What’s New in July

Seeking Artistic Participants for 18th Annual Heritage Paint Out / Shoot Out, Sunday July 26

Are you interested in participating in the 2015 Heritage Paint Out / Shoot Out? This annual event brings heritage to life with a plein air race against the clock by challenging artists to paint and / or photograph Nanaimo’s heritage buildings. **Cash prizes are awarded to the top submissions in both categories!**

**How it works:** Painters and photographers meet at #4 Commercial Street at 10:00 am where they draw randomly for a Heritage building location supplied by the City. They then spend the day painting and photographing your selected building, returning with a presentation ready piece where the work is judged to receive cash prizes totalling $500!

Artists of all ages and skill levels are welcome to participate. Registration fee is $10 for NAC members / $12 for non-members. Registration can be paid on the day of the event. For details, contact NAC admin@nanaimoarts council.ca or 250-729-3947. *The Heritage Paint Out Shoot Out is a collaboration between the Nanaimo Culture and Heritage Commission, Nanaimo Museum and Nanaimo Arts Council.*

Attention Grant Applicants! Information Sessions will be held September 9

Changes have been made to the City of Nanaimo's cultural funding programs. To assist grant applicants in understanding the changes, we are holding TWO information sessions designed for grant applicants.

Sessions will be held on **Wednesday, September 9 @ Port Theatre (Harmac Room):**
- Session 1 - 1:00 to 2:00 pm
- Session 2 - 4:00 to 5:00 pm

Maximum 20 applicants per session. **Attendees must RSVP!** Spots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Please RSVP by email to cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca to indicate which session you will attend.
Thank you to everyone who attended the June 24 CULTURE SPLAT! The brand new CULTURE SPLAT board was debuted and YOU filled it with many amazing ideas for cultural vitality in Nanaimo.

Of course we must also thank our lovely sponsors who donated so many great prizes for the draw:

- Nanaimo Community Archives
- Nanaimo Museum
- Port Theatre Society
- Nanaimo Conservatory of Music
- Crimson Coast Dance Society
- Vancouver Island Symphony

WE ASKED

What are your ideas, dreams and aspirations for furthering cultural vitality in Nanaimo?

WHAT WE HEARD

View the FULL idea boards online at www.s483.photobucket.com/user/cultureandheritage/library/Ideas%20Board!
More What’s New...

Snuneymuxw Flag at City Hall

On Sunday, June 21, the City of Nanaimo marked National Aboriginal Day (June 19) with the permanent placement of the Snuneymuxw First Nations flag atop City Hall.

“The permanent placement of the Snuneymuxw flag alongside the City and Provincial flags at City Hall this Sunday is long overdue. I look forward to joining Chief John Wesley and our elected representatives from the federal and provincial governments in marking this important act of friendship between communities.” -- Mayor Bill McKay

City Hall Gets a Makeover

Nanaimo City Hall has been repainted in a heritage-friendly colour scheme, compatible with the natural light grey/green tone of the Haddington Stone treatment around the building’s main entrance. City Hall is a registered heritage building located in the downtown heritage conservation area, and, as such, subject to the Downtown Heritage Building Design Guidelines with regard to choice of appropriate external paint colours. In general, guidelines recommend that colours should be limited to natural earth tones.

About City Hall (455 Wallace Street)

Excerpt from Nanaimo Community Heritage Register

Built in 1951, City Hall is an excellent example of Nanaimo’s first venture into the International style. Designed to project progress and modernity, the International style was the appropriate choice for a municipality striving to overcome its image as a dirty, depressed coal town and present itself as a forward looking city. City Hall is significant because of its association with architect Thomas B. McArravy. One of the pioneers of the use of modernism on Vancouver Island, McArravy was Nanaimo’s most prominent architect for many years.
More What’s New...

Public Pianos Downtown

The piano has returned! This year, we have spotted the ever-popular public piano along the waterfront (across from Port Theatre). It has been joined by a Baby Grand Piano, also available for public playing in Diana Krall Plaza.

Repairs to The Frame

Artist Jason Gress will be making some necessary repairs to the beloved Frame this week (July 6-10).

Parklet Opens on Commercial Street

In June, the Downtown Nanaimo Business Improvement Association (DNBIA) unveiled the brand new Downtown Nanaimo Parklet Pilot Project. A parklet is a sidewalk extension that provides additional room and amenities for people using the street and an economic and creative solution to the desire for wider sidewalks across our City, especially in areas with narrow sidewalks or a lack of open space. Parklets are typically installed on existing parking spaces and extend out level to the sidewalk to the width of the adjacent parking space.

Parklets offer a place to stop, to sit, and to rest while taking in the activities of the street. A parklet must be designed for a quick and easy removal in emergencies or other reasons such as snow removal without damage to the curb or street. As initially conceived, a parklet is always open to the public. However, some cities such as San Francisco, Long Beach, Montreal, Quebec and now...Nanaimo, have allowed restaurants to utilize parklets for outdoor patios.

The Pilot Project: The DNBIA is piloting this project for interested businesses with limited outdoor space to sponsor and build their own parklets until the Fall of 2015. Once the pilot is complete, the City of Nanaimo hopes to launch a stand alone parklet program that will enable businesses that qualify to apply.

For more information, visit www.dnbia.ca/parklet.
More What’s New...

Council Approves Heritage Facade Improvement Grant for 403 Fitzwilliam Street

On June 22, Council approved a $13,826.17 Heritage Facade Improvement Grant for the S&W Apartment building, located at 403 Fitzwilliam Street. The Heritage Facade Improvement Grant Program was created by Council in 2003 as part of the City’s Downtown Revitalization Strategy. The program is designed to provide financial incentives to encourage rehabilitation and enhancement of heritage buildings located in the City’s downtown core, enliven the streetscape, create a more attractive environment for visitors and tenants and stimulate investment in the area. The program has been successful at leveraging private investment toward rehabilitating and enhancing the exteriors of historic buildings located in the downtown core.

Facade grants are available yearly on a first-come, first-served basis, to significant heritage buildings listed in the Official Community Plan’s Downtown Heritage Conservation Area. The 2015 grant program budget is $20,000. Each grant covers up to 50 per cent of a project cost, to a maximum of $10,000 per building side facing onto a street. To date, $274,169 has been paid out under the grant program for 29 exterior building facade improvements leveraging $7,010,118 of private investment.

Entrance Island Lighthouse Now a Designated Historic

The Federal government announced that the Entrance Island Lighthouse (located near the entrance to Nanaimo Harbour) has been added to the list of designated lighthouses contained within the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act. Entrance Island Lighthouse is a heritage lighthouse because of its historical, architectural and community values. The designation ensures the protection of the structure’s heritage character for present and future generations. View the Statement of Significance to learn more about the history of the Lighthouse.

“The City of Nanaimo is pleased to learn that the Federal Government has designated the Entrance Island Lighthouse as a Heritage Lighthouse under the Heritage Lighthouse Protection Act, as the lighthouse site represents an important part of Nanaimo’s maritime history, particularly related to the use of Nanaimo’s harbour and safe shipping in the area since 1876.” --Mayor Bill McKay

Photo courtesy of Alice Woods
More What’s New...

Poetry with Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate, Ms. 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 upcoming events, photos of past appearances and more online at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetry.

Naomi Receives Honorary FBCW Ambassador Award

Naomi has received a special award from the Federation of British Columbia Writers (FBCW). Naomi received the Honorary Ambassador Award in recognition of the dedicated and spirited way she has made live poetry a rich and everyday component of civic life in Nanaimo. She brings poetry to all kinds of venues, from art gallery shows, festival openings to city Council meetings and local literary cafes. The Honorary Ambassador Award is a new award, created by the FBCW to raise the profile of writers and the importance of writing that benefits everyone.

Poem of the Month

Naomi teamed with the Nanaimo Daily News to produce a monthly poetry column. Each month, a panel of anonymous poet judges select one poem to be featured in the paper’s Entertainment section. Here’s what the judges had to say about the July poem of the month (featured right).

“The selection committee really liked the images of this month’s poem, which share vivid impressions of a picturesque part of Nanaimo. The poet’s images call on the senses as she takes us on a walk along the beach at Pipers Lagoon Park. Many of us must have felt when we were at a coastal beach, as the poet, that the sea is whispering personal secrets. Her descriptions of woven patterns in the sand and of a moonscape of rocks are also evocative. The poet, we felt, has captured the inner stillness of a person walking along a quiet beach, lost in contemplation, only to have their thoughts broken by the waves that energize them as the ocean energizes the landscape. Despite the poet’s focus on secrets and hidden messages, which are mental processes, the interaction of the water and beach draw her back into the here and now, reminding us, her readers, that we are part of the physical world. This is such a quiet poem, and yet it touches so powerfully on the natural cycle of the ebb and flow of the tides and how this affects us.”

How to submit your poem

Please keep those short poems (under twenty lines) with a Nanaimo theme coming in. Just send them to callingallpoets@nanaimo.ca. For full submission details, visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetry.

Poem of the Month:
July 2015
Pipers Lagoon Park
by Maria Noël

Gentle breezes whisper
as the ocean beckons me gently to its side
to whisper its secrets to attentive ears.

Sands reveal their travelers footprints
small, large, here, there,
weaving patterns filled with hidden messages.

Rocks strewn across a would-be moonscape
speak of desolation until the tide comes in
and reawakens life stilled by its absence.

This is Pipers Lagoon Park to me.
North Vancouver Arts Council  
Call for Artists: Pushing Boundaries 2015

The North Vancouver Community Arts Council is seeking emerging and professional First Nations Artists for the bi-annual exhibition “Pushing Boundaries 2015.” This exhibition will showcase contemporary First Nations artwork. Artists are encouraged to “push the boundaries” with:

1. Non-traditional mediums or contemporary works with a traditional association. OR
2. Traditional and cultural mediums with a contemporary edge or aesthetic

View full submission details at www.nvartscouncil.ca/home/artist-calls/call-artists-pushing-boundaries.

Deadline for submission is Saturday, July 25, 2015 at 4:00 pm.

For more information, contact Stefanie Wysota, Exhibitions Coordinator, 335 Lonsdale Avenue, North Vancouver, BC, V7L 2G3 (Phone: 604.988.6844 / Email: exhibitions@nvartscouncil.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 biography (no more than 25 words) about yourself and a black and white picture or a pictures that can be printed in black and white with your biography.

North Vancouver Community Arts Council

Crimson Coast Dance Society Presents: 
2015 InFrinGinG Dance Festival, July 9-12

Join the Crimson Coast Dance Society in celebrating DANCE from around the world! The 2015 InFrinGinG Dance Festival is taking place from July 9 - 12, and features a number of free and ticketed events at Maffeo-Sutton Park, the Vancouver Island Conference Centre and The Port Theatre.

View the full event schedule and ticket prices online at www.harbourliving.ca/event/2015-infringing-dance-festival for many FREE dance performances and workshops!
FOCUS ON HERITAGE

Identify this piece of Nanaimo’s history and win a limited edition art print of historic downtown Nanaimo by local artist Fred Peters!

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](mailto: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!

Nanaimo Centennial Museum (100 Cameron Road)

Excerpt from the Nanaimo Community Heritage Register

Built in 1967 as a legacy project for Canada’s 100th anniversary, the Nanaimo District Museum building is a good example of modern, vernacular institutional architecture. Reflecting the trend toward diverse, eclectic architectural modernism, the quirky octagonal design was meant to symbolically echo the design elements of the nearby Bastion, constructed by the Hudson Bay Company (1853-1855).

The Nanaimo District Museum is significant as the location of the city’s museum for approximately forty years. The Centennial Museum is also significant for its association with local architect, Les Barley. Born in England in 1911, Les Barley came to Nanaimo, via Toronto, in 1948 to work as an architectural assistant for Thomas McArravy. Barley eventually became partners with McArravy and later with Weismiller. During his career, Barley worked throughout the mid-island, designing institutional buildings including the Legion on Wallace Street, an addition to the Malaspina Hotel, Nanaimo District Secondary School, Bowen Park Complex, the Nanaimo Golf Club House and numerous schools. He retired in 1977.

The Nanaimo Centennial Museum is located on a prominent rock outcrop within the City’s downtown core. Set in a municipal park that includes a miner’s cottage and other mining-related artefacts, the Museum building is part of an integrated coal mining education and interpretive site.
More What’s New...

Nanaimo Museum Presents: Wellington Cemetery Tours, July 16 & August 20

The Nanaimo Museum is offering two guided tours of the Wellington Cemetery in July and August. The tours will feature the history of Wellington and intriguing stories of the people who lived there. Tours are 45 minutes long starting at 10:00 am on July 16 and August 20. For more information and registration costs, contact the Nanaimo Museum. Pre-registration is required. For more information, please call 250 753-1821 or visit www.nanaimomuseum.ca.

About the Wellington Cemetery: Wellington was created by Robert Dunsmuir as a coal miners’ town in the 1870s, had a population that rivaled Nanaimo during the late 19th century. “These tours are ideal for people who want to learn more about local history,” says Aimee Greenaway, Interpretation Curator at the Nanaimo Museum. “You gain an understanding of the culturally diverse population in Wellington because the markers are inscribed in French, Italian and English.” Some headstones tell the tragic story of deaths related to mining accidents; events that united them all. Researching stories of people who were buried in the Wellington Cemetery paints a picture of life in Nanaimo during the height of local coal mining operations. Significantly, the cemetery is divided into sections by religious denomination. “There are over 100 recorded burials in the Wellington Cemetery,” says Greenaway. “But only a few dozen grave markers remain.” Well-known local names and stories on the tour include Leopold and Josephine Labiaux, who Labieux Road is named after, as well as Thomas Haggart whose house disappeared into a sinkhole after a nearby mine flooded. The tour includes the story of Haggart’s family emigrating to Vancouver Island and their lives in the area.

Call for Vendors! Bathtub Days Street Fair

The Downtown Nanaimo Business Improvement Area is seeking vendors for the upcoming Bathtub Days Street Fair (July 25, 26) which will see Commercial Street, Victoria Crescent and Church Street closed to traffic for two days (July 25 and 26), as downtown celebrates the annual Marine Festival and Bathtub Race! This annual event attracts approx. 5,000 people downtown.

Hey vendors! Dress up in your favourite pirate togs and you could win your vendor fee back!

For more information (or to download a vendor application form), visit www.dnbia.ca/whats-happening/bathtubdays/ for more information.

Bathtub Weekend Launch Party, July 24

The Bathtub Weekend Launch Party is a 1-day concert festival taking place in Diana Krall Plaza on Friday July 24, from 4:00 pm to 11:00 pm. Featuring PLATINUM BLONDE, BIF NAKED, THE HARPoonIST & THE AXE MURDERER, BEND SINISTER, JESSE ROPER, KENDALL PATRICK and the HEADLESS BETTYS, DJ MikeyMike, a beer garden, and lots more.

View full event details and ticket costs online at www.facebook.com/events/286081531516016/.

Gallery Row’s 5th Annual Art Festival, Saturday, August 29

Join the fun and support community art education! This event features concession, art unveiling, kids activities, entertainment, silent auction, souvenir, chair massages, Steve Marshall Ford Community Events Cruiser and more! Free admission! Everyone is invited!

Saturday, August 29th 2014 12:00 pm - 4:00 pm (new art unveiling at 1 pm) @ G.E.M. Fabrications Ltd. -- 308 Fitzwilliam St. (Corner of Fitzwilliam & Wallace).
Vancouver Island University Art Gallery Presents:
WIXARITARI: People Walking Towards the Dawn
Huichol Art by José Benítez Sánchez

Presented by the Art Gallery at Vancouver Island University (900 Fifth Street)

In the WIXARITARI: People Walking Towards Dawn exhibition we learn about the three worlds of the Huichol universe through yarn paintings done with colorful fibers on boards covered in beeswax or pine sap by the mara’akame (shaman) José Benítez Sánchez (1938-2009), whose indigenous name means the silent walker. One of the most famous Huichol artists, Benítez Sánchez was perhaps the last in a generation of shamans who devoted their lives to the wisdom of initiation and artistic creation. The Huichol live in western Mexico in an area that is difficult to access for those who are not used to walking long distances through the mountains. They are also called the Wixaritari, and are well known for the vibrant beauty of their ritualistic art, their refined embroideries and weavings, and their rich mythology. Hosted by the Art Gallery of the Vancouver Island University, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Consulate General of Mexico in Vancouver. Curated by Gabriela Olmos, Deputy Director, Artes de México.

The exhibit is available for viewing at the gallery (900 Fifth Street) until July 15 and is open Monday to Saturday, from 12 noon to 5:00 pm.

Free Lecture!
The Wixaritari and the Heart of the World Lecture by Dr. Anthony Shelton, followed by a tour of the Huichol Art Exhibit, Wixaritari — People Walking Toward Dawn at the art gallery at Vancouver Island University, 900 Fifth Street, Nanaimo. Lecture takes place on July 10, 2:30 to 3:15pm Building 355, Room 203, Vancouver Island University.

The Wixaritari (Huichol), who live in the mountainous, isolated parts of northwest Mexico, have retained a unique cosmology despite continuous threats to despoil their land and sacred sites. Their homeland was created through the sacrifice of their ancestral deities who became transformed into the land, mountains, seas and plant and animal forms that surround them. This presentation will open a glimpse into this world and describe some of their techniques and philosophy which enables them to see what is invisible to others.

Dr. Shelton is Director of the Museum of Anthropology and Professor of Anthropology at the University of British Columbia. Dr. Shelton specializes in critical museology and heritage studies, the anthropology of art and aesthetics, and Latin American and European visual cultures. He has over 150 publications including Art, Anthropology and Aesthetics (with J. Coote. 1992) and Heaven, Hell and Somewhere In-Between, Portuguese Popular Art and Culture (2015), and is currently working on a volume on critical museology. Dr. Shelton's lecture will be followed at 3:30pm by an opportunity to meet him while viewing the WIXARITARI PEOPLE WALKING TOWARDS DAWN exhibition in building 330.
More What’s New...

Lois Lane Lunch Break, Begins July 9!

CHLY is happy to be bringing back the Lois Lane Lunch break for another summer of lunch entertainment down in the Lois Lane courtyard. The summer-time music series, a DNBIA sponsored program, runs every Thursday until the end of August. Come down to Lois Lane in front of the CHLY headquarters and enjoy live local entertainment during your noon hour! Bring your lunch or pick up a "to-go" lunch at one of the many downtown restaurants and support an amazing group of local musicians. Bring your friends, family and your lunch and enjoy the courtyard, the music and the sun! View website at www.chly.ca/lois-lane-lunch-break-is-back for more information.

- July 9 Emma Plant
- July 16 Glen Foster
- July 23 Dave Hart
- July 30 Theo Massop
- August 6 Terra Zetto
- August 13 Marty Steele
- August 20 Dave Hart (Hart & Soul)
- August 27 Kevin Mitchell

Concerts in the Park! Begins July 8

Two of Nanaimo’s parks will be filled with music again this summer! The Parks, Recreation and Environment department is pleased to bring back the Summer Concerts in the Park series starting July 8.

- Bowen Park Amphitheatre
  - 6:00 to 7:30 pm
  - July 8
  - July 15
  - July 22
  - July 29

- Maffeo Sutton Park
  - 6:00 to 7:30 pm
  - August 5
  - August 12
  - August 19
  - August 26

- Maffeo Sutton Park (Lunchtime)
  - from 12:30 pm to 1:30 pm
  - July 13
  - July 20
  - July 27
  - August 3
  - August 10
  - August 17
  - August 24
  - August 31
**More What’s New...**

**Block Party Tool Kits**

Some neighbourhoods enjoy hosting block parties as a great way to meet other neighbours and/or to celebrate a neighbourhood volunteer efforts as a finale to a completed project. Block parties generally consist of barbecues and playing games with a group of neighbours. They can be held on part of a park, street or cul-de-sac and may or may not involve road closures. The neighbourhood organizes the event through the Department of Parks, Recreation and Environment. Block party kits are available by phoning the PRE Department at 756-5200 or via email at parks@nanaimo.ca.
More What’s New...

Summer Family Programming @ the Museum

Join the Nanaimo Museum this summer for their family programming (designed for children ages 5-12 to participate in along with their parents, grandparents or caregivers). Each activity takes approx. 1 hour to complete. Registration is not required but caregivers must supervise children at all times during activities. For more information, please call 250 753-1821 or visit www.nanaimomuseum.ca.

THE CHINATOWN
Wednesdays in July & August) from 1:30 to 3:30 pm  Participants can try creating various tangrams, practice using chop-sticks, and learn to write Chinese numbers. Admission is $2 for adults, $1.75 for seniors and $0.75 for children.

THE VIKINGS
Fridays in July & August from 1:30 to 3:30 pm (excluding July 24) Meet the Norse gods, make Viking jewelry, and translate and write Viking runes. Admission is $2 for adults, $1.75 for seniors and $0.75 for children.

FAMILY BASTION TOUR & CANNON FIRING
Thursdays & Saturdays at 12:00 noon
A family Bastion tour happens on Thursdays and Saturdays at noon after the cannon firing in July and August. Come learn about the history of the Bastion, the HBC and the Bastion’s reported ghost. Admission to the Bastion is by donation.

Nanaimo Art Gallery Presents: Spirit Gum

Spirit Gum is a kind of glue used to adhere costume to skin. This compound of alcohol (spirit) and resin (gum), suggests a double reading. By way of this sticky substance, objects are not only adhered to bodies, but also inspired with character. In the exhibition Spirit Gum, this merging of costume and wearer is activated through newly created and existing artworks, alongside works from the permanent collection. Performing through a range of media, artists enact the self, as it begins to resemble another. Curated by Jesse Birch and Kara Hansen. For more information and a full list of programming, check out www.nanaimoartgallery.com.

Free Interpretive Tour, Friday July 3 at 2:00 pm
Join the Nanaimo Art Gallery for a free tour and lively interpretive experience of the exhibition Spirit Gum. The tour will be led by performance diva Norma Rocher and will include chocolate and song. Norma Rocher is a part of artist Elizabeth Milton’s video installation Soap Opera with Chocolates (2015) shown in Nanaimo Art Gallery’s exhibition Spirit Gum on until August 8, 2015.

Follow us on Instagram! #cultureandheritage

See what all the fuss is about! Follow the Culture & Heritage Department on Instagram 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