

**Forest Of Reading<sup>®</sup>**

# 2023 Forest of Reading<sup>®</sup> & Festival Year-End Report



# New This Year



Login

Search here.



About the Forest ▾ Nominated Lists Resources ▾ Events ▾ Publisher Information ▾ Registration ▾ Volunteering ▾



Forest Of Reading  
Festival

FRANÇAIS

Do you love to read? Are you ready to make some noise for books? Do you want to meet your favourite authors and illustrators? Have you ever been to a "rock concert" for reading? This is your chance – be part of the largest literary event for young readers in Canada, the Forest of Reading® Festival! After 3 years of delivering a digital experience only, we are thrilled to bring the Festival back to an in-person event for select reading categories and with exciting digital components. Reaching more young readers is important to us.

OLA's Forest of Reading Festival is held mid-May annually at **Harbourfront Centre, Toronto**.

## What can you do at the Festival?

An in-person Festival event typically involves attendees:

- Attending Award Ceremonies for the Forest of Reading®
- Getting involved in Author/Illustrator workshops
- Having nominees sign their favourite Forest books!
- Taking part in exciting activities and games
- Getting excited for roving entertainment and vendors
- Winning free prizes and books!
- Meeting fellow young readers!
- Buying Forest of Reading books and merchandise
- All in-person Festivals typically take place from 10 am to 2 pm EST



Festival Info &  
Schedules

Renseignements et horaires du  
Festival

Volunteer  
Information

Renseignements à l'intention des  
bénévoles

Chaperone/  
Venue Info

Renseignements sur les  
accompagnateurs et les lieux

Student Presenter/  
Sign Carrier  
Information

Renseignements destinés aux élèves  
présentateurs/porteurs d'écriteaux

**New Festival Webpages:** The Forest of Reading® added new webpages about the Forest of Reading Festival on the website. These new pages made relevant information easier to find. [Check it out at forestofreading.com/festival/](https://forestofreading.com/festival/).

## Forest Perks

Get added benefits with your registration for only \$20

### Avantages de la forêt

Recevoir avantages ajoutés avec votre inscription pour juste \$20



For an extra \$20/year Forest registrants get access to exciting additional perks that you don't want to miss out on.

#### What do you get?

- Exclusive access to [Forest of Reading Festival](#) tickets **before** the public release date. **(value: priceless)**
  - OLA members have the first access to Festival tickets ahead of Perks members and then it is open to the public. Not a member yet? *What are you waiting for?* [MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION](#)
- Exclusive access to virtual content available only to Forest Perks registrants. **(value: \$500)**
- Access to 15% off at [The Library Marketplace](#) on all orders. **(value: major savings)**
- Access to virtual content from the previous program year.
- Access to a community where ideas, pictures and photos are shared amongst Forest Perks registrants.

**Forest Perks Program:** In 2022, the Forest of Reading® added a Perks program for an additional fee to the mix. In 2023, the Forest of Reading® team introduced virtual visits just for Perks subscribers! Another exciting addition to these perks was early access to secure Festival tickets. [Visit forestofreading.com/forest-perks/](https://forestofreading.com/forest-perks/) for more information.





# Virtual Content

A young girl with long brown hair tied back with a pink hair tie is looking at a laptop screen. The screen shows a blurred image of a man, likely an author, in a virtual setting. The background is a bright, out-of-focus indoor space. The overall image has a green border at the top and bottom.

**25 Forest  
Friday's Virtual  
Author Visits**

**5 Forest Perks  
Events**

**10 Blue Spruce  
Read-Alouds**

**7 White Pine  
Author Visits**

# Forest by the Numbers

**1808**

SITES PARTICIPATING IN THE FOREST OF READING® PROGRAM, INCLUDING SCHOOL LIBRARIES, PUBLIC LIBRARIES, HOMESCHOOLERS, INDIVIDUALS, LITERACY CENTRES, AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS

**270,000+**

TOTAL PARTICIPANTS

**106,213**

TOTAL BOOKS SOLD BY OUR OFFICIAL WHOLESALER, TINLIDS INC.

**782**

CANADIAN TITLES SUBMITTED FOR CONSIDERATION FOR THE AWARD PROGRAM

**100**

NOMINATED TITLES FOR 2023

**100**

SELECTION COMMITTEE MEMBERS

**53**

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

# Forest by the Numbers

**421,082**

HITS TO THE [FORESTOFREADING.COM](https://www.forestofreading.com) WEBSITE DURING THE 2023 PROGRAM YEAR

**168,987**

HITS TO THE FOREST OF READING® PASSWORD WEBSITE DURING THE 2023 PROGRAM YEAR

**1:31**

TOTAL TIME SPENT ON [FORESTOFREADING.COM](https://www.forestofreading.com)

**324,547**

UNIQUE PAGE VIEWS ON [FORESTOFREADING.COM](https://www.forestofreading.com)

**8,407**

TWITTER FOLLOWERS  
[@FORESTOFREADING](https://twitter.com/FORESTOFREADING)

**8,057**

FACEBOOK FOLLOWERS  
[@FORESTOFREADING](https://www.facebook.com/FORESTOFREADING)



# Kid Committee

**30 kids** were part of two committees and spent two mornings deliberating about the best Canadian books kids in the country should read this summer.

This year the committee picked 15 books for grades 4-6 and 15 books for grades 7-8 readers. These books have not previously been on a Forest award program but are a curated list that could be in future and must-reads for the summer. Kids picking for kids!

30

Books  
Selected



Silver Birch Fiction

Red Maple





# Forest of Reading® Festival



The Forest of Reading Festival was back in person in Toronto for the first time since 2019. The OLA welcomed almost 4,000 young people to Harbourfront Centre on May 16-17, and over 200 volunteers, nominees, publishing partners, and guests joined to deliver this fantastic event. Awards were given in person for the Silver Birch Express, Silver Birch Fiction, Red Maple, and White Pine.

In addition, the Forest of Reading created digital ceremonies in-house for the Blue Spruce, Yellow Cedar and Peuplier Awards for the first time. After cancelling the French Festival, we added the Mélèze and Tamarac awards to the digital experience. Ainara Alleyne and comedian Ali Hassan hosted the in-person and digital ceremonies. As of June 1st, the ceremonies have been viewed by over 1,500 classes.

The Library Marketplace launched a new line of merchandise for the Forest of Reading and it was a huge success, especially at the store at the Festival. [Visit The Library Marketplace to see more!](#)

This year's Festival was a true rock concert for books! We encourage you to watch our highlight video at [bit.ly/2023FestivalVideo](https://bit.ly/2023FestivalVideo).





# In the Media

CONTENU PARTENAIRE

## Bienvenue à la Forêt de la lecture



### À PROPOS DE L'ABO-FRANCO

L'Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario-Franco travaille activement au développement des services en français dans la province, voit à ce que les bibliothèques reçoivent toute information pertinente en français et voit au marketing des services français. L'ABO-Franco regroupe les membres du personnel francophones et francophiles des bibliothèques en Ontario qui travaillent dans le domaine public, collégial, universitaire ou scolaire et qui ont à cœur la culture francophone.

## LA FORÊT DE LA LECTURE 2023 : LES MEILLEURS LIVRES SELON LES JEUNES

La Forêt de la lecture et Communication-Jeunesse ont une mission commune : cultiver l'amour de la lecture et contribuer au rayonnement de la littérature canadienne! Nous sommes convaincus que les livres enrichissent l'esprit et favorisent le développement des facultés intellectuelles et sociales. C'est pourquoi nous travaillons à créer des opportunités de lecture inspirantes, qui stimulent l'imagination des jeunes tout en les soutenant sur le plan de la réussite éducative. Que ce soit pour le plaisir de lire ou pour améliorer ses compétences en lecture, nos actions sont le reflet de notre engagement partagé : faire de la lecture une expérience significative et passionnante!

### UN PROGRAMME BILINGUE PANCANADIEN

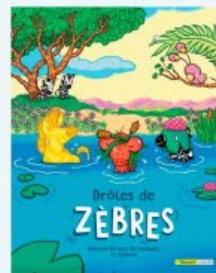
La Forêt de la lecture est le plus vaste programme de lecture récréative du Canada! Cette initiative de l'Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario (ABO) offre dix programmes pour susciter l'amour de la lecture chez les personnes de tous âges. La Forêt contribue à célébrer les livres, les éditeurs, les auteurs et les illustrateurs canadiens. Tous les Canadiens sont invités à y participer par leur bibliothèque publique locale, leur bibliothèque scolaire ou à titre individuel.

### PRIX DE LA FORÊT DE LA LECTURE – ÉDITION 2023

Depuis le mois d'octobre, plus de 154 000 enfants ont lu les œuvres finalistes, dont des livres de fiction et de non-fiction d'auteurs canadiens anglophones et francophones. Plus de 125 000 enfants ont voté dans le cadre du programme de la Forêt de la lecture en 2023.

Le 18 mai dernier, dans le cadre des cérémonies de remise des prix de la Forêt de la lecture à Toronto, l'Association des bibliothèques de l'Ontario et la Forêt de la lecture ont dévoilé les noms des lauréat(e)s des prix francophones de la Forêt de la lecture 2023.

## LES LAURÉATS FRANCOPHONES 2023



### Prix Peuplier 2023

Albums, moins de texte, sujets simples, convenant parfaitement à la lecture à haute voix.

*Drôles de zèbres* par Mathilde Perrault-Archambault et Catherin (Bayard Canada Livres)



### Prix Méléze 2023

Courts romans, des albums plus avancés, des documentaires ou des BD. Le vocabulaire et le temps de verbes sont peu complexes.

*La ligue des (pas si) champions 1 - Basile* par Jocelyn Boisvert (Les Malins)



### Prix Tamarac 2023

Romans de 100 à 250 pages, texte plus petit avec peu ou pas d'illustrations, des albums avec un sujet mature, des documentaires ou des BD. Le vocabulaire et le temps de verbes sont complexes.

*Seuls* par Paul Tom et Mélanie Baillairgé (la courte échelle)





# In the Media

Books

## Students across Canada chose these 9 books as the 2023 Forest of Reading Award winners



Forest of Reading selects Canadian titles for children to read and vote for their favourite

CBC Books · Posted: May 24, 2023 10:01 AM EDT | Last Updated: May 24



Students from kindergarten to high school are encouraged to read from a selection of shortlisted books and vote for their favourites in the Forest of Reading program. (Forest of Reading)



# Testimonials

The Forest of Reading is THE most significant force in promoting literature and literacy in the country. I have been part of this program as a writer, a teacher, and as a parent. I have seen first-hand the impact of the program. Without it, Canadian publishers would be stressed and possibly would have to discontinue publishing, many writers would be forced to give up their careers - with only those with affluence being able to continue or become writers. Most importantly, this is a driving force in the development of literacy in our entire country. Children discover books - Canadian books that reflect their homes, their backgrounds, their cultures, and their country - and in doing so become more literate, more aware, more compassionate, and empathetic. This program doesn't just create better readers, it fosters the development of better people.

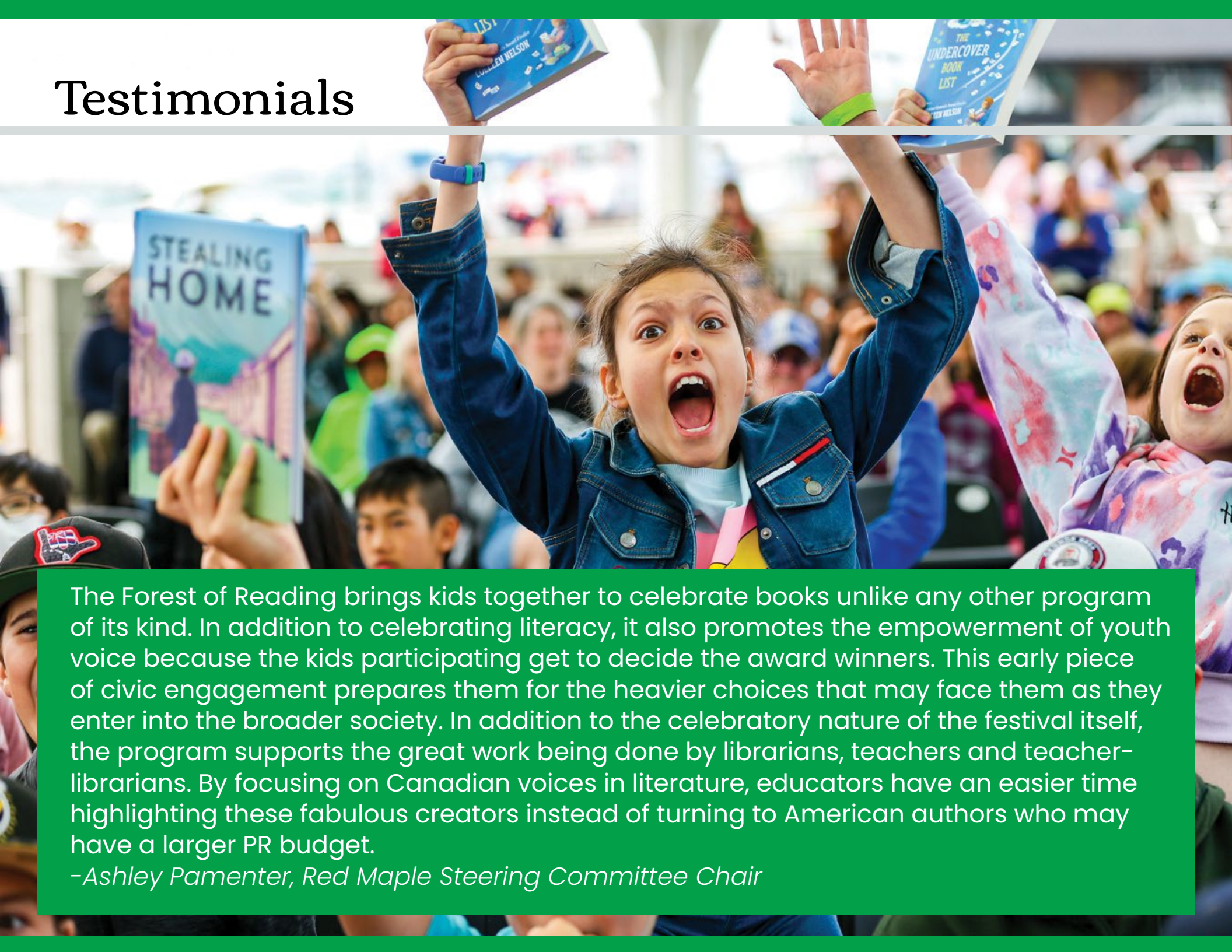
*-Dr. Eric Walters, award-winning author, C.M. (Order of Canada)*

There's no better reading program. The selection of books is Canadian top tier. The kid-centered approach to reading, participating, and voting is unique. As an author I'm not sure I'd have a career without the support of this program. That's true for many of us, I'd wager. Where else are Canadian kids given such positive and wide-ranging introduction to Canadian creators? The answer is "nowhere". Can't wait until we can meet in person again, and I can see the passionate readers clutching their beloved CANADIAN books and yelling at us like we're rock stars.

*-Kevin Sylvester, 2022 Silver Birch Fiction nominee and multi-award-winning author*



# Testimonials

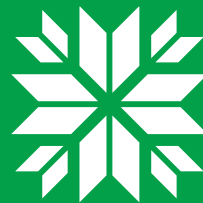


The Forest of Reading brings kids together to celebrate books unlike any other program of its kind. In addition to celebrating literacy, it also promotes the empowerment of youth voice because the kids participating get to decide the award winners. This early piece of civic engagement prepares them for the heavier choices that may face them as they enter into the broader society. In addition to the celebratory nature of the festival itself, the program supports the great work being done by librarians, teachers and teacher-librarians. By focusing on Canadian voices in literature, educators have an easier time highlighting these fabulous creators instead of turning to American authors who may have a larger PR budget.

*-Ashley Pamenter, Red Maple Steering Committee Chair*



Thank you for  
another great year!



**Forest Of Reading<sup>®</sup>  
Festival**

---

**[forest@accessola.com](mailto:forest@accessola.com) | 1-877-340-1730**

**[forestofreading.com](http://forestofreading.com)**

---

*All 2023 Forest of Reading<sup>®</sup> Festival photos courtesy  
of Tracey Biel Photography*