



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Explore Your World at the 2016 Telling Tales Festival

Discover how books can take you anywhere

HAMILTON, ON – May 17, 2016: Go on an adventure at this year's Telling Tales Festival. Hear what inspires authors to write, discover drawing tips from illustrators, and listen to musical tales. This literary celebration is not to be missed!

There is something for all ages, including the very young up to mid-teens, and even the whole extended family. For babies and toddlers, **Barbara Reid** celebrates the importance of reading together as a family in *Sing a Song of Bedtime*. For young children, **Ruth Ohi** encourages trying something new and embracing differences in *Scribble*. **Jeremy Tankard** explores the dilemma of going on a hike without snacks in *Hungry Bird*, launching at Telling Tales. **Kevin Sylvester** transports tweens to a planet filled with action, adventure, and warfare in his new *MINRs* series. And for tweens and teens, **Kenneth Oppel** tells a story of ambition, loyalty and forbidden love on a dinosaur excavation site in the Badlands of Alberta in his new book, *Every Hidden Thing*.

Books can transport us to any place in the world, to a different time and even into the future. This year's theme: *Explore Your World* encourages students to discover new places, experience different emotions and meet fantastic characters – all with the turn of a page.

At the 8th Annual Telling Tales Festival guests will enjoy engaging presentations from the following talented Canadian authors, illustrators, musicians and storytellers:

Denise Anderson	Jude Johnson	Kevin Sands
Sheila Barry	Jon-Erik Lappano	Bill Slavin
Robert Blunsdon	Andrew Larsen	Chad Solomon
Hélène Boudreau	John Lukasik	Joel A. Sutherland
Gillian Chan	Lindsay Mattick	Kevin Sylvester
Scott Chantler	Mahtab Narsimhan	Jeremy Tankard
Creative Theatre Company	Ruth Ohi	TURKEY Rhubarb
Hamilton Children's Choir	Kenneth Oppel	Vikki VanSickle
HPL Puppeteers	Shane Peacock	Kari-Lynn Winters
Hamilton Youth Poets	Barbara Reid	

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“Our team is tickled right down to our toes to be bringing such an extraordinary range of Canadian talent together to explore through stories,” says Susan Jasper, Telling Tales Festival Chair & Founder. “As our young fans grow older, we are working hard to provide truly engaging programs for older readers. We’re offering writing workshops and are creating zones just for tweens and teens. We love that each year more and more publishers are using Telling Tales to launch their new releases. Our family of support keeps widening too. This year **Brantford Public Library, Bunjee App** and **Hamilton Neighbourhood Action Strategy** have joined us as new community partners. Perhaps our most exciting development is the brand new [Explore Your World Contest](#) for schools. Three lucky schools will win a visit from one of our presenters after the festival. We anticipate over 7,000 visitors on the festival day and many, many more will be referring to our [2016 Reading List](#) and engaging with us every day through our website and social media channels.”

The **8th Annual Telling Tales Festival** takes place on **Sunday, September 18th** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at **Westfield Heritage Village** in Rockton, Ontario. **Admission is free.** There is **free parking** at the **Rockton Fairgrounds** and our **free shuttle service** will bring you right to the festival. Please note: there is no parking at Westfield during the festival. Visitors are welcome to bring their children in strollers and are reminded to bring lawn chairs, blankets, and umbrellas to join in the fun – rain or shine!

About Telling Tales

Telling Tales celebrates stories. We do this by bringing together Canadian authors, illustrators, musicians and storytellers with their audience – our children. Telling Tales is a yearlong reading campaign dedicated to promoting literacy and inspiring a love of reading. It kicks off in May, peaks at our free, one-day Festival in September, and continues celebrating stories throughout the year.

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