This week we paid tribute to one of Canada's foremost folklorists the late Edith Fowke. She was born in Lumsden, Saskatchewan on April 30, 1913 and died in Toronto on March 28th. Edith became interested in social issues at a very early age. It was mainly through listening to stories and songs that the first seeds of a political change was sowed. Edith also knew that for a social democratic political party being born on the prairie, the Co-operative Commonwealth Federation which spoke of pacifism and social equality. (This party became the New Democratic Party in the early 60s) It was through her work as editor of CCP newsletters that she developed an understanding of the nature of the struggle and the people. She married Frank Fowke and moved to Toronto in 1938. After the war Edith was working as a secretary and became interested in folk music from Europe. She was one of the first folk singers, like Surf Ryes. She figured that the CBC should have a folk music radio program so she talked them into it and hosted Folk Song Time for 4 seasons in the 60s.

It was during this time that Edith realised there was very little information or knowledge about traditional singing, and songs, in western Canada, that being Canada west of Quebec. After visiting with Dr. Helen Creighton she felt encouraged enough to venture into the countryside collecting folkloric material. She was the first person to publish an entire folk song book: Folksongs of Canada with Richard Johnson. This was a collection of songs from one coast to the other and became an instant hit. Since then she has published or edited 22 books on folklore.

Her greatest accomplishments were her field recordings (which resulted in records on the Folkways label) and her collection of children's stories, riddles and games. Edith's influence on the Ontario was one of the greatest children's books ever published in Canada. At the time of her death she was working on three books. One was a collection of songs from one coast to the other and became an instant hit. Since then she has published or edited 22 books on folklore.

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MAUREEN REDDEN, River Through The Pines

This Toronto band played the Eastern Square Dance Music that is so popular with the over 60 crowd of rural Ontario. This album was recorded by Edith, which is unusual in that she was mostly interested in words, but realised that music was important. Her greatest influence was Edith to bring in traditional singing workshops and became fast friends. Neither knew the other but visiting in Toronto or they would have certainly connected up.

FAREWELL ROBERTSON, Folksongs of Nova Scotia, Folkways

Folklorist from Nova Scotia, this album was recorded by Edith, who's father Fred was one of Helen Creighton's best sources of Folklorist information. She knew many traditional stories, riddles and games. Edith credits her computer with making her work vastly more productive and a better writer. Her first advice to be a writer is, "Get a good computer and learn to use it."

Upcoming Shows:

May 12: I'm going North: Rick Fielding goes the full 2 hours
May 20: I'll be back and I'll be talking about it
May 27: I'm going North: Rick Fielding goes the full 2 hours
June 17: True North now: Blackie & The Rodeo Kings / The Hellbillies and more.
June 24: Preview of this Summer's Harbourfront Centre with Derek Andrews

Thanks also to Howard Kaplan for alerting us to this.

 Playlist for May 6, 1996

The Great North Wind

(Home of the Porcupine Awards)

416-595-0909

Program Director: Nopa Dean

e-mail: ciut@campuslife.utoronto.ca

home page: http://www.campuslife.utoronto.ca/groups/ciut

CIUT-FM 89.5

University of Toronto Radio Inc.

91 St. George St.

Toronto, Ontario, Canada

M5S 2B8

Blasting at 15,000 Watts to you out there in Oatsbyroh Corners, Willow Grove, Fergus, Scarborough and Stroudt

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Theme:

GRIEVIOUS ANGELS: The Great North Wind

Written by Chuck Angius of Cobalt, Ontario. Editor of Northeastern Ontario's Hisdads Magazine, Maureen悔 guns heard here: Michelle Russell, vocals; Tim Hadley, double bass; Fireman Pete Duffin, drums; and Ron hood Peter Millard on accordion, fiddle, vocals

This week we paid tribute to one of Canada's foremost folklorists the late Edith Fowke. Maureen, who's father Fred was one of Helen Creighton's best sources of folklore. She was watching the Rolling stones on TV when I called. Ian is a member of a young band in Toronto who were students of Edith's. Ann Lederman was another. They often sought out Edith's advice and watch her winces when they showed her what they had done to her songs. But she loved them anyway.

MAUREEN REDDEN, Erin's Green Shore

[Edith collected Redden a version of this song in Ontario]

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The Edith Fowke Memorial Tribute - A Celebration of Edith Fowke's Life and Work

Wednesday, May 15, 1996 - 3 pm

Winters College Performing Hall

York University

4700 Keele Street

Downsview, Ontario

All are more than welcome to attend

Host: Author John Robert Columbo

Singers: Ian Bell, Anne Lederman, Sheldon Posen, Beverlie Robertson, Sharon, Lois and Bram

Storyteller: Lorna Brown

And bringing something pink - Edith's favourite colour

One last story about Edith from Priscilla Galloway: Many younger people have not made the transition into the electronic age. Edith used her computer with making her work vastly more productive and a better writer. Her first advice to be a writer is, "Get a good computer and learn to use it."

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The Highrider Magazine is Published by Brit Griffin & Brian Mills, Canada. P.O. Box 714 Cobalt, Ontario, Canada P0J 1C0. Ph: 705-679-5234. The mag is edited by Grieveous Angels honcho Chuck Angius and published by me. Maureen's home on the northern part of town. It is published in the old general store/butcher, complete with in-store true-to-life mine shaft.

And remember, coming sometime soon, CIUT broadcasts over the net.

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