



Poet and Dorchester resident Anna Ross enjoys her backyard with her daughter Ita Berg. *Photo by Kendra Lee Stanton*

## Local poet starts small, wins big with ‘chapbook’

BY KENDRA STANTON LEE  
SPECIAL TO THE REPORTER

When trying to establish oneself in the publishing industry, it may be best to start small. As small as, say, a chapbook. And what exactly is a chapbook?

Ask Dorchester poet Anna Ross who was awarded first prize in the 2008 New Women’s Voices chapbook contest by Finishing Line Press.

A chapbook, says Ross, is “sort of a mini-book.” Ross’ chapbook, *Hawk Weather*, will contain the first two sections of a longer poetry manuscript

she hopes to publish in its entirety in the future.

Ross, 33, got word about the prize in June and, along with an award of \$1,000, her chapbook will be published later this year.

*Hawk Weather* is largely autobiographical.

“The manuscript follows the arc of several years of my life from having a relationship, getting married, going through a lot of difficulty with pregnancy. And then later in the book, the problem was resolved,” she says,

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