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Contact: Katherine Kleeb  
Communications Manager  
Phone: 905.536.8138  
Email: [communications@tellingtales.org](mailto:communications@tellingtales.org)

## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Telling Tales Festival 2019

For their 11th year, Telling Tales will engage, entertain and encourage young people by connecting them with their favourite Canadian storytellers. What started as a dream is now considered Canada's leading children's literary festival. It has evolved into a year-round literacy program involved in both community and school events, inspiring a love of reading and improving literacy for children and youth.

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

The [2019 Telling Tales Festival Program](#) is now available in digital format on our website where you can download the PDF. The program will give you complete details of our three day festival.

### [Telling Tales Main Event](#)

Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>  
10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Westfield Heritage Village  
Rockton

7,000 attendees expected

### [Celebrating Graphic Novels](#)

Saturday, September 21<sup>st</sup>  
1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.  
Hamilton Public Library-Central  
Branch  
Hamilton

170 seating limit

### [NEW: Nature Tales](#)

Sunday, September 22<sup>nd</sup>  
11:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.  
Royal Botanical Gardens  
Burlington

2,000 attendees expected

## 2019 Article Ideas

Now a [THREE DAY EVENT](#): Telling Tales has grown and is now offering a full day of fun at Nature Tales on Sunday, 22<sup>nd</sup> September at the Royal Botanical Gardens in Burlington. Admission to all three days is free.

"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.

**Skinnamarink is launching at Telling Tales:** Telling Tales welcomes legendary children's entertainers [Sharon and Bram](#) for the 11th annual Festival this fall. The Main Event is held at Westfield Heritage Village on Sunday, September 15<sup>th</sup>.

"When Penguin Random House Canada asked Telling Tales to launch beloved 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 and Executive Director, Susan Jasper.

**Nature Tales sees the launch of the [Gumboot Kids](#) book series:** What do you do when a walk through the woods with your kids gives you the inspiration for a TV show? If you’re Tara Hungerford and Eric Hogan, you go ahead and make that show. The Gumboot Kids have inspired their fans to get out, get active, and get exploring.

Telling Tales is very proud to be launching the new Gumboot Kids’ Nature Mysteries book series at *Nature Tales: The Case of the Vanishing Caterpillar*, *The Case of the Wooden Timekeeper*, *The Case of the Story Rock* and *The Case of the Growing Bird Feeder* are the first four books in the series. There will be special appearances by singer Jessie Farrell, Daisy and Scout, and more. Kids will love the nature arts and craft activities offered at Cherry Hill Tent throughout the day. Bring your detective caps—we have mysteries to solve!

**[The greatest gathering of children’s authors and illustrators:](#)** Telling Tales is bringing top Canadian talent to the Hamilton area; kids, youth and families can meet the biggest names in Canadian children’s book publishing. In addition to listening to them share their books and stories, fans can ask them questions and get their autographs.

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, *The Almost Epic Squad #4: Irresistible*.

Ashley Spires, has travelled from BC to launch her latest book, *Fairy Science*.

Bestselling Eric Walters co-presents *Light a Candle* (includes Swahili Translation) with Godfrey Nkongolo.

**Local author focus:** Telling Tales prides itself in showcasing local authors and illustrators. 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.

**Hamilton and surrounding area:**

Burlington Public Library Storytellers

Charlene Chua

Karen Bass

Hamilton Children’s Choir

Hamilton Public Library Puppeteers

Hamilton Youth Poets

Nicola Winstanley

**Guelph and surrounding areas:**

Erin Bow

Eric Walters

Janet Wilson

**Indigenous storytellers: Spotlight On Indigenous authors**

Chief Lady Bird: *Nibi’s Water Song*, illustrator

Jay Odjick: *Bear for Breakfast*

Joanne Robertson: *The Water Walker*

Melanie Florence: *Just Lucky*

Sunshine Tenasco: *Nibi’s Water Song*, author

**Book launches:** Telling Tales has become a popular place to launch new books. Several titles are even available for purchase at the festival before they are available in book stores. Titles launching at Telling Tales 2019:

#### **MAIN EVENT**

S.K. Ali, *Love From A to Z*

Charlene Chua, *Amy Wu and the Perfect Bao*

Terry and Eric Fan, *The Scarecrow*

Melanie Florence, *Just Lucky*

Lesley Livingston, *The Almost Epic Squad #3: Super Sketchy*

Godfrey Nkongolo and Eric Walters, *Light A Candle*

Sharon and Bram, and Qin Leung, *Skinamarink*

Richard Scrimger, *The Almost Epic Squad #4: Irresistible*

Ashley Spiers, *Fairy Science*

Janet Wilson, *Our Future: How Kids Are Taking Action*

#### **NATURE TALES**

Helaine Becker, *Megabugs*

Eric Hogan and Tara Hungerford, *The Gumboots Kids* series

Irene Luxbacher (illustrator) and Mireille Messier, *Treasure/Tresor*

**[Reading List:](#)** From board books and young adult novels to new releases and award-winning stories, Telling Tales has something for all ages and reading abilities. Kids, schools and care givers can select award-winning Canadian books based on ages and themes.

**[Celebrating Graphic Novels:](#)** A festival event for older storytellers on September 21 at The Hamilton Public Library Central Branch. This interactive afternoon session is geared to youth aged 8-12.

Attendees will have the opportunity to learn about how a graphic novel is written and illustrated from two of Canada's finest YA graphic novelists. This free event provides a great opportunity for tweens to learn the skills needed to start their own graphic story.

#### **[Year-round Telling Tales Programs:](#)**

Telling Tales has become a connector between many organizations in the Hamilton community. Literacy is fundamental - it touches on issues of culture, poverty, art and education. As a champion for children's literacy Telling Tales has forged partnerships and collaborations with a wide variety of organizations including Hamilton, Brantford and Burlington Public Libraries, local school boards, A Different Drummer Bookstore, EarlyOn Child and Family Centres, Rotary, Hamilton Literacy Council, The Hamilton Bull Dogs, Eva Rothwell Centre, Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton, YMCA of Hamilton, Burlington & Hamilton.

#### **Community Events**

Telling Tales is committed to bringing our unique program into the community. This fall you will find us at Hamilton EarlyON Niwassa Centre, Hamilton Bulldogs, Boys and Girls Clubs of Hamilton. Follow our newsletter and check our website for the details.

#### **School Literacy Events**

When kids meet an author in real life, they suddenly realize they can be storytellers too! Bring this excitement into your school with a Family Literacy Night. Our school outreach programming includes inspirational author visits, a digital reading list sorted by age and topics, Kids' Lit Quiz and engaging Family Literacy Events funded by school councils.

An increasing number of schools and school councils are hosting special Telling Tales Family Literacy events for the elementary, middle and high school. It's a trend that we find very exciting, please contact our School Liaison at [schoolliaison@tellingtales.org](mailto:schoolliaison@tellingtales.org).

**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](http://www.tellingtales.org).