April is Poetry Month!

How will you celebrate?
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.

This month’s newsletter outlines some of the City-led poetry initiatives taking place throughout the month.

Poet Laureate Reading Series

Saturday, April 20 @ 1:00 pm
(Vancouver Island Regional Library - Harbourfront Branch)
Join Poet Laureate Tina Biello for her bi-monthly poetry reading series. April’s featured poets are The Island Five: Susan Alexander, Terry Ann Carter, Linda Thompson, Barbara Pelman and Richard Osler.

Seeking poems for Poetry in Transit Program

Deadline for submissions is Tuesday, April 30
We’re looking for your short poems (or excerpts from larger poems), 3-5 lines (50 words or less, PDFs only) for our Poetry in Transit Program. Write and submit your poems based on the theme Caring for Others for the chance to have it displayed on a City bus.

View full submission details online at www.nanaimo.ca > Culture & Environment > Poetry > Poetry in Transit Program.

Get your FREE tickets for the 2019 Culture & Heritage Awards Ceremony

Join us as we celebrate the best of Nanaimo’s culture and heritage sector with an evening of recognition and celebration. Everyone is welcome to attend. Find out who’s being recognized on Page 3 of this newsletter.

Tickets are FREE but must be reserved in advance online at www.porttheatre.com > Events > April > 2019 Culture & Heritage Awards Ceremony, or directly by contacting the Port Theatre Box Office.
What’s New in April

Nanaimo’s new Youth Poet Laureate: Valina Zanetti

Nanaimo’s next literary youth ambassador has been named!

“Have they seen the magical forests, filled with nature’s beautiful souls?
Have they visited famous landmarks, and if they haven’t, have they that as a goal?”

In Valina Zanetti’s poem, The Cardinal, she explores a bird’s journey and reaching new heights. On February 4, Council appointed Valina as Nanaimo’s next Youth Poet Laureate, and she will be exploring a new journey of her own. Valina was chosen for her ability to clearly articulate her goals as the Youth Poet Laureate. Many of her ideas have great aspects and speak of the importance of partnerships and collaborations.

“Youth nowadays have a lot to say, so I am excited to help let these passionate young minds be heard,” said Valina. The City’s Youth Poet Laureate program is a connection to Nanaimo’s youth, and helps to inspire strong youth voices within our community. While filling the role, Valina will be mentored by the Poet Laureate and will be a literary youth ambassador for Nanaimo. Responsibilities will include public readings, coordinating a community engagement project to engage youth, writing Nanaimo-themed poetry, and serving as a judge for the Nanaimo High School Poetry Writing Contest. Valina is currently a high school student and will fill the role of Nanaimo’s Youth Poet Laureate for a two-year term.

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.

Are you feeling poetic? Send us your poem about a place in Nanaimo and it could be featured on the Nanaimo Poetry Map! View the map (or submit your poem) at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetrymap. There is no deadline for submissions.

Thank you to poets who participated in the Youth Poetry Anthology

“Beyond This City’s Streets” to be unveiled in April

Join us as we unveil Nanaimo’s first ever youth poetry anthology video (details to be announced at a later date).

Limited copies of the final collection will also be available in print from the Vancouver Island Regional Library (Harbourfront Branch).

Thank you for attending Heritage Summit

We wanted to thank everyone for attending the 2019 Heritage Summit on February 20. The evening opened with a poem by Tina Biello (City of Nanaimo Poet Laureate), followed by topical presentations by Christine Meutzner (Nanaimo Archives) and Aimee Greenaway (Nanaimo Museum), and a roundtable discussion with culture and heritage groups in attendance.

Here’s a copy of the notes in case you missed it. Thanks again everyone for your participation and interest in Nanaimo’s heritage.
What’s New in April

2019 Culture & Heritage Awards Ceremony

Thursday, April 18, 2019 @ 7:00 pm (doors open at 6:30 pm)
(Port Theatre, Nanaimo BC)

On Thursday, April 18 the City of Nanaimo will recognize the best of Nanaimo’s culture and heritage with the 2019 Culture & Heritage Awards Ceremony by honouring these outstanding community members:

Mr. Dean Chadwick - Honour in Culture
He has been chosen as the recipient of the 2019 Honour in Culture Award, created to recognize individuals, groups and corporations known for their dedication to and support of the development of Nanaimo’s cultural fabric.

Mr. Nico Rhodes - Emerging Cultural Leader
He will receive the 2019 Emerging Cultural Leader Award, created to recognize up-and-coming, Nanaimo-based cultural leaders under the age of 30 who have contributed significantly to the cultural life in Nanaimo.

Nanaimo Historical Society - Honour in Heritage
The society will receive the 2019 Honour in Heritage Award, created to recognize individuals, groups and corporations who demonstrate outstanding support, advocacy, promotion or interpretation of Nanaimo’s heritage and history.

The Culture & Heritage Awards have been important for community building and partnerships in Nanaimo since 1998. The awards bring awareness to the variety of the cultural activity in our community, and build pride in the cultural and heritage accomplishments of individuals and organizations. Learn more about past award recipients and their achievements at www.nanaimo.ca > Culture & Environment > Awards.
What’s New in April

Indigenous public art stolen from Downtown Nanaimo

“Spindle Whorl” stolen from Victoria Crescent

On Thursday, March 21, 2019 a downtown Indigenous public art project titled “Spindle Whorl” was forcefully removed and stolen from the corner of Albert Street and Victoria Crescent. “Although incidents like this are rare, when they do occur it is extremely frustrating. Not only has the artwork been stolen, but an iconic art project has been taken from the community”, said Chris Barfoot, Culture & Heritage Coordinator.

“Spindle Whorl” was carved by artist Joel Good in 2013 as part of the City’s Temporary Public Art program. Since 2013, it was displayed in Maffeo Sutton Park for public viewing before it was moved to its new permanent location at the corner of Albert Street and Victoria Crescent in April 2015. The project was added to the City’s permanent inventory of public art in 2015 as part of some enhancements in the downtown area. As shared by the artist, historically used as a tool for spinning wool into yarn, the spindle whorl has become an iconic symbol for the Snuneymuxw First Nation. Carvings in relief depict family stories and legends.

Members of the community who have information regarding this act of theft or location of the missing artwork are asked to contact the Crimestoppers at 1-800-222-8477 or online at www.nanaimocrimestoppers.com.

Council approves new temporary artworks for 2019

Council approved ten new pieces of public art as part of the 2019 Temporary Outdoor Public Art Program from the total 28 submissions received from artists across Canada. The new artworks will be installed in May 2019 as part of Public Art Week.

OUT FROM OUT WHERE by Bryan Faubert
SPRING by Clasina Van Bemmel
THE RAVEN’S KEY and OCEAN IN MOTION by Fred Dobbs
THE CONVERSATION BENCH by Samuel Camp
EXHAUSTED TREE by George Sabra
TRANSITIONS by Angellos Glaros
QUOTES by Maije Lavergne
THE NANAIMO LEAP PROJECT by Marc Walter
FISH WHEEL by Trinita Waller

Connect With Us

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

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