



2023 Library Awards

Library and Archives Canada, together with the Toronto Public Library and TD Bank Group, is pleased to announce the winners of the 2023 TD Summer Reading Club (TDSRC) Library Awards.

Since 2007, the Library Awards have recognized and rewarded the most innovative and effective TDSRC programs run by public libraries across the country, in both English and French.

First prize (\$8,000)

English program

The jury was amazed with the **Gananoque Public Library** (Ontario), which offered an all-encompassing program that connected reading with fun experiences. It was inventive, effective, creative and inclusive. With Monday Meet-Ups, Tuesday Maker Workshops and Wow Wednesday events, plus Thursday Make'n'Take Kits and Literacy Kits, these library experiences were above and beyond the required criteria for an engaging presentation of the 2023 TDSRC. Using materials suitable for people with autism, dyslexia and neurodivergence, as well as materials for people who use sign language or speak English as a second language, was an extra special feature that made this presentation from the Gananoque Public Library stand out and shine!

[\(See Gananoque Public Library's video\)](#)

French program

The jury chose to award first prize to the **Bibliothèque de Brossard Georgette-Lepage** (Quebec). The jury wanted to reward the enthusiasm and creativity of the library team in motivating and inspiring children to read for pleasure through original activities, thematic links and an inclusive invitation to read in any format: paper books, games, e-books and audiobooks. The "cabinet of curiosity" setting enchanted the kids.

The presentation, video and assessment of the Reading Club's success were impeccable: statistics on attendance, reading hours and increased registrations, as well as comments from parents and children. A great success!

[\(See Bibliothèque municipale et scolaire de Bromont's video—in French only\)](#)



Second prize (\$3,000 for the English winners and \$4,000 for the French winner)

English program

Please note that this year, two libraries tied for second place in the English program. They are splitting the prize money for second and third places.

The jury was impressed by the wide range of activities promoting reading and literacy that **Cambridge Public Library** (Ontario) offered at all four of its locations, each set up with a dedicated TDSRC desk where young readers could chat with the library's summer reading assistants. The jury also noted the strong focus on access and inclusion, such as Cambridge's TDSRC Mobile program—which every week delivered books and facilitated fun reading-related activities for community centres in lower-income areas of Cambridge—and their Multi-Sensory Room, a softly lit area for members with sensory processing needs, equipped with decodable books and portable scanning pens that read printed text out loud. The jury also appreciated the library's emphasis on the joy of reading, tracking the number of visits to the library over the number of books read or reading time. The testimonials from patrons were numerous and extremely positive, highlighting the significant impact of Cambridge's outstanding summer program.

[\(See Cambridge Public Library's video\)](#)

Congratulations to the **Winnipeg Public Library** (Manitoba) for their exciting and innovative TDSRC programming! They interpreted the theme "Check this out" as being curious about the world, other people and other languages and cultures, and involved many diverse members of the community—like the symphony, a baseball team and local storytellers—in their programming. The jury appreciated their creative and thoughtful approach to outreach, like the Newcomer Fair and Welcome to the Library for Newborns and their Families—a great way to create a community hub at the library! With a 17% growth rate in participation from the previous year, Winnipeg proved that they know how to motivate kids to keep reading by fostering enthusiasm and curiosity. Very inspiring!

[\(See Winnipeg Public Library's video\)](#)

French program

The jury would like to highlight the rich program offered by the **Bibliothèque municipale et scolaire de Bromont** (Quebec). Throughout the TDSRC program, participants were able to combine fun and reading. Creative activities and games were linked to reading. What's more, the library offered a cute "literary buffet" where snacks and books could be enjoyed together. The story hour with drag queen Barbada de Barbades was a testament to the creativity, inclusion and courage of the team from the Bibliothèque municipale et scolaire de Bromont.



[\(See Bibliothèque municipale et scolaire de Bromont's video—in French only\)](#)

Third prize (\$2,000)

French program

The **Bibliothèque de Saint-Lambert** (Quebec) impressed the jury with their original presentation of the theme and the colourful, coherent logistics and remarkable visuals (invitation, calendar). The library staff made exceptional use of all its technological and human resources to create interesting activities that fostered learning, vocabulary enrichment, intellectual curiosity and scientific discovery (guests, exhibitions, notebooks, storytimes, partnerships, cabinet of curiosities, StoryWalk®). For 10 weeks, participants in the TD Summer Reading Club program took part in a fabulous journey both inside and outside the library.

Thanks to the hard work and dedication of the library staff, kids were able to travel the world!

[\(See Bibliothèque de Saint-Lambert's video—in French only\)](#)

Small but Mighty prize (\$1,000)

This year, the members of the jury were so impressed with what a very small library did with two part-time staff and zero budget that they wanted to reward them for offering such an incredible TD Summer Reading Club program. After much deliberation, the Small but Mighty Award was created. This award will only be given out in exceptional circumstances to very deserving libraries.

The **Bay Roberts Library** (Newfoundland and Labrador) blew the jury away with their approach to the Summer Reading Club. This small but mighty library came up with terrific reading challenges for young readers. The jury admired how playful they were with decorating onsite, using "scoops" of paper ice cream and a giant bookworm that grew with the number of books read. In the end, Miles the Bookworm was over 250 feet long (averaging 10 books/reader). The appearance of Logan the Newfoundland Dog at the *Toutons, Tunes and a Tale!* event also made a special impression on the jury. The clever and engaging "Get Caught Reading" virtual challenge—in which parents posted pictures of their kids reading at home, outdoors and around town—was a great way to motivate kids to read anywhere and at any time.

The jury would like to compliment, recognize and shine a spotlight on the Bay Roberts Library as a wonderful example of the inventive, effective and creative literary youth



programming that is possible on a shoestring budget when produced by hearts full of literary passion.

In addition, the following libraries received honourable mentions:

English program

Burk's Falls Armour & Ryerson Union Public Library (Ontario) embraced its importance as a hub for summer activities for local kids and families and as a promoter of reading and literacy in this small town. They offered a diverse range of programming despite their small staff and budget, including weekly "booktivities" for children aged 0–12. Their "Library Detectives" program was especially fun, and the idea of kids practicing their literacy skills by writing to seniors was touching.

The jury would like to make special mention to **Clarence-Rockland Public Library** (Ontario) and their amazing volunteers: 58 people donated 1032.75 hours of their time! The summer students also greatly contributed to the success of the 2023 TDSRC. The energy, enthusiasm and experiences generated by these fresh eyes from the next generation really made the program at Clarence-Rockland Public Library into a special one. The members of the jury also made note of "watching the full circle moment as it was happening" as the attendees evolved into leaders in the library. The creation of the Summerween and Weirdmageddon events demonstrated how the library staff put great effort into their original programming. Keep up the fantastic work!

French program

The jury would like to highlight the efforts of the **Champlain Library** (Ontario), which not only offered bilingual programming but also organized a wide variety of fun and enriching activities related to reading and vocabulary. Participants were encouraged to read works based on each week's theme, create their own stories, play games like charades and more. In addition, the library offered online and in-person activities, allowing more participants to have fun.

Jury members wanted to give a special mention to the TD Summer Reading Club at the **Bibliothèque Linette-Jutras-Laperle** (Quebec), which implemented truly original and inspiring projects and offered inclusive activities adapted for children of all ages and reading levels. The enthusiasm, inventiveness and dynamic, humorous participation of the library staff were exceptional. An invitation to the community to come and read for pleasure and interest. A great team effort!