



## VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

MICHELINE MAYLOR, *FreeFall*

As the Editor-in-Chief of *FreeFall* magazine, Maylor fills its pages with the work of local artists, but her idea of "support" goes far beyond this role.

For years, Micheline Maylor has actively sought out the city's most talented artists—especially those who are undiscovered or stalled—and offers them the kind of mentorship, encouragement and connection that nurtures lasting careers.

Maylor has donated hundreds of hours to this project of supporting artists, creating, hosting and presenting at events that highlight the importance of Canadian art. She has volunteered with established Calgary literary events including Wordfest and the Spoken Word Festival to connect the general public with literary arts; formed collaborations with authors and magazine industry members; supported independent bookstores by choosing them as venues for *FreeFall* launches two times a year; adjudicated several literary

awards; and worked to connect established artists with up-and-comers.

A respected poet, editor and creative writing teacher, Maylor regularly puts her own creative work on hold to help others achieve their literary dreams.

Meanwhile, she oversees all aspects of *FreeFall* along with a team of volunteers, from editorial and design to layout, production, distribution and finances.

Under Maylor's direction, *FreeFall* has grown from an in-house newsletter of community writing into a nationally recognized literary journal with submissions from around the world. More importantly, Maylor's generosity with her time and talent has made *FreeFall* a space where writers can grow, gain confidence and thrive.