What’s New in April

Reserve Your Tickets for the City of Nanaimo’s 2015 Culture & Heritage Awards Ceremony

Join us at the Port Theatre on April 9, 2015 as the City of Nanaimo celebrates the best of Nanaimo’s culture and heritage at the 2015 Culture & Heritage Awards ceremony. The following recipients will be honoured:

- Honour in Culture Award
  Arlene Blundell
- Excellence in Culture Award
  Grant Leier & Nixie Barton
- Emerging Cultural Leader Award
  Amanda Scott
- Heritage Building Rehabilitation (Residential) Award
  McCourt Residence
- Heritage Building Rehabilitation (Institutional) Award
  St. Paul’s Anglican Church

This year’s ceremony will be MC’d by Bruce Williams (CTV Vancouver Island), and will begin with a welcoming from Mayor McKay, a prayer by The Foot Prints of The Wolves, and a poetry reading by Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate, Ms. Naomi Beth Wakan. As well, guests will enjoy a variety of entertainment by Nanaimo’s local talent, including:

- Dance performance by Sylvia Knapp’s Tempo Dance Academy, and VIBE Studio with vocal performance by Grace Bleaney & Emma Hooton
- Vocal performance by Mourning Dove (Alex Hicks)
- Dance performances by Crimson Coast Dance Society’s Holly Bright & Genevieve Johnson

Everyone is welcome to attend! Reserve your FREE tickets now by contacting the Port Theatre Box Office at www.cnan.ca/19cLtdF or call 250-755-8550.
April is Poetry Month in Nanaimo!

What is 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 17th anniversary of National Poetry Month in Canada and the City of Nanaimo has officially proclaimed the month! Let’s celebrate poetry!

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.

Here are a few things scheduled for Poetry Month (April 2015).

Naomi’s Schedule

- April 3-May 3 Cascadia Poetry Festival (Nanaimo, BC)
- April 9 2015 Culture & Heritage Awards - Reading at Opening Ceremony (Port Theatre)
- April 12 Island of the Arts Writing Workshop (Gabriola, BC)
- April 18 Reading at Nanaimo North Library (Nanaimo, BC)
- April 20 Mayor’s Poetry Challenge - Reading at April 20 Council Meeting (Nanaimo, BC)
- April 26 Farm & Poetry Performance (Gabriola, BC)

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

Naomi Beth Wakan Featured in WordWorks Magazine and Named First Honorary Ambassador for the Federation of BC Writers

Naomi Beth Wakan... The People’s Poet

by Deb Clay

“I might be able to give something to Nanaimo just by encouraging people and saying it’s OK to do poetry.” Naomi Beth Wakan, in a 2013 interview by Tamara Cunningham - Nanaimo News Bulletin.

In 2013 Naomi Beth Wakan began her three-year term as Nanaimo’s first Poet Laureate. She was also recognized this winter as the first Federation of BC Writers Honorary Ambassador, an award given to people who have gone above and beyond promoting literature and supporting writers and poets in their communities.

That’s a nice collection of firsts for a woman who – into her eighties – is still capturing in verse her unique and challenging perspectives about her life and times. You can find out more about Naomi’s life and published works at www.naomiwakan.com.

WordWorks Poetry Editor Deb Clay spoke with Naomi recently in preparation for Poetry Month here in BC...

Q: From your online bio I see that you have had a rich and varied life. Was poetry always there for you?

A: I only remember one poem I wrote as a child, but I loved reading poetry – The Lady of Shallot, La Belle Dame sans merci, To Autumn, Daffodils, Dappled things… oh so many poems… all rhyming!

Q: As poet laureate of Nanaimo - what has it been like? Do you have specific duties? Do you write poetry for certain occasions?

Read the full article online @ www.issuu.com/fbcw/docs/201503-wordworkspagesol/3?e=0/11981645
More Poetry in Nanaimo...

Poems of the Month - April 2015: Naomi Talks Poetry with NDSS Grade 12 Students

Written by Naomi Beth Wakan for the Nanaimo Daily News

This month, for a change, a column about youth and poetry. What can you tell thirty Grade 12 students about poetry in 30 minutes? “Not much,” I thought, but I was wrong. I didn’t reckon with the talent at NDSS. I decided to discuss haiku-writing by using three haiku that I wrote on the board. They were:

wishing fountain
outside the cancer clinic
some heads, some tails
(Alice Frampton)

empty cabin
the beach canoe
full of leaves
(Devar Dahl)

overcast morning
ripe blackberries
out of reach
(Alice Frampton)

I explained to the students how haiku do not directly express any feelings, or ideas. They just record what one is sensing at a moment in time. I then asked the students to let me know what feelings and ideas these haiku brought up in them as they read them.

Suddenly, I got a deluge of original and interesting comments. So then I asked them to add two lines to each haiku. Those two lines could express all the feelings and ideas that the haiku hadn’t overtly stated. I got such wonderful responses. Here are my favorites. I should mention that there were two teachers and the librarian, Deborah Graham, present.

The best response to the first haiku, I thought, was by one of the teachers, Maryah Bell:

wishing fountain
outside the cancer clinic
some heads, some tails
under the water
they all sink the same

And the third was completed well by Ryan Elhorn:

overcast morning
ripe blackberries
out of reach
frustration builds
yet I can’t stop

To the second haiku, I liked Isabella Dominelli’s very much:

empty cabin
the beached canoe
full of leaves
summer laughter has faded
cold winds bring change

There were many other fresh responses to the haiku. These five-liners are called tanka. So, in 30 minutes I managed to touch on one of the oldest forms of poetry (tanka) and one of the most difficult to write (haiku). If we can persuade them to stay around in Nanaimo for a few years, this bright and imaginative class will be sure to have added some good writers to the local scene.

Thank you NDSS Grade 12’s for being such a great class, and thank you teachers Dean Darbysire and Maryah Bell for having such an eager class, and to teacher-librarian, Deborah Graham, for inviting me to speak with them.
More Poetry in Nanaimo...

Cascadia Poetry Festival, April 30 to May 3

The Cascadia Poetry Festival is an international event which seeks to bioregionally animate & culturally construct Cascadia by gathering writers, artists, scientists and activists to collaborate, discover and foster deeper connection between all inhabitants and the place itself. Over four days the fest features Academic, Democratic and Performance components, late night readings, a Small Press Fair and several workshops.

Some of the best poetry minds in the bioregion will gather, discuss this place and begin to better understand Cascadia and our role here. The festival was founded by SPLAB, a Seattle-based non-profit organization founded in 1993 and the first iteration happened in 2012. Nanaimo’s Wordstorm Society will host the 2015 Cascadia Poetry Festival.

View the full schedule @ www.cascadiapoetryfestival.org/?page_id=1026 or contact ascentaspirations@gmail.com with your questions.

Poetry with Wordstorm

The Living Room: A free and open democratic reading where people read their own work and listen to others in a circle format. Held on the last Thursday of the month from 4:30 to 6:30 pm at the Nanaimo Harbourfront Library (Room B).

Reading Series @ The Vault: On the last Tuesday of every month, WordStorm meets at The Vault Cafe, 499 Wallace St. Nanaimo, BC to hear new and published writers read their work, and talk about it briefly. 6:30 pm for live music and featured performers. 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! 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. Full details at www.wordstorm.ca.

Not Stuck for Words

A Reading Sponsored by the Federation of BC Writers & WordStorm Society of the Arts

April 18, 2015, 7:00pm-9:30pm
The Globe Bar and Grille
25 Front Street, Nanaimo

Featured Reader: Derek Hanebury with special guest Naomi Beth Wakan, Nanaimo’s Poet Laureate

Derek Hanebury is a poet who also writes fiction and creative non-fiction. His first book of poetry, Nocturnal Tongue, was released in 2006. His poems and stories have been published in many magazines and broadcast on CBC radio and his first novel, Ginger Goodwrite Beyond the Forbidden Plateau, went to a second printing. He has a Master’s Degree in Creative Writing from UBC and has been instructing at North Island College in Port Alberni since 1988 where he currently teaches English and creative writing.

OPEN MIC: Everyone Welcome (sign up at the door) Admission by donation.

Readers already slated for the Open Mic are Andrew Brown, Kim Clark, Wendy Dunawa, David Fraser, Kim Goldberg, Judith Heron, Leanne Mcintosh, Janet Miller, Libbie Morin, Mary Ann Moore, Madeleine Nattrass, Marta O’Reilly, Pat Smekal, Linda Thompson, Ursula Vaira, Ann Graham Walker and more.

We acknowledge the support of the Canada Council for the Arts and The League of Canadian Poets.
More What’s New...

The Crab Returns!

Nanaimo’s “The Crab”, was originally created as a temporary piece of outdoor public art. Recently, “The Crab” was removed and returned to the artist, local carver Dan Richey.

Due to popular demand, The Crab has found his way back to Nanaimo’s waterfront and can be viewed by passerbys!

City Street Banner Design for 2015/16 Selected!

The City of Nanaimo’s 2015/16 street banner design has been selected! 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.

Creativity in Progress!

Be sure to swing by Maffeo Sutton Park this week (Apr 1-7) and check out Quebec artist, Marc Walter, as he brings-to-life his art project “Embarking” on-site using local recycled branches. Just one of the new temporary outdoor art installations for 2015!

Downtown Street Lights Updated to Heritage-Style

Next time you are cruising down Commercial Street, you might notice that a number of 1980s-era globe-style street lights have been replaced with the City’s downtown heritage-style street lights. This light standard was adopted by the City a number of years ago based on a light and post design that was common in the downtown core between the 1930s and 1950s. The intent is to phase out the globe standard over time and replace with the heritage standard as the globe lights reach the end of their serviceable life.
FOCUS ON HERITAGE

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 Diana Etherton, who successfully identified the March 2015 FOCUS ON Heritage Photo Clue: #2 Firehall (34 Nicol Street).

**#2 Firehall (34 Nicol Street)**
(Excerpt from the Nanaimo Community Heritage Register)

Built in 1893 at a cost of $7,000, the Nanaimo Fire Hall No. 2 is a very good example of Victorian Italianate architecture, one of the most popular 19th century styles. The fortress-like crenellated roofline is particularly appropriate on the fire hall, a widely recognized symbol of protection. The large doors at the front lower level were designed for easy access for the fire company’s horses and equipment. Similarly functional, the concrete hose tower, added to the rear of the building in 1914, allowed for the efficient drying of fire hoses.

The building speaks to the continuing growth and maturity of the City. Although a volunteer fire brigade existed before the construction of the Fire Hall, this substantial and expensive building, whose construction costs were raised through subscription, indicates community commitment to efficient, modern service and faith in the City’s future. Located on a narrow triangular lot between two main thoroughfares and at a major intersection, the Fire Hall is an important downtown gateway building and a highly visible landmark.
More What’s New...

Calling All Vendors / Foodservice for Upcoming Multicultural Festival

Want to promote or sell your products during this year’s Multicultural Festival? Taking place on Wesley Street in the Old City Quarter on Saturday, June 13, the event will offer international cuisine and multicultural groups showcasing interactive and educational displays, demonstrations of ethnic arts and crafts, and live music, dance, International film tent, activities for kids, and more. If your business is interested in having a vendor space, please contact DNBIA’s Lynne Henshaw at lynne@dnbia.ca. Spots are first come, first served.

VI Symphony’s Community Days, April 18

Everyone is welcome to attend this free event on Saturday, April 18 at the Port Theatre. Book your complimentary Ticket through the Port Theatre. FREE TICKETS must be reserved for the Symphony Rehearsal by calling 250-754-8550.

11 am - 12 noon
Musical Instrument Zoo: Try the instruments of the orchestra at the Musical Instrument Zoo (ages 6+)

11:45 am - 12:15 pm
Meet composer Dorothy Chang!

12:30 - 1:30 pm
Symphony Rehearsal – Adults and children, come see what happens at a Symphony Rehearsal.

For more information contact 250-754-0177 or visit www.vancouverislandsymphony.com.

Hub City Cinema Showcase, April 25

The Hub City Cinema Society will be screening and celebrating many great short films made by the talented filmmakers in our local community! Come to the Hub City Cinema Showcase on Saturday, April 25 to enjoy art and entertainment in motion. Doors open at 6:00 pm. The films start at 7:00 pm.

Films: The Cookie Case (Film Jam); Sorry Grandma (Film Jam); My Last Case (Film Jam); Alive (Spotlight Short); Study Time (Dylan Verhiel); The Macguffin (Bryce Knudston); Playtime’s Over (Zachary Tannar); At Death’s Door (Todd Jones); ADAM (Lorne Kraft); Feeding Time (Paul Whittington); The Way the Cookie Crumbles (Jeff Monson); Gone (Tash Baycroft);... and more! Also catch the trailer of “The Wrong People” and a preview of “Beyond Control”!

For more information, visit www.hubcitycinema.ca.

Spring Movie Sale @ Hub City Cinema Studio

Who knows what sweet movies you will find at the sale, you will have to come to find out! Movies will be sold from $2 to $5. HCCS members will be able to buy movies 2 for 1! Funds raised from the sale will go to supporting the Hub City Cinema Society. Do you have movies that you would like to give away to be watched by a new audience? Movie donations will be very appreciated! You can drop off your movie donations at CHLY. There is a donation bin there (or you can give to the Hub City Cinema Society at an upcoming event). You have 4 weeks to get your movies in!

TedxTalk: How to Revive a Neighbourhood with Imagination, Beauty & Art
More What’s New...

Social Enterprise: Day of Learning & Gala Event, May 20 & 21

**Gala Event** (to be held at the Port Theatre on Wednesday, May 20th from 6:30 pm to 9:00 pm): Looking for something different? The seCatalyst Gala Event will combine inspiring speakers, social enterprise pitches in a Dragons’ Den format competing for $50,000 in cash and prizes, and expert judges. This high-energy, high-impact event will raise the profile of Vancouver Island social enterprises and the social enterprise sector as a whole. The Gala’s key note speaker will be Vickie Cammack, founder of Tyze Personal and a ground-breaking pioneer in the world of social enterprise and innovation.

**Day of Learning** (Vancouver Island University, Building 250 - Thursday, May 21st - 8:30 am to 4:00 pm): Check out the Day of Learning at Vancouver Island University. This day-long conference will bring organizations and businesses who are considering social enterprise together with already operational enterprises and experts in the field. This skills-building conference focuses on delivering practical and relevant learning to help social enterprises launch and expand.

For more details on cost, registration, etc. visit [www.secatalyst.ca](http://www.secatalyst.ca)

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

Nanaimo Historical Society Meetings

The Nanaimo Historical Society’s general meetings and presentations are held at Bowen Park Complex (500 Bowen Road), second Thursday of each month at 7:30 pm. Everyone is welcome to attend.


Follow us!

See what all the fuss is about! Follow the Culture & Heritage Department on Instagram at [www.instagram.com/cultureandheritage](http://www.instagram.com/cultureandheritage).