

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
April 20, 2009

*NEWS RELEASE*

**VAUGHAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES'  
ANNUAL EARLY HARVEST COMPETITION FOR CREATIVE TEENS  
ENTRY DEADLINE, MAY 13**

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**VAUGHAN, Ontario** - Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) is looking for creative teens, 12 – 18 years, that live, work or go to school in the City of Vaughan to enter this year's Early Harvest Competition of writing, drawing, painting and photography. The deadline for entries is May 13<sup>th</sup>, 2009.

Winners will be presented with their awards and cash prizes of up to \$100 on Wednesday, October 21<sup>st</sup> during the Early Harvest reception at The City Playhouse Theatre. In addition, all winning entries will be beautifully reproduced in VPL's Early Harvest magazine which is distributed throughout the City of Vaughan and at all branches of Vaughan Public Libraries.

Entry forms are available at all branches of Vaughan Public Libraries or online at [www.vaughanpl.info](http://www.vaughanpl.info).

VPL is pleased to announce the addition of two new judges to this year's Early Harvest Competition evaluation panel: Stuart Ross as the new judge for the poetry category and Jocelyn Shipley as the new judge for the Short Story category.

**EARLY HARVEST COMPETITION CATEGORIES & JUDGES**

<b>Writing:</b>	Poetry	<b>Judge:</b> Stuart Ross, Toronto poet & Fiction and Poetry Editor
	Short Story	<b>Judge:</b> Jocelyn Shipley, Author
<b>Photography:</b>	My World The People Around Me Digitally Manipulated	<b>Judge:</b> David West, West Photography
<b>Sketching &amp; Painting:</b>	My World The People Around Me Street Art	<b>Judge:</b> Mirella Tersigni, A Stroke of Art - Inspirational Art Studio

### **STUART ROSS**

Stuart Ross is the Fiction and Poetry Editor for *This Magazine*. He is also a poet, fiction writer, creative writing instructor, and co-founder of the *Toronto Small Press Book Fair*. Stuart's poetry collections include *Dead Cars in Managua* (2008), *I Cut My Finger* (2007), *Hey, Crumbling Balcony! Poems New and Selected* (2003) and *Razovsky at Peace* (2001). Stuart frequently conducts workshops on poetry writing, publishing, and memoir in Toronto.

### **JOCELYN SHIPLEY**

Jocelyn Shipley writes fiction for adults and teens. Her teen novels include: *Seraphina's Circle* (2005), *Cross My Heart* (2004), and *Getting a Life* (2002). She is also the co-editor of *Cleavage: Breakaway Fiction for Real Girls* (2008). Jocelyn was nominated for the 2007/08 B.C.'s Teen Readers' Choice Stellar Book Award. She holds a degree in Psychology from York University and has attended the Humber School for Writers.

### **MIRELLA TERSIGNI**

Mirella Tersigni is the Founder and Director of A Stroke of Art – Progressive Art Studio. She has developed artistic programs that empower children and youth to pursue their artistic passion, both in the studio and within the community. Mirella has created resourceful workshops with the York Region Public and Catholic School Boards, as well as art programs for those with intellectual disabilities. She is a graduate of the Ontario College of Art & Design.

### **DAVID WEST**

David West has been an avid photographer since receiving his first camera at the age of seven. He is the owner of West Photo, and has been the principal photographer at his studio for the past 25 years. David has been the recipient of numerous national and international awards for his work, including twice winning *Ontario Portrait Photographer of the Year*. He holds a Master of Photographic Arts Degree from the Professional Photographers of Canada.

### **VAUGHAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES**

Vaughan Public Libraries contribute to the success of our growing diverse community; serving its information, learning, leisure and cultural needs in a welcoming and safe environment. In 2008, VPL welcomed over 1.5 million visitors making it one of the top leisure and information destinations within the City of Vaughan. For more information on all of VPL's programs and services call 905-653-READ (7323); pick up a copy of **@ The Library, Your Guide to Programs, Special Events and Using Your Library** at your local library or visit the website at [www.vaughanpl.info](http://www.vaughanpl.info).

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