

Muskoka Novel Marathon 2025

Writers'
Registration
Information



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!
REGISTRATION OPENS MARCH 18, 2025 at 7 P.M. EDT
NOVEL MARATHON HAPPENS: THURSDAY JULY 10 – SUNDAY, JULY 13

.....IF YOU WANT TO COME, PLEASE READ EVERYTHING BELOW.....

Due to interest expressed by people who didn't attend last year and the fact that we know we can fit 10 more writers into the Port Sydney Community Hall, we are raising the cap for in-person attendance back to **40 writers**. There is no cap on online attendance, of course.

Prior to opening we will contact those writers who raised \$1,000 or more last year. Registration will be online as usual but again without the seat-selection map because, even though we've used the venue once already, we're going to change the seating arrangement and therefore don't really know which are the preferred seats. Seat selection will be by our previous low-tech method: 1) During set-up, selection in the order established; and 2) after that, first come, first served.

N.B.: Please register using a computer – mobile devices often have issues, so for the best chance of a problem-free registration please do not use your phone or iPad.

Returning writers: Check to see if you can [log in to your account](#) on our website prior to registration. If you cannot remember your password, you can reset it by clicking on the "Forgot Password" link under the log in screen and watching for an email to be sent to the address you registered with previously. When registration for the event opens, you will start the process as usual, but then LOG IN when the checkout screen prompts you rather than REGISTERING a new account. Again, if you hold a reserved seat from 2020, we will contact you prior to registration. If all else fails, create a new account, as we've done housekeeping on our user list.

New writers: go to our website at www.muskokanovelmarchathon.com, starting 7 p.m. EDT March 18, and click the button that says "Register me!" Then **follow the instructions**. Registration fee remains CAD\$100 in person and \$25 online. This is also the start time for ordering one or more of our stylish MNM 2025 t-shirts at \$30 each (same as last year), with many colours and styles to choose from for ladies and gentlemen. See pages 6-9 for the options. **Final date for t-shirt orders is May 30. We will be asking for first and second choices this year.**

You're not under a time limit to supply your biography, headshot, etc.; instead we will give you your own webpage on our site that you can control, adding your own content.

Re cancellation refunds: Life happens. We understand. If you must cancel your registration, we will miss you! If you cancel before June 30, 2025, we will retain a \$25 administration fee and refund the remainder of your payment. On or after June 30, your full registration fee is non-refundable.

Event Information

The 2025 Muskoka Novel Marathon takes place from Thursday, July 10 to Sunday, July 13 at the Port Sydney Community Hall. Setup and seat selection is between 5 and 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, July 10.

Opening ceremonies will begin in person and on Zoom at 6:30 p.m. Snacks will be available.

Writing begins at 8 p.m. The venue will be accessible 24 hours a day during the event, as will the Zoom except between 3 and 4 a.m. each night. Three meals per day will be served Friday-Sunday at 9 a.m., 1 p.m. and 6 p.m. Coffee, tea and water will always be available.

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 same, and compete to have their manuscript seen by a publishing professional.

Writers' Handbook & Manuscript Template

Prior to the event, you will receive an email with a PDF of the Writers' Handbook, which contains all sorts of useful information. Stash it somewhere easy to find on your computer for reference during the event. You'll also get our handy manuscript template in Word, which is preformatted to the MNM standard manuscript format. Just open it up, follow the instructions and start writing! Or import if you use Scrivener.

Fundraising

Funds raised support adult literacy initiatives in Muskoka. We solicit donations from the public during the event, but the bulk of the funds raised come from YOU, the writers, gathering pledges from friends, families, co-workers and whoever else you can inspire into donating. **There's a gorgeous trophy for the most outstanding fundraiser, lots of cool prizes for the top fundraisers, and the top 15 fundraisers who raise at least \$1,000 are guaranteed a spot at MNM 2026 (July 16-19 - that's the third Thursday, MAA members!)**

If you've never done this before... don't worry. We have a great online donation system that you will be hooked into, instructions on how to use it, a template letter to send to prospective donors, and other goodies to help you inspire donor generosity. We'll send you all this info once you're registered.

Writing Parameters

- All forms of writing are permissible, including poetry, anthologies, short stories, non-fiction, etc.
- If you are submitting your manuscript for judging for the Best Novel award, **you may not submit any words other than those written during the specified 72 hours and at the event location.** You may use a pre-prepared one-page writing outline to help organize your writing.
- Collaborations by two writers maximum are permitted.
- IMPORTANT: Even with a completed novel manuscript, **a synopsis of your story is REQUIRED.** Note: Synopsis writing is a necessary skill for professional novelists. 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.
- 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.
- The full set of rules will be in the Writer's Handbook.

Awards

- Writers who wish to take part in the competition can submit their manuscripts electronically at or before the end of the marathon. The judges, who may include authors, librarians, editors, book publishers and bookstore owners but who are all total bibliophiles, will determine the winners in each of two categories: Juvenile/Young Adult and Adult.
- Winners will be announced at a wrap-up event on Saturday, September 20 at the Y Literacy office in Huntsville and on Zoom. Winners will have about six weeks to revise before submitting their manuscripts 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!)
- A list of other awards will appear in the Marathon Writer's Handbook, or you can learn about them [on our website](#).

Venue

- The event will take place at the Port Sydney Community Hall, 607 Muskoka Road 10, Port Sydney, Ontario, Canada. ([Google Maps link](#).)
- **IMPORTANT:** The writing space is one large room. There may be opportunities to tuck yourself away at certain times, but please be prepared to work in this communal atmosphere.
- There is plentiful free parking.
- There will be free Wi-Fi access and we'll give you the login info on the website and in the Writer's Handbook.

Hydration and Nourishment

- Locally-sourced coffee, tea and genuine Muskoka spring water will be available 24/3 throughout the event, and the meals will be provided by generous local eateries. We will provide the meal schedule at the venue. Our awesome kitchen team will take care of you!
- We understand that some writers may have dietary restrictions, but unfortunately cannot guarantee that we will have meals to suit everyone since most of them are donated by local sponsors. We will attempt to provide vegetarian options at every meal, but if you have strict dietary constraints, you may wish to bring extra food. Writers will have access to fridge space in the kitchen area.
- The Community Hall is *not* a licensed facility. NO alcohol is allowed on the premises. Please respect this—alcohol consumption violates our contract and we would like to be invited back to use the space in future years. There's a place or two in Port Sydney where booze can be had, and plenty of bars in Huntsville and Bracebridge.

Social Media

For more news and to hang out with other Novel Marathoners, please join the [Muskoka Novel Marathoners Facebook Group](#). Writer Liaison Emilie Stroud can be contacted via Facebook Messenger as well as text (705 380-1627) and [email](#), so join this group to Facebook with her and the rest of us! For official public announcements, go to our official Facebook page, [Muskoka Novel Marathon](#).

Accommodation

- Some writers choose to bring sleeping bags and camping mats and sleep in the building, which is permitted (there's a nice little space with curtains – you must provide sleeping bag and whatever padding you need). Some go to a private home or local motel and commute to the event. Totally up to you!
- There are motels (e.g. Three Pines Lodge), Airbnbs and Venmos in the area, plus more accommodations in Bracebridge (19-minute drive to the venue) and Huntsville (16-minute drive to the venue). Book early (like, now) to avoid disappointment as Muskoka is *very* popular in mid-July.

Questions?

Please contact our Writer Liaison **Emilie Stroud**:

By text: 705 380-1627

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

By email: writerliaison@muskokanovelmarchon.com

There is also more Marathon info on our website, muskokanovelmarchon.com.



Writers set up for the start of the 2024 Marathon. The seating arrangement will be refined so as to accommodate 40 and use good ideas from last year's writer feedback.

Thanks, 2024 writers, for helping us break in a new venue!

Muskoka Novel Marathon 2025 T-Shirts



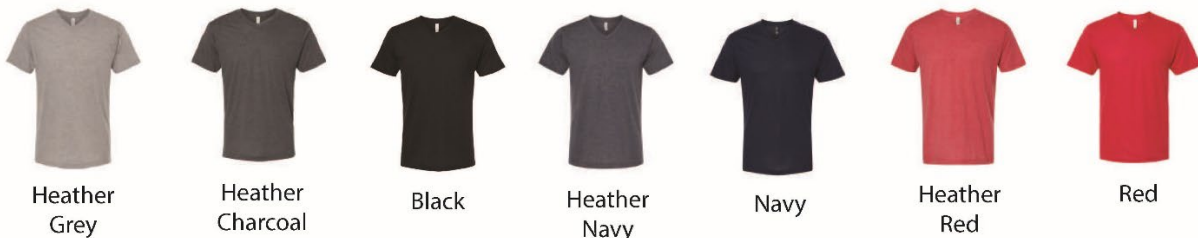
Once again, Portage Promotionals is providing our custom-printed Muskoka Novel Marathon t-shirts! Slogan was democratically determined by the MNM 2025 Committee. Colour selection has expanded yet again. T-shirts come in two styles (v-neck or crew neck) and two fits (ladies or unisex). (Pictured left: Unisex Crew.) 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. The colours shown may not exactly match the actual shirt colour, depending on your screen.

Price per shirt is same as last year, CAD\$30.00 each. **Final date for t-shirt orders is May 30.** Options...



Unisex V-Neck S-2XL V-Neck is using a 6oz poly/cotton ringspun tee, lightweight.



...continued...



Ladies' V-Neck S-2XL Ladies V-Neck is using a 8.8oz cotton tee.



...continued some more...



Ladies' Crew Neck S-2XL (*indicates 3XL available)

Ladies Crew is using a 8.8oz cotton tee.



...continued, now in new rainbow format for your viewing (and selecting) pleasure...

Unisex Crew Neck S-2XL (* indicates 3XL available)

Crew is using a 7.5oz soft style cotton tee. Heather's are 65/35 poly/cotton



Sport Grey*



Graphite Heather*



Dark Heather



Charcoal



Black*



Natural



Sand



Dark Chocolate



Light Blue*



Sky Blue*



Carolina Blue



Heather Royal*



Iris



Heather Indigo Blue



Indigo Blue



Jade Dome



Heather Galapagos Blue*



Tropical Blue



Heather Sapphire*



Sapphire



Antique Sapphire



Metro Blue



Royal*



Heather Navy*



Navy*



Heather Purple



Purple*



Heather Radiant Orchid



Light Pink



Azalea



Heather Heliconia



Heather Berry*



Antique Heliconia



Heather Red*



Red*



Cherry Red



Heather Cardinal Red



Cardinal Red



Heather Maroon*



Maroon



Heather Orange



Orange



Gold*



Daisy*



Pistachio



Mint Green



Lime*



Kiwi



Kelly Green*



Heather Irish Green*



Irish Green



Heather Military Green*



Military Green