



Elinor Benjamin was named this year's honouree for the March Hare.

— Star Photo by Geraldine Brophy

EVENTS

March 7

- 1:30 p.m. Launch of the poetry anthology *The Echoing Years* at Sir Wilfred Grenfell College
- 4:30 p.m. Stan Dragland's new book launch at the Tudor Room at the Glynmill Inn
- 8 p.m. Friday evening show at Blomidon Golf and Country Club

March 8

- 1 p.m. The Mad Hatters Tea Party at

the Corner Brook Arts and Culture Centre

- 3 p.m. Movie viewing of *To Dublin With Love* at the Corner Brook Arts and Culture Centre
- 8 p.m. Pittman's Fancy at the Arts and Culture Centre
- 11 p.m. Session at King Henry's Pub

March 9

- 2 p.m. Sunday Soiree at King Henry's Pub

Storyteller named honouree

By CORY HURLEY

STAR STAFF WRITER

CORNER BROOK Local storyteller Elinor Benjamin has been named honouree for March Hare 2008.

The producer and performer behind the children's event Mad Hatter's Tea Party is the 12th honouree since David (Smokey) Elliott in 1995. It recognizes somebody for his or her artistry and contribution to the March Hare over a period of years.

"She's a storyteller, storytelling is her art, and we are just recognizing that," Rex Brown, event organizer, said. "She is the essence, the heart and soul of the Mad Hatter's Tea Party, and has been since its inception in the mid-'90s."

Brown said Benjamin enables the Hare to reach out to the younger generation and has established the Tea Party as an event that is anticipated annually.

Benjamin said she was surprised to be named so, given the event is a small component on a Saturday afternoon.

"It is nice to have it recognized because, personally, I think sharing culture with children at an early age is just about the most important thing you do," she said.

The storytelling event has also been backed by the likes of dancing, music and theatre over the years.

She is more than happy to be a part of the Hare.

"It is a great time," she said. "You really feel good when you go to it, and it is not just the soup."

Also, Brown said Michael Walsh of Waterford, Ireland has been named Friend of the March Hare. The bus driver/host during the tour of Ireland last year is the sixth person awarded and the first from outside of the province.

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