



## Poet Laureate Call for Applications page 1

**The Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library invites applications for the position of Owen Sound Poet Laureate to serve January 1, 2026 to December 31, 2027**

The Owen Sound Poet Laureate carries out a number of official duties and acts as an ambassador for poetry and literary arts within the community.

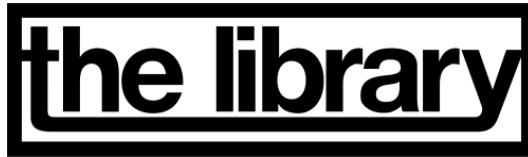
Selection of the Poet Laureate is based on writing skills, publications, public speaking and performance ability, and communication and interpersonal skills. In addition, the Poet Laureate Advisory Committee will be looking for compelling, creative ideas for the vision, and for the legacy project (environmental focus encouraged but not required) which should have a unique and lasting contribution to the community. Short-listed finalists will be interviewed by the Poet Laureate Advisory Committee (PLAC).

The Owen Sound Poet Laureate will be required to do the following:

- Carry out official duties for a minimum of 12 hours per month
- Perform at The Library and other cultural events, as described in a mutually-agreed-upon workplan
- Write and perform at least one poem a year about Owen Sound or Grey or Bruce County
- Host at least one workshop/feedback session each year with local poets and writers
- Attend poetry readings and public functions as time allows
- Assist poets in professional development as time allows
- Judge poetry competitions as time allows
- Communicate/meet with the Poet Laureate Advisory Committee as needed
- Propose and develop a legacy project (past projects have included Poet of the Month, a Poets Laureate Map of Canada, anthologies of local poetry, chapbooks, a Metissage performance and CD, Poetry Play Kits ...)
- Serve as a member of the Words Aloud Committee
- Submit a project report twice yearly to the Poet Laureate Advisory Committee
- Submit a summation of his/her impressions as Poet Laureate three months prior to the end of the two-year term with the purpose of providing information that will improve, adjust or adapt the parameters of the position or the application process
- Other duties as mutually agreed upon

Honorarium for the above responsibilities, including all expenses and travel allowance incurred in the performance of duties of the Owen Sound Poet Laureate 2026 – 2027, shall be \$3,000 annually.

The Library reserves first publication rights on works created by the Owen Sound Poet Laureate 2026 - 2027 during this residency.



## Poet Laureate Call for Applications page 2

Selection will be based on writing skills, publications, public speaking and performance ability and communication and interpersonal skills. The Library's Poet Laureate Advisory Committee will interview short-listed finalists.

All applicants must be 18 years of age or older and submit a resume and letter of application that include the following:

- Evidence of a body of work, whether published, self-published or unpublished
- Evidence of a history of advocacy for poetry
- Selections from their works (not to exceed 10 pages) and copies of published work
- Indication of current residency in Owen Sound, Grey or Bruce County
- A statement of availability for the two-year term (January 1, 2026 – December 31, 2027)
- Proposed vision for the two-year term
- Proposed legacy project
- Indication of ability to provide own work space, equipment and transportation to and from events and activities

**PLEASE NOTE: Applicants are required to submit all application material by no later than 4:00 p.m. on October 31, 2025.** All submissions must be delivered in **BOTH** of the following ways:

1. A letter, resume and poetry samples should be e-mailed to [info@library.osngupl.ca](mailto:info@library.osngupl.ca)
2. The complete hard-copy package of materials should be delivered to The Library's Poet Laureate Advisory Committee, Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library, 824 First Avenue West, Owen Sound, ON N4K 4K4

Employees or members of the Board of the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library or their immediate families are not eligible to serve as Owen Sound Poet Laureate 2026 - 2027.

The Owen Sound Poet Laureate is a program of the Owen Sound & North Grey Union Public Library. Currently it is supported by the following community minded businesses and individuals: David Madill, CFP of BMO Nesbitt Burns, Pat Lorenzo and Phillip Faulkner (in memory of Andrew Armitage, former Library CEO).

For more information contact Shauna Doyle, [sdoyle@library.osngupl.ca](mailto:sdoyle@library.osngupl.ca), telephone 519-376-6623 ext. 5206