



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Celebrating Literary Treasures at the 16th Annual Telling Tales Festival

Hamilton, ON - August 7, 2024 - Telling Tales is delighted to announce that our full schedule of events is now available for the 16th Annual Telling Tales Festival, with FREE entry to the Royal Botanical Gardens on September 21st and 22nd, 2024.

This year, the Telling Tales Festival will feature authors and illustrators flying in from across Canada, bringing diverse storytelling traditions together in one wonderful celebration! Gather for these highly anticipated out-of-town Canadian books launching at the festival, including: **Jen Ferguson**, *A Constellation of Minor Bears* (Iowa, USA); **Kristy Jackson**, *Mortified* (Saskatoon, Saskatchewan); **Monica Arnaldo**, *The Museum of Very Bad Smells* (Montreal, Quebec); **Hayley Lowe**, *The Pie Reports* (Vancouver, British Columbia); and **Liselle Sambury**, *Tender Beasts* (Timmons, Ontario).

A special highlight of this year's Telling Tales Festival is the return of Sharon from the beloved children's music group Sharon, Lois and Bram. **Sharon** and her daughter **Randi Hampson** who are presenting their adaptation of Sharon, Lois and Bram's classic song, *Peanut Butter and Jelly!* Joining them on stage will also be Sharon's son Ethan on the guitar, making this a true family performance.

Telling Tales' Executive Director, Heather Kanabe, emphasizes the festival's role in fostering cultural connections, sharing: "At Telling Tales, we believe storytelling is what brings us together and carries us through generations. We are excited to see how Telling Tales becomes a space where the whole creative community can come together in a celebration of storytelling for children and youth".

From compelling live readings to dynamic musical adaptations, Indigenous literature, art, and spoken word, and immersive theatre and dance experiences, the Festival returns to transport audiences into the heart of Canadian stories. Catch exciting storytelling presentations including: musicians **My Friend Christopher**, **Queen Pepper**, and HPO's David Pell; a Young Adult panel: Unbound Stories featuring Indigenous slam poet **D'Scribe**; **Kinderfest's** open-air theatre featuring **Femmes du Feu**, *Flora & Fauna*; dancers from **Josh Taylor's** Defining Movement Dance troupe and *Danced Stories* from South Asia and Central Asia with **Paromita Kar**; and so much more!

Festival attendees will be able to explore stages tailored to age groups from early years all the way up to YA and where audiences can make rich connections with Canadian authors. This year's lineup includes exciting appearances from award winners and fan favourites **Kevin Sylvester** and **Helaine Becker**, *Puffin & Penguin*; **E. K. Johnston**, *Pretty Furious*; **Wali Shah**, *Call Me Al*; **Jessica Vitalis**, *Coyote Queen*; **Melanie Florence**, *Kaiah's Garden*; **Cheryl Isaacs**, *The Unfinished*; and more!

"HPL and Telling Tales are partners in promoting early literacy, instilling a love of reading and building community," says Cindy Poggiaroni, Director, Collections and Program Development, Hamilton Public Library. "We encourage readers of all ages to participate in this year's festival at RBG to discover new reads, celebrate treasured favourites and meet the talented authors and performers who all work to keep us engaged with the written word."

This year in partnership with [Centre francophone Hamilton](#) we are presenting francophone author **Caroline Merola**, *Histoires fantastiques*, and francophile author **Onome Ako**, *Mon Nom Est Kikelomo / I Am Cherished*. Bilingual families will love the Festival's book swap, where they can trade their used books for lightly used, new-to-them titles this year, with a dedicated French language section.

The Creativity Zone, located next to the Festival's Main Stage and bustling Exhibitor Grove, offers a spectrum of interactive activities curated by community partners including Hamilton Public Library and the Burlington Public Library, ensuring the festival is rich with creativity and community engagement.

The Telling Tales Festival invites residents and visitors alike to join in this enriching experience for all ages; because great tales never grow old! Visit [Tellingtales.org](#) to view the full program lineup. [Pre-registration](#) is open online. Visit our [Reading List](#) and get a head start on your Festival reading.

For more information please contact:

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About Telling Tales

Telling Tales is a Canadian Registered Charity committed to delivering outstanding literary programming for children and youth that raises awareness of the importance of literacy in our communities. Telling Tales' season is co-hosted by Hamilton Public Library, Rotary Clubs of Burlington and Hamilton, and Royal Botanical Gardens. Telling Tales is grateful for support from Ontario Arts Council, the Government of Ontario, Canada Council of the Arts, the Government of Canada, The City of Hamilton, EarlyON Child and Family Centre, City of Burlington, Access Storage, Cogeco, Burlington Public Library, Grant Thornton LLP, Hamilton Wentworth Catholic District School Board, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board, Hillfield Strathallan College, I Read Canadian, Leacross Foundation, Scholastic Canada, Silent Voice, TD Bank Group, Undivided Productions, The Dougher Community Fund and The Edith H. Turner Foundation Fund at Hamilton Community Foundation, Turkstra Family Foundation, Patrick J. McNally Foundation, The Michael Young Foundation, CHML Children's Fund, and many local Rotary Clubs in Hamilton, Burlington, and the Niagara region. [Full list of supporters.](#)

About Hamilton Public Library

Hamilton Public Library is a vibrant hub for information and culture, providing our diverse community the Freedom to Belong and Discover. As one of the largest library systems in Canada, Hamiltonians will discover something new at our 23 locations, two Bookmobiles, or through our extensive digital collections. Visit us online at hpl.ca. Follow us on X [@hamiltonlibrary](#), Facebook and Instagram at [HamiltonPublicLibrary](#).

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