

## **About Durham Folklore Society**

**The Durham Folklore Society is a forum for storytellers and those interested in storytelling. We encourage the exploration of the oral tradition as represented in the Canadian Mosaic.**

**At every meeting of the Durham Folklore Society, the stories run the gamut from Anansi to Guy Fawkes, from The Wild West to giants and fairies, as each teller practices his and her chosen tale.**

**If you, too, would like to try your hand at storytelling, or just want to listen and find out about us then feel welcome to come along to our meetings, held the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of every month at Northview Community Centre, 150 Beatrice St. E. ,Oshawa, Ontario, 7:30-9:30 p.m.**

**For more information call Chair Dianne Chandler at 905-985-3424 or email Dianne at [storyteller@xplornet.com](mailto:storyteller@xplornet.com)**

**These meetings are informal gatherings for anyone who is interested in storytelling,-even those who just want to come and listen: storytellers need listeners too!**

**Newcomers are always welcome!**

**Come listen!  
Come Tell!  
Catch the Magic!**

## **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.

### **Storytelling**

Prior to written history, myths, legends, fairytales and folktales were passed on from generation to generation by the telling of stories. Myths did, and still do, explain how things came to be, who we are, and what we believe. Legends honour our heroes, actual or mythical. Folktales, the ancient oral tradition, pass on the history and beliefs of a people, while fairytales, those stories about imaginary beings doing good or evil to mankind, are familiar to us all.

For good reasons, we are discovering this oral tradition. In this age of the printed word, movies, television, computers, ipods and blackberries we stand as the storytellers of today ready to relate the happenings from the past, real or imaginary, to breathe life into the old tales and take listeners on mind journeys into the wonderment of their imaginations where true literacy begins.

Storytelling is a potentially powerful tool that contributes to better understanding between people.

*Durham Folklore  
Society's*  
**Directory**  
**of**  
**Professional**  
**Storytellers**

For:

*Schools*  
*Youth Groups*  
*Festivals*  
*Concerts*  
*Meetings*  
*Luncheons*  
*Libraries*  
*Parties*  
*Special Events*  
*Day Care*  
*Churches*

Serving Durham Region and beyond since 1988

## Our Professional Storytellers

### George Blake:

Oshawa, Ontario (905) 579-7149

[geoblake.vijja@sympatico.ca](mailto:geoblake.vijja@sympatico.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 Society and is a well-known storyteller far beyond the boundaries of the GTA.



### Dianne Chandler:

Port Perry, Ontario

905) 985-3424

[storyteller@xplornet.com](mailto:storyteller@xplornet.com)

[www.storymagic.ca](http://www.storymagic.ca)

Dianne is a sensitive storyteller who specializes in weaving candlelight dramas cloaked in magic, illuminating tales that touch the heart and tickle the fancy of audiences of all ages. Equally comfortable in bright sunlight, Dianne draws upon her experience as an educator and program developer. She includes props, verses and action songs, as well as audience participation, with selected presentations. Her use of gesture, colourful costumes and her intriguing voice intonation captivates her audiences and invites her listeners to join her in a journey of participation and true wonderment.



### Doris Cherkas:

Oshawa, Ontario

(905) 579-0697

[dcherkas@rogers.com](mailto:dcherkas@rogers.com)

A natural born storyteller, Doris is a Ukrainian-Canadian who has recently discovered the world of professional storytelling. She specializes in Ukrainian folktales and family stories about being an immigrant in Canada. She draws upon her background as a former librarian and Art and English teacher when researching and developing new stories. She ties her artist talents as a Ukrainian egg painting artist to some of her stories.



**Enid DeCoe:**

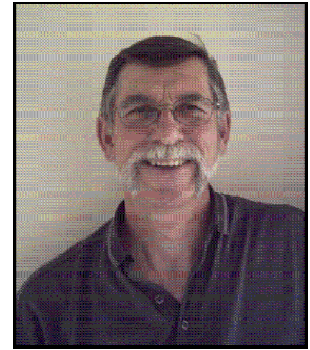
Courtice, Ontario  
(905) 436-2729  
[ejdec@rogers.com](mailto:ejdec@rogers.com)

Enid, a retired kindergarten teacher, 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. She is a refreshing, passionate teller!

**Ron Getz**

Garden Hill, Ontario  
(905) 797-2247 [ronald.getz@sympatico.ca](mailto:ronald.getz@sympatico.ca)

After a 2-year sojourn in "Heritage Perth", actor and storyteller Ron Getz is back with more tales to tell. Ron has a particular interest in Ontario history, and specializes in stories of the 1837 Rebellion and the War of 1812. A son of the Ottawa Valley, he enjoys telling lumberjack tales and stories of a Valley childhood. His repertoire includes traditional legends and myths from a variety of cultures, and he will put together a program tailor-made to your group and setting.

**Marg Kropf:**

Cobourg, Ontario  
(905) 372-8522  
[margaretkropf1@hotmail.com](mailto: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.



### **Heather Whaley:**

Whitby, Ontario

(905) 668-2174

[heather@heatherwhaley.ca](mailto:heather@heatherwhaley.ca)

[www.heatherwhaley.ca](http://www.heatherwhaley.ca)

Heather is an active storyteller, singer-songwriter who brings both traditional tales and her own stories to life by interspersing the narrative with rhyme, chant and song. She performs with guitar, props, and home-made instruments, and inspires spring-board ideas for educators of children and youth programs. Heather performs to children, teens, and adults and includes original, contemporary, folk and blues music with tales that are profound or humorous. She is the creator of *Musical Story and Song Theatre* along with harpist, Kim Michele where they join in presenting classic tales and themed programs for the stage and festivals. She has published three CD's and is part of published compilations with other artists. Her presentations transcend all ages and cultures and preserve the dignity and heritage they embody.



### **Yasmin Siddiqui**

Ajax, Ontario

[summiintoronto@hotmail.com](mailto:summiintoronto@hotmail.com)

Yasmin is a professional storyteller and an active member of the Durham Folklore Society. Her life has been influenced by her creative family of artists, poets, musicians, writers and storytellers. Besides teaching .....she is always traveling to the United States, Europe, Middle East, India and Far East. She carries Canadian stories with her on her trips and brings back tales from the places she visits. She also writes her own short stories, which are a cocktail of facts and fiction. Yasmin is an Artist, a Montessori Teacher and a Short Story writer. Her inspiration comes from her family, her travels, and her cat.

