What’s New in October

Nominate someone for a
2016 Culture & Heritage Award

Do you know someone who has shown excellence in the field of arts, culture or heritage? Why not nominate them for a 2016 CULTURE & HERITAGE Award. We are currently seeking public nominations for the next round of awards. These awards recognize those outstanding groups and individuals who have made significant contributions to Nanaimo’s arts, culture and heritage sectors.

There are four award categories:

• Excellence in Culture
• Honour in Culture
• Emerging Cultural Leader
• John Thomson Heritage Memorial

Recipients are honoured at a special ceremony that takes place at the Port Theatre (April 2016). **Nominations are due November 17, 2015.**

Full details & nomination forms @ www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture & Heritage > Culture & Heritage Awards, in person at the Service & Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street), or by contacting us directly.

Apply for a 2016 Culture & Heritage Grant

We are currently accepting applications from community organizations seeking financial assistance to support their cultural organization or events.

Two grants are available to local non-profit organizations:

• 2016 Culture and Heritage Operating Grants
• 2016 Culture and Heritage Project Grants

The deadline for application submission is **Monday, October 19, 2015 no later than 8:30 am.**

Full details including guidelines, criteria and application forms @ www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Culture and Heritage Grants, in person at the Service & Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street), or by contacting us directly.
Calling All Artists! We’re Accepting Proposals for 2016 Temporary Outdoor Art!

We are currently accepting proposals for 2016 Temporary Public Art! This is your chance to have your artworks displayed in City parks and public spaces. All artists are invited to submit their proposals through “CALL FOR ARTISTS FOR TEMPORARY OUTDOOR ART NO. 1677”, available online at www.nanaimo.ca > Business > Bid Opportunities, or by contacting us directly.

The deadline for proposals is November 17, 2015.

Since 2010, the City of Nanaimo has been involved in a dynamic and evolving public art program that enhances and animates our City’s parks. Each year, outdoor artwork by artists is installed on a temporary basis for the enjoyment of residents and visitors, essentially becoming outdoor art galleries and showcasing artworks for a limited period of time.

More What’s New...

CITY OF NANAIMO
CULTURE & HERITAGE DEPARTMENT PRESENTS:

CULTURE FUNDAMENTALS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 5
@ NANAIMO MUSEUM (100 MUSEUM WAY)
4:00 TO 6:00 PM

AN OPPORTUNITY FOR NON-PROFIT GROUPS TO CONNECT TO FUNDERS IN THE COMMUNITY. STAY TUNED FOR DETAILS.
Heritage Conservation Program Review & Update

The Nanaimo Heritage Strategy was completed in 1994, and in 1998 a Heritage Action Plan was developed. It remains important to periodically review and update the Action Plan to reflect the City’s current priorities while identifying future opportunities. This fall represents the third review of the plan (now known as the City’s Heritage Conservation Program). The purpose of the review and update is to:

- Seek input from residents and stakeholders regarding heritage values
- Identify collaborative opportunities and synergies related to Nanaimo’s culture and heritage
- Explore the connection between Nanaimo’s heritage and culture - where do these sectors overlap?
- Review, renew or update program initiatives that support community values and priorities

Full details available @ www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture & Heritage > Heritage Conservation Program Review & Update

FREE Heritage Basics Workshop, Thursday October 15

Please join us on Thursday, October 15, 2015 from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the Nanaimo Museum

As part of our Heritage Conservation Program review and update, we have arranged for Heritage BC to provide a FREE two-hour workshop called “Heritage Basics”.

The workshop will review the benefits of heritage conservation (social, environmental, economic) and help identify Nanaimo’s key heritage values. Participants will gain an understanding of values centred heritage conservation, including conservation’s benefits, challenges, and opportunities.

Everyone is welcome to attend -- no heritage background is necessary!

Thank you to attendees of Pecha Kucha Night: Mines & Yours - Honouring Heritage in Nanaimo

On September 26, over 100 people gathered at the Port Theatre for a fun evening of story sharing. Facilitated by the Nanaimo Design Nerds, this presentation explored perspectives on Nanaimo’s cultural past, present and future with a variety of presentations in the Pecha Kucha format. Japanese for “chit chat”, Pecha Kucha is a presentation style in which 20 slides are shown for 20 seconds each, keeping presentations concise and fast-paced. Thank you so much to the presenters for sharing their unique insights into Nanaimo’s heritage! Presenters: Geraldine Manson, Kim Smythe, Pam Shaw, Christine Meutzner, Fred Jeffrey, Imogene Lim, Roger Farr, Aimee Greenaway, Sydney Robertson & Sean Enns.
Thank You to Participants of Nanaimo’s 2nd Annual PARK(ing) Day!

On September 18, six parking spaces along Commercial Street were temporarily transformed into mini cultural spaces to celebrate Nanaimo’s 2nd annual PARK(ing) Day. Despite inclement weather, PARK(ing) Day was a huge success this year. Groups brought with them some colorful and interesting spaces, as well as a positive energy. We look forward to growing this event in 2016.

Thank you to this year’s participants:

- VIU’s Community Planning Program (Pam Shaw & Students)
- Vancouver Island Regional Library (Jennifer Seper)
- Mid Island Metis Nation (Ron Poitras & Joy Bremner)
- Nanaimo Aloha Ukelele Circle (Anna Lyman and Co.)
- Continual Threshold (Brenda Piquette)
- Downtown Nanaimo Business Improvement Association (Jane Vinet)

About PARK(ing) Day

The project began in 2005 when Rebar, a San Francisco art and design studio, converted a single metered parking space into a temporary public park in downtown San Francisco. Since 2005, PARK(ing) Day has evolved into a global movement, with organizations and individuals (operating independently of Rebar but following an established set of guidelines) creating new forms of temporary public space in urban contexts around the world. The mission of PARK(ing) Day is to call attention to the need for more urban open cultural space, to generate critical debate around how public space is created and allocated, and to improve the quality of the urban habitat.

Want to be involved next year?

Contact us directly at cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca to be added to be contacted for next year’s event.
More What’s New...

Nicol Street Gets a 1-Day Transformation

On September 20, the Culture and Heritage Department set up a “Chamber of Culture” at the My Street event held on lower Nicol Street. The event was organized by residents of the South End neighbourhood and was designed to temporarily demonstrate what a more culturally and commercially vibrant, pedestrian-friendly streetscape would feel like as envisioned in the South End Neighbourhood Plan. The event was a great success with hundreds of people attending throughout the day. The event was also the spring-board for the launch of the DNBIA’s Terminal/Nicol Re-imagined initiative to develop a long-term concept plan for redeveloping the Terminal/Nicol street corridor.

- Check out this article by the Nanaimo News Bulletin (Greg Sakaki): “Block Party Shows Nicol Street’s Potential”
- Youtube Video (with overhead aerial views): http://ow.ly/SDHVc
- Facebook Event: www.facebook.com/events/942587792464071/
- Website: www.mystreetnanaimo.ca

The organizers send thanks to the groups who provided support, and to each of the people beared through the windy weather to check out the street:

Aladdin’s Cafe  
Arbutus Books  
Bent Tree Wellness  
City of Nanaimo Culture & Heritage Dept.  
Coyote Cafe  
Crankshaw Holdings  
Digital Smoke Vapour Shop  
DNBIA  
Gallazin Locksmiths  
Green Party - Nanaimo Ladysmith  
Iron Oxide Art Supplies  
Jemi Fibre Corp.  
Joan Carruthers & Christian Ostaffy  
Jumpin’ Java  
K&M Thrift Store  
Living Light Source  
London Drugs  
Neighbours of Nob Hill  
NDP  
Nicol St. McDonald’s  
Sandy’s Ukrainian Kitchen  
South End Community Association  
Start Up Nanaimo  
Toronto Dominion Bank  
Mayor & Council  
MLA Leonard Krog
More What’s New...

Canada 150 Organizing Committee Announced

An organizing committee with representation from community organizations, businesses groups and Non-Profit organizations have come together to organize Canada’s 150th birthday in 2017. The organizing committee was in response to a meeting where over 25 agencies met to discuss the idea of working together to create a weekend to remember centered on our nation’s 150th birthday. Ideas were brought forth for both individual and collective programs with a strong willingness to share resources and work together to make it a truly Nanaimo memorable occasion. “We created a vision that day, turned it into an idea and now have an action plan for Canada’s 150th birthday in Nanaimo to be an event to remember” – Wally Wells, Owner & Executive Director, Wells Infrastructure Group Inc.

The group is tasked with fundraising for this special event through community initiatives and is working on several local, provincial and federal grant proposals. A special bank account has been arranged at Coastal Community Credit Union managed by the Greater Nanaimo Chamber of Commerce. Contributions from our community and businesses are key to the success of this event.

VIU Presents: Paul Yee, October 19

Monday, October 19 2015, 2:30 PM
VIU Nanaimo Campus (Building 200 -- Room 200)

Sponsored by the Dept. of Anthropology and Office of Social Sciences

In A Superior Man, Paul Yee tells the story of a former Chinese bandit working as a gambling hall bouncer in frontier BC, who finds redemption in his journey to return his son to his Nlaka’pamux mother. Free! Everyone welcome.

For more than 30 years, Paul Yee has written about his Chinese-Canadian Heritage in award winning books. Born in Saskatchewan, Yee grew up in Vancouver’s Chinatown. He was an archivist for the City of Vancouver Archives and Archives of Ontario.

Culture SPLAT Board Community Tour

Over the past few months, the Culture SPLAT Board has been set up in locations across the City, collecting your very important thoughts into what makes Nanaimo the thriving and welcoming City that you call home. What we’ve been hearing:
More What’s New...

Crimson Coast presents: 
Luu Hlotitxw: Spirit Transforming

**Saturday, October 3 at 7:30 pm**  
**Malaspina Theatre (VIU)**

New choreographic work from the dancers of Damelahamid. This Aboriginal dance company, from the northwest coast of BC, is founded upon over four decades of extensive work of song restoration, upholding the ancient cultural wealth of their family’s lineage. The Gitxsan, ‘people of the river of mists’ are part of the coastal group of cultures that have the distinctive button blanket regalia. Through dramatic dance, captivating narrative, intricately carved masks and elaborate regalia the Dances of Damelahamid transform time and space, ad bridge the ancient with a living tradition.

**For full details and ticket prices**, visit www.crimsoncoastdance.org.

---

VIU World Days 2015 presents: 
“Happy City: Your City, Your Life” with Charles Montgomery

**Tuesday, November 3, 2015 from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm**  
**Shaw Auditorium – Vancouver Island Conference Center**

**FREE! Show up early to make sure you get a seat!**

Can the shape of your city affect how happy you are? Yes, says Charles Montgomery, who explores the intersection of urban design and the new science of happiness.

Charles Montgomery is the Keynote Speaker for World VIU Days 2015. Charles will be speaking to the theme of *Creating a Connected Community* in his presentation: **Happy City: Your City, Your Life**. In his presentation he will help us to purposefully create a connected community at VIU and in Nanaimo by leading us in an exploration of:

- the transformative effect of social interactions on people;
- the connection between design of urban places and spaces and the resilience of community members;
- offer international examples of urban design initiatives that have created happier and more equitable communities;
- a vision of connected communities that are better positioned to deal with challenges of poverty, inequity and climate change;

Get full details at [www2.viu.ca/worldviudays/](http://www2.viu.ca/worldviudays/). The focus of World VIU Days is to explore and celebrate the increasing cultural diversity brought to our communities by international students and a growing immigrant population.

---

Western Edge Theatre presents: 
‘Making Tracks’, October 2, 3 & 4

**October 2 & 3, at 7:30 pm**  
**October 4, at 2:00 pm (matinee)**  
**Harbour City Theatre (25 Victoria Road)**

Nanaimo’s Western Edge Theatre opens its 2015-16 season on Sept. 25th with the premiere of a new play that begins on lovely (if rainy) Vancouver Island, but soon plunges into the Yukon woods, with results that are chilling in more ways than one. In Mary Fraughton’s “Making Tracks,” a young woman travels with her boyfriend from Vancouver Island to her childhood home deep in the Yukon woods. It is winter, an accident occurs, and Nina finds herself suddenly alone with the ghosts of her family — who, as the hours pass, become all too real.

**For full details and ticket prices**, visit [www.westernedge.org](http://www.westernedge.org) or phone 250-816-6459.
How to Participate

1. **Can you identify this piece of Nanaimo’s history?**
   Watch this newsletter each month as we feature a close-up visual “clue” that highlights a piece of Nanaimo’s history.

2. **Send your response by email only to cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca.**

3. **Answers must be sent by email only.** The first person to respond with the correct answer will receive a limited edition art print by local artist Fred Peters. Winners will be notified via email.

**Last Month’s Clue:** Unidentified! 
**Answer:** The gate of the Ashlar Masonic Temple

**Gate of the Ashlar Lodge Masonic Temple (101 Commercial Street)**

*Excerpt from the Nanaimo Community Heritage Register*

Purpose-built in 1923 as a meeting lodge and commercial space, the Ashlar Lodge Masonic Temple is an excellent example of the Classical Period Revival architectural style. The rigid symmetrical front elevation that typifies this style has been modified by the placement of the lodge entrance door at the extreme eastern side of the building. The door placement accommodates the ground-floor commercial space the Lodge depended on to cover building expenses. Characteristic elements of this style, such as the pediment over the lodge entry, were intended to suggest antiquity and permanence.

Still used for lodge meetings, the building exemplifies the historic and continuing importance of fraternal societies to the cultural, economic and social life of Nanaimo. The building occupies the same site as an earlier lodge that was built in 1873, the first Freemason’s Lodge in British Columbia. The Lodge is part of a grouping of historic commercial buildings located on Nanaimo’s main downtown thoroughfare. Its prominent corner location, with large storefront windows on both the front and side elevations, adds to its street presence.

The Lodge is also significant for its association with Alexander Ernest Henderson, best known, in partnership with George W. Grant, for the design of the Vancouver City Hospital (now known as the Heather Pavilion) of Vancouver General Hospital in 1903. Locally, Henderson also designed the Nanaimo Hospital on Machleary St.
Nanaimo Art Gallery presents:
Silva: O Horizon

Exhibit runs from September 4 to October 31, 2015

This fall Nanaimo Art Gallery presents Silva, a contemporary art project that follows a thematic path from the microcosms of the forest floor, to the quantifying and processing of lumber, to the global distribution of forestry products. Silva consists of two exhibitions (O Horizon and Booming Grounds), a publication (The Mill), and a series of public events including artist talks, tours, readings, and performances.

For more information, visit www.nanaimoartgallery.ca.

WordStorm’s Vault Reading Series

On the last Tuesday of every month, WordStorm meets at The Vault Cafe, 499 Wallace St. Nanaimo, BC to hear new and published writers read their work, and talk about it briefly. Each event begins with an Open Mic, followed by several featured readers. Come down anytime to hear some great writing, and sample some of Nanaimos finest baked goods!

Get full details and featured readers @ www.wordstorm.ca.

WordStorm’s Living Room

November 12 from 4:30 to 6:30 pm
North Nanaimo Library (6250 Hammond Bay Road)

A free and open democratic reading where people read their own works and listen to others in a circle format. Designed for new, emerging and established poets to come and share together in a sense of poetic community. Each poet will have the opportunity to read original work (max. 3 minutes). Listeners are welcome.

Get full details @ www.wordstorm.ca.

Call for Poets by VIRLibrary

The Vancouver Island Regional Library is compiling poetry written by local poets/authors to be published with their espresso book printing machine. The espresso book printing machine prints shelf-ready books in the matter of minutes and will be part of the creativity commons on the second floor of the Nanaimo Harbourfront branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library. The book is to be scheduled to be published during April of 2016 in celebration of poetry month (providing the Harbourfront book publishing room is operational at that time). All poetry to be considered for this publication must be written on the topic of Nanaimo and must be original work. Possible themes:

- A poem about a place in Nanaimo area
- A poem about the history of the Nanaimo area
- A poem about why Nanaimo is a special place to you

All poems must be submitted no later than December 31, 2015 as a word.doc attachment to jbigelow@virl.bc.ca. Please attach a small bio (no more than 25 words) about yourself and a black & white picture (or picture that can be printed in black & white) with your biography.
Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate, Naomi Beth Wakan

The purpose of a Poet Laureate for Nanaimo is to serve as a “people’s poet” and to raise awareness of poetry and the literary arts and the positive impact literature and poetry can have on community life. Since October 2013, Naomi Beth Wakan has stood as Nanaimo’s inaugural Poet Laureate and in 2014, she made over 30 appearances! Read about Naomi on Island Women or at www.naomiwakan.com. View a full schedule of her upcoming events, photos of past appearances at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetry.

October 2-4   Reading & Workshop @ Sidney and Peninsula Literary Festival (Sidney, BC) Details @ www.sidneyliteraryfestival.ca.

Words of Wisdom from Naomi Beth Wakan
(for the Nanaimo Daily News)

About my position, as the inaugural Poet Laureate of Nanaimo, some poets told me that they would resent giving up their own writing priorities in order to focus on themes expected of a poet laureate, but I have not found this a problem. I find I have really only one thing to say and it doesn’t seem to matter much whether it is expressed in philosophical terms or in doggerel about Nanaimo Bars, and that is that life is bittersweet, the two flavours inevitably going together.

Besides the monthly column, I have also been writing a column about other poets from this region for What’s On Nanaimo. Why don’t you check some of their books out at the library? They include David Fraser, Ursula Vaira, Kim Goldberg, Kim Clark, Leanne McIntosh, and Mary Ann Moore. David has also written books with me and with poet Pat Smekal.

As to where you could start reading your own poetry, Wordstorm is the monthly poetry café run by David and friends. It is held at the First Unitarian Fellowship Hall (595 Townsite). You can check their schedule out at www.wordstorm.ca. Another friendly and supportive place to read your poetry is at the Living Room; it is held monthly at the North Nanaimo branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library on Hammond Bay Road.

On November 21, from 2:00-3:30 pm, I am celebrating my second year as Poet Laureate with a small party at the Art Lab, at the Nanaimo Art Gallery. This is a free event, with readings by a number of poets, and then mixing and mingling with the poets, along with refreshments. Please put it on your calendar and, if you plan to attend, please let Kathleen Darby (darbykm@gmail.com) know in advance, as attendance is by reservation only. Kathleen Darby will be emceeing the party. Kathleen is the Executive Director of the Nanaimo Conservatory of Music, and she will be organizing the next Vancouver Island Chamber Music Festival for April 2016. Look forward to that wonderful event.

A big “thank you” for a great two years (one more to go) is due for my support team: the anonymous judges of this column as well as Chris Barfoot from the Cultural and Heritage Branch, Kathleen Darby, and Deborah Graham from Ladysmith High School (Deborah was formerly teacher/librarian at NDSS). And thanks to all of you for the good feedback for this column, for sending your poems in, and for supporting poets and poetry in Nanaimo.

Poem of the Month: October 2015
by Naomi Beth Wakan

one does not write
because the goldfish play
at the bottom of the waterfall
but because not everyone
can see them

Here I am trying to explain why I write poetry. My own small poem (see right) has to stand for a much more lengthy explanation of why poets write. This month will be the last column, and in it I would like to thank some of the leading poets in the area, as well as some just starting out in the poetry world, for sending in their poems.

— Naomi Beth Wakan
for the Nanaimo Daily News

Read past Poems of the Month
(April 2014 to October 2015)
at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetry.
More What’s New...

Don’t forget to come by and check out the Museum’s current feature exhibit A Terrible Beauty: Edward Burtynsky in Dialogue with Emily Carr. You can enter to win an Emily Carr gift shop prize pack worth $500!

A Terrible Beauty invites you to contemplate the impact humans can have on natural landscapes. The exhibition is organized and circulated by the Vancouver Art Gallery with the generous support of the Killy Foundation. It is hosted by the Nanaimo Museum in partnership with Nanaimo Art Gallery. Emily Carr’s work is well known for its innovative modernism as well as its recording of First Nations cultural history. The Nanaimo Museum is open Monday to Saturday, from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. For more information, visit www.nanaimomuseum.ca.

Nanaimo Museum Presents: My 1st Museum Visit

Tuesdays (September 29, October 27, November 24)
from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm

Bring your preschool aged child or grandchild to visit the museum! There are activities to keep small hands busy including Touch tours, I-Spy game and petroglyph rubbings. This is a great way to introduce your child to the museum in a fun way. The program is drop-in and caregivers must be present at all times. Activities are geared towards children 3-4 years old but younger or older siblings are welcome. Pre-registration is not required and the cost is included in regular admission. Facebook event @ www.facebook.com/events/480654298763381/

Nanaimo Museum Presents: Brother XII Walking Tours

Wednesdays (October 14, 21 & 28)
from 6:30 pm to 7:15 pm

This downtown walking tour features Nanaimo’s most infamous resident. Join the Nanaimo Museum as we separate fact from fiction about the life of Brother XII. The tour stops at locations connected to Brother XII before and after he started a cult in Cedar-By-the-Sea in the late 1920s. Artifacts connected with the Brother XII colony will be on exhibit in the museum. Pre-registration is required and the cost is $10 per person. Please call 250-753-1821 or email program@nanaimomuseum.ca to register. Facebook event @ www.facebook.com/events/1697396983829401/?ref=98&acti on_history=null

Nanaimo Museum Presents: Lantern Tours

Fridays (October 16, 23 & 30)
from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm

Back by popular demand! Lantern tours cover the darker side of history at downtown locations including the site of the last public hanging, the scandalous story of the famous architect who designed the courthouse and a murderer who was hung on Gallows Point. Pre-registration is required and the cost is $15 per person. Please call 250-753-1821 or email program@nanaimomuseum.ca to register. Facebook event @ www.facebook.com/events/1657898901134027/
More What’s New...

DNBIA Seeking Volunteers

The DNBIA is seeking volunteers for their Halloween Event on October 31. If you are interested in volunteering for the upcoming events, please contact sabrina@dnbia.ca or call 250-754-8141.

Nanaimo Historical Society Meeting, October 8

The next Nanaimo Historical Society meeting is Thursday, October 8 at the Bowen Park complex, 7:30 PM. The speaker will be wildlife biologist, John Bindernagel. His presentation is titled On the trail of North America’s great ape: the Sasquatch. He will examine the compelling evidence supporting the assertion that the Sasquatch is an existing North American mammal. Come and enjoy this fascinating talk!

For details, visit www.harbourliving.ca/event/nanaimo-historical-society-presentation/.

Follow us on Instagram! #cultureandheritage

We’re so happy to announce that in September, we surpassed 200 followers! Please help us reach our goal of 300 followers by the end of 2015. See what all the fuss is about! Follow us at www.instagram.com/cultureandheritage.

Connect With 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