

Media Release  
For Immediate Release

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## What's old in books is new in film.

**Huntsville, ON** - Every year in July, professional and amateur writers gather to compete in a three-day novel writing event (July 14-17, 2006) known as **The Muskoka Novel Marathon**. A unique and quirky event, the MNM is designed to stimulate local creativity and raise funds for the **Muskoka Literacy Council** who support programs for adults with low literacy skills. Contenders in this fierce battle of the pens endeavor to churn out a full-length book in 72 hours with minimum preparation and in full view of the public. Writers are competing not only for the opportunity to be published, but for prestigious titles as well, including Most Spirited and Best Fundraiser, which is recognized by The Remy, a gilded typewriter and coveted trophy. The writer's vary in age and experience. This year will include a **mother and daughter team and a 99 year old gentleman who learned to read at the age of 93.**

Executive producer **Sue Kenney (Stone by Stone Productions)** is working with Director Bruce Pirrie, of Second City Fame and Artistic Director Vanessa Shaver to produce an animated four-minute film featuring the eccentric modus operandi of these writers at work. The Muskoka Novel Marathon will be shot and collated to reproduce the effect of going through a flip book, with the sequential images animated in such a way that includes the glitches you may experience while thumbing through a flip book in real life.

Both Kenney, author of best selling book *My Camino* and Pirrie have participated in this event in the past where they co-wrote a small town romantic comedy called **The Green River Book Club** so they know first hand what it involves. In the marathon, as in a flip-book, the creative process can slow to a crawl, then grind to a complete frozen standstill, or whiz by in a blur of delirious typing. Much as the pages and photographs 'flip,' as the three day marathon progresses the writers themselves begin to 'flip out' from lack of sleep and creative over-stimulation.

Created without synchronous sound, the sound track of the piece starts with a brief explanation of the **Muskoka Novel Marathon** and segues into a quirky, comic montage of interview excerpts on how the writers work, basic storylines and excerpts from works in process. The sound design also incorporates Muskoka atmosphere (birds, waves, wind), pages flipping, the click and tick of a room full of typing and the occasional gong and applause that signifies the completion of 10 more pages.

This format allows us to produce a humorous unique animated film style that can be shown in a variety of applications from broadcast to wireless to film festivals and beyond. This is the first of a series of short films that are planned. "It's storytelling. Reading and writing is all about having access to understanding a code. Flip is a moving picture book that doesn't require a code to learn about the story that is told." says Kenney, who's vision is to inspire people to be creative.

Proceeds from the sale of the film will go back to the Muskoka Literacy Council and Sue hopes to get the funding to produce a hard copy Flip Book that can be sold as a fundraiser. If you would like to sponsor a writer or make a donation to the council, you can contact Susan Lowes, Chair Muskoka Novel Marathon Committee at [lowes.atthefarm@sympatico.ca](mailto:lowes.atthefarm@sympatico.ca)

For more information on the Muskoka Novel Marathon go to [www.huntsvilleartsfestival.com](http://www.huntsvilleartsfestival.com)

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Sue Kenney is a pilgrim, author, speaker and producer. She walked 780 kms on the medieval pilgrimage route called the Camino de Santiago de Compostela and wrote a book about her journey. She is presently directing a documentary about the Camino will soon release her second book, Confessions of a Pilgrim.