What’s New in February

Heritage Week, February 16-22

Heritage Week is an annual province-wide celebration of heritage that begins on National Heritage Day (the third Monday in February). This year’s theme is Main Street: At the Heart of the Community.

Invitation to Heritage Summit, February 18

In recognition of Heritage Week, the City of Nanaimo will be hosting its annual Heritage Summit at the Nanaimo Museum from 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. The purpose of the summit is to heighten awareness during Heritage Week, as well as network with other groups and organizations interested in heritage issues. This year’s summit will be separated into two parts: First, a presentation on Fraser Street: Nanaimo’s Red Light District from the 1890s to 1920s provided by Aimee Greenaway, interpretive curator for the Nanaimo Museum; followed by a roundtable discussion with groups in attendance to share information on their mandate, accomplishments and upcoming projects.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Please RSVP to 250-755-4483 or cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca.

Learn more about Nanaimo’s heritage at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/heritage.

Step Back in Time with a Self-Guided Heritage Walk

Did you know that Nanaimo has a number of self-guided heritage walks available online and/or by request? Step back in time to explore the historic side of your favorite neighbourhood, all at your own pace (with visitors or by yourself). Heritage walk brochures are currently available for the following neighbourhoods:

- Downtown
- Harewood
- Newcastle
- Nob Hill/Chinatown
- South End

Want a copy? Want multiple copies? Send your request (and mailing address) to cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca for special delivery. Stay tuned for new brochures currently being developed for: Old City, Historic Cemeteries, and a Heritage Bike Tour.
More What’s New...

Council Approves 7 New Pieces of Temporary Public Art for 2015

On January 19, Council approved seven new pieces of public art as part of the 2015 Temporary Outdoor Public Art Program. A total of seventeen submissions were received from a variety of artists and teams across Canada. Since 2010, the City of Nanaimo has been involved in a dynamic and evolving temporary public art program that enhances and animates our City’s parks. Each year, outdoor artwork by some of our region’s artists is installed on a temporary basis for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. City parks essentially become outdoor art galleries and showcase artworks for a limited period of time.

Congratulations to the successful artists and thank you to all who submitted their works for consideration!

Ron Hart & Michael Futega  Hollowed Tree
Jason Gress  Coming Soon
Joel Good  Dancing Eagle
Marc Walter  Embarking  (pictured above)
Michael Truelove  Tall Crabs
Tonya Hart  INFRAwolf
Elizabeth Wellburn, Sam & Deryk Houston  Solstice

Keep an eye out for these new pieces to be installed in City parks in May 2015, as part of Public Art Week.

Nanaimo Archives on YouTube

Check out this animated collection of historic sports photographs courtesy of the Nanaimo Community Archives Society.

Did you know that the Nanaimo Community Archives has a selection of images and videos available on their YouTube channel? Available at www.youtube.com/channel/UCx4IkFao0Rkm0Ft9KwQck5A.

“It’s not what you look at that matters, it’s what you see.”

-Henry David Thoreau
Heritage Conservation in a Nutshell

Written by Chris Sholberg, Culture & Heritage Planner for the City of Nanaimo

As the City’s Heritage Planner, I am periodically asked about whether or not the City of Nanaimo has a heritage conservation program. The answer is yes, although this fact is not well known. Consequently, I would like to provide a little background on how and why the program was created, including a brief outline of its key elements. Nanaimo’s Heritage Conservation Program formed as a result of the implementation of a Heritage Action Plan created in 1998 to integrate heritage planning with the larger municipal planning framework. The Plan, or blueprint as I like to call it, outlined a number of actions (including policies, regulations, guidelines, incentives and promotion) the City could implement in order to better conserve and encourage the rehabilitation of the City’s finite collection of heritage resources. A majority of these actions were completed by the mid 2000’s and include the following:

**Creation of a Heritage Commission in 1996.**
Appointed by City Council, the nine person Commission works in tandem with City staff to monitor and implement the Heritage Conservation Program, and advise Council on heritage related matters.

**Creation of a Downtown Heritage Conservation Area in 1999.**
The conservation area provides long term protection for historical buildings with special heritage value and/or heritage character located in the City’s downtown core area.

**Promotion of Heritage Awareness since 1999.**
Public awareness initiatives are key to promoting heritage conservation. In Nanaimo, these efforts have included the creation of heritage walk brochures, interpretive signs and on-line information related to the City’s history, as well as recurring events such as the City’s annual Heritage Summit and Heritage Paint-Out/Shoot-Out.

**Creation of an Archaeological Sites Policy in 2000.**
The City fills a key informational and monitoring role by ensuring that proposed development that may impact known and potential archaeological sites are brought to the attention of the B.C. Archaeology Branch.

**Creation of a Community Heritage Register in 2002.**
The legacy of Nanaimo’s history is a rich collection of heritage buildings, structures and sites which contribute to Nanaimo’s particular sense of time, place and identity. They are the tangible reminders of the City’s history. The Heritage Register is an official list of 159 buildings, 9 structures, and 9 sites which is updated periodically and forms the foundation of the conservation program.

**Adoption of a Heritage Procedures Bylaw in 2002.**
The procedures bylaw formalizes procedures for heritage alteration permits, heritage inspections, heritage register updates, delegation of permit authority to City staff and demolition delay procedures.

**Operation of heritage tax exemption, heritage facade grant, and heritage home grant programs since 2003.**
Financial incentives are effective tools for encouraging heritage conservation objectives. Many communities across North America use these tools to great effect, with the closest examples being the Cities of Vancouver and Victoria (after which Nanaimo’s incentives are modelled).
More What’s New...

Work of Arts Nanaimo

Check out this 30 second clip as part of Nanaimo’s Work of Arts campaign designed to highlight the contribution and importance of the arts and culture sector.

2015 Festival of Banners - Paint Your Very Own Street Banner

In March & April, professional artists and amateur painters from every corner of Nanaimo – students, parents, teachers, seniors and you – come together to create beautiful one-of-a-kind works of art to enliven and add vibrancy to our city streets. Between 150 and 250 banners are created each year.

The Nanaimo Art Gallery and Nanaimo Arts Council have partnered to organize this year’s Festival of Banners. **This year’s theme: My Favorite Things.**

Want to paint your own banner? Find details and entry forms online at www.nanaimoartgallery.com/index.php/exhibitions/festival-of-banners.

#cultureandheritage on Instagram

See what all the fuss is about! Check out the Culture & Heritage Department on Instagram at www.instagram.com/cultureandheritage. Once we reach 100 followers, we will draw for the chance to win a prize!

NAG presents: Record (Re)Create

Presented by the Nanaimo Art Gallery from January 10 to April 12. **Record (Re)Create:** Contemporary Coast Salish Art from the Salish Weave Collection showcases a selection of works by artists of Coast Salish ancestry from the Salish Weave Collection privately held in British Columbia. The fourteen artists featured are frequently unified as Coast Salish, but they are representatives of a number of distinct First Nations that span the southern coast of British Columbia, and extend into Washington and Oregon.


2015/16 City Street Banner Design Selected!

The City of Nanaimo’s 2015/16 street banner design has been selected! Thank you to all artists who submitted their designs.

**Congratulations to the successful artist Ms. Laura Timmermans.** Laura’s banner design will be featured on the lamp posts throughout the City in 2015/16.
How to Participate

1. **Can you identify this piece of Nanaimo’s history?** Watch this newsletter each month as we feature a close-up visual “clue” that highlights a piece of Nanaimo’s history.

2. **Send your response by email only to cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca.**

3. **Answers must be sent by email only.** The first person to respond with the correct answer will receive a limited edition art print by local artist Fred Peters. Winners will be notified via email.

**Last Month’s Clue:** **Congrats to Ms. Kathy White!** The successful identifier of January’s FOCUS ON Heritage clue taken from the Great National Land Building.

The Great National Land Building
(5-17 Church Street)

(Excerpt from the Nanaimo Community Heritage Register)

Sympathetically rehabilitated in 1997, the Bank of Commerce is Nanaimo’s premier example of Classical Period Revival architecture. Built in 1914 during the 1912-1914 coal miners’ strike, the building’s classical conservatism represented tradition, stability and prosperity during a fractious and volatile period. Built to standards plans designed by Bank of Commerce staff architect Victor Horsburgh, the building transcends mere copying and responds dramatically to its prominent downtown corner location. The Bank of Commerce Building’s monumental presence, manifested in four massive columns, makes it second only to the Bastion as the city’s most recognizable landmark. It is an important intact example of the type of bank architecture that predominated throughout Canada during the late 19th and early 20th centuries.
More What’s New...

The Poet Laureate

The purpose of a Poet Laureate for Nanaimo is to serve as a “people’s poet” and to raise awareness of poetry and the literary arts and the positive impact literature and poetry can have on community life. Since October 2013, Naomi Beth Wakan has stood as Nanaimo’s inaugural Poet Laureate. Read about Naomi on Island Women or at www.naomibethwakan.com.

View Naomi’s full schedule of upcoming events online at
www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Poet Laureate.

Calling All Poets! Monthly Poetry Column

January’s poem of the month “Lap of the City” by Janet Vickers was selected (see right) and here’s why (Written by Naomi Beth Wakan for the ‘The Star’):

“As one judge reminded me, this poem is a good mix recalling some of the difficult things in Nanaimo’s past (by using provocative and shadowy images) along with hopeful and life-affirming images (the eagles, the deer) for its future. The jury found the metaphor of Nanaimo as a woman a vivid and startling one. Using the image of a woman, aged by life experiences but still retaining the playful and joyful child within, is something we can all share, male or female, and that is what a good poem can do. I identified the forgotten child with the thing that Nanaimo is striving hard to bring back, and that is the lively downtown core it once had. One of the judges commented, “I don’t think I will be able to walk along the waterfront any more without thinking of the harbour as the crone’s lap, with the float planes ‘like dragonflies’ zipping around her as she sings.’ We all admired this poem so much.”

How to Submit Your Poem: Send them to callingallpoets@nanaimo.ca, and keep them short and focused on the Nanaimo theme. For submission details, please visit www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture and Heritage > Poet Laureate.

Poem of the Month:
January 2015
Lap of the City
by Janet Vickers

A languorous awakening crone stretches along the coast
Long after Europeans came and poured cement along her spine, mined her chest for coal, logged her trees, filled her lungs with smoke, banished her children to the outer edges burying them at her feet,
she moves revealing her curves
that harbour the sails against her lap
and float planes like dragonflies come in to land near the theatre where her songs call eagles over the mountains
her dances call deer through the forest
and we gather at the long house of our yearning
naming the grief, healing the wounds
so that the forgotten child may come out to play again.

Wordstorm, February 27

Join Wordstorm at The Vault Cafe (499 Wallace Street) on February 27 at 6:30 pm for live music and featured performers: Andrea Routley, Andrea McKenzie Raine, Lorne Daniel. Open mic starts at 7:00 pm. Bring a poem (3 minutes) or prose (5 minutes).

Sponsored by the The League of Canadian Poets,The Writers’ Union of Canada and the Canada Council for the Arts. Details at www.wordstorm.ca.

Historical Society General Meetings

General meetings and presentations are held at Bowen Park Complex, second Thursday of month at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.
More What’s New...

Seeking Partnerships for FESTIVAL Nanaimo, March 2015

FESTIVAL Nanaimo is a multi-dimensional community festival taking place in Nanaimo throughout the month of March 2015 and will include: concerts, arts & crafts, culinary delights, paint-outs by local artists, PirateFest FunDay, a Nanaimo Rawks Play Off! and much much more! The focus of FESTIVAL Nanaimo is to encourage residents of the region to explore their city and for tourists to come and spend a weekend in Nanaimo in the month of March; celebrating everything we LOVE about our city! The month of March was chosen for FESTIVAL Nanaimo because it is in the low season for tourism - yet it is the core season for arts events and will benefit both tourism and the arts by bringing people to Nanaimo.

How can you make the first FESTIVAL Nanaimo a big success story? Participate. Tell your friends. Volunteer. Love your City! Want to become a FESTIVAL Partner? Contact communications@festivalnanaimo.com for an information package.

Apply for the 2015 Nanaimo Fringe Festival!

The Nanaimo Fringe Festival (produced by Pacific Coast Stage Co.) is now accepting artist applications for their fifth annual fringe festival. The festival will be held August 13 to August 23, 2015 and will feature 48 plays over 8 days.

Deadline for applications is March 1, 2015 (5:00 pm pacific time). Lottery results will be announced on March 2, 2015.

Find out more or apply online at www.nanaimofringe.com/?page_id=494.

Follow us on Instagram!
@cultureandheritage

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