

Hey, everybody living on Haida Gwaii!

We'd like you to submit to the 2021 Haida Gwaii Arts Council Writing Competition

GENRE: Anything that a person could enjoy reading on the printed page: short story, essay, memoir, poem, play, song lyric, screenplay.

WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR: Your voice, your experience, your imagination and your deep thoughts about this very strange year living in this unique part of the world. It could be a happy story, a sad story, a terrifying story—or a mixture of everything. Did you discover something important or wonderful or disturbing about yourself? How have you (or your fictional main characters) been getting along with people in your bubble? What do you or your characters think about the way the rest of the world has been reacting? Have you or your character become an online shopaholic? A daytime drinker? A languisher? An Olympian-calibre baker? The story could be about losing touch with friends or gaining new friends in the digital world or the outside-the-post-office lineup, about the anguish of being cooped up and how people cope and overcome it—or not! Possibly some unexpected appreciation of less social pressure and more “alone time,” the fleeting moment of joy from talking to a passer-by on the beach. It's an awkward time for a romantic breakup and also an impossibly challenging time to fall in love; you could invent a story or write a memoir about that. It could be a happy story, a sad story, an angry story, a crazy story. Feel free to unleash your wry sense of humour at all the ridiculous things that one does to stay sane. Writing connects us all!

ENTRY INCENTIVE: Each local entrant (i.e. residing currently on Haida Gwaii) will receive one \$10 gift certificate for a local hospitality business in Masset, Tlell, Daajing Giids or Sandspit (for example, if available: The Ground Gallery & Coffee House, Daddy Cool's, Crow's Nest Café, Gather, Blacktail, Queen B's, Raincoast Breads.)

PRIZES: We will be awarding three prizes: First, Second and Third, plus an unspecified number of honourable mentions. Aside from the entry gift to you, we are not offering material or cash prizes but something much more valuable: the services of a professional editor to work with you to buff your writing to a shine for publication. This service is absolutely standard in the writing industry: even the most globally renowned authors submit their work for editing prior to publication, which is partly why their work is consistently great! The professional editor is tasked with bringing out more of your voice, your thoughts, and observations in a clear and compelling fashion, and help you to become an even better writer.

TIMELINE: Deadline for submission is **Aug 15th, 2021**. Winners to be announced on September 15th, 2021.

All winners and honourable mentions will be published in a collection of Haida Gwaii writing: in print (pending funding) and/or online/pdf format.

CRITERIA

Content should meet these criteria:

- Deals with the theme of living on Haida Gwaii during the pandemic
- Open to residents of Haida Gwaii, part- or full-time. Haida citizens and former Haida Gwaii residents can enter, but will not receive the entry gift certificate, and should nonetheless tie their writings to the theme of Haida Gwaii and the pandemic.
- Text length should fall between 1,000 and 2,000 words.
- Must be original, unpublished work.
- One entry per individual. Multiple texts can be submitted, for instance if the entrant is submitting a series of short poems, but the maximum total word count should not exceed 2,000 words.

Notes:

- Adjudication: Three award-winning professional writers TBA will evaluate the submissions and select the three Winners. The adjudicators will be looking for originality, wordsmithing, distinctive voice and/or characterization, risk-taking, sense of story.
- The Haida Gwaii Arts Council will receive the right to reproduce and publish the text in all formats, including print and online.

SUBMISSION PROCESS

- Please send your text(s) as an attachment in Document format to the competition coordinator, Adele Weder, at [aweder\[at\]telus.net](mailto:aweder@telus.net).
- Put "Writing Competition" as the email subject and state your name and contact information on the first page of the doc file but not on subsequent pages containing your submitted writing. Your text will be judged anonymously by the three jurors.
- Please submit by the deadline, Aug 15st, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENT AND CELEBRATION:

Winners will be notified by or before September 15th, 2021, and will be celebrated during an event to take place in Haida Gwaii this September—pandemic permitting, in person!

RIGHTS

By submitting, you give the Haida Gwaii Arts Council the non-exclusive right to publish the texts of the winners and honourable mentions in print and electronic media. Any profits generated from the publication of the writings after production expenses shall be remitted to authors. You also grant the Haida Gwaii Arts Council the non-exclusive right to promote the competition and any related publication or event within a year of the winners being announced. Apart from these considerations, you, the author, retain the full right to your writing(s).

QUESTIONS? Feel free to contact [aweder\[at\]telus.net](mailto:aweder@telus.net) for any questions or clarifications on regulations, adjudication or entry procedure.