

## TD Canadian Children's Book Week Tour Short Report by Kathie Kompass

Am I tired? Of course I'm tired but it is a happy and contented tired. And, I am not tired of telling tales!

On this Nova Scotia tour I told 16 times to students between junior primary (age 4) and grade 6, with only two identical audiences. I was careful to shift the 36 stories and 16 rhymes that I had prepared into combinations that would best suit the listeners. This way the telling was a fresh encounter with the stories for both me and the listeners.

While in the schools the audience was primarily students. Two of the five library tellings were well-attended by adults. At the last one Celtic folk tale loving adults outnumbered the children.

We shared folk tales, humorous stories, legends, a bit of history, animal adventures, an urban myth or two, as well as just a few not-so-very-scary stories.

For me a moment of great delight occurred with a grade 5-6 class in a small rural school. We were in the Q&A section of the program when someone asked if I told stories about myself. I answered that there was always something of me in every story that I told. Immediately a forest of hands shot up. One student asked, "So what part of you was in the goblin story? When I replied that, like the tailor I could sew, the hands dropped. Those students were listening, wondering and making connections with the story.

How absolutely wonderful! When this happens we can see that the TD Canadian Children's Book Week is succeeding in bringing tales and listeners together and helping to instill the joy of reading and listening to great stories.