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Hackmatack Announces the Winners of the 2015 Awards

The winners of the Hackmatack Children's Choice Book Award 2015 were announced at a ceremony on Friday, May 8 at the Central Library in Halifax, Nova Scotia. **Sam Fisher**, the author of **Scare Scape**, was the winner in the English fiction category. **Maria Birmingham**, received the English non-fiction award for her book **WeirdZone: Sports**. The winner of the French fiction category was **Amy Lachapelle** for **Toxique**. **Yannick Bergeron** received the award in French non-fiction for his book **Au labo, les Débrouillards !**.

Scare Scape is the story of Morton Clay, a fan of creepy comics, toy monsters and pretty much anything that would make normal kids' skin crawl with fear. When he moves into the house of a recently-deceased author of scary comics, a series of strange events change his attitude towards horror pretty quickly. Sam Fisher lives in Halifax where he teaches writing at NSCAD University.

WeirdZone: Sports uncovers the "other" sports of the world, from the local and hidden to the strange, bizarre, and downright crazy. **WeirdZone: Sports** is Birmingham's first book, and her second, *Tastes Like Music*, is on next year's Hackmatack list.

Toxique is the story of young boy named Gratien who works on a farm with his parents. Summer vacation has barely begun when strange things start happening: several animals are found dead and Gratien ends up in hospital after getting poisoned. Filled with fear, the boy comes home, determined to understand what is happening ... risking his life in doing so!

Au labo, les Débrouillards! Is filled with sometimes funny and unusual (but always instructive) experiments that will capture the interest of children and amaze many parents, too. The book is based on the premise that nothing makes science easier to understand than hands-on experience.

The Hackmatack Award ceremony was the culmination of this year's award week, during which 15 of the nominated Canadian authors visited participating schools and libraries in New Brunswick, Nova Scotia, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland. Thousands of children from grades four to six, participated this year by reading the 40 nominated books.

To see the new nominated books for the 2015/2016 Hackmatack Award and to get more information about the award program, check out our website at www.hackmatack.ca

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