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**dnbia**  
DOWNTOWN NANAIMO BIA

**Citynotes**

Downtown Nanaimo Newsletter

Thursday, May 26, 2011

## **Commercial Street Wins Greatest Street in Canada Contest!**



It's one thing to be nominated; it's another thing to win. And that's just what happened recently when Commercial Street in Downtown Nanaimo was awarded the "Best Street in Canada"

designation in the 2011 Great Places in Canada Contest!

From more than 6,000 nominations and four months of voting, Commercial Street was voted first in the country

### **DNBIA Notes**

#### **[Downtown Nanaimo Business Mixer at Casino Nanaimo](#)**

Thank you to the management and staff at Casino Nanaimo for hosting the Downtown Business Mixer on May 18. More than 40 people were in attendance for networking, refreshments and some casino fun.

#### **[Trade & Investment Forum](#)**

You are invited to a Trade & Investment Forum in Nanaimo on June 2 from 8:30 am – 12:00 pm at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre. Need help making international contacts for your business? Are your clients looking for suppliers, distributors or investors in the global marketplace? Interested in tradeshow exposure in foreign markets for your product or service? On June 2 you will hear

in the Great Streets category of the inaugural contest.

The top locations were honoured not only for their popularity or Internet voting drive, but because they also met certain criteria and high standards of planning.



"Nanaimo's historic Commercial Street ... is rich in heritage and has struggled to stay alive in the face of rapid suburban development," said Linda Allen, a panel judge and

president of CitySpaces Consulting. "The city and the downtown business community, working together, have catalyzed growth, revitalized heritage buildings and welcomed year-round cultural activity."

Required criteria for each street nominated included memorable or unique character, promotion of social and economic activities, employing of visually interesting architecture, accessibility by different modes of transportation, and reflection of culture, history and landscape.

"To come in first is a huge achievement," said Nanaimo Mayor John Ruttan. "I think it speaks well not only for Nanaimo, and specifically downtown Nanaimo, but it also addresses the fact that the improvements the City of Nanaimo has made over the years, since 1983, is being recognized. As we revitalize downtown to make it livable and more attractive for people to come back - both business and shoppers - this speaks to the fact we're obviously going in the right direction."

To celebrate this national recognition, the merchants of Downtown Nanaimo are currently planning a "Greatest

first hand from Provincial Trade & Investment Reps (TIRs), whose goal is to increase international trade and investment opportunities for BC businesses. They have extensive knowledge and expertise in markets including USA, Europe, Japan, Korea and China. Hosted by the Province of BC, Vancouver Island & Coast Economic Development Association, and City of Nanaimo. Contact Katie Ferland for more information [katie.ferland@nanaimo.ca](mailto:katie.ferland@nanaimo.ca) or 250-755-4465.

#### **Gallery Renovations & Sale**

Gallery 223 is renovating. George Leshuck and his staff are moving their custom framing counter and department to the art gallery side allowing both to be together and maximizing use of existing floor space. Moving to the vacated area will be an expanded glass boutique that will showcase beautiful art pieces, glass furniture and accessories by noted artist Cathy Andersen. Consequently, they have a lot of art that needs to be moved. Actually, they would rather sell it than move it (or store it)! That's why they have reductions on ALL art from 20 - 40%, starting immediately. Visit [www.gallery223.ca](http://www.gallery223.ca) or drop by 223 Commercial St.

Street in Canada Street Party on Sunday, June 19 from 11 am to 3 pm on Commercial St.

## Nanaimo's Floating Boat Show Cruises into the Downtown Boat Basin

### Vancouver Island's 7th Annual Nanaimo Floating Boat & Marine Trade Show, June 3-5



More than 3500 feet of dock space in Nanaimo's downtown Boat Basin will be filled with boats of every variety (new and previously owned), complimented with more than 50 booths, experts and entertainment, all assembled in one convenient and beautiful location.

Nanaimo Port Authority's 7th Annual Floating Boat & Marine Trade Show has something for every budget and for every level of boating. The 2011 show builds on the incredible results of the previous shows and will feature a full house with participants from throughout Vancouver Island and the mainland. Brokers will show vessels small and

### Women In Business Downtown

The Nanaimo Women's Business Network invites you to join us on Monday, May 30 at 5:30pm. The evening's keynote speaker is "graphic design maven" Sarah J. Clark, who will open up the world of the "one hundred fonts". When you've got a computer and a hundred fonts, did anyone teach you anything about how to use them? How to choose the one to best suit your business? How to mix and match fonts for the most powerful effect? Join them as they ask Sarah "what are the top three fonts to enhance your business?" This is a great opportunity for downtown business women to connect with other like-minded business women. Registration and info at [www.nwbn.ca/events](http://www.nwbn.ca/events).

### Community Gardens

The Young Professionals of Nanaimo have recently started work on two community gardens. All food will be grown in raised beds and be donated to volunteers and the local food bank. The North End site is located at the corner of Turner Rd. and the Hwy (old Dot's café). The south end site is at the corner of Needham and Irwin, on the land behind RU Computing. They would love your help in the following ways.

large, new and pre-owned.



If boating is your passion, this show has something for you with the latest in marine supplies, equipment and information. For

the person new to the incredible world of boating, the Marine Trade Show offers information and education to get you on course and in a safe direction. Agencies

that educate in basic and



advance boating courses will also be on hand. Meet the organizations that make boaters' experiences positive and safe on the water for the whole family.

Once again, the Vancouver Island University Culinary Arts Program will provide sumptuous

gourmet seafood samplings, prepared on site and sponsored by local commercial fisherman. The Malaspina Trades Faculty will have information on their boat building program and other courses of interest.

The Nanaimo Show is on the heels of National Safe Boating Week (May 22-28) providing the show with a focus for educating the skipper and crew for local waters and our amazing coast line. Agencies qualified to provide attendees with course material or testing for the basic Pleasure Card Operators Certificate,

- 1) They are applying for a \$25,000 grant from Pepsi Canada. It is based on online votes so please go to <http://www.refresheverything.ca> / [ypancommunitygardnes](http://ypancommunitygardnes), and vote for the YPN Community Gardens. Top two initiatives receive the grant so your help is very important. Once you sign up you can vote every day till June 30.
- 2) Volunteer your time. If interested in helping at either site please e-mail them at [gardens@ypanaimo.com](mailto:gardens@ypanaimo.com)
- 3) Sponsorship! They are looking for both cash and in kind donations for the gardens. Sponsors will be recognized at the site and will have their sign on a particular raised bed.
- 4) Spread the word! Please forward this e-mail to your distribution list.

### **Downtown Farmer's Market Now Open on Fridays**

The public is invited to visit the Downtown Farmer's Market every Friday on the Pioneer Waterfront Plaza (by the Bastion) from 10 am until 2 pm.

### **Save the Date!**

Tourism Vancouver Island is already busily preparing for the 48th Annual Conference & AGM this fall. This year's conference will be held in Downtown

mandatory since Sept. 15, 2009, will be available along with more advance courses information for Celestial Navigation, VHF radio Operation, Maintenance and Weather.

Entrance is just \$5 per day, \$10 for a multiple day pass and there is no charge for children 12 and under.

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## Telus Van Isle 360 Yacht Race Gets Ready to Set Sail

**Telus Van Isle 360 Yacht Race - Follow The Boats Around Vancouver Island Via Satellite!**



The TELUS Van Isle 360 International Yacht Race, which runs June 4 - 18, is excited to announce that they will use Spot transponders this year to track the fleet during the two week race around Vancouver Island. The system, which uses the latest satellite technology, will plot and track all 41 boats in real time onto one map. Viewers will be able to log onto the TELUS Van Isle 360 website at anytime and see where each boat is.

"It's very cool technology and adds a whole new meaning to the phrase 'armchair sailor'", says Janine Bell, event manager. "From the comfort of your living room or anywhere you have Internet access you can just click and

Nanaimo at the Vancouver Island Conference Center. The conference will be held on Tuesday, September 20 to Thursday, September 22, 2011 - mark your calendars so you don't miss out!

### **New Businesses**

#### **Downtown**

##### **The Nest Bistro**

The new Nest Bistro is now open! This cozy dining nook is located in the Old City Quarter at 486A Franklyn St., previously Amazing Thai Restaurant. Co-owners/chefs Nicolas and Jennifer are pleased to offer a west coast menu. "Our food is homemade, affordable & delicious", says Jennifer. "We offer something for everyone: seafood, fish, chicken, beef, lamb, vegetarian & gluten free options." The Nest is open for dinner Wednesday through Sunday from 4-10 pm. Starting June 2, it will also be open for lunch from Thursday through Saturday from 11 am to 2 pm. For reservations call 250-591-2721.

#### **Downtown**

### **Entertainment Calendar**

##### **Casino Nanaimo Events**

see exactly where the boats are, regardless of whether they are off French Creek or Cape Scott. I think it will be a lot of fun to follow especially down the west coast and the last leg through the Gulf Islands. The system is being supplied as a turn key system, catered specifically for the TELUS Van Isle 360 by the Swiftsure Race Committee."



Steve Crowe, Principal Race Officer for the TELUS Van Isle 360, states, "This will be a first for the Van Isle 360 and just the nature of the venue, two weeks with 10 stops,

means there may be some bugs to work out that could affect the reliability or accuracy. For this reason we are promoting the tracking system as more of a fun, entertainment feature, than a safety feature, even though the units themselves are promoted as a safety item."

The TELUS Van Isle 360 is set to blast out of Nanaimo Harbour on June 4 at 10:30 am. The best place to view the start is from the Visiting Vessels Pier in the harbour. The race will then continue north around Vancouver Island in a series of 10 legs. The 2011 race marks the 8th running of the race which began as an annual event in 1999 but switched to biennial in 2001. This year's race is sold out.

For more information, please contact Janine Bell at [info@vanisle360.com](mailto:info@vanisle360.com) or visit [www.vanisle360.com](http://www.vanisle360.com)

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## Painted Turtle Guesthouse

@ Casino Nanaimo  
620 Terminal Avenue

Thursday, May 26, 5 - 9 pm  
Date Night - 2 for 1 dinner menu,  
plus \$10 in slot play for \$20

Friday, May 27  
Disco Night - Prizes for best  
dressed male and female

Sunday, May 29, 2 - 4 pm  
Afternoon Tea Delight

Monday, May 30 at 9:30 pm  
\$100 Freeroll Blackjack  
Tournament

Wednesday, June 1  
The Treat's On Us

Friday, June 3  
Buffet every Friday night in Black  
Diamond Bar & Grille.

### **Nanaimo Centre Stage Events**

25 Victoria Rd.  
Friday, May 27, Saturday, May  
28, Thursday, June 2, Friday,  
June 3

#### **Glengarry Glen Ross**

Doors Open at 7:30pm, Show at  
8:00pm. Written in 1983, David  
Mamet's study of competitive  
capitalism has scarcely dated in  
our frenziedly consumerist  
society. But, watching four men  
engaged in a cut-throat contest  
to sell dud tracts of Florida land,  
we see the different faces of

# Launches Stay & Save Program

**A \$1 million economic stimulus for Nanaimo from a small business initiative.**



While the City of Nanaimo and the Economic Development Commission are working on the big picture to improve our community's economic climate, small businesses are positioning themselves to attract new monies into the local economy. One small business is collaborating with 14 businesses to achieve an annual economic stimulus of \$1 million in the local tourism sector.

Economic stimulus can be defined as an injection of new money into a community, and there is an increasing amount of money coming into Nanaimo from outside visitors. In fact, the City of Nanaimo in its 2011 Economic Development Strategy has cited Tourism as one of the top five sectors driving economic growth. And many small businesses are developing strategies and initiatives to capture visitor spending. One such initiative has been recently introduced by the Painted Turtle Guesthouse – a 20-room boutique accommodation in downtown Nanaimo whose current client base is 80% long-haul or international visitors.

Under the banner of the Painted Turtle Guesthouse

human desperation and laugh despite ourselves. Tickets available at Fascinating Rhythm downtown and The Bite Café in the North End. \$15 advance and \$18 at the door.

## **The Sweet Lowdown**

Saturday, June 4

Doors open at 7:00 pm, Show at 7:30 pm

The Sweet Lowdown will celebrate the release of their new album with a nine-show tour, performing in Nanaimo on Saturday, June 4 at Nanaimo Centre Stage. The Sweet Lowdown is thrilled to announce the release of their self-titled second album! This young all-female trio has been creating quite a buzz in Victoria's bustling oldtime, bluegrass, and acoustic music scene. For more information about the band's tour information, please visit them at [www.thesweetlowdown.ca](http://www.thesweetlowdown.ca).

## **Yacht Club Mini-Exhibit**

@ Nanaimo Museum

*Opens Friday, May 27*

The Nanaimo Yacht Club is celebrating 80 years in operation with a mini-exhibit at Nanaimo Museum. Recognizing the importance of preserving and sharing its history with the community, the Nanaimo Yacht Club Heritage Committee is pleased to announce a mini-exhibit of the Club's history in

Stay & Save program, those 14 downtown businesses are collaborating to keep foreign visitor spending in Nanaimo. Their shared vision is to create economic stimulus by increasing the overall number of visitors, increasing the average visitor's spending, and increasing the average length of visitor stays. Currently, an average of 10,000 visitors are introduced to the program each year, each spending an estimated \$55/day over and above their accommodation and staying 1.8 nights in Nanaimo. This results in \$1 million annually of new dollars being spent at participating businesses.

Participating businesses include: Acme, Armani's Grill, Corner Lounge, Diners Rendezvous, Gabriel's Café, LevelTwo Dance Lounge, Modern Café, Mon Petit Chou, Serious Coffee, TeaLeaf Café, Tina's Diner, Two Chefs Affair and the Queens Cabaret. Each business has its own unique offering, such as a free drink with meal, two-for-one entry, and up to 20% off their dining bill.

"Offering a small incentive to a large number of people has a noticeably positive impact on my bottom line," says Gabe Martin of Gabriel's Café. "I am happy to participate in the Painted Turtle Guesthouse's Stay & Save program because I know it brings new business to me, and the program gives visitors a reason to come back and refer others to local businesses and to Nanaimo."

When asked to comment on the program, Guesthouse owner Bruce Barnard says, "We are a small player in the grand scheme of the local tourism industry,

the community gallery space in the foyer of the Nanaimo Museum.

The exhibit opens this month to coincide with the start of the boating season and will feature didactic panels capturing key moments in the Club's 80-year history. A "tour and talk" by curator David Hill-Turner on key marine heritage pieces in the Museums' permanent collection will take place on Sunday, May 29 at 11am for NYC and Museum members.

### **The Perfect Candidate**

@ Nanaimo Museum

*Thursday, May 26 at 7:30 pm*

A staged reading of a new comedy called The Perfect Candidate presented by Bill Miner. Don't miss the world premiere of this hilarious satirical comedy, which follows the antics, blunders and triumphs (but mostly blunders) of four charming though flawed Gulf Islanders. (not unlike ourselves) \*Warning: Further plot description will ruin some of our best gags and may cause blindness. Tickets \$12 (partial proceeds to the Nanaimo Museum). Tickets available at the Nanaimo Museum or by phone with credit card at 250-753-1821.

however, it puts a smile on my face to see our guests patronizing neighbouring businesses on a daily basis & to know that we are contributing to the economic development of our City.”

### **ArtRageous Saturdays in May**

@ Nanaimo Art Gallery

*May 28 at 10:30 am*

For children between 5-11 years old. \$10 per child, or \$15 for two siblings and all the art supplies are included. Parents are welcome to register their children at the Nanaimo Art Gallery (150 Commercial St.) or with credit card over the phone at 250-754-1750.

### **3rd Annual Bellydance Bazaar**

@ St. Paul's Church Hall

*Sat. June 18, 11 am - 4 pm*

Tickets \$5 (kids under 12 free)  
Workshops, food, shopping and dance performances all day. All are welcome. This is a fundraiser for The Haven Society.

### **St. Paul's Anglican Church 150th Anniversary Events**

@ St. Paul's Church

#### **Festival of Flowers Display and Silent Auction,**

Friday, Aug. 5 from 11 am to 6 pm and Saturday, Aug. 6 from 10 am to 5 pm

#### **Blackberry Extravaganza Event - Cream Tea and Dessert**

Two Seatings: Saturday, Aug. 6 from 2-3:30 pm and 3:30-5 pm

This is a fundraiser for the Church Roof! 100 Chapel St.  
Tickets by donation. Call 250-753-2523 for more info.

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