What’s New in January

Council Announces the 2015 Culture & Heritage Award Recipients!

Each year, the City of Nanaimo recognizes individuals and groups that make Nanaimo a more culturally vibrant city. Council has approved the following recipients for the 2015 Culture & Heritage Awards:

**Excellence in Culture**  
**Mr. Grant Leier and Ms. Nixie Barton**  
The Excellence in Culture Award was created to honor an organization or individual that has achieved regional and/or national recognition in the field of arts and culture (visual, performing or literary arts). Grant and Nixie are recognized as having excellent national reputations with numerous solo exhibitions through North America. Both have brought their expertise, experience and generosity to the community. Their wide ranging support of the arts was illustrated through mentorships, donations, and participation in the many aspects of the Nanaimo, Canadian and international Cultural Communities.

**Honour in Culture**  
**Ms. Arlene Blundell**  
The Honour in Culture Award was created to honour a group, corporation or individual that is known for their dedication and support of the development of the cultural fabric of Nanaimo. Arlene will receive this award for her outstanding work and with the Nanaimo Theatre Group and enormous commitment to the breadth and growth of Theatre in and around Nanaimo. Arlene is also recognized through her many community service initiatives such the BC Senior and Summer Games, the Nanaimo Toy Drive and as an active member of the Altrusa Club.

**Emerging Cultural Leader**  
**Ms. Amanda Scott**  
The Emerging Cultural Leader Award was created by the City to recognize up-and-coming Nanaimo-based cultural leaders. The award recognizes that a thriving Nanaimo cultural community includes leaders who choose to live and contribute to the cultural life of Nanaimo. Amanda will receive this award for her commitment and outstanding support of the arts and culture scene in Nanaimo and, more specifically in the Arts District of Downtown Nanaimo. Amanda, in just a short time at The Vault has created an exciting cultural hub that hosts and supports many various genres of art and the artist within. For artists young and old of all disciplines, Amanda has created the opportunity for those artists to expand their creativity in a comfortable and supportive environment. Some have stated that The Vault has quickly become the “cultural heart” that beats in the heart of the downtown core.

“These awards recognize the best of Nanaimo’s arts and cultural volunteers and creative talent. The work of these dedicated volunteers and professionals contributes to a sense of cultural vitality and pride within our community.”  
- Mayor Bill McKay

Recipients will take place at a special awards ceremony to be held at the Port Theatre on Thursday, April 9, 2015. Tickets and ceremony details will be advertised prior to the event via this newsletter and local media. Everyone is welcome to attend! Learn more about the 2015 Culture & Heritage Awards online at www.nanaimo.ca > Culture & Heritage > Culture & Heritage Awards.
More What’s New...

Last Call for Submissions!  
2015-16 Street Banner Design Competition

The City of Nanaimo invites all amateur and professional artists and graphic designers to enter our competition for the design of street banners.

This year’s theme: Nanaimo’s past, present and future.

The chosen banners will be installed on lamp posts on major streets throughout the City of Nanaimo in the summer of 2015 and 2016.  Submissions will be accepted until Friday January 9, 2015.

Please review details and submission requirements of “Street Banner Design Competition No. 1582” online at www.nanaimo.ca > Business > Bid Opportunities, or contact the Culture and Heritage Department Directly.

Attention Cultural Grant Applicants! Information Sessions, Wednesday January 21

The Culture & Heritage Department is hosting two information sessions designed for grant applicants (you!), in order to provide an overview the upcoming changes to the City’s Cultural Grant funding programs in 2016.

Information sessions will be held on Wednesday, January 21, 2015 in the Port Theatre Harmac Room with session times as follows:

Day Session: 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm
Evening Session: 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm

Everyone is welcome to attend. Questions? Contact us at cultureandheritage@nanaimo.ca or 250-755-4483.

Why changes?

In 2013, Council requested that a review of the City’s cultural funding program process / criteria be undertaken as part of the cultural planning process. The purpose of the review was to ensure that the City’s cultural funding programs reflected strategic investment based on clear and consistent criteria and was aligned with the 2014-2020 Cultural Plan for a Creative Nanaimo and the 2012-2015 Corporate Strategic Plan. A final report has been completed (City of Nanaimo Cultural Funding Program Review by Mollineaux Management) and outlines the recommended changes. Based on these recommendations, an updated grant program will be implemented for the fiscal year 2016 (to be applied for in late 2015).

“Street banners grace many streetlight poles during the spring and summer seasons creating a fun and festival atmosphere. The program aids in the promotion of the cultural arts and adds colour and excitement to the city.”

- Brian Denbigh, Manager of Roads & Traffic Services
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 an art print by local artist Fred Peters. Winners will be notified via email.

The Nanaimo Court House (35 Front Street)
(Excerpt from the Nanaimo Community Heritage Register)

Grand and imposing in its rugged monumentality, this structure serves as the symbol of justice in Nanaimo. Around the turn of the century, the rapidly expanding population had necessitated a reorganization of the provincial court system, and a number of new regional court houses were constructed.

Built from 1895 to 1896, the Nanaimo Court House is a very striking and superior example of Richardsonian Romanesque architecture, which was favoured for major public buildings of this period. The building features the rough-dressed masonry and prominent round arched openings typical of this style. The picturesque roofline is highlighted with a slate covering and intricate copper ornamentation. This exceptional building marks the height of the architectural grandeur of the Late Victorian era.

Rattenbury also designed the Nanaimo and Nelson Court Houses, the provincial Parliament Buildings and numerous other residential and institutional buildings. This building, and the Nelson Court House, represented a continuation of Rattenbury’s interest in the picturesque eclecticism of the Late Victorian era.

The Nanaimo Court House is the premier symbol of early provincial government presence in Nanaimo. Replacing an earlier wooden Court House, this expensive and sophisticated building projected provincial authority and power and, at the same time, signalled Nanaimo’s nascent function as a regional centre. The Nanaimo Court House is also significant because of its siting on the lot. The mid-block location was an unusual choice, as most courthouses were given a prominent corner location. To increase the formality of the design and the presence of the building, the building is set to the rear of the sloping site. This position allowed for a gracious landscaped plaza at the front.

This carving is part of a stylized construction date - i.e. 1895 - that flank the front doors of the doors of the building. One carving indicates ‘18’ and the other a ‘95’
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

December’s poem of the month was selected (see left) and here’s why.

It’s December and the poetry jury are breaking a break. Our readers are celebrating a wide variety of occasions at this time of the year - Christmas, Chanukah, Yuletide, Kwanzaa, Bodhi day, Pancha Ganapati, winter solstice, to name a few. So as Nanaimo’s first Poet Laureate, wanting to reach out to as many people as possible, I think a year’s end ledger-taking would be the most all-embracing topic for a poem this month, for shouldn’t we all sum up the year in order to see what needs concentrating on in the new year - “caring more” being the first item for all of us, perhaps. Happy holidays and a good New Year to you all, and thank you all somuch for the wonderful poems you are sending in.

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:
December 2014

Year’s end ledger
by Naomi Beth Wakan

Yes, the year had its good days - the first shoots of green up through the earth; the first buds, then blossoms, then fruit to be harvested; the times of laughter and warm skin touching skin.

Then there were the dismal days of endless rain on skylights, when nothing seemed to matter, puzzled that things we once thought important, no longer seemed so.
And days far worse - days of difficult diagnoses and friends gone (some in a flash, and some slowly day by day).

These personal moments mere slivers of a troubled world.

And so we balance the year’s pluses with its minuses, and make our vows that next year we will do this and this, and not do that and that, in the fond hopes that if not fame and fortune, at least next year’s ledger will bring us a fine balance.

Apply Now 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.

Business for the Arts:
Celebrating 40 Years

In 2014, Business for the Arts celebrated its 40th year impacting communities across Canada. Through their core programs, they have connected, educated and invested in Canadian arts and business partnerships.

Watch the video online at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=ynmIYTHjAfA&feature=youtube_gdata_player (2 minutes).
Video production generously donated by U for Change (uforchange.org).
More What’s New...

Canada Day Challenge!

Proudly presented by the Department of Canadian Heritage, the Canada Day Challenge invites youth between 8 and 18 years old who live in Canada to express their pride in being Canadian by submitting an entry inspired by the theme: STRONG. PROUD. FREE.

Enter the contest in the following categories:

DRAW IT! (submit a poster design)
SNAP IT! (submit digital photographs)
WRITE IT! (submit a piece of creative writing)

On the road to Canada’s 150th birthday in 2017, the Canada Day Challenge is an excellent opportunity for young people to explore Canada’s history, culture and identity and to celebrate everything that makes Canada the strong, proud and free country it is today.

Winners from across Canada will be selected for a chance to win great prizes, and winning entries will be displayed at the Canadian Museum of History from June to September 2015. Nine national finalists (three from each category) will win an all-expenses paid grand prize trip for two to Ottawa to visit Canada’s national institutions and to celebrate Canada Day 2015 on Parliament Hill, as well as visit exciting sites in the National Capital region.

Submissions will be accepted until March 20, 2015. For more information, please visit www.challenge.pch.gc.ca.

National Trust Releases New Report on Financial Measures for Heritage Development

The National Trust for Canada is pleased to announce the release of its new report, Financial Measures to Encourage Heritage Development.

The report was created to assist the development community and all levels of governments when considering and assessing measures to encourage the rehabilitation of heritage properties in Canada. The report draws on broad input from the heritage property development industry and provides strong insights into the best potential financial measures to encourage heritage development in Canada. Commissioned by the Federal-Provincial-Territorial Ministers’ Table on Culture and Heritage, the report draws on detailed input from 27 stakeholders from the heritage property development industry from 8 provinces. The report also identifies key factors that discourage heritage development.

For more information, and to read the full report, please visit www.heritagecanada.org/en/issues-campaigns/financial-incentives.

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

Follow us on Instagram!
@cultureandheritage