

NEWS RELEASE

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## NIC Awards Tuition for Smoked Salmon

Harold Macy, father, husband, farmer, writer and forester, can now add Fiction Writing Contest Winner to his impressive list of titles. Macy's entry in North Island College's 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Three Hour Fiction Writing Contest, entitled *Smoked Salmon*, earned him free tuition to NIC's Creative Writing: Fiction course (ENG 209) which begins this January.

"I was really pleased with the turn out for this year's contest," comments Steve Schoenhoff, NIC's English Instructor who organizes the event annually. "We had over 25 participants, mostly community members. The enthusiasm and quality of the writing was impressive."

The contest takes place over a three-hour period and the participants are given nothing but a computer keyboard and a few elements that must appear in the story. This year, the required elements were one character who either had to be a famous person or somehow obsessed with a famous person, and a pyrrhic ending, a victory with devastating cost to the victor. The panel of four judges, made up of NIC staff and faculty, narrowed it down to five semi-finalists but in the end it was Macy's writing and creativity that rose to the top.

*Smoked Salmon* takes place over numerous cigarettes and cups of coffee, on the deck of a fishing boat off the coast of Sointula. Harry, the main character, has an inventive and somewhat therapeutic relationship with legendary CBC radio man Peter Gzowski.

"It took me about 10 minutes to work through it conceptually," Macy remembers. "I've always been creative, either drawing or writing. When I moved away from my family's home in Saskatchewan I wrote them letters every single week. Writing is a gift, a blessing I've been given. And I feel people should use them. Don't hide your light."

Harold Macy has lived in Merville for more than thirty years. During that time he worked for the BC Forest Service Research Branch, has been a silviculture contractor for a local forestry company, fought wildfires, spent quite a bit of time with rain in his lunch pail heli-logging up in the mid-coast inlets, and was the forester at the UBC Oyster River Research Farm, where he wrote and delivered on-line and weekend courses in small scale forestry and agroforestry. With his wife Judy, he has raised a family of all sons (three of whom are also in forestry), and grows market vegetables on their farm.

Macy's winning story, *Smoked Salmon*, will be published in the November issue of *The Island Word*. For his personal interest, he has learned about writing at North Island College, Victoria School of Writing, and The Sage Hills Writing Workshop in Saskatchewan. "I want to write and I want to write well," he remarks. "Continuing to learn keeps the body and soul together."



Free tuition: NIC Instructor Steve Schoenhoff awards Harold Macy tuition for a free Creative Writing course at the College this January. Macy won NIC's 4th Annual Three-Hour Writing Contest for his entry, *Smoked Salmon*.

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