



Illustration: Sid Sharp | Design: Danielle Hitchcock

FESTIVAL MAP ■ SEE AND DO ■ FESTIVAL SCHEDULE ■ EXHIBITORS AND MORE!

Festival Guide



Royal Botanical Gardens | Hendrie Park
Oct 4 & 5, 2025 | 9:45 AM - 5 PM

FREE ENTRY WITH REGISTRATION

TellingTales.org | [T](#) [I](#) [G](#) [F](#) [X](#) [I](#) [I](#) @TellingTalesOrg



Telling Tales takes place in Royal Botanical Gardens' Hendrie Park, where people have lived and told stories for thousands of years. It is the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee, the Anishinaabe, the Wendat, and the Neutral peoples. Today it is home to the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation, the Six Nations of the Grand River, and to many other Indigenous people from across Turtle Island.

Land Acknowledgement

WHAT IS TELLING TALES?

Our mission is to deliver outstanding literary programming for children and youth that raises awareness of the importance of literacy in our communities.

Our vision is to inspire a love of reading, empower storytellings, and provide exposure to diverse perspectives, in order to improve literacy, critical thinking, and dialogue skills for all children and youth.

CONTENTS

Saturday Autograph Schedule	2
Sunday Autograph Schedule	2
Saturday Festival Schedule	3
Sunday Festival Schedule	5
Creativity Partners	8
Festival Map	9
See and Do	10
Exhibitor Listings	11



AUTOGRAPH SCHEDULES

DD AGES 0-8 at A Different Drummer Books

 ASL

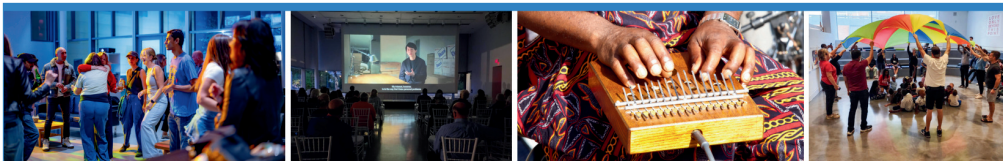
	SAT OCT 4	SUN OCT 5
10:30 AM	Lana Button & Eric Walters	Aimee Reid
11:00 AM	Melanie Florence Anna Humphrey	Willie Poll Alina Tysoe
11:30 AM	Kid Haile	Casey Lyall
12:00 PM	Willie Poll Lana Button	Leonarda Carranza
1:00 PM	Tanya Tagaq	Matthew Forsythe
2:00 PM	Danielle Chaperon	Ashley Barron
2:15 PM	Adam Pottle  Tiffani Brown	Kari-Lynn Winters
2:30 PM	Ovila Fontaine	Karen Krossing
3:00 PM	Sandra Lamouche	Sandra Lamouche
3:15 PM	Andrew Larsen	
3:30 PM	Sonya Bell	Danielle Chaperon
4:00 PM	Wendy J. Whittingham	Thao Lam
4:15 PM	Howie Shia	Sunshine Quem Tenasco
4:30 PM	Anitha Rao-Robinson	Ovila Fontaine

EB AGES 9-13+ at Epic Books

	SAT OCT 4	SUN OCT 5
11:00 AM	Maria Marianayagam	Matteo L. Cerilli
12:00 PM	Wesley King Paul Coccia Farah Heron Cale Plett	Wanda Taylor Coltrane Seesequasis
1:15 PM	Liselle Sambury Sara de Waard	Matt Beam Jen Ferguson
2:30 PM	Emily Deibert Hamilton Verse Creators (x4)	Brooklin Stormie Sarah Raughley
3:45 PM	Jen Ferguson Cheryl Isaacs	Stephanie Sinclair
4:45 PM	Mary Averling	
5:00 PM	Victoria Evans Adrienne Kress Sid Sharp	

TIME	MAIN STAGE ALL AGES	☆ READ TOGETHER TENT AGES 0-6	ⓑ EARLY READER TENT AGES 6-8	ⓒ PRETEEN TENT AGES 9-12	ⓓ YOUNG ADULT TENT AGES 13+	ⓔ AROUND THE FESTIVAL ALL AGES
10:00 AM	FESTIVAL OPENING					
10:15 AM	Live Music with Hamilton Children's Choir Esprimas <i>Sing As You Are</i> 10:00 - 10:45 AM	Lana Button & Eric Walters <i>One Can</i> 10:15 - 10:30 AM	Anna Humphrey <i>Big City Buns</i> 10:15 - 11:00 AM	Maria Marianayagam <i>No Purchase Necessary</i> 10:15 - 11:00 AM		
10:30 AM						
10:45 AM	Storytime with Hamilton Public Library (HPL) 10:50 - 11:00 AM	Melanie Florence <i>Benjamin Grows a Garden</i> 10:45 - 11:00 AM			 	Puppet Show with BPL 10:30 - 10:55 AM Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection (DLISC) Tour 10:30 - 11:00 AM
11:00 AM						
11:15 AM	Live Music with My Friend Christopher 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Kid Haile <i>Sometimes I Eat with My Hands</i> 11:15 - 11:30 AM	Lana Button <i>Brianna Banana, Helper of the Day</i> 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Wesley King <i>Benny on the Case</i> 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	PANEL INK-STAINED HEARTS Paul Coccia <i>Recommended Reading</i> Farah Heron <i>Meet Me on Love Street</i> Cale Plett <i>Wavelength</i> 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Nature Discovery Walk with BurlingtonGreen 11:00 - 11:30 AM
11:30 AM						
11:45 AM		Willie Poll <i>Our Ancestors' Kitchen</i> 11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	 			Arts For All presents Kinderfest with Carousel Players Drama Garden 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM DLISC Tour 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM
12:00 PM	FESTIVAL HEADLINER					
12:15 PM	Tanya Tagaq <i>I Would Give You My Tail</i> Live Throat Singing feat. Charlotte Qamanig 12:15 - 1:00 PM	 				
1:00 PM	Storytime with HPL 1:10 - 1:20 PM					
1:15 PM						
1:30 PM	Adam Pottle <i>The Majesty of Sign Languages: Butterfly on the Wind</i> 1:30 - 2:15 PM		Tiffani Brown <i>Frankie D, Vegan Vampire</i> 1:30 - 2:15 PM	Emily Deibert <i>Bea Mullins Takes a Shot</i> 1:30 - 2:30 PM	PANEL BEYOND THE VERSE with Hamilton Verse! Book Reading featuring creators from last year's cohort 1:30 - 2:30 PM	Puppet Show with BPL 1:30 - 1:55 PM DLISC Tour 1:30 - 2:00 PM
1:45 PM		Danielle Chaperon <i>Le mauvais coup</i> 1:45 - 2:00 PM				Arts For All presents Kinderfest with Carousel Players Drama Garden 1:45 - 2:15 PM
2:00 PM						
2:15 PM		Ovila Fontaine <i>Le premier arbre de Noël</i> 2:15 - 2:30 PM				Nature Discovery Walk with BurlingtonGreen 2:00 - 2:30 PM
2:30 PM	Storytime with HPL 2:25 - 2:35 PM		Andrew Larsen <i>Call Me Gray</i> 2:30 - 3:15 PM			Puppet Show with BPL 2:30 - 2:55 PM
2:45 PM	Laura Jones Listen & Learn: Get to Know the Cello with Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra 2:45 - 3:30 PM	Sandra Lamouche <i>pêyak little duck</i> 2:45 - 3:00 PM		Amsa Yaro <i>The Faces of Me</i> 2:45 - 3:45 PM		DLISC Tour 2:30 - 3:00 PM
3:00 PM		Sonya Bell <i>You Need Pants</i> 3:15 - 3:30 PM				Arts For All presents Kinderfest with Carousel Players Drama Garden 3:00 - 3:30 PM
3:15 PM						
3:30 PM	Storytime with HPL 3:40 - 3:50 PM		Howie Shia <i>Ra! Ma! Ta! Cue!</i> 3:30 - 4:15 PM		BOOK TALK with Jen Ferguson & Cheryl Issacs <i>Legendary Frybread Drive-in</i> 2:45 - 3:45 PM	Nature Discovery Walk with BurlingtonGreen 3:30 - 4:00 PM
3:45 PM		Wendy J. Whittingham <i>The Last Last</i> 3:45 - 4:00 PM				
4:00 PM	Defining Movement Dance with Josh Taylor 4:00 - 4:45 PM	Anitha Rao-Robinson <i>Sari Sisters</i> 4:15 - 4:30 PM	 	Mary Averling <i>The Ghosts of Bitterfly Bay</i> 4:00 - 4:45 PM	PANEL DRAWN TO DARKNESS Victoria Evans <i>The History of Everything</i> Adrienne Kress <i>Ghost Circus</i> Sid Sharp <i>Bog Myrtle</i> 4:00 - 5:00 PM	
4:15 PM						
4:30 PM						
4:45 PM						

TIME	MAIN STAGE ALL AGES	★ READ TOGETHER TENT AGES 0-6	ⓑ EARLY READER TENT AGES 6-8	ⓒ PRETEEN TENT AGES 9-12	ⓓ YOUNG ADULT TENT AGES 13+	ⓔ AROUND THE FESTIVAL ALL AGES
10:00 AM	FESTIVAL OPENING					
10:15 AM		Aimee Reid Baby Animals Trying 10:15 - 10:30 AM	Alina Tysoe Purrnormal Activity 10:15 - 11:00 AM	Matteo L. Cerilli Something's Up With Arlo 10:15 - 11:00 AM		
10:30 AM						
10:45 AM	Storytime with Hamilton Public Library (HPL) 10:50 - 11:00 AM	Willie Poll Our Ancestors' Kitchen 10:45 - 11:00 AM				Puppet Show with BPL 10:30 - 10:55 AM Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection (DLISC) Tour 10:30 - 11:00 AM
11:00 AM						
11:15 AM	Theatrical Storytelling: Adventure of the Little Rooster 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	Casey Lyall Vampire Jam Sandwich 11:15 - 11:30 AM	Nadine Brown Retellings of African/ Caribbean Folk Stories 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM			Nature Discovery Walk with BurlingtonGreen 11:00 - 11:30 AM
11:30 AM						
11:45 AM		Leonarda Carranza The Friendship Blanket 11:45 AM - 12:00 PM		Wanda Taylor A Recipe for Rhyme and Rescue 11:15 AM - 12:00 PM	AUTHOR TALK with Coltrane Seesequasis A Wolf in the Sun: Secrets of Stone 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Arts For All presents Kinderfest with Carousel Players Drama Garden 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM DLISC Tour 11:30 AM - 12:00 PM
12:00 PM	FESTIVAL HEADLINER					
12:15 PM	Matthew Forsythe Aggie and the Ghost 12:15 - 1:00 PM				PANEL REAL TALK: YA STORIES THAT DON'T LOOK AWAY Matt Beam Shoot the Moon Jen Ferguson Legendary Frybread Drive-in 12:15 - 1:15 PM	
1:00 PM	Storytime with HPL 1:10 - 1:20 PM					
1:15 PM						
1:30 PM	Live Music with Songs'n'Tails 1:30 - 2:15 PM		Kari-Lynn Winters Hungry for Engineering: Poems to Gnaw On 1:30 - 2:15 PM		AUTHOR TALK with Sarah Raughley The Queen's Spade 1:30 - 2:30 PM	Puppet Show with BPL 1:30 - 1:55 PM DLISC Tour 1:30 - 2:00 PM
1:45 PM						Arts For All presents Kinderfest with Carousel Players Drama Garden 1:45 - 2:15 PM
2:00 PM						
2:15 PM	Storytime with HPL 2:15 - 2:35 PM			Brooklin Stormie Astronautical! 1:30 - 2:30 PM		Nature Discovery Walk with BurlingtonGreen 2:00 - 2:30 PM
2:30 PM			Timm Holmes The Author Making Machine 2:30 - 3:15 PM			Puppet Show with BPL 2:30 - 2:55 PM DLISC Tour 2:30 - 3:00 PM
2:45 PM	Drag Storytime with Hexe Noire 2:45 - 3:30 PM	Sandra Lamouche pèyak little duck 2:45 - 3:00 PM		Stephanie Sinclair You Were Made for This World 2:45 - 3:45 PM		Arts For All presents Kinderfest with Carousel Players Drama Garden 3:00 - 3:30 PM
3:00 PM						
3:15 PM						
3:30 PM	Storytime with HPL 3:40 - 3:50 PM					Nature Discovery Walk with BurlingtonGreen 3:30 - 4:00 PM
3:45 PM						
4:00 PM	Kids' Dance Party with Hamilton Music Collective 4:00 - 4:45 PM	Thao Lam Everybelly 3:45 - 4:00 PM	Sunshine Quem Tenasco Nibi's Water Song Nibi Nigomon 3:30 - 4:15 PM		PANEL SPEAK YOUR TRUTH Anto Chan, Angelic Goldsky, Lishai Peel, Eddie Lartey & Dennis Scherle 4:00 - 5:00 PM	
4:15 PM		Ovila Fontaine Le premier arbre de Noël 4:15 - 4:30 PM		Carol-Ann Hoyte Say It With Me: Poetry for Two 4:00 - 4:45 PM		
4:30 PM						
4:45 PM						



AGH **art+music+food**

SAVE THE DATE
NOVEMBER 13 – 23, 2025
www.aghfest.com

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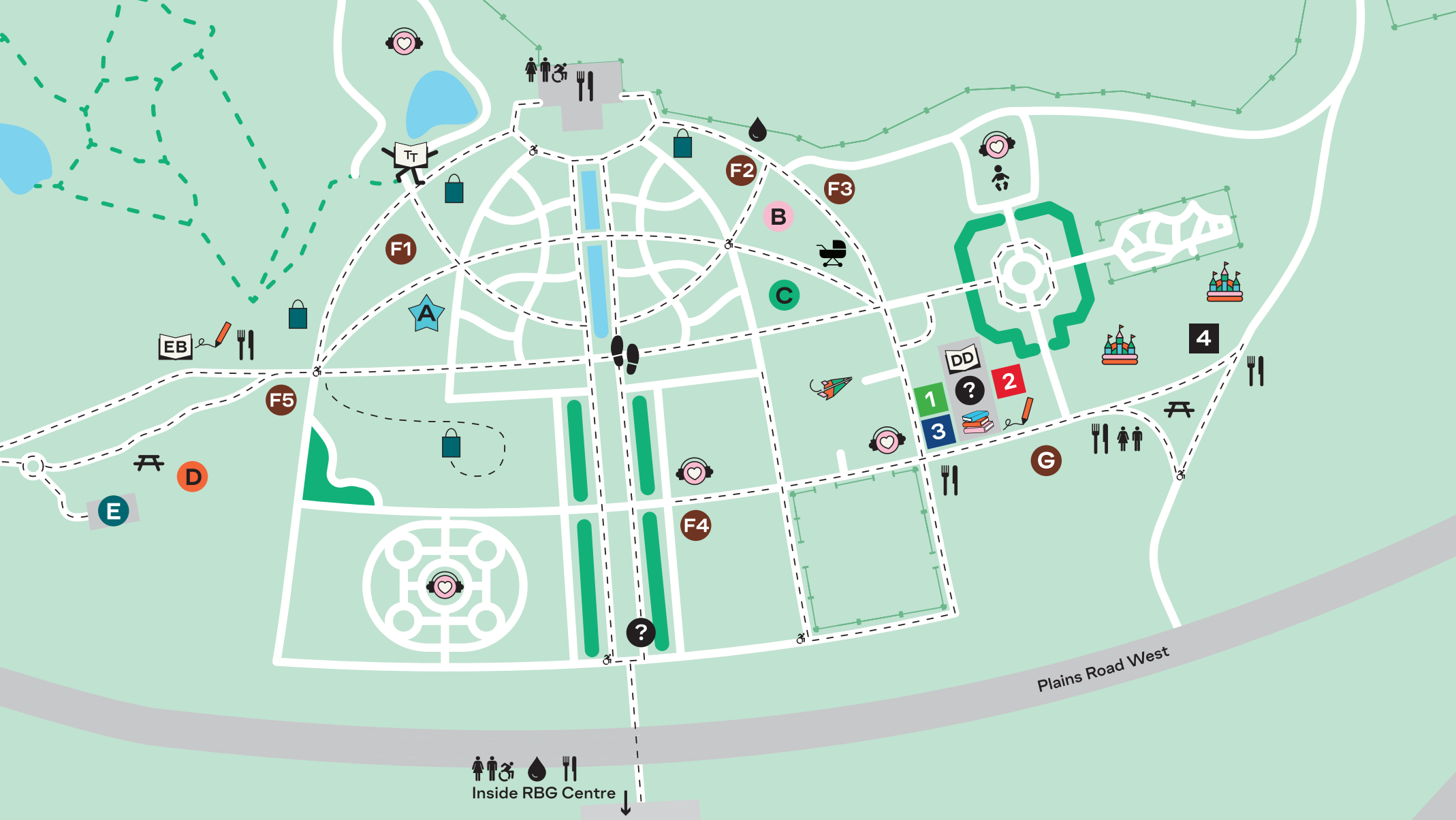
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CREATIVITY PARTNERS

- **Hamilton Public Library F1** Join HPL for interactive STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) fun! Explore bubbles, buttons, and more. Don't miss Storytime with HPL—check the Festival Schedule for Storytime with HPL showtimes. **AGES 0-6, 6-8**
- **The City of Hamilton Children's and Community Services Division, EarlyON Child and Family Centres F1** Explore big ideas through big play! Children can build with loose parts, play with sensory materials, and enjoy infant-friendly experiences designed to spark creativity, movement, and discovery. **AGES 0-6, 6-8**
- **Workers Arts & Heritage Centre F2** Saturday Only | Create a felt pennant banner celebrating community and identity. Design, cut, and glue your own colourful piece using guided materials. Plan for 30–45 minutes to complete your banner and take it home once dry. **AGES 6-8**
- **Art Gallery of Burlington F2** Sunday Only Draw your own graphic novel using ink, brushes, and templates! Be inspired by the gardens and your imagination as you turn ideas into bold, illustrated stories. Materials provided for one graphic novel per participant. **AGES 6-8**
- **Burlington Public Library F3** Enjoy puppet show fun with BPL's talented troupe, then get crafty making your own puppets with the children's programming staff. Puppet shows run throughout the weekend—check the Festival Schedule for Puppet Show with BPL showtimes. **AGES 0-6**
- **BurlingtonGreen F4** Drop in to make your own native wildflower seed balls and learn how you can help protect and nurture butterflies and other pollinators. **AGES 6-8, 9-12, 13+**
- **Nature Discovery Walk F4** with Burlington Green Join a 30 minute guided walk to discover fascinating facts about nature all around us. Check the Festival Schedule for tour times. **ALL AGES**
- **Dundas Valley School of Art F4** Sunday Only | Join DVSA in the Creativity Zone for art-making fun! Tell your story through pictures and let your imagination guide you in this hands-on workshop. **AGES 6-8, 9-12**
- **Imagine In The Park F4** Try hands-on, guided workshops led by professional local artists. Explore different art forms and create something special in a collaborative, creative environment. **AGES 6-8, 9-12**
- **Hamilton Music Collective F5** Sunday Only | Drop into the beat-making tent and create music with real digital instruments. Try your hand at electronic production with guidance from music instructors. Up to four people can jam together. **ALL AGES**
- **Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection Tour F5** Take a guided tour of the Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection at Hendrie Park with an RBG volunteer. These captivating creations from artists around the world weave tales that harmonize with the lush surroundings—check the Festival Schedule for tour times. **ALL AGES**
- **Munsch Sensory Zone F5** Step into the playful and creative world of Robert Munsch, in this sensory-friendly space, sponsored by Scholastic Canada. Enjoy audiobook storytelling, paper airplane crafts, and a quiet reading nook—perfect for recharging and imaginative play. **ALL AGES**

LIVE PERFORMANCES

- **Arts For All presents Kinderfest featuring Carousel Players F6** Step into *Drama Garden*, a playful theatre experience for kids! Enjoy live performances and interactive play with puppets, music, and a junk xylophone. Explore creativity through storytelling and imaginative sound—check the Festival Schedule for showtimes. **ALL AGES**
- **Burlington Student Theatre** | BST is a community-based program for youth. Join in the fun with wandering literary characters brought to life including: Alice (in Wonderland), Captain Hook, and many more! **ALL AGES**



MAP KEY

Performance Areas

- Main Stage (All Ages)
- Read Together Tent (Ages 0-6)
- Early Reader Tent (Ages 6-8)
- Preteen Tent (Ages 9-12)
- Young Adult Tent (Ages 13+)
- Creativity Zones
- Arts For All Kinderfest Theatre

Sponsor Hubs

- 1 TD Bank Group
- 2 Access Storage
- 3 Cogeco
- 4 Corus Radio (Y108, Energy 95.3)

Books, Books, Books!

- Official Bookseller (Ages 0-8) A Different Drummer Books
- Official Bookseller (Ages 9-13+) Epic Books
- Book Swap & Shop | Échange et achat de livres

Fun Stuff

- Quieter Spaces
- Exhibitor Grove
- Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection Tour
- Nature Discovery Walk with BurlingtonGreen
- Self-Guided StoryWalk: feat. *T is for Terry: An ABC of Courage*, by Denise Dias
- Autograph Tent
- Munsch Sensory Zone
- Active Zone: Bouncy Castles

Good to Know

- Accessible Path (No stairs, some grassy areas)
- Info Booth & Merch
- Washrooms
- Nursing Station
- Stroller Parking
- Water Bottle Filling Station
- Food Vendor
- Picnic Tables



For all ages, because great tales never grow old.

CO-HOSTS



MAJOR PARTNERS

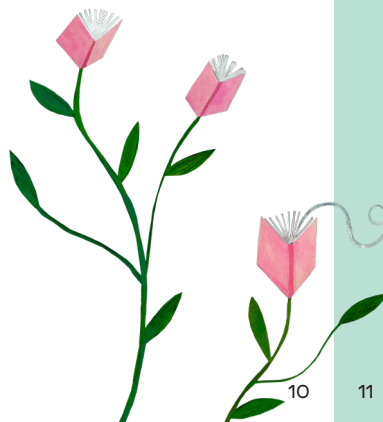


GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



SEE AND DO

- ▶ Engage in inclusive multi-sensory activities at **Telling Tales Programming Tents** across the Festival (now with bigger and more spacious tents for our Early Readers and Preteens). These “yes spaces” are designed to be engaging and welcoming for the needs of Neurodivergent children and their families.
- ▶ Each Programming Tent will also have a designated **Regulation Station** for children that prefer to be slightly removed from amplified sounds and would like to use Telling Tales’ collection of fidget toys and colouring sheets.
- ▶ Check out your own **Sensory Kit** as you enter the Festival at our Information Booth.
- ▶ **ASL interpreters** will be on-site at all Telling Tales Programming Tents on Saturday, and interpreters will be available to support guests arriving at Registration.
- ▶ Need some quiet time? Head to one of our **Quieter Spaces** identified on the Festival Map.
- ▶ Need to get your wiggles out? Head to our **Bouncy Castles** at the east side of the park near many of our **Food Vendors**.
- ▶ Enjoy live theatre around the park with the **Arts For All** presentation of **Kinderfest** theatre for young minds featuring **Carousel Players** with **Drama Garden** (11:30am-12:00pm, 1:45-2:15pm, and 3:00-3:30pm) and **Burlington Student Theatre** wandering Literary Characters.
- ▶ Visit the **Munsch Sensory Zone**, and discover the world of Robert Munsch’s beloved stories and newest release, *The Perfect Paper Airplane* in a sensory friendly space with audiobooks, a reading nook and a Paper Airplane Creation Station.
- ▶ Join all of our authors directly following their presentations at one of our **Autograph Tents**.
- ▶ Join our **Scavenger Hunt**—pick up a card at the info booth and win a book from **Scholastic Canada**.
- ▶ Come check out the great selection of lightly used English and French books to swap with or buy at the **Book Swap & Shop | Échange et achat de livres** presented in partnership with Centre francophone Hamilton.
- ▶ Visit **Exhibitor Grove** for activities and information from community groups, authors, book lovers, and more. See page 11 for Exhibitor Listings.
- ▶ Head to one of our **Creativity Zones** to enjoy multi-arts activities presented by local arts organizations.
- ▶ Join one of our walking tours at the festival entrance supported by Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Garden and Lawrie Insurance including our **Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection Tour** led by RBG volunteers and **Nature Discovery Walk** with **BurlingtonGreen**.
- ▶ Visit the major partners of the 17th annual Telling Tales Festival for fun activities and giveaways from **1 TD Bank Group**, **3 Cogeco**, **2 Access Storage**, and **4 Corus Radio**.
- ▶ Fill out our online survey to win great prizes!



Need More Telling Tales Programming Post-Festival?

Grades 1-6

Join us **virtually** this fall for three exciting illustration workshops featuring three amazing Canadian illustrators!

- Each illustrator will read their book and share their journey to becoming a professional illustrator, speaking to their unique art style! This live-streamed workshop is **FREE** to registered classrooms, educators, and aspiring artists anywhere in the world.
- Each workshop will also feature a **creative project** to keep the storytelling going at home!
- Scan the **QR code** to visit our website for more information on each featured creator and registration links!



MARK YOUR CALENDARS
9:15 AM ET | Nov 5, Nov 19, and Dec 3
[TellingTales.org](https://tellingtales.org)



EXHIBITOR GROVE LISTINGS

Small Businesses/Artisans

FIDGEY PIDGEY

Hamilton Studio School

Tamara's Teaspoons

Supreme Cheerleading



Nonprofits

The Canadian Children's Book Centre (CCBC)

Centre for Diverse Learners

Focus on Nature

Goldfish Swim School

Silent Voice

Soapbox Science Hamilton

Authors

Blooming Petals

Dear Mommy

Mari Pili Rey

Mary Catherine Rolston
aka Fairy Dazzle

Paige Adkins

Star Ship Press

Storyay — Sara Furlong &
Keith Grachow

Suzie Sunshine & Little Light Books

Timothy's Lessons

Windy Acres Workshop &
The Hat Monster

and more!

What fun!

