

## 2022 Forest of Reading® Winners Announced at Virtual Edition of the Forest of Reading Awards

*Readers across the country voted for favourite Canadian titles in readers' choice award program*

### NEWS RELEASE

**TORONTO, ON** (May 19, 2022) – The Ontario Library Association (OLA) and the Forest of Reading are excited to announce the winners of the 2022 Forest of Reading Awards, presented at the Forest of Reading Award ceremonies, a three-day, free digital event, streamed on [Curio](#) in partnership with [CBC Books](#), hosted by Ali Hassan.

#### The 2022 Forest of Reading Award Winners are:

- Blue Spruce Award™ Winner: **Harley the Hero**, written & illustrated by Peggy Collins (Pajama Press)
- Silver Birch Express Award® Winner: **Mellybean and the Giant Monster** by Mike White (Penguin Random House)
- Silver Birch Fiction Award® Winner: **Deadman's Castle** by Iain Lawrence (Margaret Ferguson Books (PRHC))
- Yellow Cedar Award: **Wild Outside: Around the World with Survivorman**, Written and Illustrated by Les Stroud and Andrew P. Barr; Photographs by Laura Bombier (Annick Press)
- Red Maple Award™ Winner: **The King of Jam Sandwiches**, by Eric Walters (Orca Book Publishers)
- White Pine Award™ Winner: **What Unbreakable Looks Like**, by Kate McLaughlin (Wednesday Books (RAI))
- Le prix Peuplier : **Albertine Petit-Brindamour déteste les choux de Bruxelles**, écrit par Anne Renaud, illustré par Élodie Duhamel (La courte échelle)
- Le prix Mélèze : **Honey et Ketchup**, écrit par Jonathan Bécotte, illustré par Sabrina Gendron (Éditions Québec Amérique)
- Le prix Tamarac : **Cabane Sinistre**, écrit par Karine Lambert (Héritage jeunesse)

"A love of reading boosts student success. We are so grateful to library professionals across the country for engaging young readers in this program. Kids discussed the books, participated in activities, had virtual author visits, and made their voices known by choosing the winners," says Shelagh Paterson, Executive Director, Ontario Library Association.

Co-chairs of the Forest of Reading, Isabelle Hobbs and Ruth Gretsinger, said "the Forest is focused on reading for pleasure because that's what makes lifelong readers. These books allow young people to explore settings from across Canada, the world or the author's imagination, as well as giving them the chance to meet characters that represent every facet of Canadian life. Plus, these lists focus on Canadian authors and illustrators because they are the best in the world! It is a dream pairing guaranteed to succeed."

Since October, over 270,000 children have read nominated books, which include Canadian fiction and non-fiction books by English and French-language authors, and almost almost 120,000 voted this year, an impressive number with still so many interruptions in school and libraries due to the pandemic.

The Forest of Reading consists of ten programs distinguished by age group and reading level, each with ten nominated titles. The English school-aged programs are Blue Spruce, Silver Birch Express, Silver Birch Fiction, Yellow Cedar, Red Maple, and White Pine. French literature is celebrated through the Peuplier, Mélèze, and Tamarac programs. The adult program, Evergreen, celebrates excellence in Canadian literature. There are 100 nominated titles with ten books in each program.

We recognize the major support from our sponsors and partners: Tinlids Inc., CBC Books, and the Government of Canada.

Follow the conversation [#ForestofReading](#) and [#IReadCanadian](#).

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**About the Ontario Library Association:** 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.

**About CBC Books:** Home to *Canada Reads*, *Writers & Company* with Eleanor Wachtel, *The Next Chapter* with Shelagh Rogers, *Canada Writes* and the CBC Literary Prizes, CBC Books connects Canadians with books, encouraging a shared love of reading and writing. For book news, writing challenges, reading lists, book recommendations and more, visit [CBCbooks.ca](#).

**About Tinlids:** [Tinlids Inc.](#) is the official wholesaler for the 2022 Forest of Reading program.

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