



TEACHER INFORMATION PACKAGE

2019-2020



What are the Lawson Literary Awards?

Colonel Tom Lawson hoped to generate a feeling of national pride in senior public school students by encouraging them to learn and write about the accomplishments of significant Canadians. In 1978, the Lawson Literary Awards were born named in honour of his father, the Honorable Ray Lawson, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario from 1946 - 1952.

The Lawson Literary Awards program is designed to encourage grades 7 and 8 students to share their personal perspectives on Canadian issues of interest and importance to them. Each year, a panel of judges adjudicate submissions and a Lawson Literary award is presented to several recipients.

Incorporating 'Lawson' Into the Classroom

The Lawson Literary Awards program is designed to meet many current expectations for grade 7 and 8 programs. The project can be a part of a long-term investigation, or presented as a voluntary project or enrichment exercise.

The project provides an opportunity for students to:

- Express a personal point of view
- Explore a topic that is of interest to them
- Investigate all subject areas and their strands, such as Mathematics; Science & Technology; Language; The Arts – Music, Visual Arts, Drama & Dance; Social Studies – Education; or French as a Second Language
- Develop research and communication skills
- Exercise higher order thinking skills (e.g., drawing inferences, forming conclusions, predictions etc.)
- Draw upon information from a variety of subjects enabling them to integrate knowledge, skills, and attitudes in a natural way
- Link everyday experiences in the classroom to real life situations beyond school

Lawson Evaluation

Each school may submit TWO projects to the Thames Valley Education Foundation to be adjudicated by the Lawson Literary Awards judging panel. The panel will evaluate projects on four primary criterion:

1. Relevance to the Lawson theme
 - a. This year the theme is **Canadian Content**
 - b. All projects must have a connection to Canadian content. Some ideas include:
Canadian heroes, icons, pop culture, science, geography, Indigenous culture
2. Originality & creativity
 - a. Projects should be creative
 - b. Some ideas include: creative essay, comic book, song, poem, time capsule, interview, survey, diagram or model, website, blog
3. Personal connection
 - a. Students must explain their personal connection to their chosen project topic
4. All necessary components included (see "Student Checklist & Tip Sheet")
 - a. This includes proper spelling and grammar

Lawson Award Winners

Lawson Literary Award winners will receive:

- A cheque for \$200.
- A Lawson Literary Award program with a synopsis of each project
- An engraved plaque and professional photograph to commemorate the achievement
- A reception where their achievement will be recognized (family members are also invited)
- When possible, acknowledgement by the media

Additional Information

- Written entries can be prepared on a computer or handwritten – illustrations are encouraged
- Research can be presented in a variety of innovative ways
- All entries **must** contain a bibliography
- Entries **must** include on the title page or cover – student name in full, grade, school and date submitted
- If the project is a video, diary or album, please submit a written transcript
- All entries **must** be carefully edited for spelling and grammar and the final submission should be presented in a “polished format” suitable for display
- **Submissions must includes both the “rough” copy as well as the “polished” copy**
- Entries may be submitted in English or French
- Electronic copies are encouraged, especially for scrapbooks, PowerPoint or large documents (USB, Google Drive, email)
- If the student is submitting an electronic device with their project, please ensure names are clearly indicated on the device.
- NOTE: Teachers/Principals must ensure that the school’s entry for submission is completely free of plagiarism.

Important Dates

- | | |
|--|--|
| → First email sent to schools | September 18, 2019 |
| → Students submit project to teacher | Due date assigned by teachers |
| → Schools submit TWO projects to Stephanie Winterton at Thames Valley Education Foundation (see contact information below) | By March 25, 2020 |
| → Projects judged by panel | Between March 30 – April 10, 2020 |
| → Recipients chosen | April 13, 2020 |
| → Lawson Literary Award recipients notified | April 13 - 17, 2020 |
| → Reception and award ceremony for recipients | June 16, 2020 |

Contact Information

Questions about the Lawson Literary Awards can be forwarded to:

Stephanie Winterton, Development Assistant
519.452.2000 x20208
s.winterton@tvdsb.ca

Submissions mailed to:

Thames Valley Education Foundation
% Stephanie Winterton
1250 Dundas Street
London, ON N5W 5P2

Submissions emailed to:

s.winterton@tvdsb.ca

Submissions via TVDSB Google Drive:

Share with Stephanie Winterton

Student Checklist & Tip Sheet

Your submission **must** include the following items:

- A project about a Canadian topic
- Title/Cover Page with Student Name, Grade, School and Date
- Bibliography
- Rough Copy**
- "Clean" copy for reproduction if project is produced on black paper, tea-stained paper
- Transcript if project is produced as a video (optional)
- Printed version if project is produced as a website (optional)

Tips:

- Entries can be typed or handwritten
- Electronic copies are encouraged
- Illustrations and photos are appreciated, however, dark photos do not reproduce well
- Ensure that final copy is "polished", free from spelling and grammatical errors, as it will be on public display at the Education Centre
- Research can be presented in a variety of ways: Essay, book, scrapbook, display board, website, using a box, etc
- Write about something that interests **YOU!**