

Ruth Stewart-Verger**StoryTeller**

Ruth grew up in a storyTelling household. She was immersed in the tales of travelers who dined at the family table, tales of her grandparents' childhood memories, and tales of Canada's historical heroes. She developed a respect for an oral tradition that lives in all cultures. Her love of the spoken word has been expressed on our national stage (the NAC), at festivals, in embassies, on radio, and in the classroom. Ruth has organised the National Conference on Storytelling, has co-chaired the Ottawa Storytelling Festival, and has developed and presented workshops on a variety of topics related to storytelling and oral literacy. After years of telling traditional and modern tales Ruth began to research the women of Canadian history.

In 2002 she became enamored with the history, the story, of Marie-Anne Lagimodière (the first woman of European descent to live in the west). Diving into several archives, bringing together information from diverse sources, Ruth created a storytelling tapestry of a time, a place and a people.

In 2003 Ruth was commissioned by the Library and Archives of Canada to create and present a two hour storytelling performance celebrating the 75th anniversary of the Persons Decision (October 18, 2004) that legally recognized women as persons.

Out of these projects Ruth recorded two CDs. The first called "She Pushed From Behind: Emily Murphy in Story and Song" was recorded live at the Library and Archives Canada at a concert to celebrate International Women's Day. Ruth's second CD saw her adding producer to her qualifications as she brought to life one of the early pioneers of the west, Marie-Anne Lagimodière, godmother to the Métis, and grandmother to Louis Riel.

Ruth Stewart-Verger:

StoryTeller

Past Co-chair of the Ottawa StoryTelling Festival

President of the Ottawa storyTellers

Workshop developer

Workshop leader

"StoryTelling and Folk Lore", "StoryTelling Techniques" "StoryTelling in the Classroom", Teaching History through StoryTelling", "Oral Literacy for the Learning Disabled Child" and "Critiquing the Performer: The Art of Personal Development".

Performer across Canada on Festival Stages and Radio, in Libraries and Community Centres

Recording artist

Recording producer

Mentor

Teacher (Ottawa Carleton District School Board, Grant Alternative School)