Ontario Library Association
2020 Evergreen™ Award Nominees

The Evergreen™ Award gives adult library patrons the opportunity to vote for a work of Canadian fiction or non-fiction. The Evergreen reading program is accessible in any participating public library in Ontario. Read any or all of the titles on the list and vote for your favourite!

These titles are available to reserve from your local public library. Look for the format that works for you:

- Print
- e-book
- e-Audiobook
A Mind Spread Out on the Ground
by Alicia Elliott
From award-winning Haudenosaunee writer Alicia Elliott, a collection of essays offering indispensable insight into the ongoing legacy of colonialism. Through the topics of race, parenthood, love, mental illness, poverty, sexual assault, gentrification, and representation, Elliott connects the personal and the political, the past and the present, and asks essential questions about the treatment of Native people in North America. With deep consideration and searing prose, Elliott provides a candid look at our past, an illuminating portrait of our present, and a powerful tool for a better future.

Chasing Painted Horses
by Drew Hayden Taylor
The story of four unlikely friends who live in Otter lake, a reserve north of Toronto. Ralph and his sister, Shelley, live with their parents. On the cusp of becoming teenagers, they and their friend William befriend an odd little girl from a dysfunctional family. The timid 10-year-old draws an arresting image of a horse that pulls the loose group of friends into her fantasy world. But they aren’t ready for what that horse may mean or represent—everything that is wrong with the girl’s life and everything she wished it could be.

Frying Plantain
by Zalika Reid-Benta
Kara Davis is caught in the middle. She’s caught in the middle of her Canadian nationality and her desire to be a “true” Jamaican, of her mother and grandmother’s rages, of having to avoid being thought of as too “faas” or too “quiet” or too “bold” or too “soft.” Set in the Eglington West neighbourhood of “Little Jamaica”, Kara moves from girhood to the threshold of adulthood through twelve interconnected stories. A rich and unforgettable portrait of growing up between worlds, Zalika Reid-Benta artfully depicts the tensions between mothers and daughters, second-generation Canadians and first-generation cultural expectations, and Black identity and predominantly white society.

This One Looks Like a Boy
by Lorimer Shenher
In this candid and thoughtful memoir, Shenher shares the story of his gender journey, from childhood gender dysphoria to early-adult denial of his identity—and finally the acceptance that he is trans. Along the way, he details his childhood in booming Calgary, his struggles with alcohol, and his eventual move to Vancouver, where he became the first detective assigned to the case of serial killer Robert Pickton (the subject of his critically acclaimed book That Lonely Section of Hell). With warmth and openness, Shenher takes us through one of the most important decisions he will ever make, as he comes into his own and finally discovers acceptance and relief.

Watching You Without Me
by Lynn Coady
After her mother’s sudden death, Karen finds herself back in her childhood home in Nova Scotia for the first time in a decade. Now the full-time caregiver for her older sister, Kelli, Karen begins to feel overcome by the isolation of her new role, and weighed down with guilt over the years she spent keeping her family at arm’s length. When Trevor, one of Kelli’s support workers, oversteps his role and offers advice and a shoulder to cry on, Karen gratefully accepts his somewhat overbearing friendship. But soon, as Trevor slowly insinuates himself into Karen and Kelli’s lives, Karen starts to realize the suffocating nature of Trevor’s “care.”

Autopsy of a Boring Wife
by Marie-Renée Lavoie (translated by Arielle Aaronson)
When Diane Delaunais’ husband of 25 years announces that he is leaving her for a younger woman, her life is upended. He had an affair because, he says, she bores him. Diane takes this to heart and so starts a highly entertaining journey of rediscovery. Except Diane is far from boring, and her ex is far from the perfect prince she believes him to be. Billed a Québécois Bridget Jones’ Diary, Autopsy of a Boring Wife is a send-up of the institution of marriage in the twenty-first century.

Crow Winter
by Karen McBride
Nanabush. Trickster. Storyteller. Shape-shifter. An ancient troublemaker, Hazel Ellis has been dreaming of an old crow. The crow tells her he’s here to help her, save her. From what though? Her dad’s been dead for almost two years and she hasn’t reconciled that grief. But that’s surely not worth the time of an Algonquin demigod? Soon Hazel learns that there’s more going on than just her own sadness, there’s an old magic in the quarry on her father’s property that crosses the boundary between this world and the next. With the aid of Nanabush, Hazel must unravel a web that if left untouched could destroy her family and her home on both sides of the Medicine Wheel.

Greenwood
by Michael Christie
It’s 2038 and they come for the trees. As the rest of humanity struggles through the Great Withering, scientist Jake Greenwood is working as an overqualified tour guide on Greenwood Island, a remote oasis of thousand-year-old trees. She thought the island’s connection to her name was just a coincidence, until someone from her past reappears with a book that might give her the family history she has long craved. Like the rings in a tree trunk, we move back through time to the years before the First World War, meeting the men and women who came before Jake—an injured carpenter, an eco-warrior, a blind tycoon with a secret, a Depression-era drifter, and the fates of two boys that will set in motion events that will reverberate over generations.

Undercard
by David Albertyn
Tryon Shaw returns to his hometown of Las Vegas after eleven years serving in the Marines, but it’s his two best friends from childhood that are all anyone is talking about. Antoine, three years out of prison and set to fight in the boxing match of the decade, and Keenan, a police officer who killed an unarmed teenager and now the subject of a protest. As Tyron tries to reconcile either story with his memories of these men, he runs into the love of his life. Naomi Wilks, Keenan’s ex. As Tyron reconnects with his old community, he will learn that much has changed since he left Las Vegas, and there is much more he never understood.

Watermark
by Christy Ann Conlin