

“Best Foot Forward”

Entering into the Literary Conversation

*Malahat Fall Seminar
Greater Victoria Public Library
November 23, 2011*

1. Why publish in literary magazines?
2. Literary magazines in Canada
3. Finding Out About Them
 - Places for Writers (placesforwriters.com)
 - Genuine Canadian Magazines (magazinescanada.ca/consumer)
 - New Pages (newpages.com)
 - rob mclennan’s links page
(www.track0.com/rob_mclennan/links_page.htm)
 - Duotrope’s Digest (duotrope.com)
 - Poetry Daily (poems.com)
 - Verse Daily (versedaily.org)
4. Strategies for submitting to literary magazines
5. Submission Tips
6. Contests
7. Calls for Submissions
8. The environment
9. Strategies for submitting to literary book publishers
10. *The Malahat Review* (www.malahatreview.ca)

THE MALAHAT REVIEW

TIPS FOR SUBMITTING TO MAGAZINES

Before submitting

1. Read an issue or two of a magazine prior to submitting to determine if your work fits with its mandate.
2. Read the submission guidelines posted on the magazine's website.
3. If you want to submit between May 1 and August 31, make sure the magazine reads during the summer.
4. Scrimping on paper, envelopes, and postage generates problems at the other end and makes you look bad.
5. Verify the mailing address of the magazine in question.
6. Verify the name of the current editor/poetry editor/fiction editor/creative-nonfiction editor.
7. Print on one side of the sheet only, with sufficient toner, and in readable 12-point type (i.e. not in italic).

The cover letter

1. Keep it to a single page and sign it.
2. Remember to date the letter.
3. Include your complete name, address, and email address; phone number is optional.
4. List the title(s) of what you are submitting.
5. Briefly list biographical details about yourself (selected publication credits, awards).
6. If you have never published, consider indicating where/with whom you've studied or like writing-related activity.
7. Do not list hobbies, cite testimonials from professors or mentors, attach reviews or a copy of your CV.
8. Be funny at your peril—i.e., be genuinely witty—in other words, it's not recommended.

Manuscript

1. Single-space poetry submissions; double-space prose submissions.
2. Include your name, address, and email on each page of the submission.
3. For poems over a page long, indicate if there is a stanza break at the end of each page.
4. Paginate both poetry and prose submissions.
5. Provide an exact word count for prose submissions (this can also be included in the cover letter).
6. Do not use staples or paperclips (the number of paperclips literary magazines receive could sink ships).

SASE

1. Affix sufficient postage.
2. Do not affix Canadian postage if the SASE is to be returned from a foreign country.
3. If sending outside Canada, enclose an International Reply Coupon. One equals the cost to mail a letter back to Canada at the country of origin's rate. For reply only, enclose one IRC; to get your work back, two or more.
4. Write your own address onto the envelope (don't expect the magazine to).
5. Write the magazine's address as the return address to save the magazine's staff extra work.
6. Send an envelope large enough to accommodate your submission if you expect it to be returned.
7. Indicate in the cover letter if you do not want your submission back.
8. Don't expect rejections to come by email. Editors will contact you in this way only if they are accepting work.

Electronic Submissions

1. Verify that a print magazine accepts submissions by email.
2. Most online magazines accept emailed submissions.

Simultaneous Submissions

1. Most magazines take three to six months to make a decision; ***BE PATIENT***.
2. Stating in the cover letter that your submission has been sent elsewhere will not get it read more quickly.
3. Nor does stating it mean that rejection is automatic (unless the editor is a purist and high-minded).
4. When something you have submitted to several magazines has been accepted by one of them, let the others know so that they may immediately withdraw it from consideration.
5. Remember editors spend a lot of time evaluating submissions; it is disheartening to learn that work selected for publication has already been accepted elsewhere.

Response Time

1. Wait at least three months before querying.
2. Feel free to submit elsewhere if you have not heard within nine months to a year.

The Malahat Review **Contest Calendar**

Up the ante!

Commit these deadlines to memory

February 1, 2012

Novella Prize: \$1500

Enter a single work of long-form fiction
of between 10,000 and 20,000 words

May 1, 2012

Far Horizons Award for Poetry: \$1000

Emerging writers may enter up to three poems

August 1, 2012

Constance Rooke

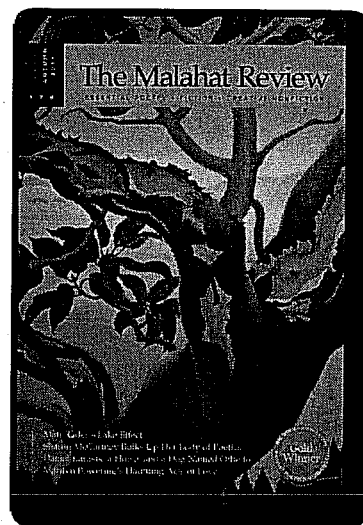
Creative Nonfiction Prize: \$1000

Enter an essay, memoir, literary journalism, or a
work so cutting edge in form no one's thought of it yet

November 1, 2012

Open Season Awards: \$3000 in prizes

Three categories: poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction

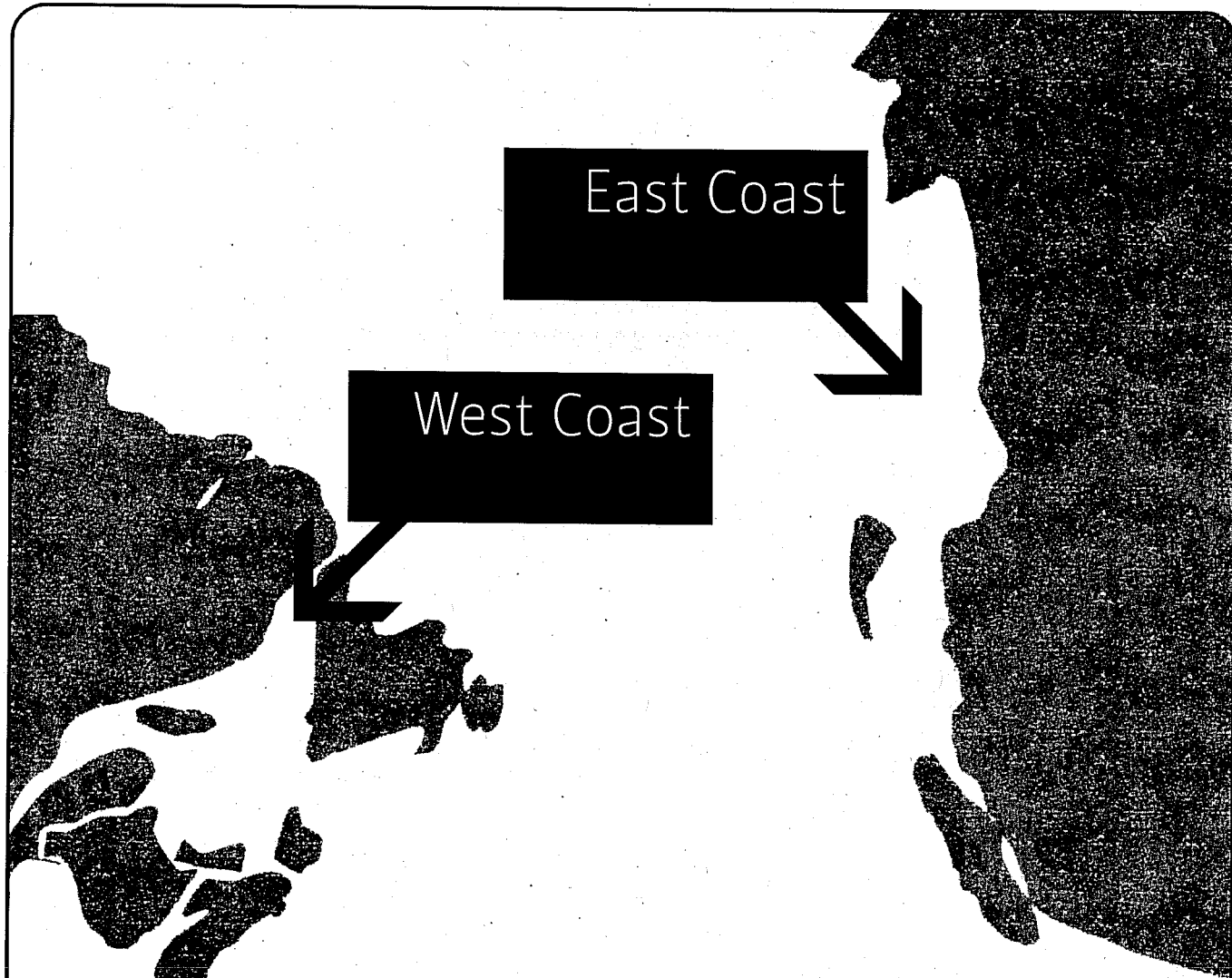


The Malahat Review
*Defining excellent writing
since 1967*

All deadlines are postmark dates

Complete guidelines for all contests at: malahatreview.ca

Inquiries: malahat@uvic.ca



In the Fall of 2012 ***The Malahat Review*** and ***The Fiddlehead*** respectively will publish East Coast and West Coast issues to honour the near and the far to be discovered by each of us in the writing of the other's shore.

Help us each imagine a world along both our coastlines by submitting poetry, short fiction, and creative nonfiction to *The Malahat Review's* **East Coast** issue and *The Fiddlehead's* **West Coast** issue.



**CALL
FOR
SUBMISSIONS**

Submission Deadline: May 15, 2012

For submission guidelines, go to:
malahatreview.ca/east_coast.html
thefiddlehead.ca/west_coast.html