What’s New in September

Nominate someone for a 2017 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 2017 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 2017). **Nominations are due November 15, 2016.**

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 2017 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:

- **2017 Culture and Heritage Operating Grants**
- **2017 Culture and Heritage Project Grants**

The deadline for application submission is **Monday, October 24, 2016 no later than 4:00 p.m.**

Full details including guidelines, criteria and application forms @ www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture & Heritage > Culture & Heritage Grants, in person at the Service & Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street), or by contacting us directly.
More What’s New...

PARK(ing) Day returns to Nanaimo on September 16, 2016

On September 16, 2016 from 11:30 am to 1:30 pm, a select number of spaces along Commercial Street will be transformed for Nanaimo’s 3rd annual PARK(ing) Day.

PARK(ing) Day is an annual open-source global event where citizens and artists collaborate to temporarily transform parking spaces into “PARK(ing)” spaces: temporary public cultural places.

Come check out the transformed spaces!

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.
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. 1812”, available online at www.nanaimo.ca > Business > Bid Opportunities, or by contacting us directly.

The deadline for proposals is November 15, 2016.

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...

Culture Days, September 30 and October 1, 2

Through an annual three-day national celebration each September, hundreds of thousands of artists and cultural organizations in hundreds of cities and towns come together and invite Canadians to participate in free interactive and “behind the scenes” activities to discover their cultural spirit and passion.

Culture Days raises the awareness, accessibility, participation and engagement of Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities. With the support of volunteer groups at the national, provincial and local levels, hundreds of thousands of artists, cultural workers, organizations and groups, volunteers and supporters self-mobilize to host free participatory public activities that take place in hundreds of cities and towns throughout the country over the last weekend of September each year.

The seventh annual Culture Days weekend will take place September 30 and October 1, 2, 2016, and will feature thousands of free, hands-on, interactive activities that invite the public to participate “behind-the-scenes,” to discover the world of artists, creators, historians, architects, curators, designers and other creative people in their communities.

Register your event or activity today!
@ www.culturedays.ca/en
More What’s New...

Western Edge Theatre Society presents... 

The lives of five 60+ women in a Vancouver Island seaside town intersect in moving, funny and unexpected ways in this inspiring new play. Change is in the air for these everyday heroines as they forge new lives—learning to dragonboat, trying internet dating, negotiating widowhood—as well as for one of the local “bag ladies,” whose home in a tent city is about to be torn down.

Grit and determination meet the realities of aging in a story that will rouse you to tears and cheers, whatever your gender or age.

Featuring Barbara Christofferson, Jennifer Feenan, Judy Hipkin, Paulette McCarthy, Clarice McCord, and Lorna McLellan.

Gabriola Island (The Roxy): Sept. 16 @ 7:30 pm / Sept. 18 @ 2:00 pm
Nanaimo (Harbour City Theatre): Sept. 23, 24, 30, Oct. 1 @ 7:30 pm / Oct. 2 @ 2:00 pm

Nanaimo Arts Council

For the past 28 years, professional artists and amateur painters have come together each spring to create beautiful one-of-a-kind works of art in the form of street banners. These colourful, hand-painted banners are installed on lampposts around Nanaimo for residents and visitors to enjoy from May to October. Festival of Banners brings people together for skill sharing, learning and fun, and adds vibrancy to our city streets.

The banners are on the streets for all to enjoy!
More What’s New...

Calling all poets!

We’re calling all poets to apply to be Nanaimo’s next Poet Laureate or the Inaugural Youth Poet Laureate!

We are now seeking applications for the next Poet Laureate (term to begin January 2017). We are also seeking applications for Nanaimo’s first Youth Poet Laureate (ages 13-21 years) term to begin in January 2017.

All applications for the Poet Laureate programs must be received no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, October 28, 2016. Terms of reference for each position are located at: http://www.nanaimo.ca/EN/main/departments/culture-heritage/poet-laureate.html.

Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate Naomi Beth Wakan

Fall 2016 Schedule

- September 12 “Writing Close to Home” Workshop
- September 17 Nanaimo Art Lab Workshop
- October 7 Planet Earth Poetry (Featured Writer) (Victoria BC)
- October 15 North Nanaimo Library

Poem of the Month: September 2016

I read this poem recently as the featured reader at the Hazelwood Literary Festival in Ladysmith. It seemed very naïve to me when I first wrote it, but now I consider it one of my most important poems because it reminds me, from time to time, that life is full of bitter and sweet moments, but whichever is manifesting at this moment, I should remember that I have a solid core and should not be swept away either by despair, or by exhilaration. The poem is called:

*My Model Farm*

When I was young  
I had a model farm—  
the model sheep were  
in their model pen;  
the model pigs  
in their model sty;  
the model cattle  
in their model barn;  
and the model chicken  
in their model coop.  
The model ducks swam  
on a mirror pond  
that I polished every day.  
The model farmer  
was caught stilled  
while tossing the hay  
with a toy pitchfork,  
while his model wife  
was churning butter in  
the model farm house.  
Everything was as it should be.  
I saw to that.

Later, I met up with reality—  
the real reality of the farmer  
who killed the cows and pigs and ducks.  
Fences got broken and  
horses ran loose.  
The pond became overgrown  
with pond weed and  
the roof shakes blew off  
in a storm and  
a heavy snow downed the gutters.  
The bank foreclosed  
on the farm after  
a couple of bad harvests.  
All that I came to know,  
and yet that small core,  
a place where everything  
was ordered, a perpetual  
harvest time, where  
fruit never decayed,  
and plants never went  
to seed too early;  
a place where barns were clean,

and the kitchen was  
continually stocked with  
braids of garlic, and  
jars of preserves;  
where the farmer and his wife  
ever aged or  
grew weary of each other,  
that core stayed with me,  
keeping me foolishly optimistic  
when times were otherwise,  
and keeping me stupidly stubborn  
in the face of a depressing humanity.  
We all need those cores  
in what seems to be  
a purposeless world,  
where we understand so little . . .  
the comings and goings  
and the strange, impossible time  
in between.
Retro To Electro:
Vintage Swing Revue & Dance Party
A fundraiser for Crimson Coast Dance & Twilight Radio Theatre

September 17, 2016 at the Nanaimo Entertainment Centre at 46 Nicol Street
Join us for an evening of swing, radio theatre, and dancing!

Featuring the talents of:

Twilight Radio Theatre
Dinah D & The Contraband Swing Club
DJ Daniel Trump
Vesta Fire Entertainment

And your wonderful host Gloria aka Kat Single-Dain
WordStorm
Tuesday September 27, 2016
The Vault Cafe
499 Wallace Street, Nanaimo
Open Mic Starts at 7:00 p.m.
Featured Performers
Trevor Carolan and Fred Stenson
Open Mic at 7:00
Bring a poem (3 minutes) or
prose (5 minutes) or sing an original song of your own.
Live Music at 6:30 and during the First Set
More Details at www.wordstorm.ca

Sponsored by The League of Canadian Poets, The Writers’ Union of Canada,
the City of Nanaimo and the Canada Council for the Arts