



**Ray Skelton
Writing
Contest
2018 Poetry
Winner
Siri Pilate**



**The Ways of our Water
by Siri Pilate
Mr. Froehlingsdorf
Ordean East**

Life on the St. Louis River Estuary

Lake Superior is ages old
Clear, clean, and cold
Brimming with beauty and wonder
not just above, but way down under

The word estuary you may not know
the gathering point where rivers and streams go
St. Louis River and Lake Superior
Mix, meet, and mingle
As an estuary they're no longer single

One danger of the lake
Is the rip current it can make
To escape a rip go left or right
But the current you should never fight

If you fall off your boat
without a life jacket to keep you afloat
Hypothermia you will meet
So curl up to conserve body heat

Perhaps another day you may
Spot a round goby or sea lamprey
Invasive species like this
We will surely not miss

A greater danger is pollution
Of which there is not always a solution
The waters that churn and roil
Are often polluted from ships' oil

We use the estuary for our drinking water
Every father, mother, son and daughter
More water is for household utilities
Other goes to industrial facilities
Storm and sanitary sewers collect our waste
Transporting it straight to the lake with haste
Sometimes dirtier than before
We pollute the lake and it's once pristine shore

Recreation is another role the estuary plays
We have fun in it nearly everyday
Without the lake and it's multitude of ships
The economy would certainly meet some dips
Our estuary is necessary to protect
Or else this glorious place shall be wrecked