

"We all have stories. Through them we come to understand the commonality of our experience. Whether we're relating the mundane details of daily life or the important stories of a lifetime or a people, it's through story-telling that we evoke the sense of meaning, the sequence of event, that metaphoric linear progression."

Tina Farmilo

Arts Vision: Saanich as a lively and creative community accessible to artists, to a broad range of artistic expression and to the participation of all its residents.

The District of Saanich's 1% for Public Art Policy encourages the creation of new works of art to enhance public spaces throughout our community.



For more information contact the Planning Department at 250-475-5472

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Saanich Public Art



*Stone Poems for
Rutledge*
by Tina Farmilo

"history"

"community"

"sense of our place"

"nature"

The District of Saanich in conjunction with the local community association and area residents completed the re-development and expansion of Rutledge Park in 2004. The final component of this park initiative was the selection and installation of a piece of public art. In early 2005 a Public Art Competition was held. The Rutledge Park Public Art Jury composed of three local artists, a representative from the local neighbourhood association, and a staff member from the Parks and Recreation Department, determined that the proposed work of art for this competition should address the broad theme of "Sense of Our Place". The competition theme required artists to explore the connections we have with place, with specific reference to Rutledge Park and the neighbourhood.

A sense of place is hard to define because it is primarily a feeling, and because it is made up of so many things. But generally, we can say that those "things" that define a place fall into three categories:

The geography, the place itself; The way human beings have lived on the landscape and the way they live now; and the intangibles, the myths, stories, names of a place, and so on, all of which help create the feeling a place has"

Tom Slayton

The artist selected for the project was Tina Farmilo, an interdisciplinary artist whose work is rooted in issues of community, place, and history. Tina loves storytelling of every kind, and has a career as an artist, writer, educator and community animator. Her home is in the southern Gulf Islands.

Tina created her "stone poem for Rutledge" by collecting stories, memories and history of the neighbourhood through formal research, and conversations with current and former residents and elders. From this information, Tina created poetry to reflect the history of the neighbourhood. The poems were then carved onto eight granite stones from a local quarry. The eight stone poems have been sited throughout the park to subtly enrich the beauty and meaning of this place.

Tina created poetry to reflect the history of the neighbourhood...

