Winner of 2014 Forest of Reading® Golden Oak™ Award announced

Canadian readers choose the best in Canadian fiction and non-fiction

NEWS RELEASE

TORONTO, ON (June 5, 2014) – After weeks of voting, Ontarians have decided: The Stamp Collector by Jennifer Lanthier, illustrated by François Thisdale, has won the 2014 Forest of Reading Golden Oak Award.

“My heart is so full right now I can hardly type these words,” writes Jennifer Lanthier, author of The Stamp Collector. “Never in a million years did I imagine this little book would win such a wonderful and important award.”

The Stamp Collector follows the story of a city boy, who finds a stamp that unlocks his imagination, and a country boy, who is captivated by stories. They take different paths when they grow up—one becomes a prison guard, the other works in a factory. When the country boy's stories of hope land him in prison, the letters and stamps that sent to him from faraway places intrigue the prison guard, and a unique friendship begins.

“The Stamp Collector is all about the power of sharing our stories, our voices with the world,” says Lanthier. “Please keep reading, keep writing and keep sharing your stories. You shine a light in the darkness that the darkness will never, ever be able to put out.”

Through book clubs and other forums, over 26 Ontario libraries and literacy centres participated in this year’s Golden Oak Award reading program. The program is designed for adults and comprised of the best titles in Canadian fiction and non-fiction. It is one of eight programs that form the Ontario Library Association’s (OLA) Forest of Reading, Canada’s largest recreational reading program of its kind.

Titles nominated for the Golden Oak Award are chosen by a committee of library professionals; announced every October. The winning book is chosen based on the ratings each reader gives to the titles. Province-wide voting by the readers takes place during May. The announcement was made at The Learners’ Conference in Toronto, ON on June 5, 2014.

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About the Forest of Reading®: The Forest of Reading is the largest recreational reading program of its kind in Canada, with more than 250,000 participants each year. The OLA’s Forest of Reading offers eight reading programs to encourage a love of reading in people of all ages. Committees of library practitioners select the nominated titles and readers vote for the winners.

About the Ontario Library Association: The Ontario Library Association (OLA) is a centre of excellence for the library and information sector, with nearly 5,000 members who work in public, school, academic and special libraries. OLA enables members to advocate for the right of individuals to have free and equitable access to information. Our members research, develop and participate in educational programs designed to provide exemplary library services. Signature OLA events include the annual Super Conference and the Forest of Reading® program. Follow us on Twitter @ONLibraryAssoc and like us on Facebook at Ontario Library Association.
Media and program contacts:

Meredith Tutching  
Program Coordinator, Forest of Reading  
Ontario Library Association  
416.363.3388 x222  
mtutching@accessola.com

Lauren Hummel  
Marketing and Communications Coordinator  
Ontario Library Association  
416.363.3388 x231  
lhummel@accessola.com