

Marva Blackmore, 2022 Storykeeper Award Recipient

It seems an impossibility to try and confine the vastness of all that Marva Blackmore has achieved in her career as a professional storyteller, mentor, and organizer in the world of story, onto one page. A simple conversation in line at the grocery store provides a stranger with the opportunity to be guided in the art of memoir writing and later, storytelling. This is the magic that Marva weaves...she reaches out to one and all to share her passion for the art of storytelling. She has also managed to reach a wider audience through her authorship of books on the writing of memoirs.



Marva was first introduced to this art by the Ottawa StoryTellers and with her usual intense focus, quickly proceeded to active participation by coordinating swap gatherings, chairing the Professional Development Committee, directing two festivals and serving for two years as the Festival Program Director in 2006 and 2007.

It is no surprise that when Marva moved to Qualicum Beach, and discovered that there wasn't a local storytelling group, she reached out to other groups in the region, performing with them and mentoring, and then proceeded, with her personally dynamic approach, to create a group that grew into the Mid-Island Storytellers. With her impressive technical skills, Marva was able to bring improvements to their website and a professional look to posters and publicity materials.

Fearless as always, Marva extended her storytelling gift, mentorship and organizational abilities to the national stage, with deep and successful involvement within Storytellers of Canada - Conteurs du Canada. At different times, Marva has volunteered as the SC-CC Membership Director, the Project Officer for World Storytelling Day and most memorably, as its president in 2014.

In the midst of these pandemic years, which have provided innumerable challenges for organizers of cultural events, Marva has provided strong leadership for the group of volunteers welcoming storytellers to the 2022 conference this May in Parksville B.C.

A gifted teller who has striven for excellence in all aspects of the art of storytelling, Marva has been an inspiration for many and without her, our world of storytelling would not have achieved the recognition that it has. Marva is truly deserving of the Storykeeper Award.