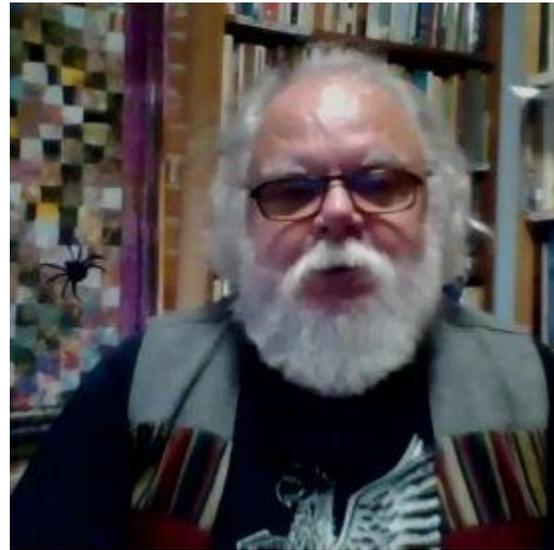


2021 Storykeeper Award Recipient: Norman Perrin

The 2021 recipient of the Storykeeper Award is Toronto's Norman Perrin Congratulations Norman!

For a number of years now (almost forty to be exact) we have had an old-fashioned storytelling troubadour in our midst, ever since Norman Perrin first hitch-hiked seventy miles from St. Catherine's, to attend the third annual Toronto Storytelling Festival. That experience was world changing for him and from that moment on, stories and storytelling became central to his life. Since that time, Norman has generously offered up stories whenever and wherever they were requested because he really believes that they are a powerful source of affirmation for the good to be found in this world. With limited financial resources, Norman has found a way to travel near and far, sharing and listening to stories.



Norman's storytelling experience is vast and in this limited space it is impossible to enumerate all that he has achieved since first telling in 1989. "Reading his curriculum vitae reveals a wealth of storytelling venues which he explored with enthusiasm ... festivals, public gardens (including the Butterfly Peace garden in Batticaloa, Sri Lanka in 2003) parks, pubs, and museums to mention a few.

Perhaps his most intriguing storytelling venture was his "Rolling Story Stone Tour", which involved him travelling through many countries (Scotland, England, Israel, and Bangladesh, to name a few), carrying a wooden box that was packed with small objects, figures of animals, people, and a flat stone. Participants would choose an object from the box and with support from Norman, would create their own healing stories, for some of these participants had experienced deep personal trauma.

Perhaps Norman's most memorable achievement is the establishing of his private collection, The Four Winds Library, a resource of six thousand books specifically focused on folk and fairy tales which, along with his personal knowledge garnered over many years of managing the library, has enriched the lives of storytellers near and far. in Dan Yashinsky's words, "Norman Perrin is one of the heroes of the Canadian storytelling movement. He created one of the world's foremost private collections of folktales, and provided guidance with unstinting generosity to any storyteller looking for sources, versions, translations, and earliest telling of stories." All of this has been achieved with limited resources, but great passion. As Norman has travelled, so has his library, often a feature at storytelling festivals and conferences.

It is an honour to to present the Storykeeper Award to Norman Perrin. A gifted teller himself, he has allowed others to flourish as he has shared both his library and expertise with a spirit of generosity which has endeared him to so many.