Coast Salish House Posts Unveiled at Departure Bay Beach

Snuneymuxw artist Joel Good shares his art and culture with Nanaimo

On Wednesday, June 20, the City of Nanaimo and Snuneymuxw First Nation gathered at Departure Bay Beach to unveil the Coast Salish House Posts. The collaborative project is a major work of public art created by Snuneymuxw artist Joel Good under the guidance of his father, William Good. The 16 foot posts are topped with an Eagle and a Raven. The House Posts share stories of the Snuneymuxw Traditional Territory. The Posts face the ocean to mark the Snuneymuxw First Nation traditional territory and greet visitors as they arrive in Departure Bay.

The Posts were commissioned by the City in 2016 as part of the Departure Bay Walkway upgrades.

The Rock Dragon Returns!

Stolen sculpture has been recovered

In late June, Rock Dragon went missing from Maffeo Sutton Park overnight. The missing dragon captured the media’s attention and we asked that the dragon be returned to any City facility, no questions asked. In a surprising turn of events, the dragon was found one week later in the North Nanaimo library, wrapped in blankets! Once the dragon is assessed for damage, it will be returned to the park (and well-secured) for residents to enjoy. The sculpture will remain on display for one year, as part of the City’s Temporary Public Art Program.
What’s New in July / August

2018 High School Poetry Competition Student Winners

The winners of the 2018 High School Poetry Competition attended the June 11 Council meeting to read their poems. You can view the meeting video online here.

The 2018 theme was “Out of Darkness”.

Congratulations to these student poets! And thank you to all participating teachers and librarians for encouraging their students to participate.

1st Place | Untitled
by Jesse Nicholas Brittain
Many a day and many a night
I waited for you in evening’s light
For you, the person walking past
Who knew that you would fall so fast?
But will you fall or will you rise
To claim your most amazing prize?
Either way, I truly pray
That I do not stay here, day by day
Must I be trapped in my ghostly tomb
Waiting, always, for my second doom?
This may sound strange to you, my friend
That you will have a second end.
But do not fret. Please don’t despair;
Death has a rather... Charming air.
You will have friends, I guarantee,
You'll lie with all of them, and me.
Enough about them. Let us talk about you.
It’s time for you to pay your due.
For as we speak, Death comes this way.
And, just like us, now you must pay.
For all you’ve done to hurt the weak,
And make the other’s lives so bleak.
Now here is death, and there’s his kiss.
Now you’re with us; eternal bliss.
Profanity? My word! So rude!
What an alarming attitude.
It’s not my fault you’re here; it’s yours.
Behind these truly cold stone doors.
Get used to it. You’re trapped with me.
Welcome, my friend, to eternity.

2nd Place | Open Curtains; She is My Moon
by Isabella Cooper
Curtains open, an escape awaits me
But as She hushes, bringing comfort to my pillow,
She ruffles my Shepard’s bristled fur,
She chills me with her brisk sighs,
She hollows me of pain and grants me little...
Yet I can only remain awake, pondering your hidden riddle
And only by the sea, where the waves provide freedom
Can I distance myself from your image, your words, your presence
And allow myself a chance at greed
For I am rarely a selfish person
But for just this once, I will only think of me, myself and I;
And how She, like the moonlight, shimmers this Salish Sea so invitingly
And how easily I could just
Sail
Away

3rd Place | Ocean of Jubilation
by Rachel Ward
Push me down to the sinking underground
The venom of your tongue immerses me
Below the water’s edge where no voice is found
Is this what it costs for me to be free?
Being all alone, where shall I now roam?
I’ve reached the bottom, the light is waning
No more turning back, this is my new home
A whole new world is in the making.
So crown me the queen of the shameless surf
My blessed reign will endure forevermore
I, the sole nominee here where there is no turf
My one command is that there be no war.
So will I rise back up to the surface?
No I will remain to serve my purpose.
What’s New in July / August

The Nanaimo Child Development Centre presents: 2018 Silly Boat Regatta

Sunday, July 15 (Maffeo Sutton Park)

Every year this event brings more fun for people of all ages with entertainment, food vendors, free activities for children and lots of silly racing. Full details available online www.sillyboat.com.

Can you volunteer? The Silly Boat Regatta would not happen without all you amazing volunteers. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Tracy at tracy@nanaimocdc.com.
What’s New in July / August

2018 Dragon Boat Festival

July 6, 7, 8 (Maffeo Sutton Park)

It’s WET. It’s WILD. Fun for the entire family! Save on Foods presents the 16th Annual Nanaimo Dragon Boat Festival July 6, 7 & 8, 2018, at the spectacular Maffeo Sutton Park.

Dragon boat racing is one of the most amazing sports you will ever get to witness so take the time to come down and cheer on the 60+ teams from the Island, Western Canada and the western U.S. “It’s the top draw, it’s the number one,” said Dan Brady, president of the Nanaimo Hospitality Association.

Then stay for the Shriners pancake breakfast, food trucks, Stones and Carnation ceremonies, Longwood Brewery beer gardens, and more. View a full schedule of events @ www.nanaimodragonboat.com/festival/itinerary.

Pacific Coast Stage Company presents:

2018 Nanaimo Fringe Festival

August 9 to 18 (various locations)

100% of ticket proceeds go directly to the artists. Artists are chosen through a lottery. View the full list of shows @ www.nanaimofringe.com/2018-festival-shows.

Nanaimo Musem presents:

Summer Family Activities

The Nanaimo Museum has plenty of activities planned to keep your family busy this summer, including:

- Poetry & Protests (drop in kids program)
- Cemetery Tours (July 5, August 2)
- Sea Salt & River Rocks (drop in kids program)
- Coast Salish weaving (Crafternoon series)
- Drum making

For full details or to register for an activity, visit www.nanaimomuseum.ca/whats-happening/events-presentations.

Commercial Street Night Market

Every Thursday from 5:00 pm to 9:00 pm, June 21 to August 30

Commercial Street from Terminal Avenue to Church and Chapel Streets will be closed to vehicular traffic as artisan vendor booths, crafters, food producers and downtown merchants line the streets selling everything from food to crafts to curios. There will also be a Food Truck Circle on Diana Krall Plaza. Live entertainment will be staged at several points and a variety of family activities like bouncy castles and climbing walls will be offered to visitors. Over 100 vendors are projected to attend weekly. Booths and festivities run from 5:00 to 9:00 pm every Thursday. For more information, or to request a vendor application form, visit http://nanaimonight.market.
Heritage Facade Grant Approved for 499 Wallace Street

Council has approved a Heritage Façade Grant for 499 Wallace Street (The Vault Café – Merchant’s Bank of Canada) that will go toward repainting the exterior of the building, and installation of exterior lighting and wrought iron flower boxes.

History of 499 Wallace Street

Built in 1912, the Merchant’s Bank is Nanaimo’s sole example of the eclectic, elegant Free Renaissance style, inspired by Italian churches and palaces, and popular in North America from the late 19th to early 20th centuries. The exterior was faced with a combination of a banded brick base and quoining that framed the edges and structural openings. A later coat of stucco obscured these features but some of the facade details, including the prominent cornices typical of this style, are still discernible. The elaborately detailed, round-arched windows, featuring radiating Mullions and brick keystones, angled corner entry and ornate cast plaster ceiling are also substantially intact.

The Merchant’s Bank is significant for its association with Francis Mawson Rattenbury, British Columbia’s premier architect of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Rattenbury also designed the Nanaimo and Nelson Court Houses, the provincial Parliament Buildings and numerous other residential and institutional buildings. The building’s prominent corner location and exceptional windows make it a highly visible landmark.

For more information on Nanaimo’s heritage buildings, view the Community Heritage Register online.

Child Development Centre and the South End Community Association present: FOOD ART FUN: Art in the Food Forest

Sunday, August 12 from 12:00 to 4:00 pm (South End Community Food Forest, between Farquhar and Sabiston Street)

Food Art Fun: Art in the Food Forest is a celebration of Art, the Environment, and the Community! 2018 is the 3rd year of this ALL AGES ALL FUN annual event! Part of Haliburton Street is closed off for adults and kids to run free, make art, listen to great music and make community.

Bring the whole family to enjoy a local street market, live music, storytelling, bike repair, face painting, giant bubbles, hoops, FREE hotdogs, arts and crafts, and much much more! For more information, visit the Facebook event page @ https://www.facebook.com/events/2154469744780970/.
What’s New in July / August

Nanaimo Art Gallery presents:
The Orchids / Had the Look of Flowers That Are Looked At

Exhibit runs June 23 to July 22

Each species of orchid has cunningly evolved its appearance, and its fragrance, to attract a specific pollinator to aid in sexual reproduction. Yet somehow they also attract us, and our encounters with them have shaped both botanical and human cultures. In Arvo Leo’s film The Orchids / Had the Look of Flowers That Are Looked At these flowering plants assert their agency in a human-centric world.

Plants and films both need light and time to exist, and through stop-motion animation, cyanotype photography, and sculptural installation, orchids spring to life, meddling with the environment they’re constrained to; frolicking, creating, and destroying with self-determination and amusement. Curated by Jesse Birch and Emma Sise (Image: Arvo Leo, Vanda Orchid With Knives, 2018, digital photograph).

Find out more @ www.nanaimogallery.ca.

Loyal Nanaimo Bathtub Society presents:
Nanaimo Marine Festival

July 20, 21, 22 in Downtown Nanaimo

Since the inaugural race of 1967, the City of Nanaimo has been home to the Great International World Championship Bathtub Race and Nanaimo Marine Festival.

There is a full schedule of events happening all weekend, including free events for the whole family all weekend * arts & crafts fair * kiddies karnival * food vendors * a children’s craft tent, wakeboard demonstrations and more!

Parade (Saturday, July 21 @ 10:30 am) The SHAW Sailpast is a fun parade featuring the World’s Largest Bathtub, showcasing the racing Tubs and their sponsors and a variety of Community, Commercial and Military entries.

Fireworks (Saturday, July 21 @ 10:00 pm) Award-winning fireworks display simulcast to music on 102.3 FM The Wave. It’s a signature event as part of the Nanaimo Marine Festival, the night before the World Championship Bathtub Races.

The Big Race (Sunday, July 22 @ 11:00 am) Again this year, the race will start and end in Nanaimo Harbour. The finish line is below the Frank Ney statue at Maffeo Sutton park!

View the full schedule of events @ www.bathtubbing.com/bathtub-weekend/calendar-events.
What's New in July / August

2018/19 Street Banners Installed

Local artist Robert Plante's banner design now installed on major streets throughout Nanaimo.

In late 2017, the City of Nanaimo invited all amateur and professional artists to submit designs for the 2018/19 Street Banner Design Competition. Submissions were received by eight artists. The successful banner design, by local artist Robert Plante, has now been installed on lamp posts on major streets throughout Nanaimo.

Crimson Coast Dance Society presents: 20th Annual InFrinGinG Dance Festival

Celebrate diversity through dance. InFrinGinG Dance Festival celebrates diversity’s beauty and represents the people who live here, our neighbors. Live, learn, laugh and move together in unity, awe and with cake! InFrinGinG opens with a new work by Holly Bright, The Sun and the Moon, based on the story by Snuneymuxw author, Celestine Aleck. It features an original score by Andrew Balfour and performances by local artists, Genevieve Johnson, Nicola Birdsell and others.

Special guests, Guinean artists, Kalabanté, offer a 3-day workshop; a free, outdoor, teaser-demo Friday; and a full show, Won’ma Afrique! These artists were discovered by Cirque du Soleil as they honed their unparalleled acrobatic skills on the beaches of their homeland. They join us to deepen our experience of African dance, drum, song and joy. Locals, Samantha Letourneau, Lindy Sisson and newcomer, Syrian director, Nabil Sayes, present informal works at the White Room. Free performances begin Friday at Maffeo Sutton Park with VooDooDave’s African dance and drum circles and continue Saturday and Sunday with dances of Polynesia, Gulf States, Syria, Egypt and more. YOU close the weekend as part of our annual Flash Mob and Splash Mob! For information and registration, visit www.crimsoncoastdance.org.

Connect With Us

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

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