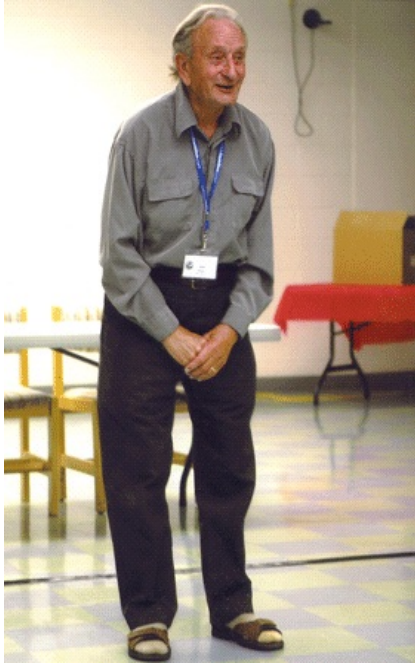


MASTER CLASS 2009

In Role Storytelling – Telling from the inside of a Story. A 2-day workshop

Led by Ron Baker



Ron Baker has been telling stories in Canada since he emigrated from England in 1964. As a librarian he told stories and taught storytelling to his staff. In 1987 he retired and became a professional Storyteller. He has told stories in schools, libraries, churches, camps and many other venues both in Canada and the UK. He has told at Festivals in Toronto, Ottawa, Brantford and the Yukon. In 2008 he was a Featured Teller at the Toronto Festival. Recently, he was selected to tour Alberta for the TD Canadian Children's Book Week. (See <http://bookweek.ca/RonBaker.htm> for more biographical information).

FOCUS

The art of creating characters to tell stories from the point of view of someone who was in the story or who witnessed it.

An exploration of the techniques of creating a character and developing a story

Participants will explore and experiment with this exciting style of storytelling

This method is useful for telling stories from historic, cultural or religious perspectives – putting new life into old stories and revealing new insights.

ACTIVITIES.

Listening to, and analyzing some 'in role' stories the class will discuss some of the rewards and pitfalls of this technique. Through a series of exercises the participants will be challenged to find a story, create a background and a character and then weave the character into the story. The how, why and when of telling such stories will be explored.

It is anticipated that the storytellers will leave the workshops with new stories and an increased empathy for all the characters in their stories.

PARTICIPANTS. Maximum 12

COST: \$250 per participant.

PRAISE for Ron Baker...

"I have heard Ron tell to children and teenagers with delightful results. As a teacher, I have seen students in my drama classes be captivated by his work and be eager to hear more. In a three day workshop, Ron taught kids to tell their own stories which culminated in fine presentations. Ron's gentle, comedic style delights his audiences. His seemingly endless supply of stories entertains his listeners."

— *Bonnie Moore, W.L. MacKenzie Collegiate Institute*

"Ron has a very gentle yet commanding voice which draws the listener in to his tale. He is expert at filling out a generous pause; leaving his listeners hanging on every word patiently waiting while the story slowly unfolds. These pauses also give the listener time to imagine the images, scenes, feelings, thoughts and plot. Generally speaking – time to re-create the story to become as meaningful as possible to themselves." — *Leslie Robbins-Conway, Voyager Storytellers*

"In this world there are some rare individuals who create community wherever they go. Ron has this amazing ability to gather people together and inspire them to share, to create and harmonize." — *Jim Blake, Pippin 1998*

"On April 1, 2008 I had the privilege of participating in a daylong workshop entitled "Telling the Sacred" under Ron's guidance at the Toronto Storytelling Festival. It was an awesome and amazing learning experience. When Ron told his "Mordecai" story, he became Mordecai before one's eyes. When he told "Knots on a Counting Rope" he alternated between speaking as the grandfather and the grandson. As a listener and observer I was drawn into whichever character he portrayed. The stories that Ron told that day touched my heart and soul as, I think, they did with everyone else in the room. Ron gave us a feast of learning and listening, a lot of "food for thought," opportunities to interact and learn from other participants as well as a chance to practise new skills; and; it was all peppered with his gentle humour and acceptance, and perfectly seasoned with his sensitively-told stories. The whole day was a wonderful experience that I talked about for weeks to whomever would listen."

-- *Dianne Chandler : Storyteller: Candlelight and Magic*