



PRESS RELEASE  
For Immediate Release  
January 31, 2021

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## MPL Welcomes Canadian Author, Lawrence Hill, to Discuss His Debut Children's Novel, *Beatrice and Croc Harry*

To celebrate Black History Month, Milton Public Library is thrilled to host award-winning, internationally bestselling Canadian author, Lawrence Hill, to discuss his debut children's novel, ***Beatrice and Croc Harry***. Hill's virtual author event will be hosted in partnership with the [Canadian Caribbean Association of Halton](#) and [Halton Catholic District School Board](#) on **Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> February, 2022 at 10:30 a.m.**

Lawrence Hill is the author of several fiction and nonfiction books, including *The Book of Negroes* and *The Illegal*, both of which won CBC Canada Reads. In January 2022, HarperCollins Canada published Hill's eleventh book, *Beatrice and Croc Harry*. Inspired by the bedtime stories Lawrence Hill told Beatrice, his fifth and final child, the book is a meditation about forced migration, predation, danger, trust, and friendship. Beatrice goes on a journey to discover her racial identity and find healing while having a talking crocodile named Croc Harry by her side.

"I had a riot writing this 375-page novel, which is for middle-grade readers (aged 9 - 14) but also for any adults who are young at heart. It's about a young girl who has lost her identity, and who forms a tempestuous relationship with a 700-pound crocodile who, she hopes, will help her rediscover her identity and find her way back home. The novel explores identity, racial identity, and the hope that people who have been harmed and those who have perpetrated injustice might find themselves later in a place of healing and respect. I worked very hard to deliver it with a light, playful, and comic touch. I found that to be a tall order, but a rich and exciting artistic challenge," said Hill about his experience writing his latest novel.

This virtual author talk with Lawrence Hill is free and open to everyone in the community. To register, visit [here](#). For accessibility purposes, the event will include ASL interpretation.

Press interviews with Lawrence Hill prior to the event may be available upon request.



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### About MPL:

Serving one of the fastest-growing municipalities in North America, Milton Public Library (MPL) is a multi-award winning public library system focussed on innovation and service excellence. The Library's updated service delivery model is founded on community-led concepts and partnerships and has been highly effective, to the point that MPL has maintained the highest rate of active cardholders of any large Canadian Library (68% of residents are active members!) for the third year in a row.

MPL empowers the community to Read. Learn. Create. Connect. and **Be Inspired** by all MPL has to offer.

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