

Nominations being accepted NOWW for Kouhi and Phillips Awards

The Northwestern Ontario Writers Workshop is now accepting applications for the Kouhi Award and the Margaret Phillips Award.

Named in honour of poet Elizabeth Kouhi, who was the first recipient, NOWW established the Kouhi Award in 1999 to recognize outstanding contributions to the literature of Northwestern Ontario.

"The writing community is flourishing in Thunder Bay and Northwestern Ontario," said Susan Rogers, NOWW vice-president and chair of the selection community. "So many of our members are getting published whether traditionally or digitally. The Kouhi Award honours those writers who have a significant history of contributing to the literature of Northwestern Ontario."

Since 1999, Elinor Barr, Charles Wilkins, the Thunder Bay Writers Guild, Rosalind Maki, Penny Petrone, Mary Frost, Jean E. Pendziwol, Dorothy Colby, Joan Skelton, Hazel Fulford, Bill MacDonald, Sharon Irvine, John Pringle, Richard Wagamese and Michael Christie have been honoured.

The Margaret Phillips Award (previously the Burnford Award) was first established in 2009 to recognize a "builder," either a group or individual who has made outstanding contributions to publishing, promoting, or supporting the literature of Northwestern Ontario. The intent is to recognize those who support the practice and community of writing, as distinct from the Kouhi Award, which recognizes writers.

"I'd love to see nominations come forward this year for the Phillips Award because we haven't given an award to a community builder since 2012," Rogers said. "If you know a person or group that you feel has supported the practice and community of writing, please send us their name."

The first Burnford Award was given to the Thunder Bay Public Library. The 2010 winner was the Sleeping Giant Writers Festival, the 2011 winners were Barb Matousek and Wendy MacDonald and the 2012 winners were the founders of NOWW (Deborah de Bakker, Rosalind Maki, Charles Wilkins and Jim Foulds).

The recipient of each of these awards doesn't need to be a NOWW member or affiliated with NOWW.

Nominations may be made by anyone, including non-members of NOWW. Awards will be handed out at the annual Literary Awards Party on May 13, 2017.

Nominations will be accepted until April 17, 2017.

To submit a nomination, send a brief (two pages max) statement describing why the person or organization you're nominating deserves the award to admin@nowwwriters.ca.

For more information, please visit nowwwriters.ca and click on NOWW Awards.

For media interviews, please contact Rogers at susanalanarogers@gmail.com.