What’s New in January

Seeking artist proposals for Street Banner Design Competition

Theme for 2018: City of Nanaimo 10th Anniversary as a Cultural Capital of Canada

The City of Nanaimo invites all amateur and professional artists to submit their designs to the Street Banner Design Contest. The banners will be installed on major streets throughout the City of Nanaimo in the summer of 2018 and 2019. Everyone is welcome to participate.

Deadline for submissions is Friday, January 26, 2018 (no later than 3:00 pm). View the full list of design specifications and submission requirements online (www.nanaimo.ca > Doing Business > Bid Opportunities).

Apply for 2018 Downtown Event Funding

Deadline for applications is Monday, January 29, 2019 (no later than 4:00 pm)

The City of Nanaimo is now accepting applications from those seeking financial assistance to support downtown Nanaimo events through the Downtown Event Revitalization Fund. The fund supports events and initiatives that attract residents and visitors to the downtown.

Applicants must be an incorporated non-profit society or community organization, active for at least a full year prior to application, and based on Nanaimo. Individuals are also eligible to apply.

Deadline for applications is Monday, January 29, 2019 (no later than 4:00 pm). Please read all guidelines and criteria prior to applying for this grant (www.nanaimo.ca > Culture & Environment > Grants > Downtown Event Revitalization Funding). Contact us directly if you have questions.

Youth Poet Laureate term extended to 2 years

On December 4, Council approved an extension to the Youth Poet Laureate term from one to two years. Our inaugural Youth Poet Laureate, Kailey DeFehr, will remain in the position for the extended one year.
What’s New in January

Take a Heritage Walk Through Time

Use these self-guided heritage tour brochures to take a heritage walk (bike or drive) through time, all at your own pace.

- Downtown
- Newcastle
- South End
- Nob Hill/Chinatown
- Harewood
- Cemeteries, Burial Areas & Memorial Sites
- Old City
- A Bike Ride Through Time: Downtown

Copies of these brochures are available at City facilities or by delivery at request by contacting us directly at cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca. You can also view them online (www.nanaimo.ca > Culture & Environment > Heritage).

Do you have a good story to tell? Come be a speaker at the next Living History Speaker Series!

March 8, 15, 22 and 29 from 6:30 pm to 8:30 pm

The City of Nanaimo’s Community & Cultural Planning Department has entered into a partnership with a group of non-profit agencies and the Government of Canada to put on a speaker series called “Living History.” Now in its second year, the project offers Nanaimo residents aged 55 and over the opportunity to share their personal stories to a live audience in a public venue. Our stories help to form our collective identity, and we are looking for your help in telling the stories of our community. The stories can be personal or about historical events that you took part in, or heard about from your parents.

We invite you to tell your story at the Living History speaker series hosted by the City of Nanaimo. The 2018 series will take place on the last four Thursday evenings in March; 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th from 6:30 to 8:00 pm. The series will be held at the Wellington Community Hall in the Meeting Hall (3922 Corunna Ave).

Looking for Speakers: We are looking for three speakers for each of those nights that can speak for approximately 15 minutes and then answer a few questions from the audience. If you’re not available in March but interested, contact us! We will be hosting a second series later in 2018.

If you would like to take part in the project please notify the project coordinator Paul Manly either via email at paulmanly@shaw.ca or by phone at 250 729–1254.

Jean Burns Kiosk Wrap Installed

Next time you are wandering through the China Steps, check out the new kiosk wrap featuring historic photos of the Jean Burns building.
Nanaimo poet laureate Tina Biello launches new poetry anthology

Excerpt from Nanaimo Bulletin. View the full article online at www.nanaimobulletin.com/entertainment/nanaimo-poet-laureate-tina-biello-launches-new-poetry-anthology/

Nanaimo poet laureate Tina Biello has wrangled together 39 poets from all over Vancouver Island for a new collection of work reflecting upon Canada’s sesquicentennial.

The book, 150x39: A Poetry Anthology, was done in collaboration with the Nanaimo Harbourfront Library with the sum of poets meant to represent each branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library system.

“For any writer it’s amazing to see your poem or your work in print, I know it was for me when I first was published, so I thought it would be a great opportunity for poets, too,” Biello said of the project.

“We had a lot of submissions . . . we had to really sit down and choose. It was hard. It was really hard. It speaks to how people are really engaged in poetry, which I was so excited about.”

Librarian Jonathon Bigelow said he and Biello received more than 120 poems after the plan for the anthology was first announced in the summer. The pieces were judged on content, form, punctuation and formatting. Biello said “people really responded” to the concept.

Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate attends Governor General’s Literary Awards

Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate, Tina Biello, was invited to attend the Governor General’s Literary Award Ceremony on November 29. The Governor General’s Literary Awards recognize great Canadian books, promoting Canadian literature, and encourage Canadians to read. The 14 winners in 2 official languages and 7 categories reflect Canada’s rich diversity.

Congratulations, Tina! Learn more about the awards at www.ggbooks.ca/#winners.