



UP & COMING DOWNTOWN:

View more events @

www.nanaimodowntown.com

→ Harbour City Half Marathon

Sunday, September 7th, 2008

The race starts and finishes at the Diana Krall Plaza, Commercial Street. Join hundreds of runners and walkers of all ages as they celebrate health and fitness while supporting 5 local non-profit organizations! FMI 1-778-4321

→ Souls Remembering Soles

Sunday, September 7th, 2008

Registration at 3:30pm, walk begins at 4:00 PM at Maffeo Sutton Park. Support World Suicide Prevention Day with a walk and vigil. The walk commences at Diana Krall Plaza with a vigil, singers, speakers, information table and ribbons. Participants are encouraged to bring a pair of shoes in honour of loved ones lost to suicide. Shoes to be donated to those in need after the event. FMI 250-753-2495

→ Downtown Nanaimo Art Gallery

Thursday, September 11th, 2008 - Friday, September 12th, 2008 10:00am to 5:00pm, 150 Commercial St.

"Who Will Plant the Seeds of Hope?", a beautiful exhibit of 38 pieces of textile art. Thirty-one quilters associated with the North Island Quilters for Community Awareness have donated the pieces to the Merville Grand Mothers group in order to raise funds for the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation.

Downtown Bids Farewell to Hanson

After seven years as the first Managing Director of the Downtown Nanaimo Partnership, George Hanson is moving on in his career to work as Development Manager for Insight Development.

The hiring of George Hanson as the first Managing Director to spearhead Downtown Revitalization was front page news. The Downtown Nanaimo Partnership had just been formed, and many will remember that Downtown Nanaimo was in sad shape. It's hard to believe, walking the streets of Downtown today, that back then storefront vacancy was at 50%, prominent commercial buildings were listed for as little as \$150,000, and there was no interest in residential development.

Mr. Hanson quickly established a reputation for the Downtown Nanaimo Partnership as one of the most effective organizations of its kind in Western Canada by leading our stakeholders through critical decisions, policy advocacy, and improvements of every description.

Since 2001, the Downtown Nanaimo Partnership has received ten provincial awards for Communications, Economic Development, Marketing, Special Events, Public Space, Internationalizing the Community, Member Services, Safety and Social Initiatives, and Business Attraction. Twenty-one commercial heritage buildings have been renovated with grants from the DNP; there's been a net increase of 120 new businesses; a 25% increase in jobs; and hundreds of millions in new construction.

"The revitalization of our downtown has enjoyed tremendous early stage success measured by anyone's standards.

There is still a lot of work to be done over the next 20-30 years. It has been a pleasure and privilege to work with so many passionate and dedicated people to achieve this much. The foundation is now set for much more to come." – George Hanson

"In many ways, the Downtown Nanaimo Partnership, under George's direction, has set the standard for Business Improvement and Urban Renewal in our province. – Diane Brennan, City Councillor and Vice-President

"We are sorry to lose such a valuable contributor to our project, yet George has found a perfect fit for the next stage of his career. Insight Development is highly regarded for quality and integrity, as is Mr. Hanson. The Downtown Nanaimo Partnership is in excellent condition moving forward with capable staff, a small army of dedicated volunteers, an established plan of action, and clear priorities. We thank George for his unstinting work in the Downtown and for Nanaimo. We wish him every success." – Camela Tang, President



Published bi-weekly by the Downtown Nanaimo Partnership, 150 Commercial Street, Nanaimo, BC, V9R 5G6, Phone: 754-8141



Downtown Nanaimo :: Open for living seven days a week.