

**FIRST PRIZE**  
**\$100**

starlit night  
only the sound  
of my paddle

Ruth Powell  
Prince George, BC

**SECOND PRIZE**  
**\$50**

I would have given up  
so many times . . .  
we mend the tent

Owen Bullock  
Canberra, Australia

**THIRD PRIZE**  
**\$25**

soft light  
in a room  
of bare walls

Liz Fenn  
Wellsville, NY

**HONOURABLE MENTION**

quietly joining  
the conversation . . .  
prairie stars

Julie Warther  
Dover, Ohio

home from the hospital . . .  
a robin's song  
and nothing else

Chen-ou Liu  
Ajax, ON

lilac breeze  
the dog nudges the door open  
with her nose

paul m.  
Bristol, RI

deserted  
the spider web  
still catching flies

Sheila Weaver  
Gibsons, BC

inhaling deeply  
at the kitchen doorstep . . .  
summer rain

Rodney Williams  
Trafalgar VIC

first love  
red-lipped  
beneath the mulberry

Helen Buckingham  
Wells, UK

late summer-  
boys building a dam  
in the stream

Stephen Toft  
Lancaster, UK

suspended  
for a heartbeat  
top of the ferris wheel

Ruth Powell  
Prince George, BC

open garden day-  
swallows weave across lawns  
between guests

Rodney Williams  
Trafalgar, Australia

**JUDGE'S COMMENTS:**

**First Prize:** As I read this winning haiku each time the simplicity of the wording and the sound has provided an inviting sense of awareness and wonder at once. To be alone on the water under a starlit sky in silence is a timeless tie to the primordial essence of our place in the cosmos. Who we are away from the noise and clutter of social trappings is the insight in this haiku with plenty of room to roam. What a gift to find oneself on this seamless journey through the here and now! No matter where on earth we may be the sight of a starlit sky is clearly an 'aha' moment for the ages!

**Second Prize:** The backdrop stories to this indelible haiku contain personal and universal knowing. Relationships are filled with love, collaboration, conflict and complexion. The strength in this haiku and the relationship itself is the courageous and intimate confession given in the first two lines. This hints at a relationship that has reached ragged points numerous times, yet survived to find the equanimity of another day. The tent works perfectly to represent the vulnerability of the relationship with both needing some mending from time to time. The last line is a beautiful recognition that as a couple they are moving ahead to more camping and perhaps a bit more mending of their relationship too. A welcome reminder of the triumph that is part of not giving up and working together.

**Third Prize:** The sense that less is more works superbly in this minimal yet inviting haiku. Light is the most elemental and essential aspect in life. It is perfectly celebrated in this beautifully sparse haiku. A room with bare walls is in itself a meditation on emptiness and transcendence. The one word, soft, used to describe the light in the room conveys for the reader the near tangible quality that is light can have in our lives. How absolutely refreshing it is to describe the light in the room conveys for the reader the near tangible quality that is light can have in our lives. How absolutely refreshing it is to be in a space with no excess and just the company of light!

There is a lovely echo to all the rooms in the world that are bare but filled with light. To recognize a place like this for its minimalist reality is both a comfort and a charm.

**Honourable Mention:** These haiku, along with twenty others that I wanted to award some recognition to all have winning qualities that remained with me throughout the selection process. From the wonderful open reading within "quietly joining" the conversation to a poignant still point moment in getting "home from the hospital" with its stunning pathos and freshness of feeling there was no doubt these were haiku that I felt deserved prize recognition. The image of a deserted spider web still catching flies, a dog's nose nudging open the door to catch a spring scent, and a wonderful pause at the kitchen doorstep inhaling the scent of a summer rain and the mystery of a first love red-lipped beneath a mulberry to being suspended for a heartbeat at the top of the ferris wheel to boys building a dam in a stream and the pleasure of swallows weaving overhead during an open garden day. These all brought out a keen moment of awareness and insight that I hope you enjoy as much as I have. Congratulations and gratitude to each of you.

**Our Judge, Tom Clausen,** is a longtime writer of haiku and related poetic forms. He lives in Ithaca, NY, and is a member of the Dim Sum Haiku Group. Tom worked for many years at Cornell University in the Mann Library where he has posted a daily haiku at the library home page since 2000.

**The Betty Drevniok Award:** Held annually, the award was established by Haiku Canada in memory of Betty Drevniok, past president of the society. Haiku must be unpublished and not under consideration elsewhere.

**Please** submit by email: [claudiaradmore@gmail.com](mailto:claudiaradmore@gmail.com)  
If you have **no** email, send poems to:

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The  
Betty Drevniok  
Award  
2016

Hear-Moon: Heather MacDonald, Ottawa  
Taken from a scroll painted by a Zen monk named Ingen Ryuki (1592-1673). My interpretation changed the characters from horizontal to vertical, and used watercolour on top to intensify the characters.

