May 19 to 25 is Public Art Week!

Temporary Public Art installations have already begun in preparation of Public Art Week! This year, ten new pieces are being added to City parks and public spaces and we hope you get the chance to check them out.

1. **OUT FROM OUT WHERE** by Bryan Faubert (installed!)
2. **SPRING** by Clasina Van Bemmel (coming soon!)
3. **THE RAVEN’S KEY** by Fred Dobbs (coming soon!)
4. **OCEAN IN MOTION** by Fred Dobbs (installed!)
5. **THE CONVERSATION BENCH** by Samuel Camp (installed!)
6. **EXHAUSTED TREE** by George Sabra (coming soon!)
7. **TRANSITIONS** by Angellos Glaros (coming soon!)
8. **IMPERMANENCE** by Maije Lavergne (installed!)
9. **LEAP** by Marc Walter (installed!)
10. **FISH WHEEL** by Trinita Waller (coming soon!)

The 2019 Temporary Public Art Tour brochure featuring the locations and descriptions all of the fantastic new art pieces will be available soon! Begin your self-guided tour at Maffeo Sutton Park and use the brochure to guide your walking route.

Brochures will be available at City facilities or can be mailed directly upon request to cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca.

You can also follow along with the online Public Art Mobile Tour app using your mobile phone (m.nanaimo.ca/art).

New Street Banners to be Installed

A new set of street banners will be installed on lamp posts on major streets throughout town! In late 2018, the City of Nanaimo invited all amateur and professional artists to submit designs for the 2019/20 Street Banner Design Competition. **Amy Pye (Pye Design)** was selected as the successful artist. Keep an eye out for the new design on a street near you and as a feature in next month’s newsletter!

View the City of Nanaimo’s Public Art Inventory online at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/publicart.
What's New in May

Anniversary of Mining Disaster

May 3 marked the Coal Mining Disaster of 1887

Flags located at City of Nanaimo facilities were lowered to half mast on May 3 to mark the anniversary of the coal mining disaster of 1887 that took 150 lives. The explosions of the No. 1 Esplanade Mine are known as the worst mining disaster in BC's history and second worst in Canada.

Photo of No. 1 Mine (Courtesy of Nanaimo Community Archives)

NO. 1 ESPLANADE MINE DISASTER

On this site in 1883, the Vancouver Coal Company opened the No. 1 Esplanade Mine with workings that later extended beyond Newcastle and Protection Islands and the Nanaimo River. Workers at the mine produced 18 million tons of coal, more than any other mine on Vancouver Island, by the time it was closed in 1938. For many years, the mine was the major employer in Nanaimo. At its peak production, as many as 1,000 men and 150 horses and mules worked at the mine.

On May 3, 1887, at 5:55 pm, two explosions in quick succession, and the resulting fire and afterdamp (carbon monoxide), killed 149 mineworkers and one rescuer. Only seven men emerged alive from the evening shift. It remains the worst mining accident in B.C. history.

Fifty-three of the miners that were killed were Chinese. Unfortunately, the practice of the day was to assign payroll numbers to Chinese miners rather than to use their names. Consequently, the names of the miners are unknown and the only record available is that of the coroner’s inquest which listed the miners by numbers assigned by the Vancouver Coal Company.

The majority of the Chinese miners were members of the Mah clan and came from the villages of Nam Long, Sheng Long, and Sun Gup near Canton City in Guangzhou, a southern province of China. These men immigrated to Canada to build both the Canadian Pacific and Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railways. Upon completion of the railways, they took whatever work was available in the local lumber mills, powder works and coal mines. This is considered the worst disaster to befall the Mah clan outside of China.

This interpretive sign is currently installed at the corner of Esplanade and Milton Street

Miner’s names and No. 1 Esplanade Mine photo courtesy of the Nanaimo Community Archives. Information on Chinese miners courtesy of Dick Mah. Enacted June 26, 1999 by the South End Community Association and Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission with the financial assistance of the City of Nanaimo, Comox Electronic Ltd., Van-Kam Freightways Ltd., and several other community-minded corporate citizens.

"Brighter, fairer far than living, with no trace of woe or pain; Robed in everlasting beauty, shall we see thee once again. By the light that never fadeth, underneath eternal skies; When the dawn of resurrection, breaks o'er deathless Paradise."

Taken from miner’s epitaph.

THEY ARE REMEMBERED

Thomas Allen
G. Bartolo
Edward Benton
George S. Bertram
Herbert Boulbroaky
George Biggs
Jonathan Blundell
William Bone
George Bowden
Jonathan Branchley
Robert Bunting
Arvid Bjurling
William Burns
James Byers
James Campbell
William Campbell
William L. Coughane
Michael Corcoran
William L. Davis
James Davey
William Davey
Daniel Dawson
Thomas Dowson
Charles Drake
Peter Ducea
Arthur Ellis
David Ellis
Thomas Evans
John C. Fallon
Andres Filippo
Joseph Forrest
William Gilbert
Thomas Gorman
William Hugue
James Hoggin
William Hoy
Samuel Hudson
Thomas Hughes
Andrew Hunter
James Jobster
Edward John
Nicholas Johns
John Johnson
Evan Jones
Hudson Lee
Henry Lee
Abraham Lewis
John Linn
William Luyke, Jr.
William Luyke St.

Michael Lyons
James Lyons
John Malcolm
Thomas Martin
Frederick Martin
Roderick McDonald
Alexander McDonald
John McCaffie
Malcolm McLean
John Mckin St.
Arthur Meakins
James Milton
David Morgan
John W. Morgan
William Morris
John Motton
Andrew Morton
Andrew Muir
Archibald Muir
Samuel H. Myers
John Mylies
Robert Nicholson
George Old
Thomas Perry
Benjamin Popplewell

John Richards
William Ridley
William Scales
George Simmons
Allan Simley
John Smith
John J. Smith
William Stephenson
John Stevens
John Stove
Robert Stove
James Thomas
Joseph Thompson
John Thompson
Frank Tally
Joseph Watson
John Henry Westfield
Edward Williams
Caton Willis
Copley Woobank
John Woobank
John Zermani

CHINESE MINERS


This interpretive sign is currently installed at the corner of Esplanade and Milton Street.

"Brighter, fairer far than living, with no trace of woe or pain; Robed in everlasting beauty, shall we see thee once again. By the light that never fadeth, underneath eternal skies; When the dawn of resurrection, breaks o'er deathless Paradise."

Taken from miner’s epitaph.

"Brighter, fairer far than living, with no trace of woe or pain; Robed in everlasting beauty, shall we see thee once again. By the light that never fadeth, underneath eternal skies; When the dawn of resurrection, breaks o'er deathless Paradise."

Taken from miner’s epitaph.
What’s New in May

NEW & UPDATED! Take a Heritage Walk Through Time

We recently updated a number of our self-guided heritage tour brochures! Take a self-guided heritage walk (bike or drive) through time, all at your own pace. Copies of these brochures are available at City facilities or by delivery upon request by contacting us directly at cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca.

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

Farewell to Youth Poet Laureate Kailey DeFehr and Launch of the Youth Poetry Anthology

May 31 from 5:00 to 6:00 pm (Vancouver Island Regional Library Harbourfront Branch)
Join us as we say ‘farewell’ to our inaugural Youth Poet Laureate Kailey DeFehr (2017/18) as she wraps up her term, and preview the launch of Nanaimo’s very first youth poetry anthology. For details, contact cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca.

Check out the Nanaimo Community Archives

Find historic info & records online
Established in 1991, the Nanaimo Community Archives acquires, preserves and provides public access to the historical records of Nanaimo. Online (www.nanaimoarchives.ca) you can find historical videos and images, transcripts and recordings, mine deaths & accidents, links to helpful resources, & so much more.

Check out the YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/channel/UCx4IkFAX0RKmOEt9KwQck5A.

Morden Mine Receives Provincial Funding for Restoration

The Friends of Morden Mine Society is excited to announce that BC Parks & BC Heritage have granted $1.4 million in funding for the stabilization and restoration of the Morden Mine headframe and tipple. The project began on April 15 and will take approximately one year to complete. For safety reasons, the park will be closed intermittently during this time. International conservation specialists Heritageworks will manage the project. Based on Vancouver Island, Heritageworks’ many successful regional projects include the restoration of the Kinsol Trestle and the Bastion. The Friends of Morden Mine apologize to everyone (including four-legged friends) who use the park and trail for any inconvenience caused by the closure. For project details, contact Heritageworks’ Site Superintendent Steve Lawrence at 250-701-2585 or BC Parks Liaison Monica Valdes-Garcia at 250-954-4607.

Stay updated on progress of the project by checking the Friends of Morden Mine’s Facebook page at www.facebook.com/mordenmine.
What’s New in May

Bastion Opens on May 18

The Bastion, Nanaimo’s most prominent historic landmark, will open for tours on Saturday, May 18th from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm daily until Labour Day.

The three floors of the Bastion were skillfully crafted using traditional wood working techniques by workers of the Hudson’s Bay Company. Over the years, politics and land deals saw this sturdy wooden fort moved twice. Today it is Nanaimo’s most recognizable landmark. While the Bastion’s timbers are original, the interior represents activities of the early mining post from 1853 – 1862. Today, this former Hudson’s Bay Company building is a symbol of Nanaimo’s history. The Bastion is a “must see” destination for visitors to Nanaimo.

For details on the Bastion and other Museum offerings, visit www.nanaimomuseum.ca.

Celebrate International Museum Day with FREE ADMISSION to the Nanaimo Museum on May 18!

History of the Bastion

1852 | The first log cabins are built in Nanaimo and the first coal mining operation is established under the direction of the Hudson’s Bay Company. To protect miners and their families, a Company ship was anchored in Nanaimo’s harbour, however this expense soon led to construction of the Bastion.

1853 | Construction is started on the Bastion, which is completed the following year, in 1854.

1855 | A large flotilla of Kwakwaka’wakw paddling from the north appears in the harbour, sending residents to seek refuge in the third floor of the Bastion, one of the few recorded defensive uses of the Bastion.

1859 | The Hudson’s Bay Company’s licence for exclusive trade is not renewed, and three years later the governors of the Company sell the Nanaimo lands, buildings, machinery and mineral rights.

1863-1891 | The Bastion is used intermittently by the colonial and later city governments, and, until 1871, is even used on occasion as a temporary jail.

1891 | The Bastion is saved from demolition by a contribution from the city of $175 which moves it across Front Street.

1900 | City of Nanaimo relinquishes its interest in the Bastion.

1906 | Management of the Bastion is taken over by the Native Sons of British Columbia, a fraternal organization dedicated to preserving BC history and pioneer values and traditions.

1974 | The Bastion is moved for a second time as Front Street is widened.

1985 | The Bastion Museum Society takes over management of the Bastion.

1986 | Renovation work is done on the Bastion and noon cannon firings begin.

1992 | Exhibits and meeting rooms from the Native Sons of British Columbia are removed as structural and fire safety upgrades are done.

1997 | Management of the Bastion is transferred to the City of Nanaimo, and the Nanaimo Museum recreates the Bastion’s interior to represent how it may have looked in the 1850s.

2010 | The Bastion undergoes major restoration work, and for over six months is completely dismantled with several original and substituted timbers replaced.

2014 | The Bastion was one of the best 100 buildings in BC, according to BC’s Best Buildings Contest. The historic structure placed third in the Vancouver Island region. BC’s Best Buildings Contest was hosted by the Architectural Foundation of BC.

Text courtesy of www.nanaimomuseum.ca

Photo courtesy of Nanaimo Community Archives
What’s New in May

Thank You for Supporting the 2019 Culture & Heritage Awards Ceremony!

Thank you to all of the recipients, performers, sponsors, volunteers and guests who participated in the City’s 2019 Culture & Heritage Awards Ceremony on April 18 at the Port Theatre! Without your help, these awards simply would not be possible.

Hosted by Councillor Ian Thorpe, guests were treated to special appearances by Snuneymuxw Elder Lolly Good and City of Nanaimo Poet Laureate Tina Biello, and entertained by some of Nanaimo’s best up-and-coming youth and local talent who delivered a truly amazing night of entertainment: Wellington Secondary Jazz Band, youth strings ensemble ‘Fiddelium,’ youth dance group ‘Royelle’ of Vibrant Dance Studio, and a special duet by award recipients Dean Chadwick and Nico Rhodes.

Congratulations to the Recipients

View recipient videos, award history and past recipients online at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/awards

Mr. Nico Rhodes, 2019 Emerging Cultural Leader Award

Nico is an award-winning musician, arranger, composer and musical director who shares his talents generously with all ages and skill levels. Having musically directed 28 long run stage musicals by age 29, Nico has become one of the youngest and most sought after musical directors in Canada. Nico is actively engaged in Nanaimo’s community, teaching piano and voice, serving as a choir director, performing at local seniors’ facilities and coaching refugee newcomers in math and English.

Nanaimo Historical Society, 2019 Honour in Heritage Award

The Nanaimo Historical Society was recognized for their dedication and work to preserving and sharing Nanaimo’s history. Established in 1953, the Society is the longest running history and heritage organization in the City of Nanaimo. For over 65 years, the Society has honoured and promoted Nanaimo history through book publications, speaker series, walking tours, local issue advocacy and by their crucial role in establishing the Nanaimo Museum, Nanaimo Community Archives and the Heritage Advisory Committee.

Mr. Dean Chadwick, 2019 Honour in Culture Award

Arts and culture is a passion for Dean Chadwick and he shares his skills, passion and love of the arts with everyone who works with him. He founded Schmooze Productions in 2013 and is the Artistic Director and Producer. Under Dean’s management, Schmooze Productions strives to be Nanaimo’s leading producer of local live entertainment featuring local artistic and technical talent by producing a broad range of quality theatrical presentations and events. Dean has also worked for several community arts and culture groups on Vancouver Island & works diligently to support, encourage, collaborate & enrich their endeavors.

Humanity in Community’s Lauren Semple and Alyssa Glassford were recognized as going Above and Beyond for the creation of an outdoor street art gallery, transforming a derelict building in downtown Nanaimo into colourful centrepiece for the community. Through organizing, funding and advocacy for public art projects like murals and free art walls, Humanity in Community was able to proudly support local street artists of all genres and mediums.

Special Thanks to our Community Sponsors

The Port Theatre Society Staff & Volunteers
Serra Stewart, Vibrant Dance Studio
Craig Letourneau Photography
Turley’s Florist
John Barsby Photography (Drew Barker)
Mayor & Council
Award Nominators
What’s New in May

City in Colour: Rediscovered Stories of Victoria’s Multicultural Past

Tuesday, May 14 from 6:00 to 8:00 pm
(Vancouver Island Regional Library Harbourfront Branch)

In honour of Asian Heritage Month, Author May Q. Wong will be sharing stories from her book about the early Chinese and Japanese communities, in addition to other interesting tidbits. Come get a seat 10 minutes before the start time, sit back, relax, enjoy a cookie, and be entertained. Copies of May’s books will be on sale and for signing.

Nanaimo Historical Society presents:
Along the E&N by Glen Mofford

Thursday, May 9 from 7:30 pm to 10:00 pm
(Bowen Park Recreation Complex - 500 Bowen Road)

Get on board for the Nanaimo Historical Society meeting, where local author Glen Mofford will present his latest book, “Along the E&N: A Journey Back to the Historic Hotels of Vancouver Island.” “Along the E&N” reminisces about past – and surviving – historic hotels and resorts that sprung up near the tracks of the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway (E&N), laid along the east side of Vancouver Island from Esquimalt northward through Nanaimo, and up to its eventual terminus in Courtenay-Comox.

For details, visit the Nanaimo Historical Society’s Facebook Page at www.facebook.com/NanaimoHistory. Presentations are FREE and everyone is welcome to attend.

Harbour City Photography presents:
Photo Salon 2019

May 27 to June 14 (10:00 am to 3:00 pm)
(The View Gallery - Bldg 330, Vancouver Island University)

The Harbour City Photography Club in Nanaimo is pleased to announce that its annual Photo Salon will run this year from May 27 to June 14 and will feature some of the best work of Island photographers in four categories: Nature, Black & White, Digital Art, and Open.

Parking is complimentary and visitors should enter off Fifth Street at 5D, park in Lot G and pick up a visitor’s permit code at the gallery. Admission to the gallery is free. For details, visit www.hcpclub.ca or email photosalon@hcpclub.ca.

Historically Speaking...

“On May 1st, 1986 during their official visit to Canada, Prince Charles and Princess Diana visited Nanaimo, and signed a declaration designating Nanaimo as “The Harbour City”!”

“Steer Wrestler” by Wayne Buhr, Harbour City Photography Club

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