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Telling Tales Festival Features an All-Star Lineup

Sharon and Bram are bringing Skinnamarink to Hamilton

Hamilton, ON: May 1st, 2019: Telling Tales welcomes legendary children’s entertainers Sharon and Bram — as well as nearly 50 of Canada’s finest children’s authors, illustrators, storytellers and performers, organizers announced today at the kick-off for the 11th annual Festival this fall.

“When Penguin Random House Canada asked Telling Tales to launch legendary children’s entertainers Sharon and Bram’s new book *Skinnamarink* to the world, you know you have hit the big time,” says Naomi Brun, Manager of Youth Services at the Hamilton Public Library, a co-presenter of the annual festival.

“Telling Tales is a launching pad for publishers big and small, shining a light on local talent, as well as some of the biggest names in Canadian children’s entertainment,” says Telling Tales founder Susan Jasper.

Telling Tales Festival is recognized as one of the key annual events in Canadian publishing, dedicated solely to children’s literature.

11th Annual Telling Tales Festival

Sunday, September 15th - Westfield Heritage Village, Main Event
Saturday, September 21st - Hamilton Public Library, Celebrate Graphic Novels
Sunday, September 22nd - Royal Botanical Gardens, Nature Tales

Headliners at the Sunday, September 15th Main Festival include:

- The Fan Brothers (Eric and Terry)** authors and illustrators of the highly acclaimed, *The Night Gardener*, launch their latest picture book, *The Scarecrow*.
- Jay Odjick**, artist and writer from the Kitigan Zibi Anishinabeg First Nations community, presents *Bear For Breakfast*, his latest collaboration with **Robert Munsch**.
- Bestselling authors of *The Almost Epic Squad*, **Kevin Sylvester**, **Ted Staunton**, **Lesley Livingston**, and **Richard Scrimger**, co-launch Richard’s final book in the series, *Irresistible*.
- Ashley Spires** launches her latest book, *Fairy Science*.
- Bestselling **Eric Walters** co-presents *Light a Candle* (includes Swahili Translation) with **Godfrey Nkongolo**.
- Telling Tales also features local talent such as writer **Karen Bass**, author **Nicola Winstanley**, illustrator **Charlene Chua**, the **Hamilton Children’s Choir**, **Hamilton Youth Poets**, singer/songwriter/author **Jude Johnson**, the **Hamilton Public Library Puppeteers** and the **Burlington Public Library Storytellers**.

What's New at the Festival?

Telling Tales has a few new additions this year:

- The biggest development is that Telling Tales has added a third day with **Nature Tales** on Sunday, September 22nd.

"Telling Tales believes strongly in the importance of creating meaningful connections with the natural world as well as with great storytellers. We are very excited to be able to offer a very unique experience for children age 3 to 10 in the Hendrie Park Rose Garden, among the outstanding art, generously provided by our presenting partner, **The Dan Lawrie International Sculpture Collection.**" says Telling Tales founder, Susan Jasper.

Feature presentation is a **Gumboot Kids Live Show** with the creators of the hit TV CBC Kid's TV show, *Eric Hogan* and *Tara Hungerford*. They'll be joined by Scout and Daisy and the show's singer **Jessie Farrell**, to launch their new series of paperback books to the world.

Also new:

- **May 14th and 15th** participating in Toronto's Festival of Trees.
- **September 15th** there's a Forest of Reading stage at the Festival for tweens and teens featuring nominees from the annual readers' choice lists.
- **September 21st** Britt Wilson and Tory Woollcott lead sessions on writing and illustrating for tweens at Celebrating Graphic Novels.

"This year's festival enhancements have been made possible with new funding from the Ontario Cultural Attractions Fund (OCAF)," says founder, Susan Jasper.

Telling Tales Year-Round

Telling Tales helps young people discover their storytelling skills through school literacy events, author visits and workshops. At www.tellingtales.org you will discover: how your school can host a Telling Tales author visit, the 2019 Telling Tales Reading List, the Telling Tales Press Club (for students age 6-16) and the Dragonfly Newsletter, which is filled with events, contests, resources and book lists from award-winning Canadian authors.

About Telling Tales

Telling Tales is a Canadian, not-for-profit organization committed to delivering outstanding literary programming for children and youth that raises awareness of the importance of literacy in our communities. For more information, please review the Telling Tales Fact Sheet and visit the Telling Tales website at www.tellingtales.org.