

October 7th, 2021 by Cedar Farmers Market Agricultural Society

PRESS RELEASE: For Immediate Release

Cedar Farmers Market Announces Arts & Culture Program 'True Stories Contest' Featuring Cash Prizes

Submissions Accepted: October 7, 2021 – November 30, 2021

Delivery Format: Online

More Information: cedarfarmersmarket.org/stories

The Cedar Farmers Market is proud to announce its inaugural 'True Stories Contest' featuring \$850 in total cash prizes.

This all-ages creative writing contest is open to all residents of Ladysmith, the City of Nanaimo, and the Regional District of Nanaimo. Submissions must be true non-fiction stories that fall within the themes of the farmers market, such as: Grow, Make, Eat, Build, Forage, Sustainability, and Entrepreneurship.

Almost 2 years in the making, the True Stories Contest was inspired in part by the shutdown of community events in the spring of 2020. With community programming in limbo, staff at the Cedar Farmers Market began to brainstorm projects which could build community connections regardless of current restrictions. The summer of 2021 brought grant funding from the Regional District of Nanaimo, which was later matched by a private citizen of Cedar.

The True Stories Contest shortlist of submissions will be judged by well-known local literary figures: New York Times bestselling author, [Chevy Stevens](#); author and illustrator, [Lindsay Ford](#); Take5 magazine's publisher and editor, [Marina Sacht](#); and BC bestselling author, [Hayley Healey](#).

Prize Awards:

Grand Prize: \$400

1st Runner-Up: \$200

2nd Runner-Up: \$150

Best Student Submission: \$100

Program Objectives:

- To engage the local population, students and adults alike, in writing and in the creative arts.
- To create an online event that is accessible to all local residents, regardless of health barriers and regardless of the varying COVID-related restrictions on events.
- To encourage local residents to think about the goals and topics that are the driving principles of the farmers market, such as sustainability, farming & growing food, arts & culture, skill-building, entrepreneurship, etc.
- To promote local literacy.

- To promote local aspiring writers; to convert aspiring writers to 'published writers'.
- To inspire and engage youth.

For more information please contact: stories@cedarfarmersmarket.org

The **Cedar Farmers Market Agricultural Society** is a not-for-profit organization that operates a farmers market from Mother's Day in May until the end of October at Woodbank School in Cedar, BC. It features up to 100 farmers, specialty food and drink makers, and artisans per day. In 2021, the Cedar Farmers Market celebrated their 25th anniversary, recorded record attendance numbers, and won the award for 'Best Farmers Market' in the Nanaimo News Bulletin's Best of the City competition.

The Cedar Farmers Market operates on the traditional and unceded territory of the Snuneymuxw First Nation.



Illustrations courtesy of Lindsay Ford of [Bread and Clutter Books](http://breadandclutterbooks.com).