

Muskoka Novel Marathon 2020: Quarantine Edition **Registration Package**

Yes! It's our first ever TOTALLY ONLINE Muskoka Novel Marathon.

We will still be a group of writers devoting 72 hours to doing what we love the most – writing! – but we'll be joined together through Internet technology rather than gathered in one space.

Date and time: The same! July 17-20, 2020. The bell will be rung (from a co-convenor's home!) to start the Marathon on Friday at 8 p.m. and end it on Monday at 8 p.m.

Since we will not need to provide meals and space, **we are not charging a registration fee!** We are asking for a donation, however, recommended minimum \$25 **if you can.** **Please don't let financial stricture stop you from joining us.**

There is NO cap on the number of writers... tell your writer friends!

By registering, you will receive:

- All event Zoom links and the Official Marathon Weekend Schedule
- All other links for relevant online happenings and writing resources during the Marathon
- Eligibility for awards! Best Novel (Adult or YA/Juvenile), Most Prolific Award, Rockstar Award, Techie Award and Spirit Awards
- Opportunity to order our special Muskoka Novel Marathon 2020 Quarantine Edition t-shirt
- A link to fundraise for the Y if desired
- More as we think of it (we have a *lot* of ideas, and we welcome more!)

Note to WRITERS WHO REGISTERED FOR MNM 2020

Whether you have chosen a refund of your MNM 2020 registration fee or to defer your registration and seat to 2021, you are of course invited to participate in the MNM2020:QE!

If you ordered one or more MNM2020 t-shirts in March – we have changed the graphics both front and back to reflect the special nature of this Marathon, so we will defer your existing order to 2021 when we go back to a regular Marathon and regular t-shirts. To get the special Quarantine Edition t-shirt, you must order it upon registration to MNM2020:QE and we will ship it to you via Canada Post. (Unfortunately, we won't have the t-shirts ready for July... there isn't time to have them made up and mailed, sorry! You should get yours by the Wrap-Up on September 26, though.)

TO REGISTER:

Please use a computer – mobile devices often have issues, so for the best chance of a non-problematic registration please do not use your phone or iPad.

Visit www.muskokanovelmarchathon.com and click on "Register". Then follow the instructions. As well as registering, you'll get the opportunity to order one of our stylish, guaranteed Covid-free t-shirts. As mentioned above, the front and back graphics have both been changed to reflect the particular nature of the 2020 Marathon. See p. 5 for style, size & colour choices.

Finally, you'll be invited to provide a head shot and a mini-bio to let the rest of us know who you are! (Note: we always do this with in-person Marathons as well.)

The Point of It All

There are two reasons we put our time, energy and love into organizing this event:

1. to raise funds for YMCA Muskoka's adult literacy programs - because literacy, numeracy and computer skills liberate people, give them possibilities they never had before, and change lives;
2. to provide a unique opportunity for writers to step out of their everyday lives, write like crazy with a bunch of other writers doing the same, and compete to have their manuscript seen by a publishing professional.

This year we are lessening our focus on #1 for Covid-19-related reasons, and we're doing #2 in a completely different way in that writers will stay home to write instead of being together in our venue. However, we strongly encourage you to still make it a step outside of your usual life to free yourself up for 72 hours of pure self-expression, as best you can.

Writers' Handbook & Manuscript Template

Prior to the event, you will receive an email with a PDF of a shortened version of our Writers' Handbook, which contains all sorts of useful information, including detailed submission guidelines. Stash it somewhere easy to find on your computer or mobile device for reference during the event. You'll also get our handy manuscript template as a Word doc, which is pre-formatted to the MNM standard manuscript format. Just open it up and start writing!

Fundraising

During a typical year, we set a fundraising goal, provide materials to help you fundraise, offer fundraising prizes, etc., to inspire writers to great heights of fundraising. We're doing none of that this year due to the highly-untypical economic effects of the pandemic. However if you still would like to fundraise you may, and we will set you up with the Y's online donation service upon request when you register.

Writing

All forms of writing are permissible, including poetry, anthologies, short stories, non-fiction, etc.

If you are submitting your manuscript for judging, **you may not submit any words other than those written during the 72 hours** of the Marathon. You may use a pre-prepared one-page writing outline to help organize your writing.

Collaborative entries by two writers maximum are permitted.

IMPORTANT information about synopses: There has been much confusion about this, so to clarify: even with a completed novel manuscript, **a synopsis of your story is still REQUIRED**, as we are now allowing the judges the option of reading only 50 pages plus the synopsis, in order to ease their workload. Note: Synopsis writing is a necessary skill for professional novelists anyway!

Awards

Writers who wish to take part in the Best Novel competition can submit their manuscripts electronically at or before the end of the marathon. Our judges, who may include authors, librarians, editors, book publishers

and book store owners (and are all total bibliophiles), will determine the winners in each of two categories: Juvenile/Young Adult, and Adult.

Winners will be announced at our Wrap-up Event, either online or in person in Huntsville on September 26. They will have some weeks to revise their manuscripts before submitting them to the editor or agent.

Once the manuscripts have been sent to the editor or agent, the discussion will continue between that party and the author directly. The Muskoka Novel Marathon will cease to be involved from that point onwards (except to wish you the best of luck!)

Our full collection of awards is listed on our website [here](#), but there will be no awards in the Rookie of the Year or BIC categories this year. All the rest are up for grabs, and peer voting for awards will be done electronically. We plan on multiple Spirit Awards this year!

Social Media

Once you're registered you don't need to wait until July 17 to start hanging out online with your fellow Novel Marathoners! Please join the [Muskoka Novel Marathoners Facebook Group](#). Writer Liaison Shellie Westlake can best be contacted via email, but join this group and reach out to your fellow writers if you have any questions. We're a family here, and love to help! For official public announcements, go to our official Facebook page, [Muskoka Novel Marathon](#). Our official Twitter hashtag is #MNM2020.

Contest Submission Rules

1. Entrants to either Best Novel or Most Prolific contests must begin writing their manuscripts no earlier than 8:00 p.m. (20h) on the first day (Friday) of the marathon and end no later than 8:00 p.m. (20h) on the final day (Monday) of the marathon. An affidavit to this effect, which we will provide, must be signed by the author, witnessed and submitted by the end of the event. Please print, scan and email the scan to us, or use electronic signatures.
2. Completed manuscripts to be submitted to the judges will be in Microsoft Word, double-spaced in 14-point Times New Roman with page number and title of work on each page. A separate title page will include the title of the work and the intended audience only (Young Adult/Juvenile and Adult). Once you're registered, we will provide a template Word file for you to use so you don't have to worry about formatting. **To ensure the objectivity of the judging process, the author's name must not appear anywhere on this copy.** If it does we will delete it, because otherwise we must disqualify you.
3. There are no limits to the length of the manuscript, however **a synopsis must be included** even if you complete your work, as one or more judges reading it might opt to read just 50 pages and a synopsis. Knowing how the rest of the novel goes, especially its ending, allows them to evaluate its quality and provide plot feedback. (If they love it, they'll read the whole thing.)
4. For writers wishing to submit their work for judging, electronic copies will be accepted by the Novel Marathon Committee up to 8:00 p.m. on Monday.
5. The judges reserve the right to declare "no award" in a category if none of the manuscripts are deemed acceptable for submission to a publisher or agent.

Questions?

Please contact our Writer Liaison **Shellie Westlake** at writerliaison@muskokanovelmarathon.com

or on Facebook Messenger – Join [“Muskoka Novel Marathoners”](#)

There is also more Marathon info on our website, [muskokanovelmarathon.com](#).

Muskoka Novel Marathon 2020 T-Shirts

Once again, Portage Promotionals of Huntsville is providing our lovely, comfortable, custom-printed Muskoka Novel Marathon t-shirts... with our special design for this very special Marathon. The shirts will look like this (but in your selected colour and style):



Front

Back

T-shirts come in two styles (v-neck or crew neck) and two fits (ladies or unisex). All shirts are preshrunk 7.5 oz cotton. **The ladies' styles have a tapered body and fit SMALL. And we mean *really* small.** (Approximate sizes are S=2, M=4, L=6, XL=8, XXL=10-12.) Unisex sizes range from S (about equivalent to a Ladies 6) to XXL (about equivalent to a Men's XL). The text on all shirts is white and won't stand out as much on lighter-coloured shirts.

Pricing:

T-shirts will cost the same as last year (\$23) except with shipping fee added to cover our costs to ship via Canada Post:

- Shipping within Canada: CAD\$23.00 + \$6.00 = CAD\$29.00 per shirt
- Shipping within the continental USA, no tracking: CAD\$23.00 + \$10.00 = CAD\$35 per shirt
- Shipping within the continental USA, w/ tracking: CAD\$23.00 + \$19.00 = CAD\$44 per shirt
- Shipping to other locations: please inquire before ordering (you'll have a chance to order t-shirts separately).

See next pages for T-shirt size, style and colour choices. The colours shown may not exactly match the actual shirt colour (but mostly they're pretty close).



Jade Dome



Dark Heather



* Black



Cherry Red



Royal

Unisex Crew Neck

SIZES: S, M, L, XL, XXL, * Colours available in XXXL



* Sport Grey



* Navy



* Heather Irish



Antique Sapphire



* Heather Purple



Heather Royal



Kelly Green



Antique Heliconia



Tropical Blue



Maroon



Azalea



Heather Cardinal



Kiwi



Dark Heather



Black



Cherry Red



Royal

Ladies Crew Neck

SIZES: S, M, L, XL, XXL
FITS SMALL - Size 2,4,6,8,10



Sport Grey



Navy



Azalea



Antique Sapphire



Heather Purple



Irish Green

Unisex V-Neck Crew



Heather Purple
SIZES: S, M, L, XL, XXL



Dark Heather



Black



Cherry Red



Royal



Sport Grey



Navy

Ladies V-Neck



Heather Purple
SIZES: S, M, L, XL, XXL
FITS SMALL - Size 2,4,6,8,10



Dark Heather



Black



Cherry Red



Royal



Sport Grey



Navy



Azalea