

## WESTERN SPORTSMAN/CANADA'S OUTDOOR SPORTSMAN CONTRIBUTOR GUIDELINES

**W**estern Sportsman/Canada's Outdoor Sportsman is a bi-monthly all-Canadian publication that focuses on hunting, fishing and conservation. Published since 1965, it has a strong and devoted readership of people who are knowledgeable and passionate about hunting and fishing. Geographically speaking, Western Sportsman articles should pertain to hunting and fishing in the Prairie Provinces of Canada — however, we do look for Ontario and Maritime-based editorial for our Canada's Outdoor Sportsman editions (please enquire if interested). Western Sportsman is not just a how-to magazine, but it is an outdoor lifestyle magazine — readers expect to find information on the newest and most productive hunting and fishing techniques, hottest destinations, important conservation issues, personality profiles and also stories of life in the outdoors and tales of great and memorable trips afield. The best way to uncover what constitutes a story publishable by Western Sportsman is to read current issues — but remember we only accept fresh, new story ideas and angles — not the same-old, same-old. New writers, or writers who have not yet written for Western Sportsman, are encouraged to query with writing samples. Spec submissions will not be considered without an accompanying query.

### Writing Submissions

Western Sportsman seeks hunting and fishing feature articles from Western Canadian writers who are knowledgeable, passionate and articulate. Feature articles that detail specific techniques or issues should range from 1,500 to 2,000 words. Lifestyle and adventure stories can range from 1,800 to 2,700 words. In both cases, photography must accompany (for more information, please see "Photography Submissions" section), as should relevant sidebars on gear selection, travel information, regulations, tips or any other relevant points.

When writing of techniques, destinations or other advice on how to improve one's fishing/hunting experience, ensure you query new, exciting ideas. Our readers, as said before, are already skilled at outdoor sport.

Lifestyle/adventure stories should be first-person accounts of an interesting fishing/hunting trip, or a trip with a special significance or heritage. However — they should be well-researched, thorough and thoughtful. Quick, simple, "me and Joe" tales are best left for our reader-submitted section. Sidebars relevant to location, travel information, techniques, ect., are a must as well.

Western Sportsman also accepts short news items (less than 450 words) from around the provinces. These will appear in the "Field Notes" section, and should be timely and relevant. Text submissions should be e-mailed to [editor@westernsportsman.com](mailto:editor@westernsportsman.com), and provided in either Microsoft Word or RTF format.

### Photo Submissions

In most cases, written stories are accompanied by photography and bought as a package. However, Western Sportsman does accept submissions of stock photography, as long as it pertains to hunting, fishing, conservation and wildlife in Western Canada. Only digital photography will be accepted, and all digital photography must have a minimum pixel count of 2,000 x 3,000 (six megapixels). All photography must be submitted in high-resolution. Always e-mail your photos at full-resolution. It is your duty to learn the nuances of digital photography. Fuzzy snapshots and happenstance photography will not be considered. Please take the time to properly compose your shots and execute them like a professional. Note: SLIDES AND PRINTS ARE NO LONGER ACCEPTED AT WESTERN SPORTSMAN. No exceptions!

Stock photographers are encouraged to send in either a CD/DVD of high-resolution images, which are can be used by Western Sportsman on a pay-per-use basis, or photographers may send in a CD of low-resolution images, and supply the high-resolution images when they are requested by Western Sportsman. Accepted digital image formats are: .jpg, .tiff and RAW format.

### Queries

Please query before submitting. Make your queries count. Send in as many queries as you like — but please use e-mail. Each query should be around 100 to 150 words, outlining your proposal. Your query should encapsulate the very essence of your story and should show why our readers would be interested in reading/knowing what you are writing about. Indicate what, if any, photos and/or illustrations will accompany the story. Please send queries to: [editor@westernsportsman.com](mailto:editor@westernsportsman.com), with a concise subject line indicating you are querying story ideas to Western Sportsman. Word documents with multiple queries must have the author's surname in the filename, and in the text.

### \*What constitutes a superior manuscript/photo support package?

- A clean manuscript. This means keeping to a specific word count (very important!) and using Canadian (CP Style Manual) spelling. Do not use US spelling! Please single space your document, and submit it in a conventional font (Times or Times New Roman). Also, do not put two spaces after sentence punctuation; one space is all that is required.
- Do not imbed images into your document; and put all sidebars, graphs and charts at the end of the story.
- Make sure you are delivering what was queried and/or asked for. It also means including sidebars (important!) and sourcing your information.
- Meeting deadlines is crucial; a missed deadline without prior approval can mean your manuscript will be rejected as publication schedules are tight.
- Photo support that arrives on deadline that is labelled appropriately. Indicate the "who, what, when, where and why" of each image. Submit an appropriate caption for each image. Have your submissions tell the story in a photo sequence. Tackle and equipment images should be included with appropriate labelling. Also, if relevant, include hand-drawn sketches or maps that our illustrators can reproduce.