

THE WINNING POEMS

First Prize: crossing the lake...

This poem provides a sense of calm in a chaotic world. The repeated action of the nightly journey also provides a sense of constancy for the reader. This is a nightly crossing that will never end, despite the havoc surrounding us. I like the idea that *crossing the lake* could very well include the reader in that nightly trip. There is also a sense of peace, quiet, and partnership between nature and human nature. A very compact and evocative poem.

Second Prize: first snow...

There is an inherent poignancy built in to this lovely poem. As he lightly brushes her scars, his fingers speak of love, and the brushing becomes a caress. The whiteness of first snow and the whiteness of the scars are joined one with the other. The hope here is that, as first snow will fade, so will her scars. The poem also strongly suggests the enormity of one human being's need for another.

Third Prize: where we cast...

This haiku gave me a great feeling of joy, even though it is celebrating the end of a life. The poet has beautifully joined life and death by the singular action of the leaping trout. A solemn occasion becomes transformed to one of joyful reunion as the ashes of a beloved are *cast* upon the water, returning him to his natural home.

HONOURABLE MENTIONS

Space does not allow me to comment about all honourable mentions, but one brought a smile to my face. It simply says *first date/her chopsticks/pick air*. The poet, in just six words has captured the unenviable situation of two people attempting to outtalk each other as time and food are completely forgotten. I am sure it held a strong *Aha* moment for many readers.

Thank you to all 471 participants in this prestigious contest, and congratulations to all the winners. I found it difficult to have to select one poem over another, when each one chosen had so much to offer. If your poem is not among the winners, be assured that it was probably in the final eleven. I thank Haiku Canada for allowing me to judge this contest, and for the joy I experienced in reading so many wonderful poems.

OUR JUDGE FOR 2019:

Pat Benedict Campbell is a member of the Magpie Haiku & Tanka Poets of Calgary, and Haiku Canada. Her work has appeared in Ireland, Canada, Japan and the United States, where she now lives.

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 Haiku must be unpublished and not under consideration elsewhere.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 to bettydrevniokaward2020@haikucanada.org. Only if no email, please send to: Claudia Coutu Radmore, 49 McArthur Ave., Carleton Place, On K7C 2W1

the Betty Drevniok Award 2019

