

2018 Forest of Reading® Winners Announced at Annual Festival of Trees Event
Readers across the country to voted for favourite Canadian titles in unique award program

NEWS RELEASE

STRICT EMBARGO: MAY 16, 2018 AT 3 PM ET

TORONTO, ON (May 16, 2018) – On May 15 and 16, thousands gathered at the annual Festival of Trees, an annual rock concert of reading, where winners of the 2018 Forest of Reading program are announced live. The event, which celebrates a love of reading for children of all ages, brings together thousands of young readers from across Ontario for workshops, entertainment, and meaningful experiences with our nation's top Canadian fiction and non-fiction authors.

The 2018 Forest of Reading Award winners are:

- Blue Spruce Award™ Winner: ***Shark Lady: The True Story of How Eugenie Clark Became the Ocean's Most Fearless Scientist*** by Jess Keating, Illustrated by Marta Álvarez Miguéns (Sourcebooks)
- Red Maple Fiction Award™ Winner: ***The Winnowing*** by Vikki VanSickle (Scholastic Canada Ltd.)
- White Pine Award™ Winner: ***Everything Beautiful is Not Ruined*** by Danielle Younge-Ullman (Razorbill Canada)
- Silver Birch Non-Fiction Award® Winner: ***Top Dogs: True Stories of Canines That Made History*** by Elizabeth MacLeod (Annick Press)
- Silver Birch Fiction Award® Winner: ***From Ant to Eagle*** by Alex Lyttle (Central Avenue Publishing)
- Silver Birch Express Award® Winner: ***Smiley: A Journey of Love*** by Joanne George (Fitzhenry & Whiteside, Limited)

On Thursday, May 17, the winners of the French Forest of Reading programs (Prix Peuplier, Prix Tamarac, and Prix Tamarac Express) will be announced live.

Since October, over 250,000 children across Ontario read nominated books, which included the best Canadian fiction and non-fiction books by English and French authors. Over 164,000 readers voted in the 2018 program.

The Forest of Reading allows readers of all ages to cultivate a love of reading through Canadian picture books, young adult books, novels and French-language titles. The program consists of eight award programs distinguished by age group and reading level: Blue Spruce, Silver Birch, Red Maple, White Pine, Golden Oak, and Evergreen. Together, there are 118 nominated titles with approximately ten books for each program.

We recognize the major support from our sponsors Tinlids Inc. Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund, Toronto Arts Council, First Book Canada, Toronto International Festival of Authors, SkyWords Media, and OWL Kids.

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

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