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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Embrace the Power of Stories Celebrating 10 magical years of Telling Tales

HAMILTON, ON – September 25, 2018: For the past 10 years Telling Tales has been proudly celebrating Canadian stories in our community. Families, teens, children and book-lovers have been listening to inspiring words from authors and illustrators, dancing to music and experiencing stories through the magic of storytelling and imagination.

“Dreams really do come true,” says Susan Jasper, Telling Tales Executive Director. “Together we have built an extraordinary community dedicated to inspiring a love of reading in children and youth. Looking to the future it is our hope the children of today return to Telling Tales to introduce their children to this enchanting world where adventure, magic and stories rule.”

Nearly 6,000 guests attended the 10th Annual Telling Tales Festival on September 16, 2018. One of our most popular destinations was the giant Book Swap where children exchanged a book they no longer read for a gently used book. Nearly 7,000 books were swapped – meaning all these books can be enjoyed again with new readers in new homes. We are especially proud of the new books sales on the day. In 2018 we achieved a record breaking result – \$11,000 worth of new books sold in just six short hours at A Different Drummer Books on-site book shop!

The Telling Tales Festival showcased the best of Canadian children’s publishing There is no better way to celebrate 10 years of Telling Tales than with over 35 Canadian literary superheroes. **Dennis Lee** shared his memorable poems and rhymes, signed autographs and posed for pictures with fans of all ages. Gifted storyteller **David Bouchard** shared personal stories through his books, tattoos and special flutes. **Sarah Mlynowski** wowed her fans with why she loves writing fractured fairy tales and introduced us to magical creatures, plus she launched her new book *Upside-Down Magic: Weather or Not*. **Kevin Sylvester** turned into the not-so-super-hero Mucus Man right in front of our eyes to launch his latest book *The Almost Epic Squad: Mucus Mayhem*. **Eric Walters** presented his 100th book, *Elephant Secret*, and shared inspirational stories and insight into his books. And

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Kenneth Oppel and **Sydney Smith** did a tag team presentation to launch their entertaining latest middle-grade novel *Inkling*.

Teen Tales

Our first Telling Tales Teen Tales happened on September 23 at the Hamilton Public Library. Teens were treated to an engaging program of presentations and hands-on workshops with top YA authors and performers including **Melanie Florence**, **Hamilton Youth Poets**, **Heather Smith**, **Richard Scrimger** and **Vikki VanSickle**. “We are thrilled to offer a new day to Telling Tales – Teen Tales is a special event for youth that have grown up with Telling Tales over the last decade,” explains Jasper. “It is so important to engage with teens and provide relevant programs that help them discover their own storytelling powers. Sunday’s presenters were able to make real connections, infused with much humour, as they explained their process for creating entertaining characters and plot. Teens left eager to get started on their own tales.”

Celebrating stories in our community

Join us at an upcoming community event, or bring a Telling Tales author to your school as part of our Family Literacy programming. Attend our upcoming Storytelling Workshop at the Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton on Friday, December 7, 2018. Kids can discover their own storytelling powers at our creative workshop featuring **Chad Solomon**, **Hamilton Youth Poets** and **Heather Smith**. This FREE workshop is for families and kids in Grades 1 to 8.

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 tellingtales.org.

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