What’s New in December

2015-16 Street Banner Design Competition

The City of Nanaimo invites all amateur and professional artists and graphic designers to enter our competition for the design of street banners. This year’s theme is Nanaimo’s past, present and future. The chosen banners will be installed on lamp posts on major streets throughout the City of Nanaimo in the summer of 2015 and 2016. Submissions will be accepted until Friday January 9, 2015.

Please review details and submission requirements of “Street Banner Design Competition No. 1582” online at www.nanaimo.ca > Business > Bid Opportunities, or contact the Culture and Heritage Department Directly.

Nanaimo’s Bastion Named One of BC’s Best Buildings!

Nanaimo’s iconic Bastion is one of the best 100 buildings in BC! The BC’s Best Buildings Contest was hosted by the Architectural Foundation of BC to mark 100 years of architecture as a profession in this province, and received more than 450 nominations from around the world. The historic structure placed third in the Vancouver Island region. People were invited to vote online for their favourite buildings, identifying the most popular, and the top 25 in each of the four regions -- Interior, Vancouver Island, Northern, Southern. From those top 25, a panel of judges met to assess the nominations against the criteria of appearance, sentimental value, historical significance and originality.

Top 3 Buildings on Vancouver Island:

1. The Empress Hotel, Victoria
2. The Parliament Buildings, Victoria
3. The Bastion, Nanaimo

The Bastion in Nanaimo is a relic of the province’s early fur-trade history, built with the axes of skilled French-Canadian employees of the Hudson’s Bay Company; it remains a significant piece of history and pride for Nanaimo residents. The Bastion will receive a commemorative plaque to mark this honour. Read the full press release at www.architecturefoundationbc.ca/afbc-best-buildings-contest-new/winners/.
More What’s New...

Welsbach Gas Lamp Receives an Updated Plaque

The plaque for the Welsbach Gas Lamp has been updated. This Welsbach Gas Lamp, which illuminated the streets of Baltimore around 1880, was presented during the British Columbia centennial year, 1958, to the City of Nanaimo by the Vancouver Island Gas Company Ltd., to serve as a constant reminder that Nanaimo’s streets were once illuminated by gas light. In the Victorian era, most cities were illuminated by gas light.

In 1817, Baltimore became the first city in North America to have gas street lights installed, but it was a number of decades before the technology improved sufficiently to become inexpensive and reliable. One of the great advances was a gas mantle invented in Heidelberg in 1885 by Carl Auer von Welsbach, a pupil of Professor Robert von Bunsen. Welsbach made a hood of finely woven long-staple cotton, saturated in rare earth oxides, that, when ignited over an upright Bunsen burner, provided illumination without a flame, and doubled the light level with half the amount of gas. The Welsbach mantle proved to be popular, and provided stiff competition to electrical illumination.

Vancouver Island Military Museum Presents the Veterans Wall of Honour

On Friday, December 12, 2014, the Vancouver Island Military Museum will unveil the Veterans Wall of Honour and to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of World War 1. The unveiling ceremony will take place at 11:00 am outside of the Vancouver Island Military Museum building (100 Cameron Road).

Everyone is welcome to attend. For more information, please contact the Military Museum at 250-753-3814 or oic@vimms.ca.

Nanaimo Museum Presents a 1950’s Christmas

Take a nostalgic look at 1950s popular culture, Christmas traditions and toys. ‘1950s Christmas’ features a variety of artifacts including toys, furniture, photos and Christmas decorations. Visiting this exhibit will feel like a step back into a simpler time when the holiday season was just two weeks long and focused on family traditions.

This exhibit will run from December 1, 2014 to January 5, 2015.

For more information, please contact the Nanaimo Museum at 250-753-1821.
More What’s New...

Model Ship “The Resolution” Moved to Nanaimo Port Authority Office

The model ship titled “The Resolution” was presented in 1978 by Gordon Carlson, Chairperson of the Nanaimo Bicentennial Committee, to Mayor and Council and the Citizens of Nanaimo as a tangible token of the Captain Cook Bicentennial. Previously displayed in the Vancouver Island Regional Library Harbourfront branch, the ship has been relocated to the Nanaimo Port Authority offices, providing the opportunity to celebrate the history of the piece with visitors and residents alike.

Aboriginal Star Hailed as Pioneer by Soccer Hall of Fame

Harry Manson (Xul-si-malt) is the first aboriginal player to be inducted into the Canadian Soccer Hall of Fame. Read the full article via CBCnews.ca at www.cbc.ca/news/aboriginal/aboriginal-star-hailed-as-pioneer-by-soccer-hall-of-fame-1.2822153.

Art in the SARC

The second and third floor stairwells of the Service and Resource Centre located at 411 Dunsmuir Street are now home to a series of photographs taken by local students. The Art in the SARC program is a collaboration project between School District 68 and the City of Nanaimo, to create opportunity to highlight the vision and talent of the many young artists living in Nanaimo.

This first series of photographs was taken by the talented students of John Barsby Community School’s Grade 9/10 photography class. Photography by: Alaina Baxter Keifer Kazmer Floris Groteclaes Sara Drew Jarid Morgan Shayla Alder-Freer

The artwork will eventually be replaced with other various artistic mediums in order to create more opportunity for young artists to have their works on display.

Next time you are visiting the Service & Resource Centre, make sure to check out the artwork! For more information, please contact the Culture and Heritage Department.
FOCUS ON HERITAGE

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 an art print by local artist Fred Peters. Winners will be notified via email.

Identify this piece of Nanaimo’s history and win a print by local artist Fred Peters!

The Palace Hotel (275 Skinner Street)

The Palace Hotel was one of the earliest of the new type of hotels that was built during this era. It marks the beginning of a transition from the City’s early rough, pioneer type architecture to a more refined and elegant style. Although there have been numerous renovations over the years, the building retains much of its original character. The Palace Hotel represents the economic boom that was generated by the completion of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway and the expansion of the No. 1 Coal Mine in the 1880s. This handsome, ornate brick building speaks to the mood of prosperity and possibility prevalent at the time. The Palace Hotel represents the social importance of hotels in Nanaimo history. Like most mining communities, early Nanaimo had a large population of single, often transient, men. As affordable housing alternatives, hotels functioned as living quarters and, in the saloons and restaurants typically located on the ground floor, as social centres. The value of the Palace Hotel lies in location at the bend of a curvilinear, narrow lane that intersects with the main downtown thoroughfare. The view to the Palace Hotel is framed by landmark historic structures on the main street. The hotel itself partially closes the vista from the main street and acts to create a feeling of intimacy and seclusion.
More What’s New...

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. At the Nanaimo City Council meeting held October 2013, Council approved Naomi Beth Wakan as Nanaimo’s first Poet Laureate. Read about Naomi on Island Women or at www.naomibethwakan.com.

View Naomi’s full schedule of upcoming events online at www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Poet Laureate.

Naomi celebrating her first year as Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate and her Chapbook opening.

Calling All Poets! Monthly Poetry Column
Please keep sending those poems in to callingallpoets@nanaimo.ca with the subject line “poetry submission”. The poems must be short, and the subject must be Nanaimo. For more information, or to submit your poem, visit www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Poet Laureate.

November’s Poem of the Month (see right) has been selected, and here’s why. Written by Naomi Beth Wakan for the Nanaimo Daily News:

The ferry from Nanaimo to Gabriola, famous in literature with Malcolm Lowry’s book, “October Ferry to Gabriola,” is the subject of this very beautiful poem. The judges said that in this gentle poem, the poet makes Nanaimo residents feel like the in group, who are all likely to “get” the evocative references. Of course Gabriolans, who spend a lot of time (and money) in Nanaimo, also know this scene that the poet describes so well. We all particularly like the images of “wet flags flap in the wind,” and “houses curl in green nests.” The town diminishing in size as the ferry boat, the Quinsam, crosses to Gabriola is so well described here. It is a condensed picture of a town and its residents with the suggestion that it could be a small slice of a larger description, such as Dylan Thomas did of his sea-side town in “Under Milk Wood”. I found this poem totally enchanting, as it portrayed Nanaimo as a toy model town whose houses and trees one could move around.

Poem of the Month: November 2014
From the Quinsam at Dusk
by Jood Heather

The Quinsam pulls away,
The harbor lights recede.
Black water churns at the stern,
As the wharf grows small.
The mountain’s greyness bulks
Against darker clouds,
And headlights glide slowly down
To the dwindling docks,
Where wet flags flap in the wind
And sailboats rock.
Now I can see the roads
Climbing old city hills.
Snugly, between the streets,
The houses curl in green nests,
Filled with homework and dishes,
Bicycles, babies and debts,
Secrets and squabbles and wishes
And uninvited guests.
The ferry turns to the sea,
Its diesel engines race.
Nanaimo’s the size of my thumb,
Silent and distant now
Like a planet seen from space,
Like a toy town.
Culture and Heritage Word Search

Words

- art lab
- arts
- arts district
- bastion
- cannon
- coal town
- conservation
- culture
- downtown
- princess royal
- public art
- theatre
- western fuel co
- electric
- five acres
- haliburton
- harewood
- heritage
- history
- it's who we are
- mark bate
- newcastle
- snuneymuxw
- wellington

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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:

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Email: cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca
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