

NEWS RELEASE

Top writers pen the next Canadian novella to support literacy programs at the Muskoka Literacy Council

For Immediate Release

July – Huntsville – Top writers from across Canada are hunkering down in Huntsville July 14 –16 for the 5th Annual Muskoka Novel Marathon event. The Muskoka Novel Marathon is a battle of the pens, featuring some of Canada’s top journalists, authors and aspiring hopefuls, who will write for three days to raise money for programs geared to help adults with educational needs in the Huntsville area.

The rules are strict. The authors may bring a one-page draft outline and must obtain pledges and sponsorship for the chance at publication. Muskoka mystery writer, Mel Malton, will give the keynote address to kick off the event. Malton is launching her latest novel for young readers, *The Drowned Violin*, conceived during the first ever Muskoka Novel Marathon, on the eve of the writing party.

“It’s a long process from first draft to book-form,” said Malton, “and I’m thrilled to be able to launch this little book, begun at the first Marathon, at the opening of the fifth.”

A film crew will also be present at this year’s event. The “Flip” crew is documenting the event as authors write feverishly, relax, interact and celebrate their writing.

The pledges the authors collect will benefit Muskoka Literacy Council’s programs for adults with educational support needs, which is the real reason for the all-nighters and hand cramps. MLC programs provide adults with confidential, one-to-one and small group learning in numeracy, literacy, computers, pre-employment and life skills. Volunteer tutors are committed to ensuring that their students acquire the life skills and knowledge necessary to participate fully in their workplace and community.

“The numbers are staggering – up to 30 per cent nationally and higher in the Muskoka region are considered literacy disadvantaged. Our organization provides a safe and sensitive learning environment for adults over the age of 19 or anyone younger who has been out of school for a year,” said Susan Lowe, President, Muskoka Literacy Council.

The event will be held at the Old Stone School House on West Street. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. Come out and join in the fun by sponsoring your favourite participant and enjoying our refreshments. For more information on this event or how to get involved, please call 789-1850

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