



The Word Guild Is Pleased to Announce  
**The 2022 Word Awards Winners List**  
Honouring the Best of Canadian Christian Writing from 2021

September 21, 2022

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MARKHAM, ON – The Word Guild was pleased to host our 34th annual awards event on Saturday, Sept. 17, in honour of our incredibly talented Canadian writers who are Christian. Co-hosted by authors Tara K. Ross and Murray Pura, the event celebrated the power of the written word and excellence in Christian writing. The event, which took place online for the third consecutive year, recognized unpublished work by new writers as well as work published in 2021 for both Christian and mainstream audiences.

Winners received awards in over 60 genres and categories including books, articles, novellas, short stories, song lyrics and more. In addition, winners were also announced for several specialty awards, including the Harvey/Mackey New Journalism Award, The Debra Fieguth Social Justice Award, and the Leslie K. Tarr Lifetime Achievement Award.

"To add to the diversity of our awards, this year we featured two new specialty awards for Indigenous Writers and Writers of Colour," said Les Lindquist, Treasurer for The Word Guild. "We were thrilled to see the number of entries from Canadian writers who are Christian from these groups."

This year we chose two Best books: *My Vertical Neighbourhood: How Strangers Became a Community* by Lynda MacGibbon took the honours as Best Non-Fiction book and *Maud and Me* by Marianne Jones Best Fiction book.

A highlight of the evening included the formal recognition of veteran journalist, Licia Corbella, as the recipient of this year's Leslie K. Tarr Lifetime Achievement Award. Author, Terrie Todd, took home the most awards on Saturday evening, emerging as the winner in three categories. Her book, *The Last Piece* won in the Christian Fiction – Contemporary category, and her historical novel, *Rose Among Thorns*, won the Debra Fieguth Social Justice Award and the award for Best Book Cover.

"There are so many wonderful Christian writers in our country and we need to celebrate them," said David Kitz, Chair of the Board of The Word Guild, in his remarks during the show.

**Congratulations to The 2022 Word Award winners.**

*The Word Awards were established by The Word Guild to encourage the pursuit of excellence in the art, craft, practice and ministry of writing and help raise the profile of Canadian writers who are Christian. For more information about The Word Guild please visit [www.thewordguild.com](http://www.thewordguild.com).*

You can see the complete list of winners for The 2022 Word Awards below and at [www.thewordguild.com/media](http://www.thewordguild.com/media).

## UNPUBLISHED WORK CLASSES

### FRESH INK – Student Writing Awards, *sponsored by Redeemer University*

**Winner for Short Story, University:** Sarah VanZandbeek: Edmonton, AB “I Am Andrew”

**Winner for Poetry, University:** Sarah Robinson: Hamilton, ON “The Dream Walker”

**Winner for Manuscript First 3 Chapters, High School:** Rachel Smith: Edmonton, AB “The Magic Thief”

### IN THE BEGINNING – Unpublished Author Awards, *sponsored by Redeemer University*

**Winner for Short Story:** Colleen Albert: Vegreville, AB “Porridge and Pumpkins”

**Winner for Non-Fiction Piece:** Sharon Vardy Bacon: Port Sydney, ON “Science Class”

**Winner for Poetry:** Kevin E. Van Koughnett: Red Deer, AB “Mon Rapid Pieds”

**Winner for Script:** Paul Breen: Burlington, ON “You Slay Me, Please”

**Winner for Manuscript First 3 Chapters:** Dianne Matich: Carlisle, ON “Dreams & Lies”

### CASTLE QUAY BEST NEW CANADIAN MANUSCRIPT, *sponsored by Castle Quay*

**Winner:** Rita Miceli: Windsor, ON “GiACI AND ME: Life Lessons on Raising an Autistic Child”

## DIGITAL ENTRY CLASSES

### BEST BLOG OF THE YEAR AWARD

**Winner:** Sherry Stahl: Leamington, ON “Soul H2O Blog”

### BEST SONG LYRICS AWARD

**Winner:** Carolyn Arends: Surrey, BC “Almost Didn’t Recognize You”

### ARTICLES / SHORT PIECES (ASP) – CHRISTIAN

BLOG – PERSONAL, *sponsored by FineTune Editing – Carolyn Wilker*

**Winner:** Cathie Ostapchuk: Oakville, ON “The Cost of Curating Your Life” (Gather Women)

BLOG – TOPICAL, *sponsored by FineTune Editing – Carolyn Wilker*

**Winner:** Janet Surette: Barrie, ON “An Optical Conclusion” (The Gospel Coalition Canada)

COLUMN SERIES, *sponsored by Engage Magazine*

**Winner:** Carolyn Arends: Surrey, BC “Getting Creative” & “A Hurry Free Life” (Faith Today)

COLUMN SINGLE, *sponsored by Engage Magazine*

**Winner:** Ed Hird and Janice Hird: Surrey, BC “Phil Callaway: Missionary Comedian” (The Light Magazine)

INSPIRATIONAL / DEVOTIONAL, *sponsored by Faith Today*

**Winner:** Floyd A. Brobbel: Oakville, ON “Blessings in Persecution?” (The Voice of the Martyrs)

LONG FEATURE, *sponsored by Light Magazine*

**Winner:** Alex Newman: “When Our Pets Die: What does our faith have to say about the grief we feel when our animal companions die?” (Faith Today)

NEWS, *sponsored by Neil Bramble*

**Winner:** Alex Newman: “How we coped with the lockdowns: Churches share how they struggled with and survived pandemic restrictions” (Faith Today)

PERSONAL EXPERIENCE, *sponsored by Carol Ford*

**Winner:** Rose McCormick Brandon: Caledonia, ON “A Time to Downsize” (The War Cry)

PERSONAL OPINION, *sponsored by Engage Magazine*

**Winner:** Stephen Kennedy: “The Other Boys of Bethlehem: Living in the Shadow of an Ancient Story” (testimony/Enrich)

POETRY

**Winner:** David Robinson: “Array Your Emptiness” (CRUX)

PROFILE / HUMAN INTEREST, *sponsored by Light Magazine*

**Winner:** Duane Henry: Ancaster, ON “Celebrating the Life of Josiah Henson” (testimony/Enrich)

SHORT FEATURE, *sponsored by testimony/Enrich*

**Winner:** Janice Keats: Bedford, NS “Mary’s Memories” (Salvation Army- Faith and Friends)

SHORT STORY, *sponsored by testimony/Enrich*

**Winner:** Sally Meadows: Martensville, SK “The Placement of the Cross in Easter: Stories & More” (InScribe Christian Writers' Fellowship)

**ARTICLES / SHORT PIECES (ASP) – GENERAL MARKET, *sponsored by That’s Life! Communications***

BLOG

**Winner:** K.L. Ditmars: Esquimalt, BC “Canada's National Day of Truth and Reconciliation” (K.L. Ditmars)

COLUMN SINGLE

**Winner:** Kim Cechetto: Mount Brydges, ON “Christmas in Lagos” (The Dispatch.com)

SHORT STORY

**Winner:** John Van Rys: Dunnville, ON “Eggsistential Crisis” (Agnes & True)



## PUBLISHED BOOKS CLASSES

### BOOKS – CHRISTIAN FICTION

CHILDREN, *sponsored by Claudia Loopstra*

**Winner:** Beverley Rayner: Ladysmith, BC “Barclay & Berk Builders: A Parable” (Castle Quay Books), Illustrated by James Hensman: BC

YOUNG ADULT, *sponsored by Blossom Turner*

**Winner:** Chrissy M. Dennis: Caronport, SK “The Paper Wolf” (Anaiah Press)

CONTEMPORARY, *sponsored by Cori Mordaunt*

**Winner:** Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie, MB “The Last Piece” (Terrie Todd)

HISTORICAL, *sponsored by Rose Brandon*

**Winner:** Susan A. Mason: Brampton, ON “To Find Her Place” (Bethany House Publishing)

ROMANCE, *sponsored by Stonebridge Enterprises*

**Winner:** Blossom Turner: Lake Country, BC “Lucinda’s Defender” (Wild Heart Books)

NOVELLA, *sponsored by Stonebridge Enterprises*

**Winner:** Jennifer Willcock: Kitchener, ON “The Mistletoe Ball” (Jennifer Willcock)

SCRIPT

**Winner:** Anne Cattaruzza: Longueuil, QC “Finding Kahir” (Anne Cattaruzza)

SPECULATIVE, *sponsored by That’s Life! Communications*

**Winner:** Connie Mae Inglis: Edmonton, AB “Rewriting Adam” (Siretona Creative)

SUSPENSE, *sponsored by Murder Will Out*

**Winner:** K.L. Ditmars: Esquimalt, BC “All That it Takes” (K.L. Ditmars)

### BOOKS – CHRISTIAN NON-FICTION

ACADEMIC

**Winner:** Donald M. Lewis: “A Short History of Christian Zionism: From the Reformation to the Twenty-First Century” (InterVarsity Press)

INSTRUCTIONAL, *sponsored by That’s Life! Communications*

**Winner:** Harold Taylor: Sussex, N.B. “God-Centered Time Management” (Harold Taylor)

BIBLICAL STUDIES, *sponsored by Heather Rodin*

**Winner:** Marina Hofman: “Women in the Bible Small Group Bible Study” (Castle Quay Books)



CHRISTIAN LIVING – PERSONAL GROWTH, *sponsored by Eleanor Shepherd*

**Winner:** Nikki T. White: Langley, BC “Identity in Exodus: Journey with Moses from Identity Crisis into Missional Community” (Word Alive Press)

CHRISTIAN LIVING – SPIRITUAL FORMATION, *sponsored by Eleanor Shepherd*

**Winner:** Gordon T. Smith: Calgary, AB “Welcome, Holy Spirit: A theological and Experiential Introduction” (InterVarsity Press)

**Award of Merit:** Lori G. Reesor: Mississauga, ON “Growing a Generous Church: A Year in the Life of Peach Blossom Church” (Lori G. Reesor)

CULTURE, *sponsored by KISI Publishing (Eddie Chu)*

**Winner:** Larry McCloskey: Ottawa, ON “Inarticulate Speech of the Heart” (Castle Quay Books)

DEVOTIONAL

**Winner:** David Kitz: Orleans, ON “Psalms 365: Develop a Life of Worship and Prayer - Vol II” (Elk Lake Publishing)

INSPIRATIONAL

**Winner:** John Bowen: Hamilton, ON “God is Always Bigger” (Wipf and Stock Publishers)

LIFE STORIES - MEMOIR, *sponsored by KISI Publishing (Eddie Chu)*

**Winner:** Cal Bombay: “A Life Worth Living - The Cal You Never Knew” (Castle Quay Books)

LIFE STORIES - BIOGRAPHY, *sponsored by KISI Publishing (Eddie Chu)*

**Winner:** Cal Bombay: “A Life Worth Living - The Cal You Never Knew” (Castle Quay Books)

CHILDREN, *sponsored by Eleanor Shepherd*

**Winner:** Beverley Rayner: Ladysmith, BC “Barclay & Berk Builders: A Parable” (Castle Quay Books), Illustrated by James Hensman: BC

## BOOKS – GENERAL MARKET FICTION, *sponsored by That’s Life! Communications*

CHILDREN

**Winner:** Fred Ash: Calgary, AB “The Dog Who Wanted to Play” (Siretona Creative), Illustrated by Kristina Shvedai

ROMANCE

**Winner:** Murray Pura: Pincher Creek, AB “The Sunflower Season” (MillerWords)

SCRIPT

**Winner:** Anne Cattaruzza: Longueuil, QC “Finding Kadhira” (Anne Cattaruzza)

SUSPENSE

**Winner:** Jael Richardson: “Gutter Child” (Harper Collins)

YOUNG ADULT

**Winner:** Christina Van Starckenburg: Victoria, BC “The Key Thief” (Christina Van Starckenburg)



**BOOKS – GENERAL MARKET NON-FICTION, sponsored by Drew Keith, Edward Jones Investments**

CULTURE

**Winner:** Hilary McBride: “The Wisdom of Your Body: Finding Healing, Wholeness, and Connection through Embodied Living” (Harper Collins)

LIFE STORIES

**Winner:** Hilary McBride: “The Wisdom of Your Body: Finding Healing, Wholeness, and Connection through Embodied Living” (Harper Collins)

**BOOKS – SPECIALTY BOOKS, sponsored by Drew Keith, Edward Jones Investments**

**Winner:** Marianne Jones: Thunder Bay, ON “Maud and Me” (Crossfield Publishing)

**INDIGENOUS WRITER, sponsored by Janice Cox**

**Winner:** James Peters: “Broken Circle” (Goldrock Press)

**WRITER OF COLOUR, sponsored by Johanne Robertson**

**Winner:** Sana' K.C.N. Watts: Brampton, ON “Fragile and Flourishing” (Sana' K.C.N. Watts)

**HARVEY/MACKEY NEW JOURNALISM AWARD, sponsored by The Mackey Family**

**Winner:** Carolyn Watts: Vancouver, BC “Praying in Hope When There's Hell on Earth” (Hearing the Heartbeat)

**BEST BOOK COVER AWARD, sponsored by Living Books Inc.**

**Winner:** Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie, MB “Rose Among Thorns” (Iron Stream Media), Cover Design by Hannah Linder Designs

**DEBRA FIEGUTH SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARD**

**Winner:** Terrie Todd: Portage la Prairie, MB “Rose Among Thorns” (Iron Stream Media)

**Award of Merit:** K.L. Ditmars: Esquimalt, BC “All That it Takes” (K.L. Ditmars)

**Award of Merit:** Larry McCloskey: Ottawa, ON “Inarticulate Speech of the Heart” (Castle Quay Books)

**BEST BOOK PRIZE**

FICTION

**Winner:** Marianne Jones: Thunder Bay, ON “Maud and Me” (Crossfield Publishing)

NON-FICTION

**Winner:** Lynda MacGibbon: Toronto, ON “My Vertical Neighbourhood: How Strangers Became a Community” (InterVarsity Press)



**LESLIE K. TARR LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD, sponsored by Castle Quay Books**

**Winner:** Licia Corbella

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS**

Copies of the Media Release will be posted on our [Media page](#) and [Finalists page](#)

**SPECIAL THANKS TO OUR AWARDS SPONSORS**

Special thanks to our sponsors for their generous support.  
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