



Durham
Folklore Storytellers

Directory of Professional Storytellers

For:

Schools

Youth Groups

Festivals

Concerts

Seniors

Meetings

Luncheons

Libraries

Parties

Special Events

Day Care

Churches

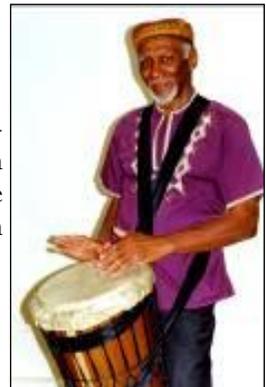
About This Directory

This is a directory of Storytellers for any occasion or event, from classrooms to celebrations of all kinds, and everything in between. Each storyteller has his or her own unique style, but each brings storytelling alive for audiences. **Each storyteller listed here is a highly competent professional.** They each set their own fees (with consideration given to Canada Council and CANSCAIP rates) and work on their own schedules and programmes. Please contact them directly for their information.

George Blake

Oshawa, ON (905) 579-7149
geoblake.vijja@bellnet.ca

George tells folktales from his African-Caribbean heritage. He combines Afro-Caribbean drumming with the telling of traditional tales, and every now and then weaves in a few personal memories of the hi-jinks of growing up. George is the founder of the Durham Folklore Storytellers (Society) and is a well-known storyteller far beyond the boundaries of the GTA.



Dianne Chandler

Port Perry, ON (905) 985-3424
storyteller@xplornet.com
www.storymagic.ca

Dianne is an active and experienced storyteller, who performs with passion, sensitivity, and humour, specializing in weaving candlelit tales cloaked in magic, illuminating stories that touch the heart and tickle the fancy of listeners of all ages. As an experienced educator and school curriculum developer, who is equally comfortable performing in bright sunlight or mysterious candle light, she plans programs with a variety of different story types to show humour, pathos and tenderness. She includes props, verses, songs and audience participation with selected presentations. Performance venues include classrooms, churches, television studios, stage, festivals, cafes and house parties. Her storytelling repertoire includes global folk/fairy tales, legends, historical, literary tales and special programmes (Christmas, Halloween and Celtic) with presentations across Ontario, and beyond often including musicians and songs.



Doris Cherkas

Oshawa, ON (905) 579-0697
dcherkas@rogers.com

A natural born storyteller, Doris is a Ukrainian-Canadian who enjoys telling tales to young and old. Although she specializes in Ukrainian folktales and personal stories about being an immigrant in Canada, Doris also delights her audiences with holiday and special themed stories. She draws upon her background as a former Librarian and Art and English teacher when researching and developing new stories and ties her artist talents as a Ukrainian egg artist to some of her stories.



Irene Chromej-Johnston

Oshawa, ON 905-728-1553
onceuponastory@yahoo.ca
www.icjohnston.ca

Irene is a Freelance Storyteller who enjoys telling folktales and other stories with a moral or a surprise ending. She enjoys dressing for the part and is known for her collection of interesting rings. Fold & Cut, Draw & Tell and String stories are also in her repertoire. She is a member of the Durham Folklore Storytellers, Storytelling Toronto and Storytellers of Canada – Conteurs du Canada. She has performed at World Storytelling Day, 1001 Friday Nights of Storytelling, Halloween Happening, the Stellar Literary Festival and the Durham School Board Summer Learning Program. Irene is continually researching new stories to increase her repertoire, and enjoys the challenge of introducing diverse, appealing and thought provoking storytelling.



Enid DeCoe

Courtice, ON (905) 436-2729
eidec@rogers.com

Enid is a refreshing, passionate teller! She has told stories in a wide range of settings for many years. She tells with a dramatic flair and wonderful facial expression. Most of her stories are fairy tales and folk tales and are often theme related, but never run-of-the-mill! Enid's repertoire includes all varieties to suit any age or occasion.



Marg Kropf

Cobourg, ON (905) 372-8522
margaretkropf1@hotmail.com

A dynamic, inventive storyteller and actor, Marg specializes in French-Canadian folk tales as a result of her love for French language and culture. In recent years Marg has expanded her French language tales to include those of Louisiana. These Acadian tales are filled with a mysterious quality that has thrilled listeners of all ages for hundreds of years.



Kim Michele

Durham On and beyond (905) 420-0478
songofthenightingale1@gmail.com
www.songofthenightingale.com

A diverse performer and RCM Artist Educator combining storytelling and music amid the sounds of the ancient harp with tales of fairy, folklore, myths, legends, poetry, rhyme and original stories with song. Kim crafts Arts Infused Storytelling and Workshops for a variety of audiences, schools, libraries, festivals, and cultural events that supports successful learning, curiosity, self expression, social skills and cooperation. (sing-chant-move-dance-explore-express-create-listen).

She draws from her many programs and collaborative programming while tailoring new and custom programs to coincide with theme or seasons. An executive member for Canadian Storytellers for Children's and editor for their Barrel of Stories, member with Storytelling Toronto and Storytellers of Canada. Children and adults alike can experience the magic of Storytelling and music while encouraging their own boundaries of imagination and creativity.



Heather Whaley

Bowmanville, ON (905) 419-2174
heather@heatherwhaley.ca
www.heatherwhaley.ca

Heather is a seasoned musical storyteller, singer-songwriter and writer who thrives on reeling her audiences in to feel joy, togetherness and belonging. She loves performing and sharing her universal programs and concerts with tots, children, teens, and adults through a mix of traditional and personal stories, ballads and songs. Growing up with an immigrant father and grandparents, Heather relates intimately to differences and sameness in cultures, impressing upon a positive attitude toward humanity. Heather has received grants for educational and community projects, and has toured and conducted workshops in Canada and internationally in the US and Argentina. A popular guest artist at festivals, house concerts, educational, and community events, she has been described as having a warm, uniquely vibrant voice, and is one who genuinely embraces her listeners.



Summi: Inter-Cultural Storyteller & Teacher

Ajax, ON Cell: (905) 995 - 8775
atravellingstoryteller@gmail.com

Summi is a professional storyteller and an active member of the Durham Folklore Storytellers. Growing up in a family of artists, poets, musicians, writers, educated in London, Paris, India, Italy, Summi has immersed herself in different traditions and stories, thus becoming a storyteller who connects cultures. Besides teaching, she travels to the United States, Europe, Middle East, India and Far East carrying Canadian stories with her and bringing back tales from the places she visits. She also writes her own short stories, which are a cocktail of facts and fiction. Summi is an Artist, a Teacher and a Short Story writer. Her inspiration comes from her family, her travels, and her cat.

