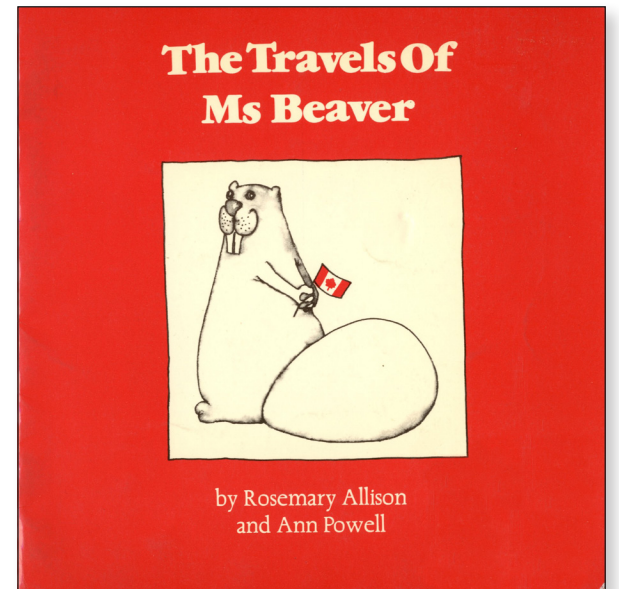
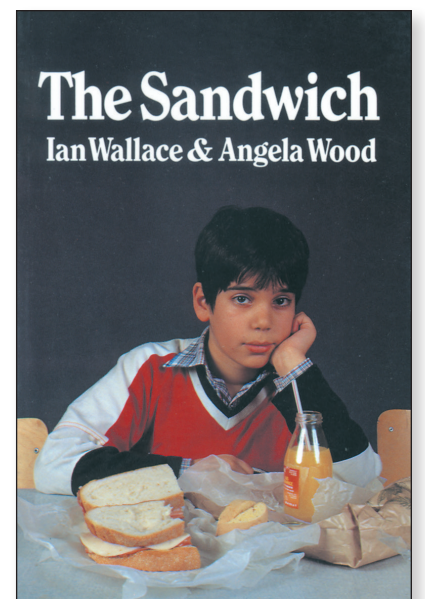


**1973** Kids Can Press is founded by a small collective out of Ontario College of Art (now OCAD University), in Toronto, led by Frieda Forman with Yvonne Singer and Esther Fine. Children's books were produced entirely in-house, including its first publication, *The Travels of Ms. Beaver* by Rosemary Allison and Ann Powell.



**1979** Valerie Hussey joins KCP. Ricky Englander joins Valerie Hussey as co-owner of KCP in 1982.

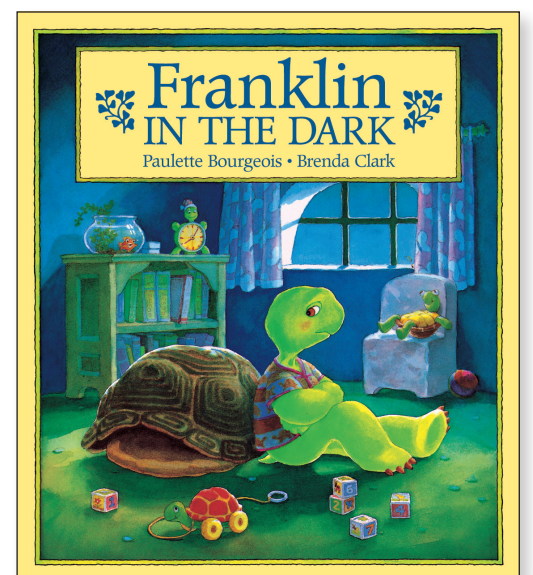
**1980** Now in its third printing, *The Sandwich* by Ian Wallace and Angela Wood (about a newcomer child being mocked for his lunch at school) has sold 8000 copies, making it KCP's first bestseller.



## *Kids Can Press*

**1986** KCP's board of directors disbands; Hussey and Englander are co-owners and co-publishers.

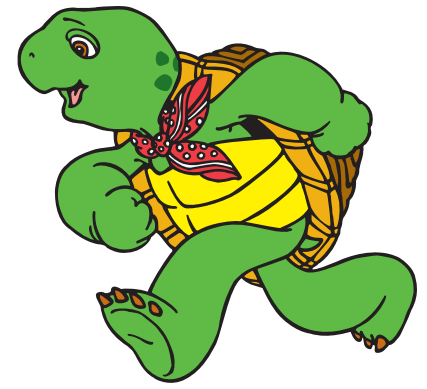
**1986** *Franklin in the Dark*, the first Franklin book, written by Paulette Bourgeois and illustrated by Brenda Clark, is published in Canada and releases in the United States the following year. Franklin will go on to become one of the most successful book franchises in Canadian history, with over 65 million copies sold worldwide.



**1989** Kids Can Press is named Publisher of the Year by the Canadian Booksellers Association.

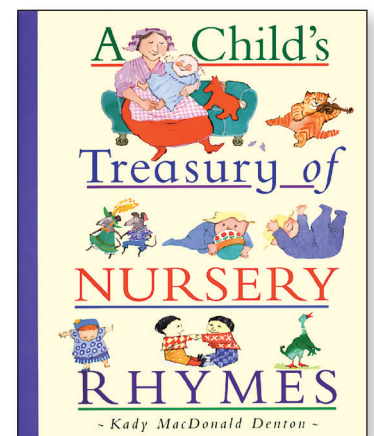
# 1995–2006 Milestones

**1995** KCP licenses film, video and merchandise rights of the Franklin series of books to Nelvana animation studio.



**1997** Nelvana launches Franklin TV and video series.

**1998** KCP wins its first Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature — Illustration for *A Child's Treasury of Nursery Rhymes*, illustrated by Kady MacDonald Denton.



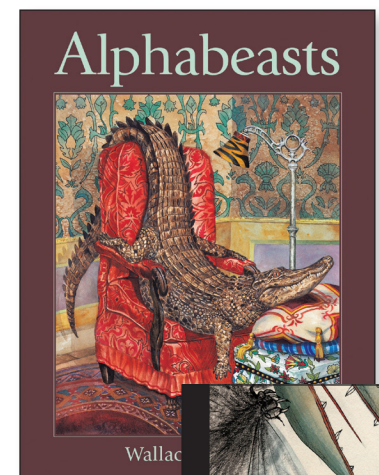
**1998** KCP is sold to Nelvana animation company; Ricky Englander retires.



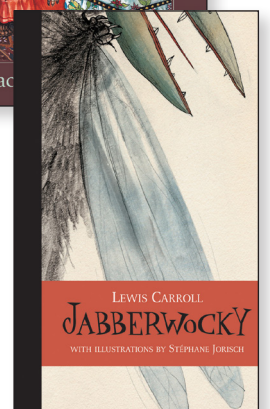
**2000** KCP becomes a division of Corus Entertainment when Nelvana is purchased by the company.



**2002** KCP wins Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature — Illustration for *Alphabeasts*, written and illustrated by Wallace Edwards.



**2004** KCP wins its third Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature — Illustration for *Jabberwocky*, illustrated by Stéphane Jorisch.



**2005** City of Toronto opens Franklin Children's Garden and Kids Can Press Sprouting Garden on Centre Island.



Franklin Children's Garden

**2006** Valerie Hussey retires from publishing with 27 years at KCP; Lisa Lyons is appointed Acting General Manager.

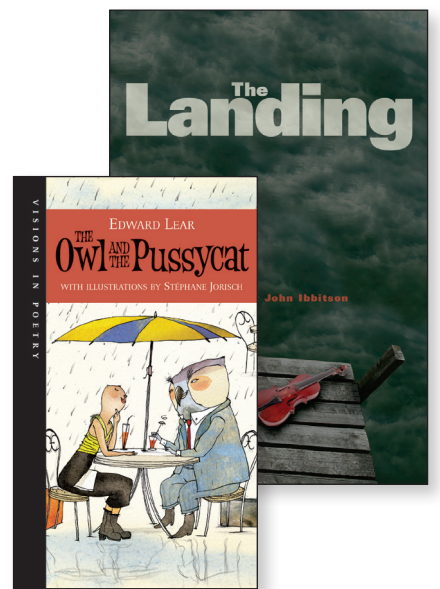
# 2006–2011 Milestones

**2006** Author-illustrator Mélanie Watt's *Scaredy Squirrel* is released. KCP will sell over 4 million copies of the series' books around the world.



**2007** Lisa Lyons is named President, Kids Can Press; named President and Publisher in 2018.

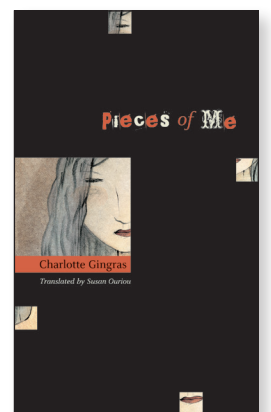
**2008** KCP wins both Governor General's Literary Awards for Children's Literature: *The Landing* by John Ibbitson (Text) and *The Owl and the Pussycat* (Illustration). *The Owl and the Pussycat* is the second book illustrated by Stéphane Jorisch in the Visions of Poetry series to win the award.



**2009** KCP launches CitizenKid™ collection, at 26 titles to date with over 2.1 million copies sold in 27 languages.



**2009** KCP wins Governor General's Literary Award for Translation (French to English) for *Pieces of Me*.

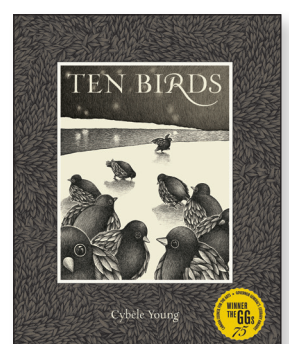


**2010** KCP moves to the new Corus Quay lakefront broadcast center.

**2011** KCP begins offering digital editions of children's picture books, and currently releases a read-along ebook edition simultaneously with every print picture book.

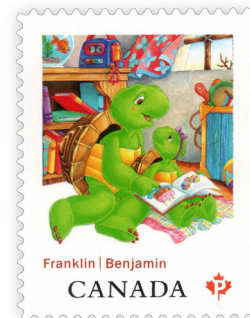


**2011** KCP wins Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature — Illustration for *Ten Birds*, written and illustrated by Cybèle Young.

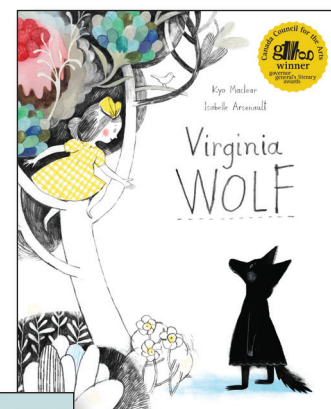


# 2012–2019 Milestones

**2012** Canada Post issues postage stamps to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the publication of the first Franklin the Turtle book, *Franklin in the Dark*.



**2012** KCP is awarded its eighth Governor General's Literary Award for Children's Literature — Illustration for *Virginia Wolf*, illustrated by Isabelle Arsenault.



**2014** Ashley Spires' picture book *The Most Magnificent Thing* launches; it will go on to sell over 900 000 copies.



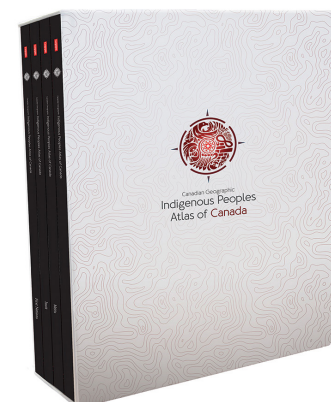
**2017** KCP wins prestigious Bologna Ragazzi Prize — Best Children's Publisher, North America.



**2017** McDonald's Canada introduces Happy Meal Book & Toy program with Kids Can Press, a program that continues into 2023, with tens of millions of mini versions of 80 different KCP books distributed.



**2019** KCP partners with *Canadian Geographic* to launch and distribute the groundbreaking four-volume *Indigenous Peoples Atlas of Canada*; to date more than 25 000 copies sold.



**2019** Nelvana premieres an animated short film adaptation of *The Most Magnificent Thing*, narrated by Whoopi Goldberg, and wins 30 film festival awards around the world.



# 2021–2023 Milestones

**2021** In a publishing first, Ashley Spires appears as a hologram as part of Canada’s Guest of Honour delegation at the Frankfurt Book Fair, during Covid-19 pandemic-related travel restrictions.



**2022** Kids Can Press becomes a signatory of the UN Sustainable Development Goals Publishers Compact. KCP also meets a benchmark of 50% of its Fall list being written or illustrated by underrepresented creators.



**2023** Nelvana and Northern Ireland’s Sixteen South announce co-production of TV series based on Kelly Collier’s *A Horse Named Steve*.



**2023** Nelvana announces greenlight for *Millie Magnificent* TV series, based on *The Most Magnificent Thing* book and film.



**2023** Fat Brain Toys releases *Make That Most Magnificent Thing* board game.



**2023** KCP supports Children of Inmates Reading Program with a donation of children’s books to prisons across Canada for reading programs geared to children visiting a parent.

