What’s New in April

Join us to Celebrate the Best of Nanaimo’s Culture & Heritage

Reserve your FREE tickets for the April 13 Awards Ceremony
Join us at the Port Theatre for an evening of recognition and entertainment by Nanaimo’s very own local talent. Everyone is welcome to attend.

Click here to reserve your FREE tickets!

To be Honoured:
- Susan Juby | Excellence in Culture Award
- Debbie Trueman | Honour in Culture Award
- Alyssa Glassford | Emerging Cultural Leader Award
- John Hofman | John Thomson Heritage Memorial Award

Performances By:
- Vibrant Dance Studio
- Brigadoon Dance Academy
- M.E.M. Dance Company
- Ian Perry
- The Footprints of the Wolf
- Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate
- Wellington Jazz Band

Calling All Artists! Nanaimo Arts Council is Seeking Designs for the 2016 Festival of Banners!

Deadline for entry is Friday, April 15
For the past 28 years, artists 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 lamp posts around Nanaimo for residents and visitors to enjoy from May to October.

Want to paint your own banner? Pick up an entry form today at one of these locations:
- Nanaimo Art Gallery (150 Commercial Street)
- Nanaimo North Town Centre (Guest Services Kiosk - 4750 Rutherford Road)

For details, visit www.nanaimoartscouncil.ca.
# April is Poetry Month!

**What is Poetry Month?** Established by the League of Canadian Poets, National Poetry Month brings together schools, publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries and poets from across Canada to celebrate poetry. The City of Nanaimo has officially proclaimed the month, so let’s celebrate poetry!

**Full schedule @ www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetry**

Find Poet Laureate Naomi Beth Wakan at one of these upcoming events:

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| April 9   | "Poetry in Transit" Unveiling Ceremony  
Vancouver Island Regional Library  
(Harbourfront Branch) @ 1:00 pm  
*Everyone is welcome!* |
| April 13  | Poetry Reading @ City of Nanaimo’s  
2016 Culture & Heritage Awards Ceremony  
[Click here to reserve your free tickets online!](#) |
| April 14-16 | Poetry Reading @ Vancouver Island Chamber Music Festival  
[Click here for details](#) |
| April 18  | Poetry Reading with Winners of High School Poetry Competition @ Council Meeting for the  
2016 Mayor’s City Poetry Challenge  
[Click here to watch live video (starts at 7:00 pm)](#) |

**Poetry in Transit Unveiling Ceremony**

*Saturday, April 9 @ 1:00 pm*  
*(VI Regional Library Harbourfront Branch)*

Join us as we unveil the first series of poems for the “Poetry in Transit” program. Participating poets will attend to read their poems, and a bus will be on-site featuring poems for public viewing.

**Want to submit a poem?** Send us a poem that is some way related to a particular point on a bus route, a site in Nanaimo, or an experience shared while riding the bus. View the Submission Guidelines.

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**Bus Etiquette**

*by Joanna Mackenzie [via Poetry in Transit program]*

"Please have my seat" floats in the air.  
It warms my heart to know folks care.  
Standing for years, so many rides;  
those journeys snug, tucked up inside.  
And now I see that my grey hair,  
earns me the privilege of a chair.
Congratulations to the Winners of the 2016 High School Poetry Competition!

Congratulations to the winners of the City’s very first High School Poetry Competition!

**1st Place** | Eden Rowe “Harbour City”
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**2nd Place** | Eli Bueckert “Nanaimo”
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**3rd Place** | Sophia Halfyard “Breath on Mount Benson”
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**Honourable Mention** | Sena Cleave “Nanaimo in the Shores”
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**Honourable Mention** | Owen Laurie “Piper’s Lagoon”
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**Honourable Mention** | Prentice Olafson “Our Harbour”

2016 Mayor’s City Poetry Challenge

Once again, we’ve been challenged to participate in the Mayor’s City Poetry Challenge! Our Poet Laureate, Naomi Beth Wakan, will take on the challenge by reading poetry at the April 18 Council meeting. She will be accompanied by the winners of the High School Poetry Competition.

*Click here to watch live video (starts at 7:00 pm on April 18)*

Nanaimo Poetry Map

[www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetrymap](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetrymap)

We’re seeking your poems that relate to a certain location in Nanaimo. Inspired by Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate, the Nanaimo Poetry Map provides a creative perspective of the city. It asks readers to explore the city through poetry, to understand the spaces within it differently because of the poems. Each poem is related to a spot on the map.

Want to submit a poem? Check out the Nanaimo Poetry Map and view the Submission Guidelines.

The Harbour City

**by Eden Rowe**

[via 2016 High School Poetry Competition - 1st Place Winner]

You’re walking along the sundrenched seawall
Taking in the tranquil beauty
Vivid colours of leisure boats
Resting peacefully in the harbour
Above in the sky a twin beaver
Soars away with ease and grace
Aromatic smells draw you back
Robust Coffee   Energy
Flavourful Ice Cream   Enjoyment
Sweet Candy   Excitement
Continuing along your peaceful walk
Step by Step,   Stride by Stride
You suddenly find yourself upon a bridge
Standing secure on the divide
To the left a serene lagoon
To the right a lively ocean
Ahead stands a vista of magnificent trees

Wordstorm Society presents:

**Kevin Spenst and Tricia Dower**

**Tuesday, April 26 @ 6:30 pm (595 Townsite Road)**

Join the Wordstorm Society at the First Unitarian Fellowship Hall for their monthly meet, featuring performers Kevin Spenst and Tricia Dower. Open mic starts at 7:00 pm. Bring a poem (3 minutes) or prose (5 minutes) or sing an original song of your own. Live music at 6:30 pm and during the first set.

Full details @ [www.wordstorm.ca](http://www.wordstorm.ca).

April is Poetry Month!

Nanaimo Poetry Map

[www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetrymap](http://www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetrymap)

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Want to submit a poem? Check out the Nanaimo Poetry Map and view the Submission Guidelines.
Wordstorm presents:
The Road Will Take You Anywhere

Saturday, April 16 @ 1:00 pm (6250 Hammond Bay Road)
(Vancouver Island Regional Library - North Branch)
It’s time to celebrate the roads we travel, the roads we wish to travel, the roads we’ve found and made and cherished. Open mic. Bring your poems about the road and share your work.

Perhaps this morning, you walked to work. Maybe you drove. Maybe you took a bus; maybe you stayed home, on the road to recovery. You travelled today, certainly, from point A to point B through a map of your choosing—to the office, over a mountain, on a detour or a dead end. Maybe your map shows the roads of your adventures (real, imagined), maybe the branches of your family (given, chosen), maybe the chaos of a road not yet determined. But you found a road, or you made one, and you made another journey today, and you’ll make another journey tomorrow.

Wordstorm presents: 15 Minutes of Infamy!

Friday, April 22 @ 7:00 pm (First Unitarian Fellowship)

15 minutes of Infamy 
is coming to Nanaimo!
word craft artisans: poets, songwriters, storytellers...

Performers have 15 minutes to present ORIGINAL material before a rapt audience.
*Registration required for performers. Cover charge of $5 for audience.

Location: First Unitarian Fellowship
595 Townsite Road
Date: Friday April 22
Time: 7:00 to 10:00 pm

Startup Nanaimo presents:
Successful Collaborations Workshop

Sunday, April 24 @ 11:00 am (SquareOne)
Thinking of collaborating with an individual or organization? Have you tried collaborating before, and found it frustrating or unsuccessful? Well, this is the workshop for you! The goal of the workshop is to give you the necessary tools to make your next collaboration more successful!

Register @ www.picatic.com/successfulcollaborations ($25 per person - lunch included)
More What’s New...

Harbour City Theatre presents:
UrineTown, The Musical Comedy

April 21 to May 14 @ 8:00 pm
(Harbour City Theatre, 25 Victoria Road)

Written by Dean Chadwick, Harbour City Theatre Alliance

Come join us for an evening of fun and thank you for supporting local live theatre.

Our upcoming play, Urinetown, The Musical is a winner of three Tony Awards, three Outer Critic’s Circle Awards, two Lucille Lortel Awards, and two Obie Awards. Urinetown is a hilarious musical satire of the legal system, capitalism, social irresponsibility, populism, bureaucracy, corporate mismanagement, municipal politics and musical theatre itself! Hilariously funny and touchingly honest, Urinetown provides a fresh perspective of musical theatre.

In a Gotham-like city, a terrible water shortage, caused by a 20-year drought, has led to a government-enforced ban on private toilets. The citizens must use public amenities, regulated by a single malevolent company that profits by charging admission for one of humanity’s most basic needs. Amid the people, a hero decides he’s had enough, and plans a revolution to lead them all to freedom!

Inspired by the works of Bertolt Brecht and Kurt Weill, Urinetown is an irreverently humorous satire in which no one is safe from scrutiny. A side-splitting send-up of greed, love, revolution (and musicals!), in a time when water is worth its weight in gold.

For more information and ticket sales, visit www.schmoozeproductions.com.

Nanaimo Historical Society presents:
Dr. Frances Oldham Kelsey, Thalidomide, and the Long Road from Cobble Hill

Thursday, April 14 @ 7:30 pm (Bowen Park Complex Room 1)

The Nanaimo Historical Society is pleased to announce that Professor Cheryl Warsh of the VIU History Department will be their guest speaker at the April general meeting. Cheryl Warsh is writing a biography of Dr. Frances Oldham Kelsey, a medical officer for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration who blocked thalidomide from the U.S. market while it was approved in 20 other countries, including Canada. At this writing, Cheryl Warsh is at the Library of Congress in D.C. conducting further research into the life and career of the Cobble Hill native. Kelsey died last August at age of 101, less than 24 hours after she received her Order of Canada medal.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Check out their Facebook Page @ www.facebook.com/NanaimoHistoricalSociety.
(Re)Focus on Nanaimo’s Heritage: From Service Station to Pizza Joint

Nanaimo’s great heritage can be spotted throughout the city. And we can certainly see it as we make our way past buildings that have been here since we were a burgeoning coal town. They may change over time but these symbols of yesterday continue to be part of who we are as a community today. One such building is the old Willard Service Station.

Built around 1910, this commercial building located on the corner of Wallace and Fitzwilliam marks the east entrance to what is now known as the Old City Quarter. The building has had several tenants over the years including the original Willard Service Station, a fish and chips restaurant, tire and battery shop, Nanaimo’s first radio station (CFDC) and it even featured apartments behind the Fitzwilliam storefront. Since 1991, New York Style Pizza has called this place home. It has also been known as an outdoor art gallery since the mid-1990’s. The exterior west wall is used to showcase local art.

To learn more about this and other buildings that are quintessentially Nanaimo, search the online Heritage Register.

(Historical photo courtesy of Nanaimo Community Archives)
In the first years, buildings and equipment for the fire company had been paid for by an annual provincial grant of $500.00 and the money raised from private donations and entertainments. There was no remuneration for the firemen, and the last government grant was received in 1898. In 1901 there was a movement to get the City to take over the fire company. On November 14, 1901, every member of the Black Diamond Engine Company received notice that the City was taking over and if he wished to continue as a fireman, he must make application to the City. Not surprisingly, practically every member of the Company was accepted. The Black Diamond Engine Company passed its history, replaced by the Nanaimo Fire Department.

By the early 1900s, the fire station at Nicol Street had become too small, and in 1907 the #1 Station at Fitzwilliam & Milton Streets was built. During the coal mining years, many small communities sprang up around the original City boundaries. These communities – Harwood, Northfield, Wellington, Chase River, Departure Bay, and Protection Island had their own fire departments. In 1975 the City amalgamated with the surrounding districts and absorbed these departments into the Nanaimo Fire Department.

In 1894, the fire hall was destroyed by a fire that started in a nearby hotel. All equipment and personnel were then moved to a new brick fire station at the foot of Nicol Street.