



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

Festival Guide

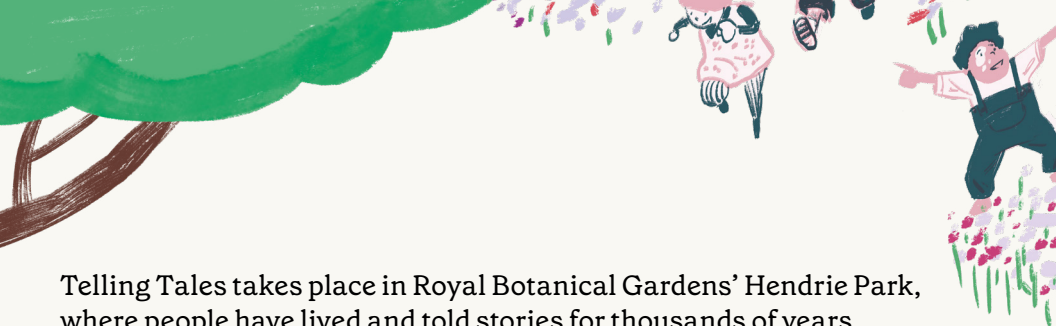


Royal Botanical Gardens | Hendrie Park
Oct 3 & 4, 2026 | 9:30 AM - 5 PM

FREE ENTRY WITH REGISTRATION

TellingTales.org | [C](#) [@](#) [f](#) [X](#) [d](#) [in](#) @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



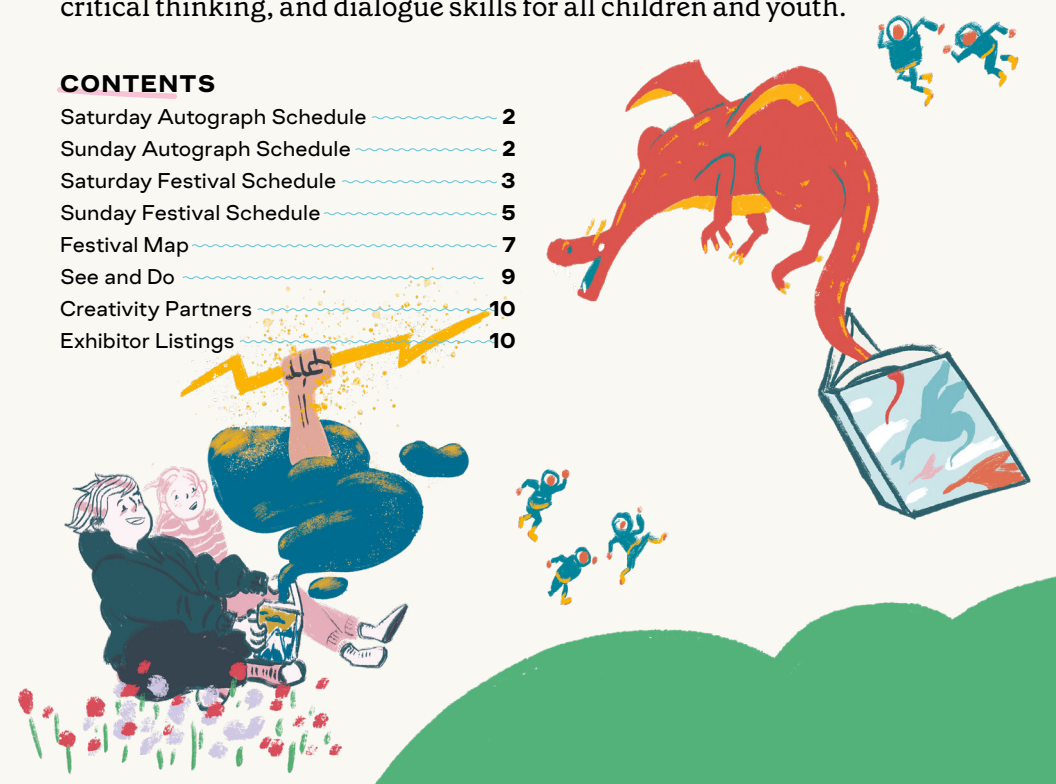
WHAT IS TELLING TALES?

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.

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AUTOGRAPH SCHEDULES

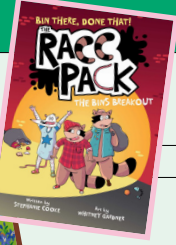
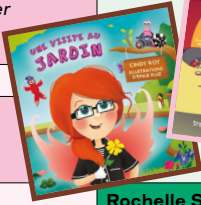
AGES 0-8 at A Different Drummer Books

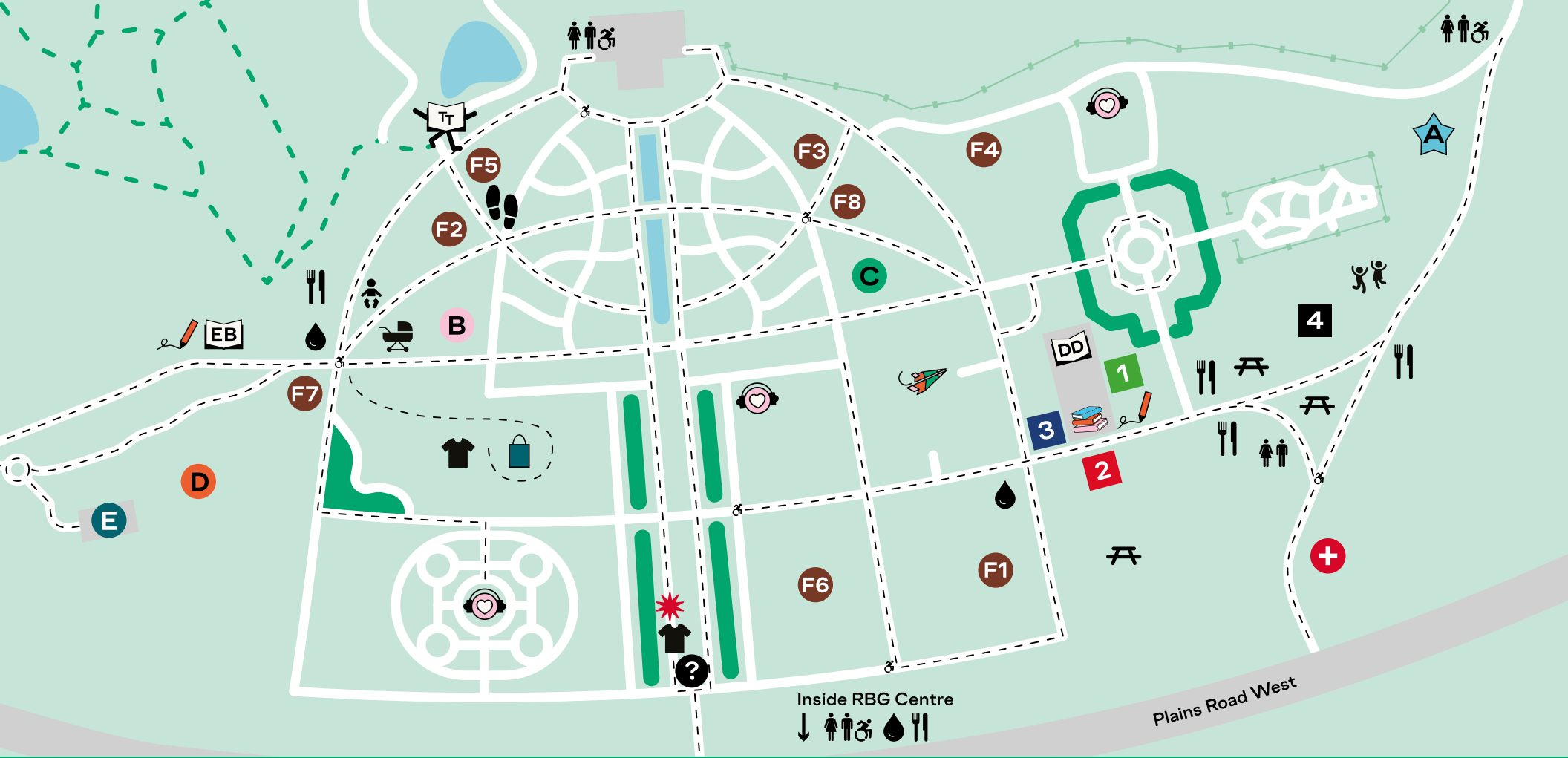
	SAT OCT 3	SUN OCT 4
10:30 AM	Wai Mei Wong	Jess Hannigan
10:45 AM	Lana Button	Stephanie Cooke
11:00 AM	Heather Smith	Lisa Frenette
11:30 AM	Karen Krossing	Féeli Tout
12:00 PM	Sean Lewis	Grégoire Laforce
12:15 PM	J. Torres	Rochelle Strauss
1:00 PM	Barbara Reid	Danny Ramadan
1:45 PM	Féeli Tout	Rochelle Strauss
	Jack Wong	Jack Wong
2:15 PM	Grégoire Laforce	Zenia Wadhvani
2:45 PM		Anita Yasuda
3:15 PM	Lisa Frenette	Cybèle Young
	Danny Ramadan	Lynn Scurfield
3:45 PM	Zenia Wadhvani	Nadine Presley
4:15 PM	Sarah Howden	Morgan Christie
4:45 PM	Carlisle Robinson	Avneet Sandhu
	Suzanne Sutherland	Joel A. Sutherland

AGES 9-13+ at Epic Books

	SAT OCT 3	SUN OCT 4
11:45 AM	Arley Nopra	Deborah Ellis
12:30 PM	Joyce Grant	
12:45 PM		Sam Wilket
		Sierra Marilyn Riley
		Sophia Hannan
1:45 PM	Kai Cheng Thom	Celia Krampien
2:15 PM	Farah Heron	Lily Chu
2:45 PM	Jay Odjick	
3:00 PM		Arley Nopra
3:30 PM	Nadia L. Hohn	Alina Tysoe
	Michaela Allen	Frances Lee
	P. Anneka Lynch	Jay Odjick
4:15 PM	Barbara Reid	
4:45 PM	Matteo L. Cerilli	Farah Heron
	Sierra Marilyn Riley	Lily Chu
	Sophia Hannan	Matteo L. Cerilli

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		Lana Button <i>Brianna Banana, New Cheese Girl</i> 10:00 - 10:45 AM			
10:15 AM	Live Music with Hamilton Children's Choir <i>Esprimas Sing As You Are</i> 10:00 - 10:45 AM	Wai Mei Wong <i>Mama's Special Wonton Soup</i> 10:15 - 10:30 AM				
10:30 AM						
10:45 AM		Heather Smith <i>My Best Friend is a Butternut Squash</i> 10:45 - 11:00 AM				
11:00 AM	Arts For All presents Kinderfest with Tottering Biped Theatre <i>The Carnival of Animals</i> 11:00 - 11:45 AM			Arley Nopra <i>Dawn on the Coast: A Graphic Novel</i> <i>The Baby-Sitters Club #19</i> 11:00 - 11:45 AM		Puppet Show with BPL 11:00 - 11:25 AM
11:15 AM		Karen Krossing <i>The Cloud That Stuck</i> 11:15 - 11:30 AM				Nature Discovery Walk with BurlingtonGreen 11:00 - 11:30 AM
11:30 AM			J. Torres <i>Paisley & Peck: Jurassic Farm</i> 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM			
11:45 AM		Sean Lewis <i>Have You Ever Seen A Ghost?</i> 11:45 AM - 12:00 PM				
12:00 PM					AUTHOR TALK BURST YOUR BUBBLE Joyce Grant <i>Burst Your Bubble: Outsmart the Algorithms and See What You're Missing</i> 11:45 AM - 12:30 PM	
12:15 PM	FESTIVAL HEADLINER					
12:30 PM	Barbara Reid <i>The Story Hunter</i> 12:15 - 1:00 PM					
12:45 PM						
1:00 PM			Jack Wong <i>Goodbye, Koi</i> 1:00 - 1:45 PM	Kai Cheng Thom <i>The Shapeshifter's Guide to Gym Class</i> 1:00 - 1:45 PM		
1:15 PM	Live Music with Tia McGraff 1:15 - 2:00 PM	Féeli Tout <i>Une visite au jardin</i> 1:30 - 1:45 PM				Puppet Show with BPL 1:30 - 1:55 PM
1:30 PM						
1:45 PM		Grégoire Laforce <i>Lucie et le vent</i> 2:00 - 2:15 PM			AUTHOR TALK CURSED IN LOVE Farah Heron <i>The Bad Boyfriend Curse</i> 1:30 - 2:15 PM	Nature Discovery Walk with BurlingtonGreen 2:00 - 2:30 PM
2:00 PM						
2:15 PM			Danny Ramadan <i>Salma the Syrian Chef</i> 2:30 - 3:15 PM	Jay Odjick <i>Kaboom! Volume 1: Blast Off</i> 2:00 - 2:45 PM	PANEL SPEAKING TRUTH Michaela Allen & P. Anneka Lynch <i>Let Me Be Honest</i> Nadia L. Hohn <i>Stop AntiBlack Racism: 8 Ways to Act Now</i> 2:30 - 3:30 PM	
2:30 PM	Storytime with HPL 2:00 - 2:45 PM	ASL Storytime with Kisanet Habtemariam 2:30 - 2:45 PM				
2:45 PM						
3:00 PM		Lisa Frenette <i>The Wandering Feather</i> 3:00 - 3:15 PM				Puppet Show with BPL 3:00 - 3:25 PM
3:15 PM						
3:30 PM	Musical Storytelling with the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra 3:00 - 3:45 PM	Zenia Wadhvani <i>Fly in the Chai</i> 3:30 - 3:45 PM		Barbara Reid <i>The Story Hunter</i> 3:30 - 4:15 PM		Nature Discovery Walk with BurlingtonGreen 3:30 - 4:00 PM
3:45 PM					PANEL SHADOWS ON THE SHELF Matteo L. Cerilli <i>Fathom Fall</i> Sierra Marilyn Riley <i>The Dark Cove Theatre Society</i> Sophia Hannan <i>We Were Never Here</i> 3:45 - 4:45 PM	
4:00 PM	Defining Movement Dance with Josh Taylor 4:00 - 4:45 PM	Sarah Howden <i>The Wise Pickle</i> 4:00 - 4:15 PM				
4:15 PM						
4:30 PM		ASL Storytime with Carlisle Robinson 4:30 - 4:45 PM	Suzanne Sutherland <i>Werewolves Don't Keep Diaries</i> 4:00 - 4:45 PM			
4:45 PM						
5:00 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		Stephanie Cooke <i>The Bins Breakout</i> 10:00 - 10:45 AM			
10:15 AM	Live Music with Pete Ewins & Anna Broks 10:00 - 10:45 AM	Jess Hannigan <i>The Cow in the Dark at Night</i> 10:15 - 10:30 AM				
10:30 AM						
10:45 AM		Lisa Frenette <i>The Wandering Feather</i> 10:45 - 11:00 AM				
11:00 AM	Oral Storytelling with Kesha Christie 11:00 - 11:45 AM	Féeli Tout <i>Une visite au jardin</i> 11:15 - 11:30 AM				Puppet Show with BPL 11:00 - 11:25 AM
11:15 AM						Nature Discovery Walk with BurlingtonGreen 11:00 - 11:30 AM
11:30 AM						
11:45 AM		Grégoire Laforce <i>Lucie et le vent</i> 11:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Rochelle Strauss <i>All the Water on Earth</i> 11:30 AM - 12:15 PM	Deborah Ellis <i>GO</i> 11:00 - 11:45 AM		
12:00 PM						
12:15 PM	FESTIVAL HEADLINER Danny Ramadan <i>Salma the Syrian Chef</i> 12:15 - 1:00 PM	 			PANEL WHAT HAUNTS YA Sam Wilket <i>A Good Daughter's Ghost</i> Sierra Marilyn Riley <i>The Dark Cove Theatre Society</i> Sophia Hannan <i>We Were Never Here</i> 11:45 AM - 12:45 PM	
12:30 PM						
12:45 PM						
1:00 PM						
1:15 PM			Jack Wong <i>Goodbye, Koi</i> 1:00 - 1:45 PM	Celia Krampien <i>Remember Me, Daphne</i> 1:00 - 1:45 PM		
1:30 PM	Live Music and Oral Storytelling with Camila Garcia 1:30 - 2:15 PM	Rochelle Strauss <i>All the Water on Earth</i> 1:30 - 1:45 PM			AUTHOR TALK DESTINATION ROMANCE Lily Chu <i>The Vacation Shift</i> 1:30 - 2:15 PM	Puppet Show with BPL 1:30 - 1:55 PM
1:45 PM						
2:00 PM		Zenia Wadhwani <i>Fly in the Chai</i> 2:00 - 2:15 PM				
2:15 PM	Storytime with HPL 2:15 - 2:45 PM	Anita Yasuda <i>Bollywood Beat!</i> 2:30 - 2:45 PM				
2:30 PM						
2:45 PM				Arley Nopra <i>Dawn on the Coast: A Graphic Novel</i> <i>The Baby-Sitters Club #19</i> 2:15 - 3:00 PM		
3:00 PM	PRÉSENTATION EN FRANÇAIS Arts For All présente Kinderfest avec Tottering Biped Theatre <i>Le Carnaval des animaux</i> 3:00 - 3:45 PM	Cybèle Young <i>Eon: My Pet Tardigrade</i> 3:00 - 3:15 PM	Lynn Scurfield <i>Chopsticks Are</i> 2:30 - 3:15 PM		PANEL BEYOND THE BUBBLE Alina Tysoe <i>My Sister the Werebeast</i> Frances Lee <i>Ami Moon and the Galactic</i> <i>Peacekeepers</i> Jay Odjick <i>Kaboom! Volume 1: Blast Off</i> 2:30 - 3:30 PM	Puppet Show with BPL 3:00 - 3:25 PM
3:15 PM						
3:30 PM		Nadine Presley <i>The City of Jasmine</i> 3:30 - 3:45 PM	 	TABLETOP ROLE-PLAYING GAME (TTRPG) with Hamilton Verse! 3:30 - 4:15 PM		Nature Discovery Walk with BurlingtonGreen 3:30 - 4:00 PM
3:45 PM						
4:00 PM	Dance Party with Hamilton Music Collective 4:00 - 4:45 PM	Morgan Christie <i>Grandma, Cho, Cho and Me</i> 4:00 - 4:15 PM			PANEL THE ROAD TO PUBLICATION Farah Heron <i>The Bad Boyfriend Curse</i> Lily Chu <i>The Vacation Shift</i> Matteo L. Cerilli <i>Fathom Fall</i> 3:45 - 4:45 PM	
4:15 PM						
4:30 PM		Avneet Sandhu <i>A Salwar Kameez for Ambika</i> 4:30 - 4:45 PM	Joel A. Sutherland <i>The Scariest House on the Street</i> 4:00 - 4:45 PM			
4:45 PM						
5:00 PM						



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

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

- The World of Munsch
Sensory Zone
- Quieter Spaces
- Exhibitor Grove
- Nature Discovery Walk
with BurlingtonGreen
- Self-Guided StoryWalk:
featuring *My Friend Fear*
by Elise Gravel
- Autograph Tent
- Active Zone

Good to Know

- Accessible Path (No stairs,
some grassy areas)
- Information
- Washrooms
- Nursing Station
- Stroller Parking
- Water Bottle Filling Station
- Food Vendor
- Picnic Tables
- Merch
- First Aid
- LOST CHILD



For all ages, because
great tales never grow old.

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.
- Need some quiet time? Head to one of our **Quieter Spaces** identified on the Festival Map.
- Need to get your wiggles out? Head over to **Play Project - Parkour** at the east side of the park near many of our **Food Vendors**.
- Enjoy live performances on the **Main Stage** with the **Arts For All Kinderfest** presentation of *The Carnival of Animals* | *Le Carnaval des animaux* featuring **Tottering Biped Theatre** (in English on Saturday from 11:00am-11:45am and in French on Sunday from 3:00pm-3:45pm).
- Join all of our authors directly following their presentations at one of our **Autograph Tents**.
- Visit **The World of Munsch Sensory Zone** and discover the world of Robert Munsch’s beloved stories including *The Perfect Paper Airplane* and *Leaves!* in a sensory friendly space with audiobooks, a reading nook, and a Paper Airplane Creation Station.
- Join this year’s **Word Scramble Scavenger Hunt**—pick up a card at the info booth, hunt for words around the festival, and hand in a completed card to win a book from **Scholastic Canada**. | **Saturday Only** (One prize per family; limited quantities).
- 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 10 for Exhibitor Listings.
- Head to one of our **Creativity Zones** to enjoy multi-arts activities presented by local arts organizations.
- Join a **Nature Discovery Walk** with **BurlingtonGreen** supported by **Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection**. Walking tours begin at **F5**.
- Visit the major partners of the 18th 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!



CREATIVITY PARTNERS

- Munsch Sensory Zone** 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**
- Hamilton Public Library** Join HPL for interactive STEAM (science, technology, engineering, art, and math) fun! Don’t miss Storytime with HPL—check the Festival Schedule for Storytime with HPL showtimes. **AGES 0-8**
- The City of Hamilton Children’s and Community Services Division, EarlyON Child and Family Centres** 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 0-8**
- Workers Arts & Heritage Centre** **Saturday Only** | Inspired by the art of environmental and Indigenous activists, join us to create a one of a kind poster that celebrates how to be good stewards to the land that we are lucky enough to call home. **AGES 6-8**
- Art Gallery of Burlington** **Sunday Only** Be inspired by the gardens and your imagination as you turn ideas into bold, illustrated graphic novels. **AGES 6-8**
- Burlington Public Library** 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** Drop in to make your own native wildflower seed balls and learn how you can help protect and nurture butterflies and other pollinators. **AGES 6-13+**
- Nature Discovery Walk** with **BurlingtonGreen** Join a 30 minute guided walk to discover fascinating facts about nature all around us. Sponsored by **Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection**. Check the Festival Schedule for tour times. **ALL AGES**
- Dundas Valley School of Art** **Sunday Only** | Join DVSA for an artmaking adventure! We’ll be creating bookmarks and mini books - be sure to bring your imagination with you. **ALL AGES**
- Imagine In The Park** Try hands-on, guided workshops led by professional local artists. Explore different art forms and create something special in a collaborative, creative environment. **AGES 6-12**
- Hamilton Music Collective** **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**
- Hamilton Civic Museum** **Sunday Only** Join the HCM for engaging and interactive hands-on activities exploring story telling through the ages. Build a collaborative story, experiment with historic forms of communication, and even put on your own mini drama! **ALL AGES**



EXHIBITOR LISTINGS

Authors	Small Businesses/Artisans
Amanda Amaral	Family Qiu’s
Hannah Birss	Culture and Tourism Development
Emma Brouillette	Fidgey Pidgey
Alicia Carbo-Guha	Kidspower Learning Inc.
Manu Delpuch	Mysh/Feel Good Interactive
Reena Devani	Toodilipops Creative Company
Lauren Iacobelli	
Emma Lafleur	
Greg Lampman	
Kasandra Price	
Zentul & Shazmin Madhani	
Nadia Sliz	
Jennifer Smallwood	
Darlene Welton	
Nonprofits	Retail
Soapbox Science Hamilton	Costco Warehouse
Foundations Montessori School	



Telling Tales

Need More Telling Tales Programming Post-Festival?

The Stories Continue! Join us **virtually** this fall for six amazing virtual author features spotlighting Canadian creatives!

StoryScapes

Did you love *Goodbye, Koi*? The fun doesn't have to end just yet! Jack Wong will be joining our StoryScapes lineup this fall, alongside illustrators Jennica Lounsbury and Mangesh Pawis-Steckley, bringing exciting virtual programming into your homes and classrooms!

Join this year's most exciting Canadian author/illustrators for a reading of their story, a Try My Style illustration activity, and a Q&A!



Register now!



CELEBRATING GRAPHIC NOVELS

Couldn't get enough of *Ami Moon* and *the Galactic Peacekeepers*?

Frances Lee will be joining us for our annual virtual graphic novel festival this December, alongside Faith Erin Hicks and Paige Walshe! Each day of Celebrating Graphic Novels (CGN) features one exciting graphic novelist who will guide audiences through panel drawing, story creation, and more! Perfect for classrooms!



Sign up for CGN today!



CO-HOSTS



Rotary
Clubs of Burlington
and Hamilton



MAJOR PARTNERS



GOVERNMENT PARTNERS



Canada Council
for the Arts
Conseil des arts
du Canada



ONTARIO ARTS COUNCIL
CONSEIL DES ARTS DE L'ONTARIO
et divers organismes agréés
et financés par le gouvernement de l'Ontario