VICTORIA, BC - Victoria Poet Laureate Linda Rogers is among four Greater Victoria poets who have a poem shortlisted for the inaugural not-for-profit Montreal International Poetry Prize. They are among 50 international poets who have been shortlisted to win the $50,000 prize for a single original poem, limited to a maximum of 40 lines and written in any English dialect. Three thousand poems from 59 countries were entered into the competition.

“The fact that four of the poets shortlisted for this international prize reside in Greater Victoria illustrates the rich literary community in which we live,” said Mayor Dean Fortin.

Linda Rogers' poems The Earth Moves and Bright and The Grasshoppers’ Silence are two of the 50 international poems that have been shortlisted for the prize. The three other local shortlisted poems and poets include Night Thoughts from Somewhere Past High Noon by Iain Higgins (Victoria), The Old Man and the Beanstalk by Alina Wilson (Saanich), and Tamarind Tree by Patricia Young (Victoria).

Launched in March, this unique literary award has kept the poets’ names hidden from the 10-member international editorial board to create a level playing field for anyone who entered the competition. All 10 are accomplished poets from Australia, Canada, England, Guyana, India, Jamaica, Malawi, Nigeria, Northern Ireland and the United States.

Andrew Morton, the 2011 prize judge and former UK Poet Laureate, will select the winner who will be announced in December. The 50 shortlisted poems will be published in a print and e-format global poetry anthology. To view the list of 50 shortlisted poems, visit: www.montrealprize.com

The Montreal International Poetry Prize awards the largest prize for a single poem and is the only $50,000 prize that is juried in a "blind process," which places the focus on the poem, not the poet. The prize is made possible by a generous and anonymous $50,000 catalyst donation. A grassroots, not-for-profit organization committed to promoting poetry and poets around the world, the Montreal International Poetry Prize represents a major contribution to the global cultural scene.

Linda Rogers will make her last official poetry reading as Victoria’s Poet Laureate at the Council meeting on Thursday, November 24, 2011 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall.

For More Information:
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