



The Willow Awards 20th Anniversary!

Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Awards (SYRCA - The Willows Awards) is celebrating 20 years of promoting Canadian literature to the children and youth of our province! To help commemorate this milestone, we will be encouraging schools, classrooms and libraries to engage with a variety of student opportunities for enrichment associated with this special event.

Public libraries can engage with teachers and schools to participate with these opportunities; libraries can also provide supports in acquiring the books needed. Many of the contests listed below can be enriched by partnerships between schools and libraries.

The website www.willowawards.ca is the main resource to learn details and apply for each of the following:

- entering the annual **Launch Contest** (submissions due by November 13, 2021);
- applying to host the **Gala** in May or June of 2022 (applications due by November 13, 2021);
- entering the **Willow All-Star Contest** which will be running from September 1, 2021 to February 28, 2022 for a class / school / library to win a virtual author visit and / or reading;
- entering the **20th Anniversary Willow Author Contest** which opens on October 1, 2021 and runs to March 31, 2022 for monthly winners of a virtual author visit and / or reading;
- the special printable **20th Anniversary Poster** for each Award (Shining, Diamond and Snow) commemorating the past 19 winners (on the website);
- **literacy activities** for most of the books promoted over the last 20 years;
- a list of this year's finalist books;
- the **history of The Willow Awards** and much more.

The usual delivery of **Willow Posters and Bookmarks** will soon be arriving in your Regional Library or Public Library office to be distributed to branch libraries. We ask you to provide these and the information above to all libraries.

SYRCA's greatest achievement continues to be the excitement and empowerment Saskatchewan children feel when they know their voice matters. They read more, embrace the role of literary critic and eagerly await the results when student voting concludes in the early spring. Please participate in a program that provides recommendations for high quality literature and an opportunity for participation in a variety of literacy activities from kindergarten to Grade 12.

Submitted by Judy Nicholson
SYRCA Board
Representing Saskatchewan Library Association