



Poets Invited to Apply for City's Poet Laureate

Date: Tuesday, September 23, 2008

For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The role of a Poet Laureate is to raise awareness of poetry and literary arts in a community. The City of Victoria is now accepting applications for a new Poet Laureate. Carla Funk, who currently fills the position, will complete her term as the City's first Poet Laureate at the end of November.

Serving as a literary and cultural ambassador for the City, the Poet Laureate is required to produce a minimum of three new poems each year and recite poems at seven community events annually, including the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize Gala Awards and one City Council meeting. The three-year term will commence on Monday, December 1, 2008, timed with a new term of elected City Council.

To be considered eligible, an applicant must reside in the Capital Region, be a published poet of a minimum of two volumes (not self-published), and produce works that display literary excellence and make a significant contribution to the community. An honourarium of \$2,500 will be awarded each year of the three-year term to cover expenses.

Applications will be accepted until Friday, October 10, 2008 and are to be mailed, or dropped off at the Greater Victoria Public Library's Administration Department at 735 Broughton Street, Monday – Friday, from 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m. The Library administers the applicant selection process while the City provides program support to the Poet Laureate.

Submissions will be reviewed by a four-member jury consisting of a local poet, publisher, bookseller and librarian. The Poet Laureate appointment will be announced by the Mayor at a City of Victoria Council meeting at the end of November.

Poet Laureates date back centuries when they first served the British Monarchy. For information on how to apply or to view poems by Carla Funk, visit: www.victoria.ca and click on *What's New?*

- 30 -

For More Information:

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