

314 words, column #21
Java Talk
(for September 13, 2007 to September 19, 2007)

Every Age Is The Best Age

What is Old is New Again!

Now that summer is over, it's time for another season of new beginnings! This week, my focus is on storytelling. If there was more room here, I'd tell you a story—perhaps the one about The Town Mouse and the Country Mouse, that you might have read in a collection of *Aesop's Fables*. However, reading a story—or even having it read to you—is not the kind of storytelling that I am talking about. You need to come and hear, to see the difference. Aesop lived in the 6th century BC and was a teller of animal fables intended for adult audiences. Although he was born in Greece, as a slave, it is believed that one of his masters freed him because he was so delighted by Aesop's wisdom.

Storytelling is an ancient art form, but storytellers and listeners of all ages, new and old, from near and far, will soon be gathering, once again. Anyone can tell a story, but not everyone can tell a story well. Hearing well-told-tales is the best way to learn how to tell them, and it is also a very good way to spend an evening.

The big news is that I will be co-hosting the first Victoria Storytellers' Guild "Stories at Fern" public storytelling gathering of the new season with Amanda MacInnis, who at one month short of being 13 years old, is the Guild's youngest active storyteller. Also, to help start the season right, local elder and internationally-renowned master storyteller, Kate Stevens, hopes to be able to make a rare appearance, in order to tell us one of her wonderful Chinese stories. (For an introduction to Kate Stevens and her stories, please check out the Storytellers of Canada's Storysave Project site at <http://www.storysave.ca/>).

Please join us on Monday, September 17, 2007, from 7:15 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., at 1831 Fern Street. (Adults \$5, Students \$3).

Deidre Hill