

## WFNB's First Nature-Writing Competition

The **Writers' Federation of New Brunswick** (WFNB) is sponsoring its first nature-writing competition.

### What is Nature Writing?

Nature writing is not about “the outdoors” or “wildlife I have seen,” although such topics can make for entertaining stories. Nor is it strictly “environmental” writing that defines problems and solutions.

Instead, it is more contemplative, considering the natural world and the writer's place within it. Nature writers seek to learn *about* nature but also *from* it. The writer feels part of the natural world and wants to share that feeling. In the end, nature writing is an affirmation of our relationship with the natural world and how that relationship – however dysfunctional – feeds our spiritual and emotional beings.

The wilderness of New Brunswick has long influenced us as a culture and a people. Yet to date, with a few exceptions, our landscapes have received little literary attention. It is time to change that. It is time to bear witness to how natural details of where we live – our sense of place – influence how we live our lives. It is time to leave the tourism clichés unsung. Ponder instead the mud puddles in your driveway, the furled beech leaves on your walking trail, the single sandpiper on the strand.

Whatever your topic, we need your contemplative take on the natural world. Show how you engage your senses with what lives and grows around you and what such engagement stirs in your heart. How else will today's youngsters know that, once upon a time, in a place called New Brunswick, we loved this place, were touched by its wild spaces, and cared enough to write about that love?

Consider this competition as a literary call to arms. Become a contemplative witness of New Brunswick's wild places, large or small. Ponder how they have moved you, directed your life choices, made you weep or given you great joy. Then get out those pens or keyboards and start writing your essay as though your lives depend on it. Because in a way, they do.

**When:** Submissions are to be postmarked by Monday November 16, 2009.

**What:** Entries are to be 1000–1500 words long. They must be original and not previously published.

**Who:** This competition has two age categories: (1) adult, and (2) youth under 18. It is open to all New Brunswick residents who are *not* professional writers or journalists.

**Prizes:** First Prize: \$200      Second Prize: \$100      Third Prize: \$50

**Submission:** 1. Entries must be typewritten, double-spaced, printed on one side of 8 ½" x 11" paper, and paginated.  
2. Include your name, address, age category (“Adult” or “Under 18”), and entry title on a separate sheet of paper.  
3. Please do not submit your only copy, as manuscripts will not be returned.

**Where:** Mail entries to: Writers' Federation of New Brunswick, PO Box 37, Station A, Fredericton, E3B 4Y2. Write “NATURE WRITING” at the bottom. The entry fee is \$15 for WFNB or Nature NB members (and all students), and \$20 for non-members. (Prizes may not necessarily be awarded, at the discretion of the judges.)

**Questions:** Email or call Gwen Martin at [gwenmart@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:gwenmart@nbnet.nb.ca) or 506-366-3079.