

Muskoka Novel Marathon 2021 Quarantine Edition II  
and MNM 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary...!

## Registration Package

**Due to the present continuing need for anti-Covid-19 precautions, the MNM Committee decided we're going to Zoom it again this year, as last year worked so well!**

We are planning to be together in person again in 2022... (the space is booked!)

**Date and time: July 16-19, 2021.** The bell will be rung in beautiful Muskoka to start the Marathon on Friday at 8 p.m. and end it on Monday at 8 p.m.

This year we are normalizing things a little. We are going to charge a nominal registration fee this year of \$25, as while the expenses are much lower than for an in-person marathon, they're not zero. (Registration for the in-person MNM is \$100.)

We are also going to award the Remington Award for top fundraiser and cool prizes from local sponsors for runner-up fundraisers – as usual you get to pick depending on where you are in the ranking.

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

By registering, you will receive:

- All event Zoom links and schedule
- All other links for relevant online happenings and resources during the Marathon
- Eligibility for awards! Best Novel (Adult or YA/Juvenile), Most Prolific Award, Rockstar Award, Techie Award, Spirit Award and the Remy.
- A link to fundraise for our beneficiary: YMCA and its Muskoka literacy programs.
- An opportunity to buy our fabulous 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary t-shirt! Just wait till you see the design for the back (keep reading).
- Entrance either free or discounted to an amazing workshop series we are creating!
- Other cool 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary stuff as we conceive/execute it!

TO REGISTER:

**Registration is now open.**

**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.muskokanovelmarathon.com](http://www.muskokanovelmarathon.com) and click on “Register me for MNM:QE 2021!” Then follow the instructions. When you register, you’ll get the opportunity to order one (or more) of our stylish 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary t-shirts. As mentioned above, the front and back graphics will reflect the one-of-a-kind nature of the 2021 Marathon. See below 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 in the company of a bunch of other writers doing the same, and compete to have their manuscript seen by a publishing professional.

This year we are bringing some focus back to #1, as mentioned. #2 is harder to do at home than it is in the Active Living Centre, but writers last year came up with various strategies. We strongly encourage you to still step outside of your usual life to free yourself up for 72 hours of pure self-expression. Don’t schedule anything else, take Monday off work if you can, send the spouse and kids to Grandma’s or on a canoe trip or even Wonderland... it’s open this year!

## 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

This year we will set up a fundraising link for everyone once again, but will not look askance upon you if you don’t use it. However now there are prizes up for grabs!

## Writing

All forms of writing are permissible, including poetry, anthologies, short stories, non-fiction, etc. Collaborative entries by two writers maximum are permitted.

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

**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 REQUIRED**, as we are now allowing the judges the option of reading only 50 pages plus the synopsis, in order to ease their workload. 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, which we'll do by Zoom on September 25. 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](#). They're all up for grabs, and peer voting for awards will be done electronically.

## Social Media

Once you're registered you don't need to wait until July 16 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 ([writerliaison@muskokanovelmarchon.com](mailto:writerliaison@muskokanovelmarchon.com)), 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 #MNM2021.

## 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, of course, 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. We will give you the email addresses later.
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@muskokanovelmarchathon.com](mailto:writerliaison@muskokanovelmarchathon.com)

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

There is also more Marathon info on our website, [muskokanovelmarchathon.com](http://muskokanovelmarchathon.com).

## Muskoka Novel Marathon 2021 T-Shirts

Once again, the wonderful Beth Brittain, owner of Portage Promotionals of Huntsville, is providing our lovely, comfortable, custom-printed Muskoka Novel Marathon t-shirts... with “Quarantine Edition II” on the front (same as last year + 1) and an awesome 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary celebration design by Krystyne Taylor-Smith on the 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) with shipping fee added to cover our costs to ship via Canada Post:

- Shipping within Canada: CAD\$28 (\$23 + \$5) for one shirt; \$26 (\$23 + \$3) for each additional shirt (if ordered together).
- Shipping within continental USA: CAD\$35 for one shirt (\$23 + \$12); \$33 (\$23 + \$10) for each additional shirt (if ordered together).
- Shipping to other locations: Price TBD (please inquire).

If you live in Huntsville and surrounds and want to pick up your t-shirt(s), select the “No Shipping” option.

Note: we are not selling masks this year.

**FINAL DEADLINE** for t-shirt ordering is **May 15** (two weeks earlier than usual to allow for shipping time).

**Pages below show what the shirts will look like, then size, style and colour choices.** The colours shown may not exactly match the actual shirt colour (but mostly they’re pretty close).

### But first:

You can’t read what the fireworks trails say on the mock-up so here is Krys’s design in black. Are you ready? .....



# Celebrating Writers Helping Readers for 20 Years! #MNM2021

What the shirts will look like (imagine v-neck if desired):



# Size, style and colour choices

## Ladies' Crew Neck S-2XL



## Unisex V-Neck S-2XL



## Ladies' V-Neck S-2XL



## Unisex Crew Neck S-2XL (\* indicated 3XL available)

