



Sixty-eight Writes

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-News Release-

WRITE AGAIN: \$1200 IN PRIZES OFFERED TO LOCAL HIGH SCHOOL WRITERS FOR THIRD STRAIGHT YEAR

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Nanaimo – Once again “Sixty-eight Writes”, a locally developed no fee, non-profit writing contest for high school students in School District # 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith), will offer \$1200 in cash prizes for the best student writing. Grade 10, 11 and 12 students are again invited to submit a work of fiction or non-fiction on any topic, and prizes of \$300, \$200 and \$100 will be awarded to the top three entries in each category. This year’s contest submission deadline is **March 23, 2009**.

Local businesses and community organizations continue to show strong support for the project, and their generosity has allowed the contest to be continued this year. Once again writing professionals are kindly volunteering their expertise to serve as judges. This year’s panels are:

Fiction: **Roger Farr**, Convener, Capilano University Creative Writing Program
Dede Gaston, Author (as Dede Crane)
Wendy Strachan, Founding Director, SFU Centre for Writing-Intensive Learning

Non-Fiction: **Cale Cowan**, Managing Editor, Nanaimo Daily News
Margaret Thompson, Author and past president of the Federation of BC Writers
Frank Moher, Chair, Dept. of Creative Writing and Journalism, Vancouver Island University

Each year an anthology of the best entries is published electronically on the contest web site (<http://members.shaw.ca/sixtyeightwrites>). A few printed copies are out in the community somewhere, left in bus shelters and ferry line-ups to circulate “book-crossing” style. Printed copies of the anthology are also available in all SD68 secondary school libraries. Students who do not win a cash prize but whose work is selected for the anthology earn a \$50 writer’s fee in recognition of their efforts.

For full contest details and to read or print the anthologies from previous years, visit the contest web site. If you would like more information, please email sixtyeightwrites@shaw.ca.

We are grateful to the following organizations for their support:

*Shaw Cablesystems • Island Radio • Coastal Community Credit Union • Woodlands Secondary School PAC
Nanaimo District Secondary School PAC • Nanaimo Daybreak Rotary Club • Mid-Island Co-op
Gabriola Sounder • Black Press Vancouver Island • Nanaimo Daily News
Staples Business Depot • Tom Harris Cellular • Woodgrove Centre*

And to the following media organizations:

*Nanaimo Daily News • Ladysmith Chronicle • Gabriola Sounder • Flying Shingle • Youthink
The Mind’s Eye • Nanaimo News Bulletin • A-Channel • Shaw TV Nanaimo • The WOLF • The WAVE*