

# 55+ Amateur Poetry Contest

**Prizes  
awarded**  
to top three  
selected!



# Contest Information

- Participants must be 55+ and a resident of Ajax.
- Only one poem per person. Multiple entries will not be accepted. Submitting multiple poems will cause disqualification.
- A poem in its entirety must be an original work by the person entering the contest and must not be copied from another person or AI generated. Plagiarism is a serious offense!
- Gift certificates will be awarded to the winning poems as follows:
  - 1st prize – \$75
  - 2nd prize – \$50
  - 3rd prize – \$25
- Prizes will be awarded at the judges' discretion. The decision of the judges is final.
- The staff and immediate family members of the Ajax Library Board, Ajax Public Library, the Older Adults Advisory Committee, the Town of Ajax Recreation and Culture Department, and the Town of Ajax Older Adults Task Force are not eligible to enter.
- Winning submissions may be published by the Library or Town of Ajax Recreation and Culture Department.
- Winners will be announced online at [ajax.ca/55plus](http://ajax.ca/55plus) and [ajaxlibrary.ca/55PlusContest](http://ajaxlibrary.ca/55PlusContest).



# Guidelines for Authors

- There is no set theme. Let your imagination run wild!
- Poetry can be written in any poetic style and on any subject.
- Poem must be at least 3 but cannot exceed 26 lines, including stanza breaks but not including the title, and lines may be no more than 70 characters across, including spaces.
- Poems must be written in English.
- Any entry containing cliché, overused phrases will not be accepted (Roses are red, I love you, all work and no play, time after time).
- Poem must adhere to basic rules of capitalization.
- Do not type poem in capital letters.
- Do not capitalize the first letter of every word.
- Only capitalize proper words (i.e. names and places).
- The first word of each line may be capitalized.
- Be sure to proofread your poem for any grammatical errors.
- Do not use “texting” lingo. Properly spell out all words.
- Poems containing language that is vulgar, offensive, or wholly inappropriate will not be accepted.
- To ensure proper lineation, please use the “Enter” key to start a new line, indicating all intentional line breaks.
- Please do not double space.
- Do not include your name or any other information at the end of your poem.
- For anonymity in judging, do not identify yourself on the entry itself. Enclose a cover page with the title, your name, address, phone number, and email address.

# How to Enter

Submission deadline is **Saturday, February 28 at 5 p.m.**

Entries can be dropped off in-person, mailed, or emailed to:

Ajax Public Library  
55 Harwood Ave. S.  
Ajax, ON L1S 2H8  
Attn: Elaine Lievaart  
[libraryinfo@ajaxlibrary.ca](mailto:libraryinfo@ajaxlibrary.ca)

Ajax Community Centre  
75 Centennial Rd.  
Ajax, ON L1S 4S4  
Attn: Moninder Nahar  
[55plus@ajax.ca](mailto:55plus@ajax.ca)

