

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View the online edition for more information -  
<https://cnan.ca/2KldS73>