

SASKATCHEWAN YOUNG READERS' CHOICE



THE WILLOW AWARDS



ANNUAL REPORT
May 28, 2011

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of SYRCA – Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards, Inc. is to promote reading by granting a Willow Award to the Canadian and/or Saskatchewan book(s) voted by students to be the best of those nominated in designated categories for a specific year.



OBJECTIVES

In order to achieve its Mission, the Corporation will:

- develop an annual list of Canadian and Saskatchewan books nominated to receive a Willow Award;
- maintain a website to inform the public of the list of nominated books, and to conduct the voting electronically;
- present Willow Award(s) to the author(s) of the winning book(s);
- promote reading of Saskatchewan and/or Canadian books by conducting the award, and by developing incentives for young readers to participate;
- develop and ensure implementation of SYRCA – Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards, Inc. policies;
- encourage community involvement in all levels of SYRCA – Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards, Inc. activity;
- cooperate with other organizations and groups in order to maximize the use of limited resources;
- ensure that SYRCA – Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice – The Willow Awards, Inc. is managed in a financially responsible, prudent and ethical manner.

BOARD MEMBERS 2010 - 2011

President: Florence Barton, Saskatoon
Vice President: Ann Atchison, Saskatoon
Vice President: Ruth Garnett, Saskatoon
Treasurer: Donna Koch, Regina
Secretary: Margaret Lipp, Regina
Website Officer: Val Gerrard, Regina
Fundraising Officer: Naomi Kral, Regina

Directors at Large:
Wilfred Burton, Regina
Elsbeth Dormuth, Saskatoon
Fernando Ferrer, Saskatoon
Deborah Jackson, North Battleford
Tammie Latimer, Yorkton
SLA Rep: Jocelyn Mark Provost, La Ronge
SSLA Rep: JoAnne Beach, Regina

REPORT OF THE PRESIDENT, SYRCA INC. 2010 – 2011

The Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Awards, "The Willow Awards" Inc. met five times during the 2010 – 2011 year. We welcomed new board members Amanda Hassen from Moose Jaw, Tammie Latimer from Yorkton and Dr. Margaret Lipp from Regina to our board at the annual meeting in May 2010 and thanked outgoing long-serving board members Claire Isaac and Margaret Steger for their service to the SYRCA Board of Directors. In October, JoAnne Beach replaced Carlene Walter as the appointed SSLA representative.

Organizational Structure

During the 2010 – 2011 fiscal year, the board reviewed and continued to address the SYRCA Planning Document. We acknowledge the provincial nature of our board and try to recruit board members from across Saskatchewan. As well as meeting face-to-face, we hold meetings by conference call and this year had board members join via SKYPE. We continue to work toward a practical and equitable division of board related tasks.

Fiscal Responsibility

The positive financial statement reflects the board's serious attention to fiscal responsibility. The very successful fundraising campaign under the leadership of board member Naomi Kral provided funds to provide programming and further improve the Willow website. A successful application to Raise-a-Reader resulted in a grant that allowed two schools to win author visits. The board continues to promote SYRCA membership through local fundraisers held in Saskatoon and Regina each year. These events also raise funds to support the work of SYRCA. Board members and volunteers also set up displays and offer book talks at events such as conferences and meetings. A small reserve fund provides a measure of fiscal security for SYRCA.

Communication

The Willow Awards website is the major communication tools for the public, publishers and authors. It is continuously evaluated and updated to meet the increasing demands of an online world. The addition of a moderated commenting feature allows children and others to comment on the nominated books. Thank you to web chair Val Gerrard for her knowledgeable leadership. We also print posters and bookmarks and distribute them by mail to every school division for distribution to every school in the province. The board decided this year to discontinue the twice yearly newsletter in favour of publishing SYRCA news regularly on the website.

Sustainability

SYRCA continues to promote The Willow Awards across the province and had an increase of over 1000 students register votes for the 2010 nominees. This would indicate that the program is growing. Attempts to recruit board members from different areas of Saskatchewan have been successful and are ongoing. We continue to expand the membership and volunteer base.

Programming

The Willow Awards receives many positive comments about book selection, related activities found on the website, events like the launch and gala and prizes offered to classrooms and individual students. A great deal of board attention is directed to activities and rewards that will encourage children to be lifelong readers.

SYRCA "The Willow Awards" Inc. appreciates the generous support of our patrons, sponsors, donors, friends and members. On behalf of the SYRCA Board of Directors, I would like to thank each of you for your commitment to literacy and the children of Saskatchewan. I would also like to thank the volunteer board members who have devoted countless hours to ensure the success of the organization. They are a creative, hardworking group of people who cheerfully share their time, talents and endless enthusiasm for fulfilling the SYRCA mandate, to promote reading among Saskatchewan children and youth.

I am stepping down as president of SYRCA. I look forward to continuing to work on the board in the role of past president.

The SYRCA Annual Report reflects the success of the 2010 – 2011 operating year. Minutes of the 2009 – 2010 Annual General Meeting will be available at the May 28, 2011 Annual General Meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Florence Barton, President

SYRCA – THE WILLOW AWARDS' STRATEGIC PLAN

Key Priorities for 2010 – 2011

Effective strategic planning requires us to focus on a few key priorities, while at the same time continuing to attend to all the important areas that relate to our mandate as outlined in our mission statement. A priority is often carried out over more than one year. SYRCA's complete planning document is found on the website at

<http://www.willowawards.ca/about-syrca>

Organizational Structure

- Tasks and responsibilities
- Board Meetings

Fiscal Responsibility

- Budget
- Fund Development

Communication

- Website
- Newsletter
- Posters, Bookmarks
- Internal communication
- External communication
- Conferences

Sustainability

- Membership
- Board membership, human resources, volunteers
- Executive director – paid position

Program

- Book selection
- Gala – winning authors' attendance, reading at host school
- Launch
- Educational activities

REPORT OF THE VICE-PRESIDENT

Goal: Foster positive relationships with Canadian publishers, authors and illustrators.

In my role as Vice President it is my responsibility to maintain communication with the publishers, authors, and illustrators. To facilitate this I maintain databases of contact information.

Each year I contact publishers to request submissions for our selection committees, notify them of the nominees and award winners, and request relevant permissions and information for each of the nominated authors and illustrators. I also contact the nominated authors and illustrators with an official letter of congratulations on their nomination. Prior to the Gala, each of the nominated authors is sent a package with a copy of the poster and a set of bookmarks. I also request a signed copy of their book. These books are then given to individual students who attend the Gala. Illustrators are also sent a package with our poster and book marks.

Maintaining the list of contact people for the publishers continues to be a challenge; therefore, it is important that we continue to keep our database as current as possible. Contact with the publishers, authors and illustrators is an essential part of SYRCA's mandate.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Atchison, Vice-President



SYRCA - SASKATCHEWAN YOUNG READERS' CHOICE -
THE WILLOW AWARDS INC.
FINANCIAL STATEMENT
YEAR ENDING MARCH 31, 2011

Bank Balance at March 31, 2010

\$20,902.24

INCOME

Memberships	\$2,830.00
Sponsorships	\$21,400.00
Grant	\$2,000.00
Fundraising	\$7,541.80
Stickers	\$1,587.40
GST Rebate	\$277.31

Total Income \$35,636.51

DISBURSEMENTS

Memberships	\$57.96
Sponsorships/Grants	\$125.24
Fundraising	\$6,443.01
Marketing	\$719.05
Posters/Bookmarks	\$6,755.49
Stickers	\$1,435.67
Awards	\$7,217.28
Lunch/Gala	\$2,400.28
Office Expenses	\$372.09
Meeting Expenses	\$3,209.83
Author Expenses	\$1,721.05
Website Expenses	\$5,465.65
Insurance	\$550.00
Review of Books	\$150.00
Sask Culture Membership	\$75.00
Non-Profit Registration	\$10.00

Total Disbursements \$36,707.60

Balance at March 31, 2011

\$19,831.15

Term Deposit

Balance at Mar. 31/10	\$15,157.50
Interest	\$45.47
Total	

\$15,202.97

TOTAL ASSETS

\$35,034.12

Checked and verified by:

S. Dishington, DAA

April 15, 2011

FUNDRAISING REPORT: WILLOW AWARDS 2011

This year, our fundraising committee is proud to announce that we have patrons, sponsors and friends from around the province, not just businesses and companies in Saskatoon and Regina.

The mandate of SYRCA is to promote the reading of Saskatchewan and Canadian authors to children wherever they live in the province. The patrons that have contributed are all very community-minded, and they come from a variety of interests: potash, credit unions, steel manufacturing, newspapers, canola plant, telecommunications, a law firm, wealth management firm and from a chapter of superannuated teachers.

Thanks to the financial contributions of our patrons, we have added a commenting feature to the SYRCA website. After the students have read a Willow nominated book, they can post a comment about the characters, the plot, writing style, illustrations, or the theme of the book. Moderators read the comments and post them. The commenting feature was set up for young readers to express and share their views about the books, but it seems all age groups of readers are posting comments. It is also another medium for the writers to respond to the readers' questions about the books they have written.

While our number of readers has grown each year, we must continue to promote and expand the concept of *literacy for all* within the province. This year we were pleased to have more than 12,000 students reading for the Willow Awards.

Our patrons and sponsors listed below deserve special mention and sincere thanks:

Potash Corporation	Garnett Industries Limited
Conexus	Leader-Post
SaskEnergy	Star Phoenix
Saskatchewan Ministry of Education	United Library Services
Book and Brier	LDM Foods
Evraz	McKercher LLP Barristers and Solicitors

In addition to the financial donations from our patrons, sponsors and friends, the Board holds two fundraising dinners and silent auctions in Saskatoon and Regina to help with Board expenses, production of posters and mailing, as well as website expenses and other promotions of the Willow Awards.

Thank you to my committee, Elsbeth Dormuth, Tammie Latimer, and Florence Barton for their help and support. The Board of SYRCA would like to extend a special thank you to all the people who have contributed financially. All donations are appreciated. If you wish to leave a legacy for the children in Saskatchewan, please think of SYRCA-Willow Awards Inc.

Respectively submitted,
Naomi Kral, Fundraising Officer

FUNDRAISING: REGINA BOOKS @ THE BISTRO - 2011

How do you forget about the weather in Regina? You attend the ninth annual fundraiser at Alfredo's Eastgate Bistro held on April 6, 2011, by the Saskatchewan Young Readers' Choice Awards - Willows Inc. A loud and enthusiastic crowd of 107 friends, family members and patrons supported the Dinner and Silent Auction. I believe there were even a few cheering sections from a few groups that were present.

The Board would like to thank the many businesses and individuals who graciously donated items for the Auction. Once the Auction of 41 items was officially opened, the bidding began in earnest. Many people scouted their bid on a regular basis, while some conscientious bidders sent other people to sign for their intentions.



For amusement and interest sake, in the afternoon of the event the committee always tries to guess which auction items will sell for the highest price.

A #34 green and white jersey autographed by George Reed was popular and won by Shelley Hoffman. The Kobo Wi-Fi E-Reader kept people's attention and the final bid was made by Stephanie Evan.

Maybe since Regina was hosting the Ford Men's World Curling Championship, a print entitled "Draw Weight" encouraged some competitive bidding throughout the evening. Mary Campbell was the successful bidder.

Always popular items at the auction are the gift certificates from the restaurants "Willow on Wascana," "Beer Brothers" and "Alfredo's". Many new restaurants contributed this year and the bidding was robust for their gift certificates.

The raffle table had 17 items for people to try their luck. As well, people commented how they liked the ticket arcade for the items. In addition to the auction item and raffle items, a number of door prizes were drawn throughout the evening.

Two ladies, Marlene Tymiak and Marianne Aamodt, drove in for dinner from Kelliher. Regardless of the weather, these ladies have never missed a dinner in nine years!

Special thanks are extended to the following people who helped organize the event: Margaret Steger, Margaret and John Lipp, Marion Perry, Eleanor Matz, Michelle Howland, Val Gerrard and Gail Goodman.

Another well-earned, thank-you must be given to the staff, Tracy, and Reeza at Alfredo's, for their service and the delicious meal.

It is hard to believe that next year we will be celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Willow-nominated books. Watch the website for details, and we'll see you next year for the big celebration!

Respectfully submitted,
Naomi Kral, Fundraising Officer

FUNDRAISING: SASKATOON BOOKS & BUFFET

Saskatoon's Sixth Annual Buffet and Books Fundraising Dinner and Silent Auction took place on November 4, 2010 at the Hilton Garden Inn. Many Willow Awards supporters joined us for a great meal, lots of chatter, and competitive bidding on the silent auction items. A beautiful quilt handmade and donated by Betty Lengyl was a popular raffle item. It was a special privilege to have guest speakers Alice Kuipers and Yann Martel, who entertained and charmed us all. Alice gave us a glimpse into the life of a writer and Yann talked about how his letters to Stephen Harper came about and why he believes it is especially important for our leaders to be well read. They ended by answering questions from the dinner guests.

SYRCA Patrons Garnett Industries, The StarPhoenix, United Library Service and Potash Corp were recognized for their generous support of The Willow Awards.

Respectfully submitted,
Florence Barton, President

FUNDRAISING: SYRCA STICKER REPORT

As of May 2011, we have sold a total of \$794.65 worth of stickers. \$240.25 is still owing.

We are happy to report that we are making progress on our Gainer the Gopher Poster to support the Willow Awards and to promote reading. We have created a "mock up" and are presenting it to the Riders for consideration. We are very excited about this opportunity and are anxious to arrange for the photosessions. Look for our "Gainer" poster for the fall season 2011.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Hassen

"Our classes really enjoyed the selection of books this year. They were excited to be part of the program. I had students who had a hard time just making one choice, because they liked so many of the books. Thanks for making this available to our school."

Marilyn Herron (Saltcoats)

COMMUNICATION: WILLOW AWARDS WEBSITE REPORT

www.willowawards.ca

2010 was a busy year for the website committee. In addition to the routine duties of keeping the website updated based on the Willow voting year, booktrailers created by the students of St. Paul's School in Yorkton were added to the nominee pages. The homepage was reworked with the "2nd part" being removed and the articles added to the "What's New" section. The website continued to evolve with the addition of the commenting feature to the nominee pages. It has proved to be a popular feature, with many children and adults leaving remarks on the nominated books. In the coming year, the web committee will explore the possibility of optimizing the website for portable devices to better serve our users.

With voting numbers exceeding 12,000 this year, with almost all votes cast through the online voting on the website, a change to the current voting procedures is required. Over the next year, the committee will determine the best way to handle the growing use of online voting. Website traffic exceeded the amount allowed by the webhost package for the second year, resulting in a need to change from the current package to one that allowed the usage without extra surcharges. As the popularity of the Willow Awards grows, we will continue to make necessary changes to meet the needs caused by the growth of the program.

Thank you to the board members and others who contributed to the website this year. Special thanks are extended to Trevor Cunningham, our website developer; Kathy Stedwill and Marion Perry, website volunteers for their work on the website. Through the volunteers' generous donation of time and hard work, the website is maintained and continues to evolve.

Respectfully submitted
Val Gerrard, Website Officer



PROGRAM: SHINING WILLOW SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Eleven enthusiastic Shining Willow Selection Committee members read and discussed a total of 124 books that were submitted for consideration, 68 that were published in 2010 and 56 books that were published in 2009. Committee members were chosen from a diverse group including educators, booksellers and one child. A wiki was created to track the books and give the readers an opportunity to share their comments. We also met four times to discuss the books, eliminate some and put others on our "must read" list. At our final meeting, we came to a consensus and recommended a list of ten titles and two alternates to be presented to the SYRCA board.

Thank you to the following dedicated, knowledgeable and perceptive committee members: Trudy Capes, Carrie Dueck, Dr. Christine Fondse, Tamar Green, Kandice Heinrichs, Laurie Hnatiuk, Alicia Klopoushak, Kathy Sharman, Susan Voitka-Seager and Marcie Seager.

The 2011 Shining Willow Nominees

Annotations, links to reviews and author information can be found at www.willowawards.ca. Activities will be posted on the website by September, 2011.

Clever Rachel by Debbie Waldman, illustrated by Cindy Revell. Orca, c2009

Fred and Pete at the Beach by Cynthia Nygent. Orca Books, c2009

Giraffe and Bird by Rebecca Bender. Dancing Cat Books, c2010

The Imaginary Garden by Andrew Larsen, illustrated by Irene Luxbacher. Kids Can Press, c2009

In Front of My House by Marianne Dubuc. Kids Can Press, c2010

The King's Taster by Kenneth Oppel, illustrated by Steve Johnson and Lou Fancher. Harper Collins, c2009

The Little Hummingbird by Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas. Greystone Books, c2010
Timmerman Was Here by Colleen Sydor, illustrated by Nicolas Debon. Tundra Books, c2009

Viola Desmond Won't be Budged by Jody Nyasha Warner, illustrated by Richard Rudnicki. Groundwood Books, c2010

Willow's Whispers by Lana Button, illustrated by Tania Howells. Kids Can Press, c2010

Respectfully submitted,
Florence Barton, Chair

PROGRAM: DIAMOND WILLOW SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

Selection Committee Members

- Wilfred Burton (chair)
- Mary Quickfall (classroom teacher – Hearing Impaired)
- Donna Koch (SYRCA Bd. member and retired teacher)
- Judy Nicholson (retired teacher-librarian)
- Donna Lindstrom (teacher-librarian)
- Kerri McKay (teacher-librarian)
- Shelly Galloway (teacher-librarian and Reading Effects Teacher)
- Vi Smotra-Cook (retired teacher-librarian)
- Kim Steele (teacher-librarian)
- Marie Delparte (teacher-librarian)
- Kim Kovacs (Gabriel Dumont Institute Librarian- University of Regina.)
- Diane Diebel (Regina Catholic Schools consultant)
- Margaret Steger (Retired SYRCA Board Member)
- Carole Carmen (Regina Public Schools Health and Wellness Coordinator)
- Jolie Brewer (Education student and book store employee)

This year we had a nice selection of fiction (136) and nonfiction (45) books sent to us by over 35 publishers for perusal. All books were read by at least one reader, most books by two readers and many books by three or more readers. The initial selection was done through the use of a rubric on a wiki. Many books were eliminated through this process. Initially, we also eliminated books that were part of a series but couldn't be read on their own, high interest-low vocabulary books that didn't have a good story line developed, and text-laden nonfiction.

We are happy to present the following titles as finalists for the 2011 Diamond Willow Award. Descriptive annotations, links to reviews and author information may be found at <http://www.willowawards.ca/nominated-books/2011/diamond-willow>.

Diamond Willow Nominees – 2011

After All, You're Callie Boone by Winnie Mack (2010)

Animals that Changed the World by Keltie Thomas (2010)

Fatty Legs by Christy Jordan-Fenton & Margaret Pokiak-Fenton (2010)

The Gargoyle In My Yard by Philippa Dowding (2009)

The Midnight Curse by L.M. Falcone (2010)

The Odds Get Even by Natale Ghent (2009)

Ortega by Maureen Fergus (2010)

Stolen Child by Marsha Forchuk Skrypuch (2010)

Tumbleweed Skies by Valerie Sherrard (2010)

Walking Backwards by Catherine Austen (2009)

This year's final nominees will suit the array of readers we have in grades 4-6. We have several books that will appeal to the younger, less mature readers (*The Gargoyle in My Yard*, *The Odds Get Even*, *Fatty Legs*). We have books that will appeal to the more advanced, mature reader (*Walking Backwards*, *Animals That Changed the World*, *After All, You're Callie Boone*). We chose a story with Aboriginal content (*Fatty Legs*). We didn't choose a Saskatchewan author but Valerie Sherrard (*Tumbleweed Skies*) was born in Moose Jaw and writes with a Saskatchewan theme and Maureen Fergus (*Ortega*) was born in Regina but now resides in Winnipeg. We have books that appeal to both girls and boys. We've chosen books across the genres – Fantasy, Historical Fiction, Nonfiction and Contemporary Fiction.

The list of 2010 nominees is exciting and engaging for young readers. We are honored to have such excellent choices. In the end, our gage was, "Will children read this book?" because ultimately, this is a children's choice award.

I would like to thank the committee members for all of their hard work. Reading this amount takes a "team". Our "team" was phenomenal. A gift of a Willow pin and Bernard Callebaut chocolates was presented to all committee members at the final meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Wilfred Burton
Diamond Willow Chair 2010-11

PROGRAM: SNOW WILLOW SELECTION COMMITTEE REPORT

The Snow Willow committee consisted of 11 members from Regina, La Ronge and Saskatoon. Our group represents Teacher Librarians, Public Librarians and school Library Technicians, including some retired book-lovers. We continued to use our online wiki to share reviews, have conversations and discussions of books. We had four face-to-face meetings in Saskatoon, and we now also use Skype as a way to include members who cannot physically attend.

The committee considered a total of 163 submitted titles: 67 published in 2009 and 96 published in 2010. We have carried over an additional 13 titles that were submitted too late for consideration.

We are happy to present the following titles as finalists for the 2011 Snow Willow Award. Descriptive annotations, links to reviews and author information may be found at <http://www.willowawards.ca/nominated-books/2011/snow-willow>.

Snow Willow Nominees – 2011

Dear George Clooney Please Marry My Mom by Susin Nielsen (2010)

Free as a Bird by Gina McMurchy-Barber (2010)

The Hare in the Elephant's Trunk by Jan L. Coates9 (2010)

Haunted by Barbara Haworth-Attard (2009)

Home Truths by Jill MacLean (2010)

No Safe Place by Deborah Ellis (2010)

Puppet by Eva Wiseman (2009)

Shapeshifter by Holly Bennett (2010)

Thunder Over Kandahar by Sharon McKay (2010)

The Worst Thing She Ever Did by Alice Kuipers (2010)

I would like to thank all committee members for the many hours spent reading books and for their thoughtful contribution to the discussions, which allowed for selection of a list of titles worthy of nomination.

Thanks to all committee members: Ann Atchison, Florence Barton, Jane Glen, Suseia Gordon, Kim Johnson, Naomi Kral, Tamzen Kulyk, Jocelyn Provost, Lori Trischuk, and Carlene Walter for many hours of thoughtful reading, analyses and camaraderie.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Garnett, Chair – Snow Willow Committee

"The books chosen are always good - too bad they can't all win! The students enjoy them. And so do I. It is wonderful to have a list of 30 books each year that I, as librarian, know will be great purchases for our library."
- Fran Balls (Maryfield)

PROGRAM: LAUNCH

Schools and libraries across the province were invited to participate in "launching" the 2010 Willow nominated books. They were asked to submit photos and descriptions of their launches to be entered in prize draws.

The grand prize of a complete set of 2010 Willow Award nominees went to Minahik Waskahigan School in Pinchouse Lake. Boxes of assorted books were sent to four other draw winners - Lindale School,

Moose Jaw, Miller Elementary School (K - 4), Melville, Holy Trinity Catholic School Division, Moose Jaw and Frontier School. The launch submissions are available on the website www.willowawards.ca.



PROGRAM: VOTING REPORT FOR THE 2010 WILLOW AWARDS

Each year SYRCA aims to increase participation in The Willow Awards through Programming and Communication. We measure that goal by the number of students who register votes each year. This year we recorded 12,354 votes, an increase of more than 1000 votes.

Votes are registered using the online voting form found on the website and by mail. The majority of votes are registered in the Shining Willow category but each year we see growth in the Diamond and Snow categories. When the votes are tallied, draws are made from the participating schools, classrooms and students. Three boxes of books, one for each category, are awarded to three different schools/classrooms. Individual prizes were sent to 38 Shining Willow voters, 27 Diamond Willow voters and 15 Snow Willow voters. A special draw was made this year for 2 schools to win author visits. Arthur Slade has been contracted to do presentations at Dinsmore School and Meath Park School. Draws were also made for sets of 2011 nominees. Information about those winners is found in a separate report.

Participants	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	%Change
Teachers								
Adults	129	151	204	185	206	189	215 +	+12
Schools	84	132	207	148	161	166	183	+9
Libraries	5	4	3	1	0	2	1	
Communities	73	65	68	68	77	83	100	+17
Voters	5,523	7,262	8,087	9,708	10,090	11,134	12,354	+10

Votes by Category	2008	2009	2010	% Change
Shining	9,057	9,326	10,582	2%
Diamond	769	1,239	1,252	61%
Snow	262	526	520	100%
Total Votes	10,090	11,101	12,354	+10%

Respectfully submitted,
Florence Barton

PROGRAM: SYRCA WILLOW AWARDS BOOK DRAWS

The SRYCA Willow Awards Board is pleased to announce that over fifty school libraries or classrooms were each awarded one set of books, in one of the 2011 Snow, Diamond or Shining Willow categories. Approximately \$6500.00 was spent on books and postage.

Recipients were chosen from the many, many classes or libraries participating in the 2010 voting process. Books set included presentation bookplates. Thanks must be extended to Book and Brier Patch [wholesale] for their support and assistance in this project. Comments received from recipients indicate that Willow nominees are a very popular and welcome addition to libraries and classrooms. SRYCA looks forward to another year of great reading and high voter participation!



Respectfully Submitted,
Elsbeth Dormuth

WILLOW AWARD WINNERS 2010

Shining Willow



Melanie Watt
Scaredy Squirrel at Night

Diamond Willow



Arthur Slade
Jolted

Snow Willow



Susin Neilson
Word Nerd

WILLOW AWARD WINNERS

Doors: created by the students of John Diefenbaker School who hosted Gala 2010 in Prince Albert

SHINING WILLOW



Scaredy Squirrel at Night
Melanie Watt

DIAMOND WILLOW



Jolted
Arthur Slade

SNOW WILLOW



Word Nerd
Susin Neilson

PROGRAM: SASKENERGY WILLOW AWARDS GALA

April 12, 2011

John Diefenbaker School in Prince Albert was the site of the 2011 SaskEnergy Willow Awards Gala to announce the winners of the 2010 Willow Awards. Students greeted dignitaries and special guests as they arrived for a tour of the school and lunch, directing them into the staff parking lot left empty by the staff for this special occasion. More students greet the guests at the door of the school, ready with nametags and an introduction to a tour guide. And what a wonderful tour it was!

Throughout the school, doors were decorated with student-made murals representing each of the 30 nominated books. Bulletin boards represented the student learning that took place as they shared the Willow nominees and learned about the authors who wrote the books. One bulletin board was a student created story that wove all ten Shining Willow nominees into one wonderful tale.

Another bulletin board featured "Wanted Posters" for each of the Snow Willow nominated authors. Halls were decorated with willow furniture and very special art featuring willows was on display. The student guides shone with pride for their school. After the tour, guests and staff gathered in the library for a wonderful lunch.

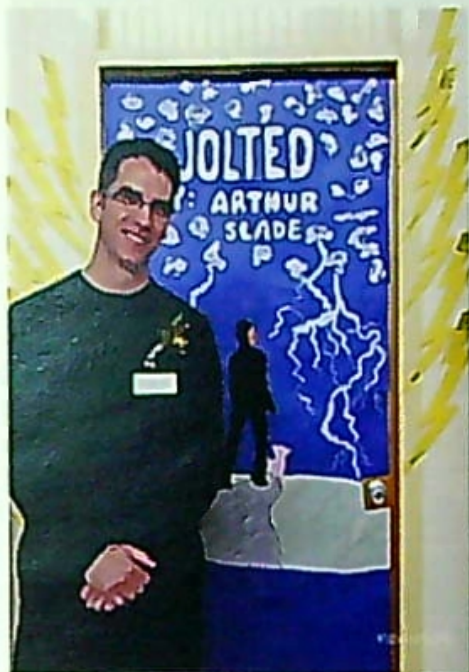


The program began with dignitaries and special guests being piped in, up a red carpet past students and parents, to their seats. Included in the group were The Honourable Dr. Gordon L. Barnhart, Lieutenant Governor of Saskatchewan and his Aide-de-Camp; Jim Scarrow, Mayor of Prince Albert, Dr. Bill Cooke, Director of Saskatchewan Rivers School Division, Leslie Gosselin from SaskEnergy, school board trustees and Willow Board members. Following the Vice Regal Salute and O Canada, the principal, Mr. Kelley and the Parent Council Chair, Mrs. Olthuis, welcomed us. Dr. Barnhart inspired everyone with his short message about the importance of reading and his childhood memories of becoming a reader. Dr. Cooke brought greetings on behalf of the School Division. Florence Barton spoke on behalf of SYRCA and presented John Diefenbaker School with a plaque to commemorate the 2011 SaskEnergy Gala and a set of 2011 Willow nominated books. Leslie Gosselin represented SaskEnergy. She presented a Willow tree to the school as a remembrance of their contribution to the Willow Awards.

The speeches were over and it was time for the real celebration to begin. The nominated books were paraded down the red carpet with much fanfare, followed by a very special performance of a song written by music teacher Mrs. Clarke and performed by the grade five students.



The primary students used technology to showcase the 2010 Shining Willow nominees. A photostory presentation highlighted the books and the envelope was presented. The excitement was evident as the winner, *Scaredy Squirrel at Night*, was announced. Author Melanie Watt was unable to attend the gala but prepared a video to thank the students and tell them a bit about where she gets her ideas for the Scaredy Squirrel stories.



The 2010 Diamond nominees were presented in a skit that students prepared. Following the skit, the envelope with the winner was presented and, just like at the Oscars, a hush fell over the room. There was much clapping and cheering when *Jolted* by Arthur Slade was announced as the winner. Art was at the gala and accepted his award, thanking the students for giving this special honour to a book that he wrote.

A video presentation prepared by the middle years students showcased the 2010 Snow Willow nominees. Again, when the envelope was presented, a hush fell over the room. The winner was announced accompanied by clapping and cheering – *Word Nerd* by Susin Nielsen. Susin was also at the gala to accept her award and thank the students.

Following the program, students celebrated with treats in their classroom while guests returned to the library for tea and treats, including a specially decorated "Willow Award" cake.

Special thanks go to gala organizers Tammy McHenry-Vick, teacher librarian, Linda Calder-Aydt, library technician and the administration, staff, students and parents of John Diefenbaker School. The student learning, the program, the lunch and the attention to every little detail made this a very special and memorable celebration of the 2010 Willow Award nominees and winners. Thanks also to SaskEnergy for their continued commitment to The Willow Awards.







**CLAIRE ISAAC AND MARGARET STENGER
SYRCA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD 2010**

The Saskatchewan Young readers' Choice Distinguished Service Award recognizes extraordinary service, effort or example by an individual, which resulted in outstanding benefit to a program or project important to SYRCA, The Willow Awards. A suggested minimum of five years distinguished service must have been rendered to qualify for this award.

**PLEASE SEE THE WILLOWS WEBSITE FOR TRIBUTES TO
CLAIRE ISAAC AND MARGARET STENGER
2010 DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AWARD WINNERS
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THANK YOU TO ALL THE WILLOW AWARDS VOLUNTEERS!

*Your generosity enables many Saskatchewan children and youth to have the opportunity to experience the pleasures of reading.
Your dedication and hard work make the Willow Awards possible!*

A SPECIAL THANK YOU!

The staff and students of the Administrative Assistant Program located at Walter Murray Collegiate in Saskatoon worked diligently over the winter to reformat the SYRCA Policy and Procedures Manual and many other forms and documents. The documents are all now Word documents that can be easily revised, edited and updated by board members. This task was provided as a volunteer service under the leadership of program instructor Rennae Breen.

SYRCA – The Willow Awards

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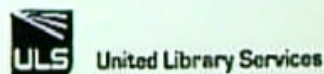


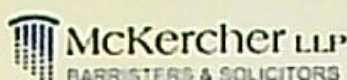
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