
MEDIA ADVISORY/ PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Oct. 9, 2014

Vaughan Public Libraries Celebrates Teen Achievements at The 2014 Teen Awards Ceremony

WHAT: Vaughan Public Libraries (VPL) is proud to recognize and honour the winners of the Early Harvest Competition, VPL's 794 teen volunteers and the top reader from the Teen Summer Reading Challenge through the annual Teen Awards ceremony.

This year, hundreds of teens entered the 25th annual Early Harvest Competition once again, and 22 finalists were chosen in the photography, writing, video, graphic short story, painting and sketching categories. The award-winning visual entries will be on display and literary winners will read an excerpt from their work at the event. The Teen Awards will also feature performances by Vaughan teens - solo vocalist Julianna D'asisi and the band, Dztinction.

WHEN: **Wednesday, October 22, 2014, 7 – 9 p.m.**

WHERE: **The City Playhouse Theatre**
1000 New Westminster Drive, Thornhill
[Click here for map](#)

WHY: VPL's Teen Awards provide teens in the City of Vaughan with an opportunity to showcase their creative accomplishments and to be recognized for their valuable contribution to the community.

ATTACHMENTS:

- Background information on the 2014 Teen Awards
- Canadian Library Month/Ontario Public Library Week
- Lists of 2014 Early Harvest judges and award winners

BACKGROUND INFORMATION – 2014 VPL TEEN AWARDS

VPL's Teen Awards is a celebration of the accomplishments of the Early Harvest Competition award winners, the top reader from the Teen Summer Reading Challenge and teen volunteers who contributed to various VPL programs throughout the year.

All teens will receive a certificate for their achievements during the ceremony. The Early Harvest Competition winners will be presented with cash prizes of up to \$100, and the top reader from the Teen Summer Reading Challenge will receive a KOBO eReader. All winning entries from the 2014 Early Harvest Competition are reproduced in the Early Harvest magazine, which is released to the public at the awards reception.

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the Early Harvest Competition. Since 1989, the Competition has been a key outlet for teens to showcase their creativity and be recognized for their artistic talents. Today, it continues to inspire and transform the lives of Vaughan teens.

VPL's Teen Summer Reading Challenge is a popular program for teens that takes place each summer. It is a reading challenge in which VPL challenges teens of Vaughan to read a certain number of pages collectively and if they beat the challenge, the Youth Services librarians will dress up in a fashion chosen by the teens. This year's top reader is Sidika McNeil who read a total of 65,776 pages.

VPL offers many volunteer opportunities for teens. In 2014, 794 teens volunteered for a variety of VPL programs such as *Reading Buddies*, *Teen Library Volunteers*, *Teen Book Reviews*, *Tech Savvy Teens*, and the Thornhill Village and Santafest parades.

This year's Teen Awards is sponsored by Library Bound Inc., PowerStream Inc. and CVS Midwest Tape Inc.

CANADIAN LIBRARY MONTH/ONTARIO PUBLIC LIBRARY WEEK

October is Canadian Library Month and Oct. 19 – 25 is Ontario Public Library Week. This year's theme is *Libraries Inspire*. Canada's libraries make a meaningful difference in the lives of individuals and in our communities. They help to inspire Canadians to celebrate culture, to support lifelong learning and to preserve our heritage for generations to come.

A strong library system is the cornerstone of a strong community. Ontario Public Library Week recognizes the important contribution Ontario's public libraries make to education, literacy and life-long learning in Ontario communities.

VPL is pleased to offer welcoming destinations that educate, excite and empower the Vaughan community. Last year, more than 100,154 people attended 3,546 library programs. Over 2 million people visited VPL and borrowed 2.8 million items. VPL is also expanding to serve the growing population in Vaughan. The Pleasant Ridge Library is expected to open December 2014 and construction is underway on VPL's Civic Centre Resource Library.

To find more information on how Vaughan Public Libraries inspires and builds our community, see our [So Much to Smile About](#) video.

EARLY HARVEST WINNERS AND JUDGES

AWARD	WINNER	COMMUNITY	SCHOOL	JUDGE
PHOTOGRAPHY - Still				
1 st	Rebecca Idzerda	Bolton	Toronto District Christian HS	David West
2 nd	Matthew Girn	Woodbridge	St. Stephen C.E.S	
3 rd	Katie Li	Thornhill	Westmount C.I.	
PHOTOGRAPHY - Digitally Manipulated				
1 st	Rebecca Idzerda	Bolton	Toronto District Christian HS	David West
2 nd	Rebecca Smith	Aurora	Toronto District Christian HS	
3 rd	Omer Landau	Vaughan	Stephen Lewis S.S	
POETRY				
1 st	Avigayil Margolis	Thornhill	TanenbaumCHAT Kimel	Elana Wolff
2 nd	Rainey Guo	Vaughan	Glen Shields P.S.	
3 rd	Natasha Ovchinnikova	Thornhill	Vaughan S.S.	
SKETCHING & PAINTING				
1 st	Daniel Morelli	Woodbridge	Father Bressani CHS	Natalie Rawe
2 nd	Lila May Tran	Woodbridge	Woodbridge College	
3 rd	Yara Flahat	Woodbridge	Holy Cross Catholic Academy	
VIDEO				
1 st	Ari Matchen	Thornhill	Westmount C.I.	Victoria Coretti
1 st	Lori Maresky	Thornhill	TanenbaumCHAT Kimel	
1 st	Claudia Boon	Thornhill	TanenbaumCHAT Kimel	
2 nd	Matthew Aitia	Vaughan	Westmount C.I.	
2 nd	Emmanuel Townsend	Vaughan		
3 rd	Magdalena Rudiak	Woodbridge	St. Jean de Brebeuf CHS	
SHORT STORY				
1 st	Ruby Liu	Thornhill	Vaughan S.S.	Deborah Kerbel
2 nd	Stephanie de Bem	Maple	St. Joan of Arc CHS	
3 rd	Ingrid Llambi	Woodbridge	Father Bressani CHS	
GRAPHIC SHORT STORY				
1 st	Rebecca Idzerda	Bolton	Toronto District Christian HS	Rob Tari
2 nd	Tiggy Ghen	Vaughan	Marc Garneau C.I.	
3 rd	Sarina Xue	Vaughan	Vaughan S.S.	

NOTES TO EDITORS AND PHOTOGRAPHERS:

Media representatives are invited to attend the Teen Awards reception for photo and interview opportunities.

The event is scheduled to begin at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, October 22. Margie Singleton, CEO of Vaughan Public Libraries and Master of Ceremonies for the evening, will start the evening off with opening remarks. Performance by Vaughan teens - Julianna D'asisi and the Dztinction band to follow.

The actual presentation of awards will be from approximately 7:20 to 8:20 p.m. After the ceremony, refreshments will be served and award recipients will autograph their work in the Early Harvest magazine. Attendance at VPL's Teen Awards is by invitation only.

Electronic versions of stories, poems and images are available upon request for use by the media.

VAUGHAN PUBLIC LIBRARIES

Vaughan Public Libraries offers welcoming destinations that educate, excite and empower the community. Annually, VPL welcomes over two million visitors making it one of the top leisure and information destinations within the City of Vaughan. VPL is more than just a place to borrow books. Each year we offer hundreds of programs for people of all ages, you can enjoy our incredible array of content everywhere – in the library, at home or on your handheld device. For more information on VPL's programs and services visit www.vaughanpl.info and subscribe to our [eNewsletter](#).

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