

## Arts & Culture Wall of Fame - 2008 Inductees

### Egidio (Ed) Fantinel

Egidio (Ed) was born in Treviso Italy, educated in his native land and Germany in architectural/engineering technician. He came to Canada in 1960, he joined the Niagara District Art Association in 1963 and has been an active member serving as director for many years and president for five years.

During his 44 years in Niagara Falls Ed the artist has received widespread recognition, both in Canada and around the world. In the 60's he was active in the formation of the Niagara Artists Company and his work with this group was exhibited at Niagara College, and Rodman Hall gaining him high praise in the Toronto press.

Ed has exhibited his works of art throughout Ontario, the United States and Europe. He was selected for group exhibition at Canada House in London England, Brussels Belgium, the Canadian Culture Center in Paris France and also for an International Touring Art Exhibition in Dortmund Germany.

Ed is one of the most provocative artists in the city however his mission extends beyond producing art for his own satisfaction. He is passionately involved in creating interesting art in a city, which he feels does not fully recognize its value. As an original founding member of the Arts and Culture Committee, as a member of the Niagara District Art Association and in the press he has worked tirelessly to promote the arts and culture in Niagara Falls.

In 1993 Ed received the Niagara Falls Volunteer Recognition award and in 1998 he received the Barbara Frum award.

### Barbara Frum

Barbara was born in Niagara Falls, New York on September 8, 1937. She grew up in Niagara Falls, Canada. Barbara's father owned Rosberg's Department Store.

Barbara was educated at University of Toronto. After graduation she worked as a radio commentator and magazine writer. She quickly branched out into print writing articles for the Globe and Mail and the Toronto Star and briefly for television but radio was where she became recognized on "As it Happens", a new and innovative newsmagazine show on CBC radio. Barbara's skills as a tough, incisive and well-informed interviewer quickly made the program one of CBC Radio's most popular and enduring programs (it still airs today, in virtually the same format), and she continued to host until 1981.

In 1981 CBC television created the Journal, a newsmagazine series that would follow the National each night at 10:22 p.m, Barbara and Mary Lou Finlay were hired as the show's hosts. Frum became the sole host of the program and interviewed many notable people, including British PM Margaret Thatcher and Nelson Mandela.

Throughout her career Barbara won many prestigious awards including, National Press Club of Canada Award for Outstanding Contribution to Canadian Journalism, and Woman of the Year in the literature arts and education category, the Order of Canada, numerous Gemini Awards and a library is named in her honour.

Barbara died March 26, 1992 of leukemia.

## **Norma Potter**

Norma was born in 1922 in Manchester, England and moved to Canada at a very early age. After her family grew up and moved from home Norma found the time to become interested in visual arts.

In 1966 Norma joined the Niagara District Art Association and for the next 41 years she has been a very active member, she held numerous executive positions including Secretary, Membership Chairman, Art Niagara Exhibition Chairman, Social Convener and Studio Gallery Chairman.

Norma received numerous awards and honorable mentions for her art works in Canada and the United States. In 1989 Niagara University Art Gallery of Niagara Falls New York chose a landscape painting of Norma's for an international touring Art Exhibition in Europe including Dortmund, West Germany, and the United States.

In 1994 her dedication to promote Arts and Culture in Niagara Falls was awarded with a Barbara Frum award from the City of Niagara Falls Arts and Culture Committee.

## **Ruth Redmond**

Born on August 22, 1902 in Holleford, Ontario, Ruth Redmond was a proud United Empire Loyalist descendant. She came to Niagara Falls to teach at Stamford Collegiate in 1926 and lived here until her death in 1999.

Ruth recognized how significant a crossroads the Battle of Lundy's Lane had been in shaping our destiny and identity. She believed passionately that the site should be preserved and never used for commercial purposes. Ruth bought her first battlefield property in 1954. When the various levels of government failed to protect the battlefield lands, she added five more properties over the years. She lovingly transformed them into gardens called "Redmond Heights".

Ruth won many Trillium Awards over the years for the beautiful gardens she created. Wanting to see the lands she preserved from developers kept for future generations, she donated them in their entirety to the City of Niagara Falls in 1996. The Battle Ground Hotel Museum was a part of her gift.

On the bright, sunny morning of Easter Monday 1999, Ruth passed away peacefully at her beloved home atop "Redmond Heights" she was 96 years old. The previous evening, a four part documentary film, War of 1812 had premiered on TV Ontario. Ruth appears in the film's epilogue, speaking wistfully of the death of remembrance for "the boys" who died at Lundy's Lane. Her passing, the next morning, struck a chord across the nation. It was noted nationally in the media, with coverage in the CBC's The National, Mclean's Magazine, and the National Post.

## **Rick Rose**

Rick Rose has been active in the music business for over 25 years, with songs on over 20 CDs, some charted in Canadian Radio's Top 40. He wrote the theme song for the Orion Film's "Rude Awakening," and wrote "Dreaming Out Loud" for Doc Walker, two-time Juno Award Nominees. Rick is featured in three international books, Tales from The Rock And Roll Highway, Spider With The Platinum Hair, and All The Young Dudes.

Rick has shared the stage with Eddie Money, Billy Ray Cyrus, Three Dog Night, and Barbra Mandrell, and has toured Japan, Europe and Canada. He has written songs with respected songwriters such as Desmond Child, Jim Steinman, Paul A. Rothchild, Mick Ronson, Roger Clinton, and Anton Fig. He was a staff songwriter for Sony Music and Warner Tamerlane, and has recorded music for Elektra, Columbia and Attic/Polygram Records.

Rick resisted offers in New York City and Nashville, choosing instead to stay in Niagara Falls. He continues to perform locally and immensely enjoys working with local upcoming artists. He operates the "Niagara Institute Of Music & Arts," participates in charity events, and sits on Niagara Falls' Arts & Culture Committee. Rick is proud to be the producer of two local Arts & Culture Committee CDs, "A Niagara Christmas Tapestry" and "The Spirit Of The Falls," co-produced with Mark Matthews. Honesty and humbleness are wonderful qualities in this truly talented performer!

## **Ian Wallace**

Ian Wallace was born in Niagara Falls in 1950 and lived in Niagara Falls for sixteen years. It was his hometown of Niagara Falls that first recognized his artistic endeavors, which ultimately inspired Ian to pursue a career in visual arts. When Ian was 8 years old, he entered a "drawing contest" sponsored by the Niagara Falls Public Library and won "book prize" in his age category. In Ian's own words, "until that moment, no one had told me I had a special talent".

He graduated from Ontario College of Arts in 1974 he enjoyed instant success at the age of 24, after only a fortnight of writing when he had his first best seller with Angela Wood.

Niagara Falls' influence features in many illustrations from Ian's beautiful picture books. Two of the most distinct and notable examples are Architect of the Moon and The Sparrow's Song. Throughout his career, Ian has visited Niagara Falls regularly to share his literary and artistic talent with children through school visits. Thousands of Niagara Falls children have grown up enriched by the contribution Ian Wallace has made to literature and visual arts.

He is an internationally celebrated author and illustrator. Ian's outstanding achievements comprise a lengthy list. Ian has published twenty books and several have been honored with awards and prizes that greatly outnumber the number of books. Several of his books have been listed in McLean's Magazine Best Books of the Year and he has even been nominated for the Hans Christian Anderson Award, the most prestigious international award for children's illustrator.