

In Memory of
Ruth Kippax Stedman
November 1919 – July 2006
Late Honorary Patron of the
Brant Taletellers Guild

Ruth K. Stedman was born in Brantford on November 8, 1919. She was the second of the four daughters of Samuel Stedman and Jessie Cockshutt Kippax.

After graduating from Brantford Collegiate Institute, Ruth attended the University of Toronto, where she earned a BA at Trinity College and a Bachelor of Library Science degree from the School of Library Science. Ruth specialized as a children's librarian. Her supervisor was Lillian H. Smith, the first trained children's librarian in the British Empire. Ruth was the first children's librarian to be chief librarian of a branch library in Toronto.

Ruth enjoyed telling stories to children in libraries and her love of storytelling continued after her retirement in 1970. She befriended storytellers and was a generous supporter of both the Toronto and Brantford Festivals of Storytelling. Well into her eighties, Ruth remembered and enjoyed telling some of the stories that she had told to children many years earlier. In March of 2006, the Guild presented a storytelling program in Ruth's honour at her retirement home, Charlotte Villa. Ruth entertained residents and Guild members by telling one of her favourite stories, about three dogs that help a boy overcome a wicked witch.

Ruth honoured the Guild by agreeing to become its honorary patron. But more than this, she was our friend, always ready to give her encouragement and wise advice. We will miss her.