

St. John's Storytelling Festival

PO Box 23084 Churchill Square

St. John's, NL A1B 4J9

storytellingstjohns@gmail.com



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

St. John's Storytelling Festival Presents: As I Was Saying... The Art of Recitation in Newfoundland and Labrador

From Nan Blunden's pantry, to Red Island, to the Big Land, home-grown recitations speak uniquely of Newfoundland and Labrador.

June 19, 2020 – On Wednesday, June 24th and Thursday, June 25th at 7:00 pm local time, join us on Zoom for *As I Was Saying...* a recitation event in the style of a song circle, where storytellers will share their recitations, discuss inspiration, and take questions from the audience. Hosted by storyteller and folklorist Dale Jarvis you are guaranteed a peek into the history of the province, insight into the art form, and more than a barrel of laughs.

Under the damper of quarantine the great big world got a whole lot smaller! And as we head online to enjoy storytelling events from here, there, and everywhere, the uniqueness of Newfoundland and Labrador recitations becomes even more evident. Recitation is the art of storytelling in verse. Ranging from musical to poetic, recitations are often witty and humorous, rooted in politics or whimsy, history, home, or hearth. And we're assembled a magnificent roster of storytellers who use recitation to illuminate history and sail us through fantasy.

On Wednesday, June 24th we visit homes and histories from the pantry to the trapline. Karen Carroll is a storyteller and playwright whose recitations call back to her family history, often celebrating the daily joys and hilarious adventures of the fabulous women of her past. Marion Council recounts tales of resettlement from her childhood home on Red Island, made popular by her performance work "Red Island – Resettlement Girl". Benny Powell of the famous Flying Powells is a former pilot with a talent for recitations, with over 1700 originals under his belt. Powell shares stories from his family of growing up in Labrador.

On Thursday, June 25th we feature recitationists with a flair for fantasy and humour. Whether you're following Ralph the Flying Hound through the skies or riding a skidoo into outer space, Dave Paddon's recitations are sure to make you smirk. Ken Parsons is a magician-turned-storyteller who brings us tales from the fictional town of Raisin Arm that you just might need to see to believe. Dave Penny brings harrowing humour of the everyday to his unique and hilarious musical recitations. Politics, traditions, magic and mystery figure into their tales – always at least based on a true story, of course.

Pop on over to www.storytellingstjohns.ca/events/ for all the details!

-30-

Media contact:

Kailey Bryan, Administrator

St. John's Storytelling Festival

Email: storytellingstjohns@gmail.com