TORONTO, ON (October 16, 2017) – Ontario Library Association (OLA) is pleased to announce the English and French nominees for the 2018 Forest of Reading program, the largest recreational reading award program in Canada.

SEE THE 2018 FOREST OF READING NOMINATED LISTS: accessola.com/forest

“Over the course of my career, I can truly say that the Forest of Reading programs have done more to help my books reach an audience than any other initiative,” says Kenneth Oppel, multiple Forest award nominee and winner. “For young readers, these awards kindle and nurture a love of reading, teach the kids analytical skills as they weight and debate the merits of each shortlisted title, and ultimately empower them as vote for the winning books each year. As a writer I’ve never seen so many kids, so excited about books…These are invaluable programs for creating new generations of readers.”

The program consists of eight award programs distinguished by age group and reading level. The English programs are: Blue Spruce, Silver Birch, Red Maple, White Pine, Golden Oak, and Evergreen. French literature is celebrated through the Peuplier, Tamarac, and Tamarac Express programs. Over 270,000 readers participate in the program through schools, public libraries, literacy centres, and at home.

There are 108 nominated titles for the 2018 Forest of Reading awards: ten titles for each school-aged program and eight for the Golden Oak program. Committees of library practitioners select the nominated titles and those who read a certain number of titles in each program will have the opportunity to vote for their favourite books in April. The winners of the 2018 program will be announced and awarded live at the Festival of Trees in May, where the readers and participants of the Forest of Reading are invited to celebrate reading and writing with the nominees.

The OLA is pleased to announce that the ALL school-aged Forest nominated titles will be available in alternate formats this year through either Centre for Equitable Library Access (CELA) or Alternative Education Resources of Ontario (AERO).

“The Forest program delivered by schools and libraries across Canada is designed to get kids excited about reading,” says Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director, Ontario Library Association. “Research reveals that a love of reading cultivates empathy and increases student success in other subject areas.”

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The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is a centre of excellence for the library and information sector, with 5,000 members who work in public, school, academic and special libraries. OLA enables members to advocate for the right of individuals to have free and equitable access to information. Our members research, develop and participate in educational programs designed to provide exemplary library services. Signature OLA events include the annual Super Conference and the Forest of Reading® program.

Tinlids Inc. is the official wholesaler for the 2018 Forest of Reading program.

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