



Island Writer Submission Guidelines

Eligibility

- You must be a Victoria Writers' Society member. ([Join Here](#))
- Works are accepted from both established and emerging writers currently living on Vancouver Island and the surrounding islands.

Categories

- Cover Art
- Poetry
- Long Fiction
- Long Creative Nonfiction
- Flash Fiction and Nonfiction
- Book Reviews

Limits & Requirements

- **Poetry:** 100 lines max.
 - Poets should submit their work in both PDF and Word format
- **Fiction:** 5,000 words max.
 - Chapters from novels may be accepted if they can stand alone
- **Creative Nonfiction:** 2,500 words max.
- **Flash Fiction/Nonfiction:** 500 words max.



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- **Book Reviews:** 500 words max.
 - Reviews must be of a new or current publication by a member of the Victoria Writers' Society.
 - Reviews cannot be done by the author of the publication.
 - **Cover Art/Photograph:** subject matter must relate to Vancouver Island and the surrounding islands.
 - If the photograph is of artwork, it must be the submitter's own artwork.

Editorial Policies

- One piece per category allowed. Separation submissions for each are required.
- Authors are requested to use inclusive language that respects diversity. No racism, hate, terrorism, or sexism will be tolerated.
- We do not accept stories written by AI tools such as Chat GPT.
- Authors and photographers retain all copyright after publication.
- Selection is "blind," and each submission must stand on its own merit. Content editors do not know who has submitted particular pieces of writing.
 - For this reason, details such as the author's name should not be present anywhere in a submission or in the file name, but will be added after acceptance for publication.
- All interactions between and among *Island Writer* team members and authors must be respectful. The *Island Writer* team is entirely made up of volunteers. Please be considerate of their donated time.



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- Authors whose work is selected for publication will be given an opportunity, consistent with publication timelines, to proofread their pieces but will not be able to make substantive edits.
 - Content editors and the editor-in-chief strive to publish pieces that encompass a variety of topics, genres, perspectives, and experiences.

Content & Formatting

- Do not include your name on any of the documents you submit. Selections are made blindly.
- Submit a .doc or .docx file.
- Use Times New Roman, 12 point font, double spaced.
- Use tabs, not spaces, to indent paragraphs.
- Avoid leaving unnecessary spaces in your document and between paragraphs unless required for creative formatting.
- Poetry layout is dependent on available page space. Generally, 25 lines fit comfortably on one page.
- Check spelling and grammar. It is strongly advised to seek an independent review of your work before submitting.

What to Send

- Send your .doc or .docx file as an attachment to the Editor-in-Chief, Valerie White: editor@victoriawriters.ca.
- In the subject line of your email, include: Island Writer – [Category].



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- Category options: poetry, fiction, creative nonfiction, flash fiction/nonfiction, cover art, or book review.
 - E.g. **Island Writer - Fiction**

Please allow 5-7 business days for receipt of your submission to be acknowledged.

Include the Following in the Body of Your Email:

- The title of your piece and the word count.
- Your name.
- Indication if you are a current, paid member of the Victoria Writers' Society.
- Mailing address (for residence verification).
- Phone number (so we can reach you if something weird happens to your e-mail).
- A short bio (30-40 words).

What We're Looking For

- Demonstration of the art of storytelling;
- Character development, accounts of personal change or unique understanding of the human condition;
- A variety of plots, settings and themes;
- Vivid imagery, keen observation, lyrical or emotive language;
- Use of convention in grammar, spelling, punctuation and syntax following the Canadian Press Stylebook unless there is a literary rationale for deviation.