What’s New in June?

What’s your CULTURE? June 5, 12, 19, 25
Come on by and share your impressions of and ideas for Nanaimo's Culture and Heritage!

Learn about the 2014-2020 Cultural Plan for a Creative Nanaimo and the City’s Heritage Conservation Program. We’ll be set up in the following locations from 11:30 am to 1:00 pm:

What's your HERITAGE? Thursday, June 5 at University Village Mall. Share what Nanaimo’s heritage means to you.

What’s your ART? Thursday, June 12 at Maffeo Sutton Park. Share what art means to you.

What’s your HERITAGE? Thursday, June 19 at Nanaimo North Town Centre. Share what Nanaimo’s heritage means to you.

What’s your PLACE? Wednesday, June 25 at Diana Krall Square. Share what Nanaimo’s cultural spaces and places mean to you.

We look forward to seeing you there and hearing your awesome ideas! For more information, please contact us at 250-755-4483 or cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca.

Seeking Artists to Participate in Heritage Paint Out/Shoot Out, Sunday July 27
We’re seeking artists to participate in the 17th Annual Heritage Paint Out / Shoot Out. The purpose of this event is to challenge and showcase the talents of local artists and photographers, as well as raise awareness about Nanaimo’s heritage buildings. Includes $1,000 in cash prizes!

1. Meet at the Nanaimo Museum at 10:00 am, to be randomly assigned a downtown heritage building. The building becomes the subject of your painting or photography.

2. Complete your original piece of art by 3:00 pm and return to the Nanaimo Museum for judging.

3. Between 3:00 and 4:00 pm the work is reviewed by an Arts Council appointed judge and cash prizes are awarded to the top submissions in both painting and photography.

For more information, please contact www.nanaimoartscouncil.ca or 250-729-3947.

Port Theatre Design Jam, Friday June 19
The completion of the Community Performing Arts Centre is in the planning stages at the Port Theatre. The purpose of this longtime project is to provide affordable performance and rehearsal space to local arts organizations throughout Nanaimo and the Region, provide excellent facilities for professional arts organizations to thrive, and to create an intimate venue to attract national and international touring professionals. The Port Theatre's Community Performing Arts Centre is a milestone project for the City of Nanaimo. Engaging the citizens of Nanaimo in its evolution is a priority. You are invited to participate in our continued efforts to involve the community in the planning of the next phase of your Centre.

The Nanaimo Design Nerds will be a hosting a collaborative open house of participant-powered Rapid Idea Generation:

Thursday June 19 at the Port Theatre. Doors open at 5:30 pm - Jam starts promptly at 6:30 pm. Food, refreshments, and a cash bar will be available, but SPACE IS LIMITED - RSVP TO: sletourneau@porttheatre.com. For more information, visit www.porttheatre.com.
More What’s New

Multicultural Festival, Saturday June 14
Bring the whole family to the Old City Quarter on Saturday, June 14 for the Multicultural Festival. From 10:30 am to 3:30 pm, two entertainment stages will offer a variety of cultural and traditional music, song, dance and demonstrations. Check out the international food fair for a taste of the exotic or browse the many vendors offering demonstrations, information and products from around the globe. The children’s area will once again have the popular bouncy castles, face painting and crafts. For more information, visit www.dnbia.ca.

Crime & Punishment: A Look At Early Nanaimo Jail Records, Thursday June 12
Join the Nanaimo Community Archives at their annual general meeting, 6:00 pm at the Library (Harbourfront Branch) for a look at early Nanaimo jail records. These records offer fascinating insight into 19th century values and attitude, as well as a glimpse of a little-known aspect of everyday Nanaimo life. Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, visit www.nanaimoarchives.ca.

“Canada: Day 1” Exhibition, June to September
A special guest exhibition on immigrants’ first day in Canada debuts at the Nanaimo Museum on June 2 until the end of summer. “Canada: Day 1” will take a look at people from a variety of backgrounds and cultures over time as they begin their new lives in the True North Strong and Free. The exhibition is on loan from the Canadian Museum of Immigration at the Canadian Museum of Immigration at Pier 21 in Halifax and is being hosted in Nanaimo through a partnership with the Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society. Some of the stories in the exhibit features the stories of some Nanaimo families. Visit www.nanaimomuseum.ca for more details.

Congratulations Wellington Students! Honours at Music Fest Canada
In May, Wellington Secondary School took 102 students to MusicFest Canada the Canadian Nationals in Richmond, BC. Five of their students were selected for Honour Bands after send in auditions to MusicFest Canada: Tianna Dick (bass), Cody Anthony (vibes), and Kenton Dick (alto sax) on the MusicFest Con Selmer Honour Jazz Band. Lauryn Collins (tenor sax) and Ava Yardley (trumpet) on the MusicFest Honour Wind Ensemble. Way to go!

Nanaimo Bastion Open for Company
Nanaimo’s iconic Bastion opened with a bang on May 17, marked by cannon fire. A visitor information kiosk will be located inside the Bastion from May 14 to Labour Day weekend (9:00 am to 5:00 pm). Exhibits and artifacts from the Bastion’s 160 year history are located on the second and third floors and is open daily (10:00 am to 3:00 pm) from May 17 to September 1 (admission by donation). Canon firing re-enactment ceremonies take place daily from 11:45 am to 12:00 noon.

Church Street Invasion
In May, the Culture & Heritage Department hosted a random act of “CREANIMATION”, by “invading” the corner of Church and Chapel Streets for a day. We saw approximately 100 visitors engage with the space in some way. “Invading spaces” can transform urban spaces into exciting cultural spaces enhancing the Cultural Vitality for the surrounding area. Approximately 100 visitors were engaged in the space in some way, with many simply standing back and observing. A live painting and entertainment was on site to assist in the activation of the space.

A big thank you to the City Parks Department, Russ Morland, Johnny Good Band and Coast Realty for their assistance with this project. Keep your eyes out for the next “invaded space”!
Poems of the Month

Harbour City Sea
Ferries passing by people
Boats to Newcastle

by Jefferey Adams, Grade 5, Fairview Elementary School

Nanaimo: What’s in a Name?
How to lyricize Nanaimo
when nothing even seems to rhyme?—
a place with streets named Jingle Pot
could render poets quite distraught;
or how ‘bout Twiggly Wiggly Road
to make a rhyme’s head explode?
There’s Giggleswick and Dingie Bingle
to wedge into one’s little jingle,
not to mention Buttertubs—
the valiant poet tries, and flubs,
to make the poem sound poetic
when it’s quite lacking that aesthetic.
And yet, she loves Nanaimo’s spirit—
the zany names that quite endear it.
And what about the city’s name?
“Snuneymuxw” is from whence it came;
“Great People” is for what that stood.
Nanaimo’s name is apt. And good.

by Judy Millar

Thank you to everyone who has submitted their poems to-date! May’s Poems of the Month were selected, and here’s why:

Written by Naomi Beth Wakan for the Nanaimo Daily News:

We are so delighted to see such a generous submission of poems this month. Thank you all for sending them in. We are so sorry we can’t print more of them. Two poems for this month, for a load of young poets from Grade 5, Fairview Elementary, tried their hand at a Nanaimo-themed poem. To acknowledge their efforts, in addition to their regular selection, the selection committee chose to add a small poem from one of the students A big “thank you” to teacher, Noreen Keen, for encouraging them. For the poem of the month, the wonderful writer and performer from Nanaimo, Judy Millar showed her true colours. I really had my fingers crossed hoping that this was the poem that the committee would choose, and it was. Of the young writers, Jeffery’s “snapshot” of a Nanaimo moment is so familiar. Somehow his linking of people on the land and people on the ferries emphasizes Nanaimo’s past and present as a hub city with people coming and going. The mention of Newcastle Island also introduces a seasonal feel of tourists who come to enjoy the region. Judy’s fun poem offers rhyme where it is very welcome – in witty poetry. Almost rhymes (they are called “slant” rhymes), such as “Pot” and “distraught” remind one that Ogden Nash is not the only poet whose attempts at rhyme make you wince and laugh out loud. Judy is a master at these “not quite” rhymes. The archives state that the original word was “Snuneymuxw”, but we left it as the poet chose to write it. I actually don’t know some of the roads Judy mentions, and probably you don’t either, so let’s get our maps out and find them. Poetry can do that, that is, make you curious, draw you in so that you are involved, make you want to try to express things that way yourself. I do hope so.

Want to submit a poem? Visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetry for guidelines and details.

More What’s New

Need more poetry in your life?
You can find Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate, Ms. Naomi Beth Wakan, at the following events:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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<tr>
<td>June 12</td>
<td>Poetry / photography collaboration at Nanaimo Arts Council’s “Click”</td>
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<tr>
<td>June 18</td>
<td>Memoir Writing Workshop (Cedar)</td>
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<td>July 1</td>
<td>Canada Day Reading at Maffeo Sutton Park</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 12</td>
<td>Reading for Library Grand Opening (Hammond Bay)</td>
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<td>August 10</td>
<td>Reading at Hazelwood Farm</td>
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<td>August 15</td>
<td>Reading at Vancouver Island Exhibition</td>
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Information is always being updated. Find the latest version online at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetry.

Feeling musical?

Concerts in the Park:

- **Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1:30 pm**
  - July 15, 22, 29 at Maffeo Sutton Park
  - August 5, 12, 19, 26 at Maffeo Sutton Park

- **Wednesdays from 6:00 to 7:30 pm**
  - July 9, 16, 23, 30 at Bowen Amphitheatre
  - August 6, 13, 20, 27 at Maffeo Sutton Park

Summertime Music Series - Thursdays
Every Thursday (June 5 to August 28) from 11:00 am to 2:00 pm at Lois Lane (down the China Steps).

Did you receive a Cultural Grant or Events & Festivals Grant in 2014?
This is a reminder that final reports must be completed and submitted prior to applying for any 2015 funding. Funding for 2015 is expected to begin in the fall and will be advertised in our monthly newsletter, newspapers, etc.

Let’s Connect.

Contact Us

Our office is open Monday to Friday, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact us:

- **Phone**: 250-755-4483
- **Email**: cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca
- **In Person**: Service & Resource Centre
  - (411 Dunsmuir Street)
- **By Mail**: 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6
About Morden Mine Historic Provincial Park

Nanaimo has a number of hidden heritage gems. One of these is Morden Mine Historic Provincial Park, located at the East end of Morden Road, just outside the City limits. A “Miners Trail” leads visitors around the site with interpretive signage explaining the original functions of the various concrete structures. This includes the head frame and tipple, the hoist-house foundation, the remains of the boiler house and a spectacularly arched chimney base that is hidden in the woods behind the main structures.

These above ground workings formed part of a coalmine that operated in the 1920s and is probably the most significant remaining heritage resource in our region, on publicly owned land, originating from the days that coal was king in Nanaimo. A railway straddling the Morden Mine used to connect South Wellington mines, including Morden, with Boat Harbour where massive docks were erected to transfer the coal from the train cars to ocean going vessels for export to far away destinations.

The Morden Mine parking lot is also the start of a nature trail along the former railway grade, ending at the Nanaimo River where once a trestle bridge was used to cross the river. Reportedly, the Regional District of Nanaimo has been working on a plan to build a pedestrian bridge connecting Morden Road with an existing system of trails leading through the community of Cedar to Hemer Park.

Ever since the inception of this provincial park in the 1970s, no maintenance work has been done to the structures that are exposed to the elements. Concrete can be observed to be crumbling, exposing the corroding reinforcing steel, thus seriously jeopardizing the structural integrity of this monument. This is regrettable as Morden can be a significant heritage site dedicated to Nanaimo’s history. It is a memorial to the thousands of miners and their families who endured many physical and social hardships and who founded this community in the late 1800’s and well into the next century. It is also recognized as a tourist attraction as it is visited by busloads of people on “cruise-ship days”.

In the early 2000s, some concerned area residents started the “Friends of the Morden Mine Society” (FOMM) to collaborate with BC Parks and the Ministry of Environment (the owners of this Park) in an effort to allocate funds for the restoration of the main structures, i.e. the headframe and tipple at this site. To date nothing has been done by the owners to advance these efforts. On the contrary, vegetation that was once removed by volunteers is regenerating and is again uprooting the structures, concrete delamination and corrosion of steel is accelerating, large wooden timbers that were suspended in the headframe collapsed in 2006, destroying a concrete beam in the process and so on. The local BC Parks branch did improve the trail system and the signage around the site from the limited operating budget that is made available by the Ministry.

The Friends of the Morden Mine Society (FOMM) need support from the community in general to encourage the BC Government in preserving this gem. FOMM has a newsletter which is posted on their website www.mordenmine.com. On this site one can find a wealth of information on the history and current affairs related to the Morden Mine. FOMM can also be found on facebook by searching “Friends of Morden Mine”. FOMM members provide historical tours of several remaining mine sites for the public as a fundraiser two to three times per year. These funds are used to operate the Society, for the most part absorbed by costs incurred for publicity and lobbying activities. FOMM members provide free tours of the Morden site, particularly for elementary school groups, for youth-groups and senior citizens organizations. These are popular events that occur throughout the year and can be requested through the website. FOMM collaborates with other organizations, such as historical societies, the Ladysmith “Hometown Tourist” event on June 14 and 15 and the Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable Tours event on September 28, hosting visitors and providing tours of the Morden site.

The City of Nanaimo and the Regional District of Nanaimo, as well as local politicians and many individuals have been supportive of FOMM’s cause by writing letters of support to the Minister of Environment and by funding the development of a site plan outlining FOMM’s and the communities’ long-term vision for the Morden site, and a pending detailed engineering study needed to identify methods of repairs and associated costs.

An annual fee of $20 for an individual membership in FOMM will add to the preservation of the Morden Mine. You can also help by writing a letter to the Minister of Environment in support of the urgently needed restoration of Morden.

This information was compiled by John Hofman, a member of the Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission and co-president of FOMM. The illustrations are scanned from his sketchbook. Visit www.mordenmine.com for more information.