What's New in February

City of Nanaimo's Culture & Heritage Department presents:

2016 HERITAGE SUMMIT

Wednesday, February 17
7:00 pm @ Nanaimo Museum

Characters, Con Men & Celebrities
Presentation by Aimee Greenaway, Nanaimo Museum
Explore the lives of intriguing people from Nanaimo's past. Petty thieves, a suspected German spy, murderers, crooked cops and politicians rub shoulders with a nationally renowned poet, a war hero, the world's fastest man, and women who overcame race and gender discrimination.

Heritage Conservation Program - Update & Review
Chris Sholberg, City Culture & Heritage Planner, will provide an overview of the Heritage Conservation Program Update & Review.

Roundtable Discussion
Share your culture and heritage organization's mandate, recent accomplishments and upcoming projects; and hear what other groups are working on!

Everyone Welcome!
Questions? Contact us at cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca or 250-755-4483.

Photo: Henry the Flying Dutchman (Courtesy of Nanaimo Museum)
More What’s New...

Council Announces 2016 Culture & Heritage Award Recipients

The Culture & Heritage Awards honour the best of Nanaimo’s culture and heritage. Council has announced the 2016 Culture & Heritage Award recipients, who will be honoured at a special ceremony on April 13.

Free tickets and ceremony details will be advertised prior to the event. Everyone is welcome to attend. Mark your calendars and stay tuned for details! Congratulations to this year’s recipients!

EXCELLENCE IN CULTURE Ms. Susan Juby
for her outstanding body of work, her commitment to her craft, and her unflagging support of her students at VIU and her community.

HONOUR IN CULTURE Ms. Debbie Trueman
for her efforts to raise awareness and deliver guidance, support, and professionalism in her role of the Nanaimo Museum for the past 25 years.

EMERGING CULTURAL LEADER Ms. Alyssa Glassford
for her work on numerous community art projects. Her work can be seen in Wisteria Lane, Cappy Yates Park and throughout downtown Nanaimo.

JOHN THOMSON HERITAGE MEMORIAL Mr. John Hofman
for his dedication and commitment to numerous heritage initiatives in and around Nanaimo. Mr. Hofman sat on the City of Nanaimo’s Heritage Commission for 18 years and for more than a decade volunteered a dedicated effort to saving the Morden Mine.

Save the Date!

Culture & Heritage Awards Ceremony to be held Wednesday, April 13, 2016 @ the Port Theatre!

2016 Temporary Public Art Selections

Council has approved nine new pieces of temporary public art! The new artworks will be installed throughout the city in May of 2016 as part of Public Art Week. Congratulations to the successful artists!

THE CORE  by Bryan Faubert
CEREBRUM DIGITALIS  by Maggie Wouterloot
L-O-V-E BIRD  by Mia Tremblay & Craig Lambie
DRIFTWOOD  by Scott Gillies
KELP STRUCTURE  by Angellos Glaros
CARVED PANEL  by William Good
SALMON ON THE BRIDGE  by Laura Timmermans
THE Porthole  by Victoria Drakeford
PASSAGE  by Labspace Studio

Search the Public Art Inventory:
www.nanaimo.ca/goto/publicart
Poet Laureate’s Upcoming Events

Full schedule @ www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetry
Find Poet Laureate Naomi Beth Wakan at one of these upcoming events:

February 17  Reading @ Heritage Summit
March 5      Reading @ Immigrant Welcome Reception
March        Workshop @ Vancouver Island University

Nanaimo Poetry Map

www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetrymap
We’re seeking your poems that relate to a certain location in Nanaimo.
Inspired by Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate, the Nanaimo Poetry Map provides a creative perspective of the city. It asks readers to explore the city through poetry, to understand the spaces within it differently because of the poems. Each poem is related to a spot on the map.

Want to submit a poem? Check out the Nanaimo Poetry Map and view the Submission Guidelines.

Highschool Poetry Competition

Deadline for entries is February 29
We’re seeking poems from highschool students (Grades 10-12) that relate to Nanaimo - the favourite places you hang out for your sports, or cultural activities, or where you meet up with friends at some Nanaimo Park, mall, or downtown.
To encourage younger poetry voices, Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate has initiated a High School Poetry competition (Grades 10-12). There will be money prizes and also a chance to read your winning poems before Mayor & Council.

Want to submit a poem? View the Submission Guidelines.

Poetry in Transit Program

We’re seeking poems for the “Poetry in Transit” program. The theme is “Riding the Bus”. Send us a poem that is some way related to a particular point on a bus route, a site in Nanaimo, or an experience shared while riding the bus.

Want to submit a poem? View the Submission Guidelines.
More What's New...

Historic Mounting Stone Returns Home

A historic mounting stone (used for mounting horses and carriages) has recently been returned home (moved from Pipers Park (100 Cameron Road) to the original Robins’ Gardens site (1150 Milton Street). In 1994, the mounting stone was moved from the Robins’ Garden site to Pipers Park by the City to protect it from destruction.

The owners of Robins Grove condominium development recently requested the stone back to be included as part of their historic garden renovation, and have committed to conserving it as part of the residential redevelopment of the property. In addition, they plan to restore the site’s original fish pond and construct a wood gazebo in a period appropriate style.

History of Robins’ Gardens

(Excerpt from the Nanaimo Community Heritage Register)

Robins’ Gardens are named after Samuel Robins, the Vancouver Coal Company Mine Superintendent from 1884 to 1903. Robins revitalized the Vancouver Coal Company after years of decline and developed good relationships with labour. Robins was also an avid gardener who collected plant specimens from around the world. In addition to the varied and exotic plantings on this site, Robins planted poplars and holly trees throughout the Harewood area.

His 18-room home and grounds, complete with gazebo, fishpond and rose garden, have long since disappeared. In addition to Robins, John Bryden, Mine Manager and son-in-law of Robert Dunsmuir, and Dr. Daniel Cluness, Colliery Surgeon, also built homes here. Before 1900, this area was the “upscale” part of town and featured most of Nanaimo’s elegant homes. By 1930, the Western Fuel Corporation owned the entire property and no buildings remained. During WWII, at least 6 auto courts were built in Nanaimo in response to the rising popularity of automobile vacations. The Evergreen Auto Court was built on this site by Ole Andrew Buck. The site is significant for the many exotic plant species originally planted here by Samuel M. Robins. The site is also located directly across Milton Street from the old Number One Mine site.

Take a Walk Through Time

Take a self-guided heritage tour (by walk, bike or car) through one of Nanaimo’s most historic neighbourhoods, all at your own pace. We have tour brochures available for:

- Downtown
- Newcastle
- Harewood
- Old City
- South End
- Nob Hill/Chinatown
- Downtown Bike Tour
- Historic Cemeteries, Burial Areas & Memorial Sites

Want your very own copy? Pick one up at City facilities or get a special delivery to your door, by sending your request to us at cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca.
More What’s New...

Nanaimo Museum presents:
Characters, Con Men & Celebrities

Exhibit runs from February 1 to May 7

An unusual combination of people are highlighted in the Nanaimo Museum’s latest feature exhibit. Petty thieves, poets to murderers, politicians, a conservation officer and others make up the uniquely Nanaimo exhibit, Characters, Con Men & Celebrities.

Thirty remarkable people from Nanaimo’s past are profiled in the exhibit. “There are many interesting people in Nanaimo’s history who haven’t fit with past feature exhibits,” says Aimee Greenaway, Interpretation Curator at the Nanaimo Museum.

“Characters, Con Men & Celebrities gave us an opportunity to showcase some of these remarkable and entertaining stories for the community.” The exhibit includes people from diverse backgrounds including those who were working class, rich, women and various ethnic groups. “This isn’t your usual museum exhibit,” says Greenaway. “Most of the people have stories that could be turned into a bestselling novel or blockbuster movie.”

For more information, contact www.nanaimomuseum.ca or 250 753-1821.

Nanaimo African Heritage Society presents:
16th Annual Black History Month

February is Black History Month, which is observed around the world. The Nanaimo African Heritage Society has scheduled a series of events to celebrate the occasion, starting on February 12.

For details, contact NAHS at 250-729-9332. View the full celebration schedule @ www.nanaimoafrihcaneheritagesociety.com/events/black-history-month-2016-celebration-schedule/.

Open Studio @ Nanaimo Art Gallery

Third Tuesday of the month from 7:00 to 9:00 pm

Artists, writers, poets, collaborators and creatives of all types are invited to interact, find inspiration, and create in a friendly studio setting. Bring your own project or experiment with the supplies on offer. Supplies included. All adults are welcome to drop in. Admission is by donation. For more information, contact 250-754-1750 or www.nanaimoartgallery.com.
Calling All Performers! Request for Artistic Creation

Submissions due February 19

The Canada 150 Nanaimo Organizing Committee is seeking proposals to create an original musical theatre show that will showcase Nanaimo’s rich culture and history. This original work will be premiered at the City of Nanaimo’s Canada Day Celebration on July 1, 2017 and will also be performed throughout July 2017 and beyond, as an opportunity to showcase Nanaimo. Deadline for submissions is February 19, 2016 to Canada 150 Nanaimo’s Organizing Committee (canada150nanaimo@gmail.com). Questions? Contact Margot Holmes, Volunteer Entertainment Director: 250-729-5951 (cell).

Specifications

- The Individual, Organization or Company submitting the proposal should be from; or currently hold an artistic position in Central Vancouver Island; or reside in the Central Vancouver Island region.
- The goal is that the creators, cast and crew working on this new show has a connection with Central Vancouver Island, both arts professionals and amateurs .
- It is expected that the two performances on July 1, 2017 will take place in Maffeo Sutton Park where a large number of people will be able to attend the shows. The remaining eight (8) performances in July 2017 could be moved to a different performance space.
- In your application, include information on Artistic Team who will create and produce this new show and their professional experience.
- This is an artistic legacy project for Nanaimo with a goal of using the show on an ongoing basis to draw tourists to Nanaimo.

Artistic Criteria

- An Artistic Proposal (up to 1000 word maximum) of your vision for this new show including how the performers, set design and technical needs will be incorporated into this work to allow for it to be used easily on an ongoing basis with minimal cost to remount the show.
- Content: the work should tell a story, in an entertaining way about Nanaimo’s culture and heritage.
- The length of the show should be 50 minutes in length and be adaptable for inside and outside performance space that includes sets that are easily packages and moved.

Financial Information

- Budget for Creation of Show: $25,000 awarded to an individual, organization or company.
- Proposed Budget for Artistic Production of the Show: $50,000. for 10 shows throughout July 2017.
- Technical Production Budget will be determined with the Artistic Team that is awarded the Contract.
Thank you to the participants of January’s #reFOCUS on Culture & Heritage Photo Contest! Here are the photos selected*:

**Great National Land Building**  
by Linda Lagro

**Totems Laid to Rest at Bowen Park**  
by Nicole Ta (@finelytailored)

*Staff will be in contact with the listed winners to claim their prize (via social media as per photo submission)
Connect With 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
In Person: Service & Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street)
By Mail: 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6

More What’s New...

Cultural Capital of Canada 2008 Video

Immigrant Welcome Reception

March 5 from 2:00 to 4:00 pm
Mayor Bill McKay and Nanaimo City Council invite you to an afternoon reception to welcome new immigrants to our community. Light refreshments will be served. To be held at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre (101 Gordon Street) in the Newcastle Island Lobby.

Please RSVP by contacting 250-755-4491 (Social Planning Department) or email john.horn@nanaimo.ca.

Nanaimo Art Gallery Seeking Volunteers

Do you love art? Are you interested in learning and liaising with the public? Would you like to gain experience at a public art gallery with a professional team? The Nanaimo Art Gallery is currently seeking volunteers for Art Lab, for Gallery reception duties, and to assist with events. Download a volunteer application form online @ www.nanaimoartgallery.com, or contact them directly at 250-754-1750.

Wordstorm Society presents:
Raoul Fernandes and Jane Munro

Tuesday, February 23
Join the Wordstorm Society at the First Unitarian Fellowship Hall (595 Townsite Road) for their monthly meet, featuring performers Raoul Fernandes and Jane Munro. Open mic starts at 7:00 pm. Bring a poem (3 minutes) or prose (5 minutes) or sing an original song of your own. Live music at 6:30 pm and during the first set.

Full details @ www.wordstorm.ca.

Follow us on Instagram!
www.instagram.com/cultureandheritage. Stay updated on culture and heritage happenings, programs and events.

Cultural Capital of Canada 2008 Video