2018 Culture & Heritage Awards
Thursday, April 5, 2018 @ 6:30 pm (Port Theatre)
Master of Ceremonies, Ms. Kait Burgan

Celebrating the best of Nanaimo's culture and heritage, and 10 years as a Cultural Capital of Canada

Honouring
- Mr. Rick Scott
  Excellence in Culture
- Mr. William Good
  Honour in Culture
- Ms. Jan Peterson
  Honour in Heritage
- Ms. Audrey Alexandra Brown
  Lifetime Achievement

Reserve Free Tickets
Reserve your FREE tickets at the Port Theatre Box Office at 250-754-8550 or www.porttheatre.com

Questions?
Contact the City of Nanaimo at 250-755-4483 or cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca.

Tickets are FREE but must be reserved.
Click HERE to reserve your tickets now
April is Poetry Month!

April marks National Poetry Month in Canada, and Nanaimo is set to celebrate. Established by the League of Canadian Poets, National Poetry Month brings together schools, publishers, booksellers, literary organizations, libraries and poets from across the country to celebrate poetry, writing, small presses and the contribution of poets and writers to the cultural life of Canadians.

“Launching poetry month is very exciting for me as Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate,” said Tina Biello. “I think the title of The Elder Project’s book sums up what every poet tries to imbue in their writing: Every Word has a Spirit. Poetry connects us and takes us to places we might not expect to go. To quote from the poem ’Tradition’ by my mentor Patrick Lane:

*By the glacial river
I walked in the hollow paw prints a grizzly bear left
ten thousand years ago this morning.*

Have a great month and please come out and enjoy some of these events.”

Upcoming Poetry Events

April 1 to 30 - High School Poetry Contest
The City of Nanaimo’s Youth Poet Laureate, Kailey DeFehr, invites high school students to submit their poems to the 2018 High School Poetry Contest based on the theme “Out of the Darkness”. Cash prizes will be awarded for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place. The deadline for submissions is Monday, April 30, 2018. Full submission details can be found online here.

April 4 - Every Word Has a Spirit
Join Nanaimo and Ladysmith high school students as they read their poems from the “Elder Project” and “Who We Are” initiatives with the City of Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate Tina Biello. The event will be held at 7:00 pm at the Port Theatre. For full details, visit www.theelderproject.com.

April 5 - Poetry Gala Celebration
Join Canada’s Parliamentary Poet Laureate (2017) George Elliott Clarke, and other Vancouver Island Poet Laureates at the Nanaimo Museum (100 Commercial Street) at 1:00 pm (in partnership with The Wordstorm Society of the Arts).

April 5 - Culture & Heritage Awards Ceremony
The awards ceremony will feature poetry readings by the City of Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate Tina Biello, and Canada’s Parliamentary Poet Laureate (2017) George Elliott Clarke, at the Port Theatre at 6:30 pm. Tickets are FREE but must be reserved online.

April 21 - Poet Laureate Reading Series
Enjoy readings by poets Betsy Warland and Kait Braid at the Vancouver Island Regional Library (Harbourfront Branch) at 1:00 pm.

*Last date of reading series scheduled for June 16 at 1:00 pm at the Vancouver Island Regional Library (Harbourfront Branch) featuring poets Wendy Donawa and Mary Ann Moore.*
What’s New in April

Nanaimo Poetry Map

The Nanaimo Poetry Map provides a creative perspective of the city. Generally speaking, a map imposes a system of knowledge upon a place. It denotes the official names of streets and buildings, displays property ownership, tells the reader where s/he can or can’t go — that kind of thing. This map is different, it asks the reader to explore the city through poetry, to understand the spaces within it differently because of the poems.

View the map (or submit your poem) at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetrymap

Kailey DeFehr

Nanaimo Youth Poet Laureate (2017-2018)

The Youth Poet Laureate serves as a “young people's poet”, raising awareness of poetry, the literary arts and the positive impact literature and poetry can have on community life. Mentored by the Poet Laureate, the Youth Poet Laureate organizes community-based youth poetry projects, and presents original work to Council; the Youth Advisory Council; and the community at various civic events.

Kailey DeFehr is Nanaimo’s inaugural Youth Poet Laureate. She learned to further develop her craft through the Creative Writing Department at VIU and has already participated in many of the City’s poetry initiatives. She brings with her a strong connection to the poetic community and some strong ideas for her term as our first Poet Laureate. Her goal to extend her passion to other young poets within the community, to help them find or rediscover a voice that matters: their own. Poetry has a tendency to be undervalued, and Ms. DeFehr believes that young poets may have a difficult time admitting in today’s world how much we love and appreciate this ancient form of communication.

It is her hope to bring the young poets together; not to become the best or the most brilliant but just to share, for the fun of it. Just to provide a voice or create the opportunities for other young poets in Nanaimo because all art forms are beautiful, as are the people who make them.

Tina Biello

Nanaimo Poet Laureate (2017-2020)

The purpose of a Poet Laureate is to serve as a “people’s poet”. The Poet Laureate raises the profile of the local literary arts by creating and presenting works that are relevant to the life and culture of our city.

Tina Biello was selected for her strong connection to the artistic community and passion for the arts. She has a great vision and plan for her new role as Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate and is very keen and excited to engage the mainstream community in poetry. As a published poet who has done readings in Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo, Fanny Bay, Montreal and Italy, she has seen firsthand the importance of getting poetry to more of the population. Most people who attend readings are already poetry aficionados, but Ms. Biello would love to see more people appreciate the power of poetry.

Ms. Biello understands the importance of collaborating with other art forms through her experience working with other artists. She also worked with composers and has even had her poems composed into music.

A Gala Celebration

Canada’s Poet Laureate, George Elliott Clarke, along with Vancouver Island’s Poet Laureates

The Nanaimo Museum, 100 Commercial Street April 5 at 1:00 p.m.
Partnered with The Wordstorm Society of the Arts

Yvonne Blomer
Poet Laureate, Victoria

Tina Biello
Poet Laureate, Nanaimo

Natalie Nickerson
Poet Laureate, Comox Valley

George Elliott Clarke
7th Parliamentary Poet Laureate

Kailey DeFehr
Youth Poet Laureate, Nanaimo

Agartu Ali
Youth Poet Laureate, Victoria
The Harbour City Photography Club presents: 
Photo Salon 2018

May 28 to June 15 (Monday to Friday) from 1:00 to 5:00 pm (The View Gallery @ VIU)

The Harbour City Photography Club is pleased to announce its annual Photo Salon will run this year May 28 to June 15 at The View Gallery, Vancouver Island University. Visitors to the gallery will receive a 1-hour parking permit at no charge. Admission to the gallery is also free.

The exhibit will feature some of the best work of club and non-club members from Duncan to Comox and Gabriola Island to Port Alberni. For more information, visit www.hcpclub.ca or contact photosalon@hcpclub.ca.

St. Andrew’s United Church Celebrates 125th Anniversary

St. Andrew’s United Church in Nanaimo’s Old City quarter is celebrating its 125th anniversary this year. The church’s corner stone was laid in 1893. Originally the building was a Presbyterian church. In 1925 a church merger took place and the building became a united church. It was initially called First United and in 1927 the name St. Andrew’s was chosen.

The 125th anniversary will be celebrated in a number of ways, with first rate entertainment high on the list.

On May 12, country singer/song writer Gary Fjellgaard will take to the stage at St. Andrew’s. Fjellgaard is a Juno Award winner and a member of the Country Music Hall of Fame. He will be accompanied by multi-Juno winner Valdy. This talented gentleman has been honoured as folk singer/entertainer of the year and is a member of the Order of Canada. St. Andrew’s sanctuary will also be the site of a special 125th anniversary service in July, with the date to be announced. The church has been carefully maintained over the past 125 years and is listed as a heritage building in the Historic Places of Canada Registry. For more information, visit www.standrewsunitednanaimo.com.
Nanaimo Concert Band presents:
2018 Show of Champions

April 27 & 28 at 7:00 pm (Port Theatre)

Nanaimo’s own award-winning Tidesmen Chorus will host a weekend-long event at the Port Theatre, featuring some of the very finest a cappella singing groups from south-western BC and northern Washington state.

This “mini” a cappella festival will see both male and mixed singing groups competing for places in a gala “Show of Champions”.

Get full details and ticket information by contacting a Tidesmen member (vpmarketing@tidesmen.com) or the Port Theatre Box Office at www.porttheatre.com.

Nanaimo Art Gallery presents:
Fulhame’s Map

Exhibit runs from April 7 to June 3

Fulhame’s Map is an exhibition named after the scientific work of Elizabeth Fulhame, an 18th century Scottish chemist who is known for her experiments with light sensitive materials. In 1794 she wrote that maps could be made using silver chemistry inscribed by the actions of light. This was essentially a photographic process, and the first recorded instance of such a discovery. Her work was remarkable, not only for the revolutionary potential of her ideas, but also for her ability to persevere in a society hostile to the achievements of women. While her experiments did not create lasting images, Fulhame’s concepts were fixed in the form of her essay With a View to a New Art of Dying and Painting, which became a catalyst for the development of photography.

Here on Vancouver Island, photography came along with the influx of wealth from prospecting and resource extraction. Hannah Maynard (1834–1918) was a Victoria BC photographer known locally for her pioneering work and experimental approach. She studied photography and opened Mrs. R. Maynard’s photographic gallery in Victoria 1862. By 1880 she was working with multiple exposures to create innovative self-portraits in which she played many roles. Her works were unprecedented in their vision and complexity, but her relatively isolated practice remains largely unrecognized.

Alongside a suite of Maynard’s self-portraits sourced from the British Columbia Archives, this exhibition features contemporary artworks that echo Fulhame and Maynard’s prescient ideas. In Fulhame’s Map, Fabiola Carranza, Sara Cwynar, Jessica Eaton, Allison Hrabluik, and Nicole Kelly Westman, experiment with both contemporary and historical modes of image production. Through vibrant and diverse approaches, these artists navigate stories and histories that surround images and their creation. Talking through the language of photography, Fulhame’s Map is the first project in a year in which Nanaimo Art Gallery asks the question: “How can we speak differently?” through exhibitions, educational programs and off-site events.

Get full details online at www.nanaimoartgallery.com.
What’s New in April

Nanaimo Historical Society presents: In Veronica’s Garden | A Social History of Milner Gardens

Thursday, April 12, 2018 at 7:30 pm (Bowen Park Complex)

Join us for a presentation from Margaret Cadwaladr, author of In Veronica’s Garden: The Social History of the Milner Gardens and Woodland, which is not only the story of the garden, but also reflects the larger than life personality of its creator.

For the better part of the 20th century curious travellers along the stretch of Island Highway 19(A) between Qualicum College and Eaglecrest Golf Club may have wondered about what might be within the predominately Douglas Fir forest that spanned the distance between the two landmark properties. As seen from the length of highway it parallels, the expansive oceanside grove is interrupted by only a single gravel lane that winds into and soon disappears within the 70 acre (28 ha) plot of old-growth coastal forest.

Eventually this road leads down to a bluff on the edge of the Georgia Strait where, in 1931, a seven bedroom home, designed with the architectural features of a Ceylonese tea plantation manor, was built for the sister and mother of Qualicum Beach luminary, General Noel Money. By 1937, Edmonton-based lawyer and businessman Ray Milner purchased the estate as a getaway recreational property. After Milner's first wife died in 1952, he married Veronica -- the creative force that transformed the estate into what it is today.

Veronica Milner was a British aristocrat and a descendant of the First Duke of Marlborough, and so also related to Winston Churchill and Diana, Princess of Wales. House guests she entertained at Milner Estate included Prince Charles and the late Princess Diana, as well as Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip. Twice widowed after Ray died in 1975, Veronica stayed cloistered in the estate and attended to by servants and gardeners -- often stretched to cling to the lifestyle of extravagant expectations to which she had grown accustomed. She died at home in 1998, her ashes spread both in Milner Gardens and her ancestral home in Ireland.

These monthly presentations are free to attend and open to everyone.

For more information, visit the Nanaimo Historical Society’s Facebook page.

Affordable Housing Strategy Expo

Saturday, April 28 from 1:00 to 4:00 pm (St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church 4235 Departure Bay Road)

Come share your ideas for Nanaimo’s new Affordable Housing Strategy! The family-friendly event will feature information about the current housing situation in Nanaimo and ask residents for input on how to create more affordable housing in our community. No need to register, just show up and enjoy snacks, door prizes and engaging conversation about this important issue.


Connect With Us

Our office is open Monday to Friday, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm.

Phone: 250-755-4483
In Person: Service & Resource Centre 411 Dunsmuir Street, Nanaimo BC

Email: cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca
By Mail: 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6