Call for Nominations for City’s Third Poet Laureate

Date: Thursday, September 8, 2011  For Immediate Release

VICTORIA, BC – The role of a Poet Laureate is to raise awareness of poetry and literary arts in the community. The City of Victoria is now accepting nominations for its third Poet Laureate. Linda Rogers, who currently fills the position, will complete her term as the City’s second 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 original works each year that reflect or represent ideas and issues of importance to the people of Victoria, and recite poems at City events, City Council meetings and official functions including the Victoria Book Prize Awards Gala. An honourarium of $2,500 will be awarded each year of the three-year term to cover expenses. The three-year term will commence on Thursday, December 1, 2011.

The City’s third Poet Laureate will be selected by nomination. Nominees must reside in the Capital Region; have an established body of work or have made a significant contribution to poetry and literary life in the community; and have produced a minimum of two published works (not self-published).

Candidates must be nominated by at least one person. Self-nominations are accepted. The deadline for submissions is 4:30 p.m. on Friday, October 7, 2011. Submissions are to be mailed or dropped off at the Greater Victoria Public Library Administration Office at 735 Broughton Street, Monday to Friday, between 9 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Submissions will be evaluated by a peer committee comprised of representatives of Victoria’s literary and poetry community. The Library administers the nomination selection process while the City provides program support to the Poet Laureate. The City of Victoria’s third Poet Laureate will be announced by the Mayor at a Council meeting in mid-December.

Poet Laureates date back centuries when they first served the British Monarchy.

For more information, visit: www.victoria.ca and click on What’s New?

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