

# Northern Ontario Poetry Competition Rules

Deadline: May 31st Annually [[wmpub.ca/nopc.html](http://wmpub.ca/nopc.html)]

**1. Residency:** All entrants must be Northern Ontario residents. Northern Ontario is defined as those residents who have addresses with postal codes beginning with the letter "P".

**2. Poems:** Poems must be titled, previously unpublished, and typed in black ink one per page on 8.5 x 11 inch white bond paper. Photocopies and letter quality computer printouts are acceptable. Poems are not to exceed 50 lines in length, including the title. Line length exceeding 44 characters including punctuation and spaces may be broken at the discretion of the anthology committee. Once a line has to be broken because of its length, it will count as two lines. Poems that are too long are not even seen by the judge, so please count these lines carefully. **Do Not** put your name or other identification on the pages your poems are typed on.

**3. Entry identification:** Your Name, Address, Telephone number and the Titles of your poems must appear on a cover page enclosed with your poems. On the pages on which the poems appear, only the title and the poem itself are acceptable—these pages will be numbered on arrival and coded to coincide with your cover page. The judge will not know who wrote the poem, but our registrar will. Entrants must submit their entry under their real name; no pseudonyms allowed. (Folks-it's just too confusing.) Contestants who do not submit under their real name may be subject to disqualification and fees will not be refunded.

**4. Contest Entry [Online @ <https://wmpub.ca/nopc-entry.html>]**

**By Mail:** Your envelope with your entry (entries) to the contest should include:

- Your **poem(s)**,
- The **cover page** containing your name, address, telephone number and Poem Title(s),
- A **cheque** or money order for \$5.00 per poem submitted. A cheque for the total for multiple entries is fine; no need for many little cheques. Make cheque payable to *White Mountain Publications* (Please do not send cash by mail). There is no official entry form, and no limit on number of entries as long as the appropriate fees are included.
- A **self-addressed, stamped envelope** (#10 business size envelope please). This is optional; if you want the news online, check the website, and the SASE is not necessary. This SASE is used to invite you to the awards ceremony and launching of the Anthology in September. We encourage you to attend the anthology launch. Winners will be announced at the Launch. Invitations are mailed in the summer.

When your entry has all these items, hand it in at 50 Silver Street, Cobalt or mail it to: **White Mountain Publications, Northern Ontario Poetry**

*Competition, Box 620, Cobalt, ON P0J 1C0*

**5. Deadline:** Submissions must be postmarked by **May 31st**.

**6. Rights:** By entering the contest you are giving *White Mountain Publications* first Canadian rights to publication in print and possible e-book distribution. You are free to market your poem in other places, but you should inform them if it has appeared in this anthology.

**7. Prizes:** Cash prizes will be given to the First, Second, and Third place winners. [Website has the most current amounts.] These winners are decided at the discretion of the judge(s). Decision of the judge(s) is final. All those chosen by the judge(s) to be included in the anthology will receive a certificate and a complimentary copy of the anthology.

## Frequently Asked Questions:

**1. What type of poetry are you looking for?**

We're looking for poems with vivid images, depth of perception, in a well-crafted format. There is no specific theme.

**2. How will I know you've received my entry?**

Include your email address and we will send an email confirming receipt of your entry. Or include a self-addressed, stamped postcard that we can return to you.

**3. When will I hear if I'm included in the anthology?**

Early August all entrants are informed as to the poems and poets included in the collection. Winners are announced at the Launch the first Saturday after Labour Day and **not** sooner.

**4. What will the anthology look like?**

The anthology will be a beautiful volume, roughly 8.5" tall by 5.5" wide.

**5. What happens at the Launch?**

Everyone gathers, there are opening comments from *White Mountain Publications*, the *Canadian Authors Association*, the judge, then the winners are announced and invited one by one to come and receive their prize and read their winning poem(s). Then all other poets who have been selected for inclusion in the anthology will come up to receive their certificate and copy of the anthology, and read their poems as well. Copies of the anthology are first for sale at the Launch, then available by mail and in bookstores across Northern Ontario. For a more personalized view of what happens at the Launch, see our website for Christine Richardson's story about the 2001 Launch.

**6. What happens if I can't make it to the Launch?**

Then, with your permission, we will read your poem if it has been selected by the judge for inclusion, and mail your certificate and copy of the anthology to you. We hope you will be there, but will understand your regrets. Northern Ontario is a BIG area to travel.

**7. Who is judging this year's contest?**

When the judge(s) is selected, generally the name is not given so that the judge is not gently harassed by well-meaning entrants. And quite often there is a judging committee.

**Thank you for your interest in the Competition, and best wishes for your success.**



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