



**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