What’s New?

Heritage Week - February 17-23, 2014
Heritage Week is an annual, province-wide celebration that begins on National Heritage Day (the third Monday in February). This year’s theme is “Heritage Afloat”.

Heritage Summit - February 19, 2014
The City’s Heritage Commission will be hosting a Heritage Summit at the Nanaimo Museum from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. The purpose of the summit is to heighten awareness during Provincial Heritage Week, as well as network with other organizations interested in heritage issues. Similar to past events, the evening will be separated into two parts. The first part will include a presentation on historic ships and shipwrecks by local resident and historian Mr. Parker Williams. The second part of the evening will allow groups in attendance to share information about their mandate, recent accomplishments and upcoming projects. The public is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to 250-755-4483 or via email to rebecca.tubbs@nanaimo.ca.

Cultural Plan for a Creative Nanaimo 2014-2020

City Council endorsed Cultural Vitality as one of the four pillars of sustainability for the City of Nanaimo as part of its 2012-2015 Strategic Plan. The 2014-2020 Cultural Plan for a Creative Nanaimo provides a cultural lens to assist Council and the community in decision making and priority setting.

“Culture and heritage defines us as a community and a place. It’s not something we have, it’s who we are. It’s everything we were and will be.” After hearing many similar comments throughout the past eighteen months of community conversations, the draft 2014-2020 Cultural Plan for a Creative Nanaimo has been completed. The next milestone for the 2014-2020 Cultural Plan for a Creative Nanaimo is to present a final draft to City Council on March 10, 2014.

The 2014-2020 Cultural Plan for a Creative Nanaimo Technical Team would like to thank all the residents, community organizations and stakeholders who participated in the cultural planning process and helped create a vision for a Creative Nanaimo:

Nanaimo is a healthy and prosperous community that recognizes the importance of creativity and cultural vitality for quality of life and place.

We look forward to continued collaboration and the implementation of Culture Vitality strategies with residents, the community and stakeholders.
Farewell Bob!

Bob Kuhn
It is bittersweet to announce that I will be retiring from the city after 36 years. I began working with the City’s Parks and Recreation Department as a Recreation worker over 36 years ago and have had the privilege of working with some amazing people and on many exciting projects and programs. I was fortunate to hold a variety of positions including Recreation Worker, Recreation and Culture Programmer, Coordinator, Special Events Coordinator, Supervisor and Manager of Recreation and Culture. I became involved with cultural planning and development in 1990 when the Department of Parks and Recreation added ‘Culture’ to its name and officially became the Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture. I helped establish the Nanaimo Cultural Committee and provided staff support to this Committee in developing Nanaimo’s first Cultural Policy (one of the first in Canada), a Cultural Strategy, The Community Plan for Public Art and now the new “Cultural Plan for a Creative Nanaimo.” I grew up in Nanaimo and have seen many positive changes to this city. It is exciting and gratifying to see the City of Nanaimo elevate the importance of culture for community building by establishing a Department of Culture and Heritage with Suzanne Samborski as its Senior Manager. I will be retiring from my position with the Culture and Heritage Department at the end of February 2014.

About Us

Suzanne Samborski
is the Department of Culture and Heritage’s inaugural leader. She joins the department from Recreation and Cultural Services, which she joined in 2007 as Senior Manager. Saskatchewan-born, Suzanne believes that heritage and culture defines us as a community and a people and is not simply something we have. She is committed to community building through relationships with community-based and professional organizations that deliver the programs, services and events that enhance Nanaimo’s quality of life. Suzanne’s priority is to give life to Nanaimo’s cultural plan and to integrate the role and value of heritage, culture and creative endeavours into the city’s economic, social and environmental pursuits. She is completing a master degree in community development, with an emphasis on culture and heritage.

Chris Sholberg
is the Department’s Culture and Heritage Planner. He has been employed in various planning positions with the City of Nanaimo since 1992, including posts as the City’s Land Use and Community planner. Since 1999, he has administered the City’s Heritage Conservation Program and provided support to the Nanaimo Community Heritage Commission as it sought to fulfill the City’s heritage policy objectives and the Commission’s advisory role to City Council. Born in Winnipeg, and growing up in Northern California, Chris is very happy to call Nanaimo his home, and looks forward to working with the culture and heritage community to strengthen and build upon the City’s existing cultural and heritage foundations.

Rebecca Tubbs
is the administrative assistant to the new Culture and Heritage Department. A lifelong resident of Nanaimo, she has been employed at the City for five years. Joining us from the Planning Department, she has had the opportunity to be involved in a number of community initiatives and processes ranging from environmental to social to community and neighbourhood development. She has provided support to a variety of City committees and commissions including the Heritage Commission and the Advisory Committee on Environmental Sustainability. Rebecca is passionate about Nanaimo, its history and culture.

Chris Barfoot
is the Department’s Culture and Heritage Coordinator. He has been employed in various positions with the City of Nanaimo since 1991. Most of Chris’ experience has been in the former Department of Parks, Recreation and Culture. Chris is proud to have been born and raised in Nanaimo and is excited with the opportunity to work with the Culture and Heritage communities helping to further develop the Arts, Culture and Heritage awareness for this great City.

Photo Left to Right: Chris Barfoot, Rebecca Tubbs, Suzanne Samborski, Chris Sholberg
The City of Nanaimo created an official Community Heritage Register in 2002, which lists Nanaimo's historically significant buildings, structures and sites. Currently the Register contains 157 buildings, 9 structures, and 9 sites.

Nanaimo's oldest historical building still in existence is the Bastion constructed between 1853-1855. In 2011, the City of Nanaimo received an Outstanding Achievement Award from Heritage BC for the Bastion Restoration Project.

The youngest heritage building listed on the City’s Heritage Register is the Nanaimo Centennial Museum (now the Military Museum) which was constructed in 1967.

The City provides a number of incentive programs for heritage building conservation and rehabilitation including a Heritage Façade Grant Program, a Heritage Tax Incentive Program, and a Heritage Home Grant Program. Combined, these programs have leveraged millions of dollars of private investment toward over 50 projects in the past 10 years. In 2011, the Heritage Canada Foundation awarded the City of Nanaimo the Prince of Wales Prize (Honorable Mention) for exemplary stewardship of heritage architecture.

Recipients of the 2014 Cultural Awards
The Cultural Awards recognize outstanding organizations, groups or individuals in Nanaimo’s arts and cultural fields. Congratulations to the recipients of the 2014 Cultural Awards:

- Shayd Johnson  Emerging Cultural Leader
- Pat Coleman  Excellence in Culture
- Ian Niamath  Honor in Culture
- Kenneth Gogo  Lifetime Achievement

Seeking Nominations for 2015 Cultural Awards
Do you know of an organization or individual that has achieved regional and/or national recognition in the field of arts and culture? Are you aware of an organization or individual that is dedicated and supportive of the development of the cultural fabric which identifies this city? The City of Nanaimo invites you to submit nominations for the 2014 Cultural Awards. Nominations will be accepted until October 15, 2014. For more information, please contact us.

Cultural Map Listings - Please Claim Yours Today!
The Nanaimo Cultural Map is a comprehensive listing of all the cultural assets and resources in the city. It’s a great tool to find out about cultural organizations, cultural facilities, activities, artists and creative professionals and businesses etc., identify strengths and weaknesses, and generate new perspectives. It will also identify needs and opportunities for investing in future cultural development. Many of the listings still need to be claimed! Please claim yours today. For more information, please contact us.

“When Winston Churchill was asked to cut arts funding in favour of the war effort, he simply replied, “then what are we fighting for?”

Did you know...

Did you know...

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Contact Us
Our office is open Monday to Friday, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm. If you have questions or would like more information, please contact us:

Phone 250-755-4483
Email cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca
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By Mail 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6