2015 Art Installs Complete!

The 2015 Temporary Public Art pieces are in! Major thanks to the fantastic City Parks Crew for installing each piece! Be sure to check out these new installations in person next time you are downtown. You can also view the City of Nanaimo’s Art Inventory online any time at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/publicart.

**EMBARKING** by Marc Walter: Installed at Maffeo Sutton Park (near Newcastle ferry dock). Featured in May newsletter.

**SOLSTICE** by Elizabeth Wellburn, Deryk Houston & Samuel Houston: Installed at MacGregor Park. Featured in May newsletter.

**CAKE** by Ron Hart & Michael Fugeta: Installed at Maffeo Sutton Park. See next pages for description.


**DANCING EAGLE** by Joel Good: To be installed at Maffeo Sutton Park (Spirit Square). See next pages for description.

**COMING SOON** by Jason Gress: Installed at Maffeo Sutton Park (Spirit Square). See next pages for description.

**CULTURE SPLAT**

SAVE THE DATE!
WEDNESDAY JUNE 24, 2015 (3:30 to 5:00 PM)
@ NANAIMO MUSEUM (100 MUSEUM WAY)

What are your ideas, dreams and aspirations for furthering cultural vitality in Nanaimo? Hang out with Nanaimo’s creative sector, share your ideas on the culture SPLAT board and enjoy some treats!

DETAILS TO FOLLOW...
INFRAWOLF by Tonya Hart
INFRAwolf portrays a pack of wolves glowing in a spectrum of infrared colors. Infrared or thermal imagery visualizes the electromagnetic impulses created by energy. Constructed with aluminum polyurethane resin, fibreglass mat and LEDs, these thermal portraits refer to the wolves’ primal instinctive state set within an urban context. Wildlife discovered in human territories is often met with fear and awe, yet their thermal vitality is shared by all warm blooded animals. The intent of INFRAwolf is to disconnect the abstraction of nature and reveal the connection of energy that we all share.

About the Artist
Tonya Hart boasts a Bachelor of Fine Arts with Honours (Visual Arts Major) with York University, Toronto in 1998. Since graduating, her work has been featured in many public art exhibitions throughout Canada (www.tonyahart.com).

TALL CRABS by Michael Truelove
TALL CRABS was conceived as a gathering, or passageway piece. The crabs are placed in a way to not interfere with, but have an effect upon pedestrian traffic. Fabricated from 12” square steel tubes, each sculpture is based on the marking and disassembly of common steel shapes (such as tubing, i-beams, and plate) and reassembled into a new form.

About the Artist
Michael Truelove graduated from the University of Manitoba’s School of Art in 1977. He established an industrial design and parts fabrication company in 1990. He has a wide range of experience in design, production and fabrication of industrial items from concept through production in a variety of industries, including healthcare, aftermarket automotive, tooling and custom machinery (www.michaeltruelove.com).
CAKE by Michael Fugeta & Ron Hart

Constructed with steel and plexiglass, CAKE is a playful form intended to provoke, engage and interact with park visitors of all ages. Maffeo Sutton Park has evolved over time from a natural foreshore, to a site of trade and industry, to its current condition of supporting events and recreation. In the same way that layers of soil can reveal the history of a site, CAKE seeks to reveal what lies just below the surface of our contemporary concerns.

About the Artists

Michael Fugeta has studied and worked in the field of art and architecture for over 14 years, graduating with a Bachelor of Fine Arts from UBC Okanagan in 2005. He has first hand experience with large scale public art proposals in Kelowna and Vancouver, including a major public art project for the Olympic Village in South East False Creek. A Vancouver Islander for the first 20 years of his life, Ron Hart has worked in the field of art and architecture for the past 8 years, designing and facilitating the construction of everything from small scale art gallery exhibits to commercial and civic buildings. This talented duo has worked together on numerous projects both at home and abroad.

COMING SOON by Jason Gress

Coming Soon is a reflection on the notion of urban development; public anticipation and curiosity surrounding things in the public domain while still in the planning and pre-groundbreaking stages, but not yet underway. The pre-construction phase is a time of optimistic admiration of the very marching signs of progress; new hip places to live, work, and shop. Development can also bring controversy over land rights, environmental concerns, and the overall effect that less space / more buildings can result in. Coming Soon is a nod to its location’s former life as a working metal foundry, its present life as a public park, and its yet unknown future purpose.

About the Artist

Nanaimoite Jason Gress is the artist of the ever-famous “Frame” located at Maffeo Sutton Park. Check out this artist profile video from 2013 featuring Jason: www.youtube.com/watch?v=lbfhNmzGFLM.
DANCING EAGLE by Joel Good

Hand carved from four pieces of laminated red cedar, the eagle represents the messenger of the creator and is the Good family crest.

About the Artist

Joel Good is a member of the Snyeyumuxw First Nation, who brings a unique personal style to traditional Coast Salish Designs.

More What’s New...

Multicultural Festival, Saturday June 13

Experience the World in a Day - No passport required!

Multicultural Festival

Nanaimo’s popular annual Multicultural Festival is a free, one-day street party celebrating the diversity of our community with food, dance, music and fun for all ages! On Saturday, June 13, Wesley Street in Nanaimo’s Old City Quarter will become a kaleidoscope of colours, sounds, flavours and fun. (to be held 10:30 am to 5:00 pm).

Enjoy live music and dance on three stages – from traditional to rap, music & more!, international film tent hosted by Film Buff Video, free children’s activities and family fun, exotic foods, sidewalk sales, contests and much more! plus the Culture & Heritage Department will be there handing out swag and info.

For more information, visit the Facebook event page at www.facebook.com/events/1442206022746995/.

VIIRLibrary Calls for Local Poets

The Vancouver Island Regional Library is compiling poetry written by local poets/authors to be published with their espresso book printing machine. The espresso book printing machine prints shelf-ready books in the matter of minutes and will be part of the creativity commons on the second floor of the Nanaimo Harbourfront branch of the Vancouver Island Regional Library. The book is to be scheduled to be published during April of 2016 in celebration of poetry month (providing the Harbourfront book publishing room is operational at that time). All poetry to be considered for this publication must be written on the topic of Nanaimo and must be original work. Possible themes:

• A poem about a place in Nanaimo area
• A poem about the history of the Nanaimo area
• A poem about why Nanaimo is a special place to you

All poems must be submitted no later than December 31, 2015 as a Word.doc attachment to jbigelow@virl.bc.ca. Please attach a small biography (no more than 25 words) about yourself and a black and white picture or a pictures that can be printed in black and white with your biography.
More What’s New...

ArtsVest Wrap-Up Celebration, Friday June 12

Please join artsVest on June 12 to celebrate the success of Nanaimo’s arts organizations and their business partners from the artsVest program. The Wrap-Up Celebration will be held **5:00 to 6:30 pm at the Rotary Fieldhouse (850 Third Street)** (Entrance to the Rotary Field House is off Jingle Pot Road). Hear speakers from the business, arts and public sector communities, and enjoy refreshments by Perkins Coffee Co., and music by students of the Wellington Secondary Jazz Academy. For more information, visit www.nanaimowrap.eventbrite.ca.

About artsVest™  artsVest™ is a matching incentive and sponsorship training program designed by Business for the Arts to spark corporate engagement in arts and culture and build strong ties between public, private and cultural sectors. The program has been operating in Nanaimo from 2014 to 2015, providing local cultural organizations with a free sponsorship training workshop and matching incentive funds. Ten arts organizations across Nanaimo have been building partnerships with dozens of businesses with great success. So far, those organizations are on track to completely exceed their $38,000 sponsorship goal!

Canada 150: Join the Celebration!

Presented by the Department of Canadian Heritage. Whether you’re part of an organization, a community, or a business, or are an individual, there are countless ways to celebrate the 150th anniversary of Confederation in 2017.

**The Canada 150 Fund** will support local and national activities that bring Canadians together, honour the exceptional and give back to Canada by leaving lasting legacies. The goal of the Canada 150 Fund is to create opportunities for Canadians to participate in local, regional, and national celebrations that contribute to building a sense of pride and attachment to Canada.

We’re now accepting funding proposals for Canada 150 projects. A limited number of high impact, large-scale projects that are national in scope will also be supported through the Canada 150 Fund as Signature Initiatives. **Eligible funding recipients include** Canadian not-for-profit organizations, including corporations, trusts, cooperatives and unincorporated associations; Canadian business corporations, including partnerships, trusts & joint ventures where projects are non-commercial in nature; Canadian schools; and, Canadian municipal governments and their institutions.

For more information, visit www.canada150.gc.ca/eng/1424795454758.

(Re)conciliation Project Funding

Presented by the Canadian Council for the Arts. This unique initiative will promote artistic collaborations between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal artists, investing in the power of art and imagination to inspire dialogue, understanding and change. Interested artists and arts organizations will be invited to submit proposals for **project funding up to $75,000**!

This initiative precedes the release of the much-anticipated report from Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and seeks to help artists and Canadians alike reflect upon, and help repair historic injustices.

For more information, visit www.canadacouncil.ca/aboriginal-arts-office/reconciliation or contact Canada Council for the Arts (Mireielle Allaire, Public Relations Officer, 613-566-4414 ex 5226).
More What’s New...

Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate, Ms. Naomi Beth Wakan

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.naomiwakan.com.

Naomi made over 30 appearances as Poet Laureate in 2014! View Naomi’s full schedule of upcoming events, photos of past appearances, etc. online at www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetry.

Daily News Monthly Poetry Column

Naomi teamed with the Nanaimo Daily News to produce a monthly poetry column. Each month, a panel of anonymous poet judges select one poem to be featured in the paper’s Entertainment section. Here’s what the judges had to say about May’s poem of the month (excerpt from the Nanaimo Daily News):

*Three small lines, but the jury felt their strength. It is perhaps not fully a haiku in that it seems to depend a little on the title to give it full meaning. However, we were so impressed with the images the poem evokes. One juror spoke eloquently for us all when she said, “I can see a woman sewing something black, perhaps a mourning dress? The pit mouths are frosted, as they would be after a mining accident in winter, for the mines would be closed. And who is shivering? The seamstress shivers because it’s cold and perhaps because of some troubling thoughts. The land shivers as a mine collapses. The mention of our mountain, Wakesiah, places the location firmly in Nanaimo. On another level, the seamstress could also be Mother Nature, who created the coal seams in the first place. The poem works on several levels, just as there are many levels within a landscape. This is a very thought-provoking poem in which every word, including the title, counts.” About the title, another juror found the word “seamstress” interesting since seamstress = seam + stress. A coal seam, of course, was both subjected to and caused tremendous stress.*

Would you like to submit a poem? Please keep those short poems (under twenty lines) with a Nanaimo theme coming in. Just send them to callingallpoets@nanaimo.ca. For full submission details, visit www.nanaimo.ca/goto/poetry.

Poem of the Month: May 2015

**Seamstress**

by Maia Levine

Wakesiah snow
Frosted pit mouths, shivering
She sews coal-black seams

Poetry with Wordstorm

**Reading Series @ The Vault Cafe:** On the last Tuesday of every month, WordStorm meets at The Vault Cafe (499 Wallace Street) to hear new and published writers read their work, and talk about it briefly. Each event begins with an Open Mic, followed by several featured readers. Come down anytime to hear some great writing, and sample some of Nanaimo’s finest baked goods!

**The Living Room:** A free and open democratic reading where people read their own work and listen to others in a circle format. Held at the Nanaimo North Library (6250 Hammond Bay Road) on the second Thursday of each month from 4:30 pm to 6:30 pm. Bring 3-4 poems to read.

For more information, contact www.wordstorm.ca.
FOCUS ON HERITAGE

Identify this piece of Nanaimo’s history and win a limited edition art print of historic downtown Nanaimo by local artist Fred Peters!

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.

Esquimalt & Nanaimo Railway Station (321 Selby Street)

Excerpt from the Nanaimo Community Heritage Register

The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Station is significant because of its association with the British Columbia confederation controversy. The railway was completed as a “consolation prize” from the federal government after it broke its promise to make Victoria the western terminus of the transcontinental railway. This breach led to threats of British Columbia’s secession from Canada. Further controversy was fuelled when money and land for the railway were given to Nanaimo coal baron Robert Dunsmuir, already one of the province’s richest men. In 1886, the Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway opened with the local station being built at this site.

During the 1880s, the completion of the railway and the simultaneous expansion of the huge No. 1 Coal Mine precipitated an economic boom that almost doubled Nanaimo’s population and created a consequent demand for more housing and commercial services. The Station represents the commercial and residential development of a hitherto undeveloped area as a direct result of the siting of the station on Selby Street.

Built by the Canadian Pacific Railway Company in 1920, the Nanaimo Station, which replaced the earlier building, exemplifies the form of station built in mid-sized communities across Canada in the early 20th century and can be seen as an early example of corporate branding that visually tied Nanaimo to the rest of the CPR empire. The Nanaimo station appears to be a more elaborate version of CPR Standard Plan No. 9., a “combination station” that included living quarters and commercial space. The station house’s most distinctive feature is its central square tower. In addition to providing an attractive visual element, the tower’s projecting bay served a useful function by giving an unobstructed view of the track. Although there have been some changes to the building over time, it remains substantially intact and continues to serve its original function.

The Esquimalt and Nanaimo Railway Station has been in continuous use since 1920 and continues to provide transportation service to Vancouver Island. This historic structure was designated a Municipal Heritage Site on December 19, 1977.

Last Month’s Clue: Congrats to Tamara Zavarise, who successfully identified May’s FOCUS ON Heritage Photo Clue: E&N Railway Station, Nanaimo BC (321 Selby Street)
Nanaimo Community Archives Presents: Hidden Histories - Preliminary Research on Nanaimo's Early Black Communities, June 10

A lot of is known about Nanaimo’s early Scottish and English miners, much less about the Chinese, Finns and others and virtually nothing about early Black settlers. The Nanaimo Archives wants to change that.

“By using web sources, our own collection and by doing a little detective work, we’ve been able to build a history of the black communities in Extension and Wellington,” says Archives Manager Christine Meutzner.

“Research is in the very early stages but we have determined that around 1900, 50% of the province’s black community lived in this area.”

Meutzner will present her research at the Archives’ AGM on June 10 at 6:00 pm at the Nanaimo Art Gallery Art Lab (150 Commercial Street). Non-members are welcome at the event.

For more information, please contact 250-753-4462 or nanaimoarchives@gmail.com.

EventHostBC Funding: Up to $5,000 in funding available to help community events!

The Government of British Columbia is providing one-time funding to eligible non-profit organizations for small community events that strengthen volunteer capacity for event hosting throughout the province. EventHostBC will provide a total of $250,000, divided among the six provincial tourism regions, to encourage events that are currently ineligible for other provincial government funding. Eligible non-profit organizations may apply for up to $5,000 per event. As long as the broader community can participate, the type of event is fairly open — it could be sports, arts or culture related, or some other creative idea supported by the community. Applications will be accepted between May 19 and June 30, 2015. Grants will be awarded on a first-come, first-served basis.

For more information, visit www.cscd.gov.bc.ca/arts_culture/eventhostbc.htm.
More What’s New...

Freedom of the City Portrait Gallery Unveiled

On May 11, Mayor Bill McKay unveil the newly restored Freedom of the City Portrait Gallery. Portraits of all past award recipients were gathered, reframed and arranged along the wall outside of the Shaw Auditorium of the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. Freedom of the City is the highest honour the City can bestow, and recipients are considered Freemen.

The primary purpose of the honour is to recognize an individual’s lifetime achievement in supporting the livability of Nanaimo, or an individual who has gained national or international acclaim in the arts, business, humanities, politics, community service, sports or professional endeavours, and who has brought recognition to Nanaimo through his or her achievements. Freedom of the City can also be granted to military units which have earned the City’s trust.

View a list of past recipients at www.nanaimo.ca > Departments > Culture & Heritage > Learn about Nanaimo’s History > Freedom of the City Recipients.

Nanaimo Art Gallery Campus Location Merges with Downtown Location

In May, the Gallery left its first home on the campus of Vancouver Island University to consolidate in downtown Nanaimo at 150 Commercial Street. Focusing programs and resources downtown, in the heart of Nanaimo’s arts district, will help NAG build a stronger identity as the region’s public art gallery and expand capacity. NAG and VIU have been partners for nearly 40 years. It was faculty from the art department at Malaspina College who conceptualized and mobilized resources to create the Gallery (originally called the Madrona Exposition Centre). The building officially opened to the public in September 1977. Since then, the Gallery has been nurtured by dedicated members of the Art and Design Department, and has taken advantage of many opportunities to work with students and faculty across disciplines at VIU, exploring art, culture and ideas with and for the University community and the people of Nanaimo. In 2014, with support from the City of Nanaimo and the Province of BC, and sponsorship from community partners, the downtown gallery space was renovated and footprint expanded. Art Lab was opened, a dedicated centre for art education. The gallery on campus will remain open under the direction of the Art and Design Department and will serve as an important exhibition centre for student projects and help many more generations of young artists to develop their practice.
More What’s New...

Bastion Upgrades Complete!

Just in time for Bastion season, City crews have completed a series of upgrades to the Bastion, including cleaning, prepping, applying new sealants, and painting. Old pavers were removed and replaced with new paving stones. While the pavers were up, the water service was upgraded. Two wooden benches were replaced and two plaques on site were refurbished.

Explore Nanaimo’s Bastion

Bring your family, friends and visitors to the 160 year old Bastion for a unique look into Nanaimo’s colourful past. The Bastion is open to the public from May 18, to Labour Day (September 1). Admission is by donation. A Visitor Information Kiosk has been set up inside the Bastion’s main floor, with exhibits, artifacts and costumes on the second and third floors. The Bastion is well known for its exciting Daily Noon Cannon Firing Ceremony which takes place at 12:00 noon.

On weekends in May and June, a bagpiper will perform at the daily cannon firing ceremony. In July and August, the piper will increase to weekly performances from Sat-Thurs. Also in July and August, on Thursdays & Saturdays, highland dancers from Brigadoon Dance Academy will perform during the ceremony.

The Bastion is managed by the Nanaimo Museum. For more information, visit www.nanaimomuseum.ca or call 250 753-1821.

Bastion History

Excerpt from the Nanaimo Community Heritage Register:

Nanaimo’s oldest building and the sole reminder of the Hudson’s Bay Company’s singular coal mining venture, the Bastion is the physical evidence of the community’s earliest European social and economic development. The Bastion, built between 1853-1855, is the only known remaining freestanding tower structure built by the Hudson’s Bay Company. As such, it is a unique example of a defense fortification built by a company that played a major role in Canadian history. The Bastion’s unusual octagonal shape and high visibility from both land and sea make it Nanaimo’s premier landmark. The Bastion represents British Columbia’s earliest case of historic preservation and is an important example of the changing approaches to heritage conservation. It originally stood on the other side of Front Street, and was moved in 1891 after its original site was sold. In 1974, it was moved to its present location in another preservation effort. The building's environmental context, overlooking the harbour, has never changed. During the settlement's early history, the Bastion represented a beacon of civilization in the wilderness, and provided the focus for social and economic growth in the new community. Now used as a museum, it has been a continuous part of Nanaimo's history, and remains a source of pride to the city. The Bastion is a municipally designated heritage site, and is listed on the Canadian Register of Heritage Properties. Behind the Bastion a flight of steps leads down to the spot where the “Princess Royal Pioneers” landed in 1854 after a six month’s voyage around Cape Horn. The site is marked by a cairn and plaque on Pioneer Rock.
More What’s New...

Seeking Participants for 18th Annual Heritage Paint Out / Shoot Out, Sunday July 26

Are you interested in participating in the 2015 Heritage Paint Out / Shoot Out? This annual event brings heritage to life with a plein air race against the clock by challenging artists to paint and / or photograph Nanaimo’s heritage buildings.

Cash prizes!! If you are interested in participating, send us an email at cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca and we’ll make sure to keep you updated.

Festival of Banners Are Up!

Each spring for 27 years, Nanaimo Art Gallery has organized Festival of Banners, which has become a beloved tradition and an important community project. 2015 marks a new partnership between Nanaimo Art Gallery and the Nanaimo Arts Council (NAC). For the 28th year of the Festival, the Gallery will work in collaboration with the Council as a mentor and consultant as the Festival of Banners fully transitions over the Nanaimo Arts Council in 2016. In March & April, professional artists and amateur painters from every corner of Nanaimo came 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.

Want to purchase a banner and support local arts programs?

All banners (small $30, large $40) are sold by Nanaimo Arts Council at the banner painting site or at the NAC site in North Town Centre. Proceeds contribute to funding the program. Banners are available for sale as soon as they are painted. Reserve yours now and take it home in late November after banners come down from lamp posts. You will be notified via email when they are ready for pickup.

For more information, contact admin@nanaimoartscouncil.ca.
More What’s New...

Wally Buono Award Presented to Mr. Dylan Chapdelaine of the CJFL VI Raiders

The Wally Buono Award was established in 2003 for the purpose of recognizing Canada’s top junior football player. The award is a national award that recognizes all junior football players throughout Canada. Recipients must prove their athletic and leadership ability on the field as well as a high level of leadership within their community. The 12th Annual Wally Buono Award winner is Mr. Dylan Chapdelaine of the CJFL VI Raiders. Chapdelaine is a four time “All Canadian Selection” as he led his club last season with 27 solo tackles, a sack, two knockdowns, a forced fumble and had a pair of interceptions. He led the BCFC with 20 assisted tackles as well as being named the BCFC’s Outstanding Defensive Linebacker in 2014. The Wally Buono Award Exhibit and trophy is housed at the Nanaimo Museum's Sports Hall of Fame.

For more information, visit www.nanaimomuseum.ca.

Nanaimo Art Gallery Presents: Spirit Gum (May 29-Aug. 8)

Spirit Gum is a kind of glue used to adhere costume to skin. This compound of alcohol (spirit) and resin (gum), suggests a double reading. By way of this sticky substance, objects are not only adhered to bodies, but also inspired with character. In the exhibition Spirit Gum, this merging of costume and wearer is activated through newly created and existing artworks, alongside works from the permanent collection. Performing through a range of media, artists enact the self, as it begins to resemble another. Spirit Gum is invisible, and with it the contrast between adornment and body can disappear too. Through this process, a self is rendered as truth or a part of a very good lie. Herein identity itself can be both revealed and disguised. Dressing becomes a personal act of display, and a means to create a public narrative. At Swy-a-lana lagoon, a former Nanaimo mayor is fixed in his favourite role, in bronze he dons a Jolly Roger hat and pirate costume. This figure reminds us that disguise and costume are a part of a communal performance, and when caught in the act, visitors too enter its behavioral composition. This exhibition marks another transformation, as the first show since Nanaimo Art Gallery’s two locations have merged into one.