Let’s Celebrate Poetry! April is National Poetry Month

Established in Canada in April 1998 by the League of Canadian Poets (LCP), National Poetry Month (NPM) 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 in our communities. This year marks the 16th anniversary of National Poetry Month in Canada. Let’s celebrate poetry!

Calling All Poets! Monthly Poetry Column

Nanaimo’s plan to enhance the cultural life of the city has inspired many initiatives already, including the selection of Nanaimo’s first poet laureate, Naomi Beth Wakan. She and her support team, along with the staff of the Nanaimo Daily News are starting a monthly poetry column to encourage Nanaimo writers to write poetry celebrating Nanaimo - its past, present and future.

The column will appear in the Entertainment section of the Nanaimo Daily News during the last week of the month. A pair of anonymous poet judges will review the submissions and choose one poem each month to be printed in the Daily News. Naomi will comment on the chosen poem so that you can see why we liked it!

Find out how to submit your poem online at www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Poet Laureate, or by contacting us directly.

Mayor’s Poetry City Challenge

The City of Nanaimo has been challenged by Regina Mayor Michael Fougere to participate in the Mayor’s Poetry City Challenge. The purpose of the challenge is to recognize UNESCO’s World Poetry Day (March 21) and National Poetry Month (April). Naomi Beth Wakan will take on the challenge by giving a reading at the 2014-APR-28 City Council meeting.

Naomi’s Schedule April 2014

Naomi Beth Wakan will be making a series of appearances in April to promote poetry.

April 6 @ 1:00 pm
Reading at the Harbourfront Library (Poetry Wall)

April 16 @ 2:00 pm
Reading at the Wellington Library

April 25 @ 7:00 pm
Reading at the Nanaimo Art Gallery (reopening)

April 26 @ 2:00 pm
Memoir Writing Workshop at the Nanaimo Museum

April 28 @ 7:00 pm
Reading at Nanaimo City Council Meeting for Mayor’s Poetry City Challenge

Do you have an idea for this e-newsletter?

Suggestions for newsletter content are always welcome based on space availability. Send your suggestions to cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca!
What’s New

Public Art Update
The Nanaimo Art Gallery has donated two pieces of public art (created through the City’s Temporary Public Art Program) to the City of Nanaimo:

![Never Out of Season (2012) by David Moench](image1)
![Breaching Orca (2011) by Carl Sean McMahon](image2)

We’ve also accepted two new pieces of temporary public art, and hope to have them completed and installed by May 2014:

![Tsawalk by Laura Timmermans](image3)
![Giant Pacific Octopus (in progress) by Dan Richey](image4)

Find out more about the City of Nanaimo’s Public Art Program online at [www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Public Art](https://www.nanaimo.ca/culture/heritage/publicart).

Coal Mine Bus Tour, Saturday April 19
Join the Nanaimo Museum on Saturday April 19 to uncover the tales of coal miners of the past. Coal mining plays a significant part of Nanaimo’s history. Visit the coal mine underground exhibit at the Nanaimo Museum, followed by various mine locations in the greater Nanaimo area. You will hear some exciting tales of the miners who worked in these mines.

Guided by Tom Patterson. Price is $65 per person.
Register online at [www.ireg.nanaimo.ca](https://www.ireg.nanaimo.ca), (search code 130156)

Where good songs come from
by Naomi Beth Wakan
Read at the 2014 Cultural Awards Celebration on March 12.

And Leonard Cohen said
“If I knew where good songs came from, I would go there more often.”
And wouldn’t we all love to join him there, we poets, artists, songsters dancers, in fact anyone who’s ever put two ideas together and come up with an entirely new one would wish to join him at the source of our creativity. And we would put a tap there so that all could draw from that fountainhead. Can’t you just see the whole town lining up along with old Leonard to get replenished at the spring, the spring where good songs come from?

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**Nanaimo’s Floral Emblem**

Lotus pinnatus (or the Bog bird’s-foot trefoil) was adopted by City Council as Nanaimo’s floral emblem in 2010. It is a yellow and cream pea-like flowering perennial herb that grows from a thick taproot and short rhizome (underground stem). The sprawling to upright stem is hollow and it grows 15-60 cm long.

Harewood Plains is one of five places on Vancouver Island, and Canada for that matter, where this rare red-listed plant can be found. It is also the location which has the largest number of plants (approx. 80% of BC’s total).

**Nanaimo’s Coat of Arms**

In 1951, a coat of arms was created for the City. The principal colour of the Arms of Nanaimo is red taken from the red cross on a silver field on the arms of the Hudson’s Bay Company. On the first quarter of the shield is a representation of a barque to commemorate the arrival of Nanaimo’s early settlers from England after a sea voyage of five months in this type of vessel. On the fourth quarter is a pattern of “black diamonds” representing Nanaimo coal mining industry as a settlement, the original reason for Nanaimo’s existence. The open second and third quarters indicate the unfulfilled future.

**More What’s New**

**Free Culture Days Workshop, Tuesday April 15**

Join the Culture Days movement and be a part of BC’s largest celebration of arts, culture and heritage! All professional and amateur artists, arts organizations, cultural workers and community organizers are invited to take part in a free workshop to:

- Learn how to register an activity and participate in BC Culture Days;
- Learn about online tips & tools available for planning your activity;
- Connect and share ideas with other local activity organizers; and
- Learn how to make Culture Days a success in your community.

**April 15, 2014 at 5:30 pm**

Vancouver Island Regional Library, Harbourfront Branch
Meeting Room A (upstairs) - 90 Commercial Street, Nanaimo BC

**For more information on the workshop,** contact Sarah Schmidt, Executive Director, Nanaimo Arts Council, at 250-729-3947 or admin@nanaimoartscouncil.ca.

**What is Culture Days?** Culture Days (September 26, 27 & 28) is a collaborative movement to encourage awareness, participation and engagement of all Canadians in the arts and cultural life of their communities. Now in its fifth year, this Canada-wide celebration represents the largest-ever public participation campaign undertaken by the arts and cultural community in this country.

**For more information on Culture Days (September 26, 27, 28),** visit www.culturedays.ca or contact culturedays@allianceforarts.com.

**Did you know...**

**Multicultural Speaker Series, April 9, 16, 23, 30**

The Multicultural Speaker Series, a partnership of Central Vancouver Island Multicultural Society and the City of Nanaimo, aims to widen the lens through which we view other countries, and immigrants in Nanaimo, many of whom are our neighbours. This very popular (and free!) speaker series is open to everyone. The series takes place over four Wednesday nights in April (April 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th) from 7:00 pm to 8:30 pm at the Grand Hotel’s Crystal Room (4898 Rutherford Road).

Each night two guest speakers from different parts of the world including: Russia, Palestine, Sri Lanka, India, Haiti, Afghanistan, Turkey and Venezuela will take the stage to share information and experiences about their country of origin. Pamela Shaw of VIU will host the evenings.

**For more information,** view the online poster or contact John Horn, Social Planner at 250-755-4491 or john.horn@nanaimo.ca.
Nanaimo Arts Council

Do you want to start a program or host a cultural event? The Nanaimo Arts Council, as a catalyst for creative community, can help bring inspired ideas to fruition. We act as an incubator for new arts and culture activities that can become part of NAC’s network of ongoing events and programs.

In a recent Metcalf Foundation report entitled “Shared Platforms and Charitable Venture Organizations: A powerful possibility for a more resilient arts sector”, author Jane Marsland argues persuasively that in an era of rapidly increasing competition for arts funding it’s “time to move from an exclusive focus on the health of the individual organization to include the health of the arts system. This will require a move away from hierarchical capacity (stand-alone organizations) to lateral capacity in order to develop networks of shared resources.”

Teaming up with the Nanaimo Arts Council provides valuable benefits to cultural start-ups. Being part of a trusted non-profit society is crucial to satisfying the requirements of funders. We also provide access to insurance and a well-established community network. Partnering with us allows you to put your energy into your passion and avoid getting mired down in the administrative hurdles of establishing a new non-profit society.

Interested in exploring a collaboration with NAC?
Contact Executive Director
Sarah Schmidt 250-729-3947 or admin@nanaimoartscouncil.ca.

More Did You Know...

City of Nanaimo Heritage Register

The Heritage Register is an official list of properties identified by the City of Nanaimo as having heritage value or character. It is intended to:

- officially list the heritage resources of Nanaimo;
- give notice to property owners (and potential buyers) of heritage factors (for example: historical, architectural, aesthetic) which may affect development options for a listed property; and
- enable monitoring of proposed changes to properties through the local government licensing and permit application process.

Inclusion of a property on the Heritage Register does not in itself constitute permanent heritage protection. It may, however, be used to “flag” properties for possible future protection.

Want to view the Heritage Register? Visit www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Heritage Register or contact us directly for a printed copy.

Want to add a building to the Heritage Register? Nomination forms are available online at www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Heritage Register or by contacting us directly.

City of Nanaimo Heritage Grants

Buildings listed on the City of Nanaimo’s Heritage Register are eligible for a number of conservation and rehabilitation incentive grants. Combined, these grant programs have leveraged millions of dollars of private investment over the past decade.

Heritage Home Grant Program
- Applies to residential buildings listed on the Heritage Register. Homeowners receive up to $2,500 for external rehabilitation and repairs (on a 50/50 cost sharing basis).

Heritage Façade Grant Program
- Applies to commercial buildings listed on the Heritage Register and located within the Downtown Heritage Conservation Area. Owners receive up to $10,000 per building façade facing onto a City street (on a 50/50 cost sharing basis).

Want to apply for a grant? Find details online at www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Heritage Grants and Incentives or by contacting us directly.

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
In Person Service & Resource Centre (411 Dunsmuir Street), Nanaimo
By Mail 455 Wallace Street, Nanaimo, BC V9R 5J6