

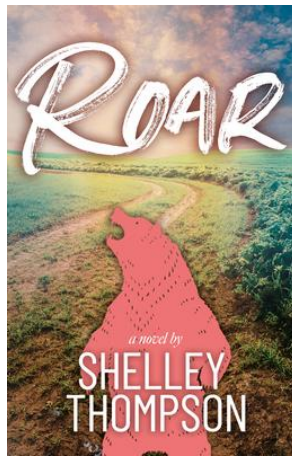
2025 Forest of Reading® Evergreen Award™ Winner Announced Alongside the 2026 Nominated Titles

Canadian authors selected for adult recreational reading program award

NEWS RELEASE

TORONTO, ON (October 29, 2025) – The Ontario Library Association's (OLA) [Forest of Reading](#) is excited to announce the 2025 Evergreen Award Winner alongside this year's nominees for its adult program, the Evergreen Award.

THE 2025 FOREST OF READING® EVERGREEN AWARD™ WINNER IS:



Roar

by Shelley Thompson (Nimbus Publishing/Vagrant Press)

"Thank you so much, I am so grateful to receive this award," said Shelley Thompson. "As a child, my school and public libraries were sanctuaries, and librarians were trusted sources and travel guides. Where I would go next – imaginatively – was resolved with an enthusiastic, considered suggestion. But now, not so far away, librarians are being fired for championing books like mine. I'm moved and proud that in complicated times like these, Ontario librarians have encouraged people to travel in the shoes of a trans individual and their family. As the mom of a trans man, the recognition afforded *Roar* by the OLA's Evergreen Award gives me such hope that we can, as a community, step away from injustice and cruelty, towards empathy and kindness."

The 2026 nominees for the Evergreen Award are:

All the Parts We Exile: A Memoir by Roza Nozari (Knopf Canada)

Everything Is Fine Here by Iryn Tushabe (House of Anansi Press)

Fallosophy: My Trip through Life with MS by Ardra Shephard (Douglas & McIntyre)

Horsefly by Mireille Gagné (Coach House Books)

It Must Be Beautiful to Be Finished: A Memoir of My Body by Kate Gies (Scribner Canada)

Seventhblade by Tonia Laird (ECW Press)

The Tiger and the Cosmonaut by Eddy Boudel Tan (Viking Canada)

Waiting for the Long Night Moon by Amanda Peters (HarperCollins Publishers Ltd.)

What I Know About You by Éric Chacour (Coach House Books)

Where the Jasmine Blooms by Zeina Sleiman (Roseway Publishing)



"While we always have a soft spot for debut authors, and consciously consider that if it comes down to making hard decisions about one book over another, this year sees that taken to a whole new level," said Enid Wray and Julie Wendland, Co-Chairs of the Evergreen Award Selection Committee. "Evergreen 2026 is the "Year of the Debut." Fully seven of our ten titles this year are debuts. The Selection Committee was so impressed with the quality of the writing in these titles. We revel in the opportunity to help share these exciting new authors with readers across the country."

The Evergreen Award program is a perfect way for public libraries and book clubs to engage with best titles in Canadian fiction and non-fiction. It is one of ten programs that form the OLA's Forest of Reading, Canada's largest recreational reading program of its kind with over 270,000 Canadians participating each year.

A committee of library professionals chooses the nominated titles for the Evergreen Award. Readers can submit their votes for the award during September and the winner is announced during Ontario Public Library Week in October.

Participate in the Evergreen Award program and register for the [Forest of Reading](https://forestofreading.ca) today. Following a new timeline, the Evergreen Award program is the perfect program to run during a bookclub from

October through until the end of the summer. Follow the Forest of Reading on Instagram [@forestofreadingprogram](https://www.instagram.com/forestofreadingprogram) and check out the [Facebook page](#).

– 30 –

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.

About the Ontario Library Association: The [Ontario Library Association \(OLA\)](#) is a centre of excellence for the library and information sector, with 4,000 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 Tinlids: [Tinlids Inc.](#) is the official wholesaler for the 2026 Forest of Reading program.

Media and program contacts:

[Meredith Tutching](#)

Director, Forest of Reading® & Logistics
Ontario Library Association
1-877-340-1730 ext. 22

[Laurel McLeod](#)

Communications Officer
Ontario Library Association
1-877-340-1730 ext. 25