

# The Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia

## Newsletter

Volume 19

Summer 2013

### New John Scott Film

Film-maker John Scott is currently working on his fourth short film based on an Elizabeth Bishop poem.

Page 2



### Banner for Great Village

A day of celebration and the unveiling of the new banner for Great Village took place on May 18, 2013.

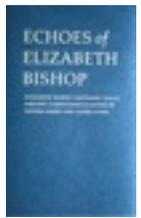
Page 3



### Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop

Now available for sale, a beautiful little book. Order your copy today!

Page 4



## Editorial

Even after two years, since the launch of the Elizabeth Bishop Centenary in February 2011, the EBSNS continues to hear from people who took part in the many activities of that year about how memorable EB100 was. Incredible music, wonderful visual art, amazing literary events (readings, talks, conferences) and exciting concerts made a deep impression and renewed interest in Elizabeth Bishop's life and art, and brought many new readers to her work. From the start, the EBSNS was committed to creating legacy projects, tangible souvenirs of the good things that happened in 2011.

Three legacy projects emerged through discussion and action: *Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop*, a collection of the winners of the EB100 Writing Competition; "Images of My Village," a virtual exhibition and permanent banner; and the Elizabeth Bishop Legacy Recording, comprised of settings of Bishop poems by Canadian composers. You will find more details about each of these projects in this newsletter.

The Elizabeth Bishop Centenary was a huge endeavour for the EBSNS, which is a volunteer organization. None of the events in 2011, or the EB100 legacy projects, would have been possible without the time, energy and resource invested by the EBSNS Board and membership. It is not possible to thank everyone individually, but we hope all those who helped know how deeply appreciated their efforts are. The centenary allowed the EBSNS to connect with and deepen ties with other community groups and it is the same with the EB100 legacy projects. These connections make the EBSNS stronger. The EBSNS came out of 2011 with financial resources to spare (which was a huge accomplishment). The funding that was received from individuals, community organizations and businesses, and three levels of government was amazing. The EBSNS is grateful for this financial support. The resources that remained at the end of 2011

went directly towards the EB100 legacy projects, endeavours which, we hope, carry on the creative, expressive, vibrant activities of that year, endeavours which we hope honour Elizabeth Bishop's own artistic legacy and connection to Great Village, N.S.

We are not quite sure where the EBSNS will go from here, but we will let you know about its future projects (and also tell you about Bishop projects happening elsewhere).

The Editors

## Elizabeth Bishop Legacy Recording



We are excited to report that the Elizabeth Bishop Legacy Recording is progressing well and the hope is that this beautiful music (settings of Bishop poems by Canadian composers Emily Doolittle, Christos Hatzis, Alasdair MacLean and John Plant) will be launched early in the fall. We will be announcing these plans as soon as they are finalized.

This EB100 legacy project has been spearheaded by renowned soprano Suzie LeBlanc ([www.suzieleblanc.com](http://www.suzieleblanc.com)), the Honorary Patron of the EBSNS. The EBSNS is thrilled to be a partner with her in this exciting endeavour. The crowd-source fund-raising campaign, which took place during the summer and fall of 2012, raised over \$17,000, which was augmented by a \$19,000

grant from the Canada Council, and by Suzie's own generous contribution.



"Walking With EB"

In addition to the cd of glorious music, there is a plan to offer on dvd the documentary "Walking With EB," created by visual artist and film-maker Linda Rae Dornan of Sackville, N.B. This film documents Suzie and Linda's Newfoundland trip in 2008, retracing Elizabeth Bishop and Evelyn Huntington's own Newfoundland walking tour taken in 1932. Linda conducted a crowd-source fund-raising campaign during the spring of 2013. You can find out more about it at: <http://www.indiegogo.com/projects/walking-with-eb?c=home>

**The EBSNS was formed in 1994 to celebrate the life and work of the poet Elizabeth Bishop. The society seeks through its various activities and projects to promote the appreciation and study of Elizabeth Bishop as a Nova Scotia writer. The EBSNS publishes an annual newsletter and holds its AGM in Great Village in June of each year. For more information about the EBSNS and about membership, see our website: [www.elizabethbishopsns.org](http://www.elizabethbishopsns.org). You can also find more information about Elizabeth Bishop on the EBSNS blog: [www.elizabethbishopcentenary.blogspot.ca](http://www.elizabethbishopcentenary.blogspot.ca)**



## Interview with April Sharpe

by Laurie Gunn

April Sharpe is a grade 5 student at West Colchester Consolidated School in Bass River and also the youngest child of EBSNS board member Patti Sharpe. She is the winner of the "Images of My Village" permanent banner competition.

April said she first heard of Elizabeth Bishop in 2011 when she was asked to be the young Elizabeth for the centenary celebrations in Great Village. She remembers going to school and asking her principal if she knew anything about Elizabeth Bishop and that's when she was introduced to the poem "Manners," which she enjoyed very much. She was also pleased that her classmates clapped when they found out she was going to be young EB. She enjoyed wearing a period costume and playing games that the young Elizabeth might have played during the celebrations in August of 2011.

April loves to be creative. She not only enjoys drawing, painting and working with clay, she also likes to sew. She thought that the "Images of My Village" project was a fun project and she chose to draw St. James United Church because it feels like the centre of the village and she enjoys seeing it every day on her way to school. Her artist statement reads: "St. James United, in the middle of Great Village, is the church I go to every Sunday."

April hopes that the EBSNS will continue to think of projects that will encourage creativity and help others to understand who Elizabeth Bishop is and why she is an important part of this area. She also suggested that the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia might consider sponsoring a student to take part in an ongoing, worthwhile, creative project.



## Elizabeth Bishop Films



"In the Waiting Room" (John Scott)

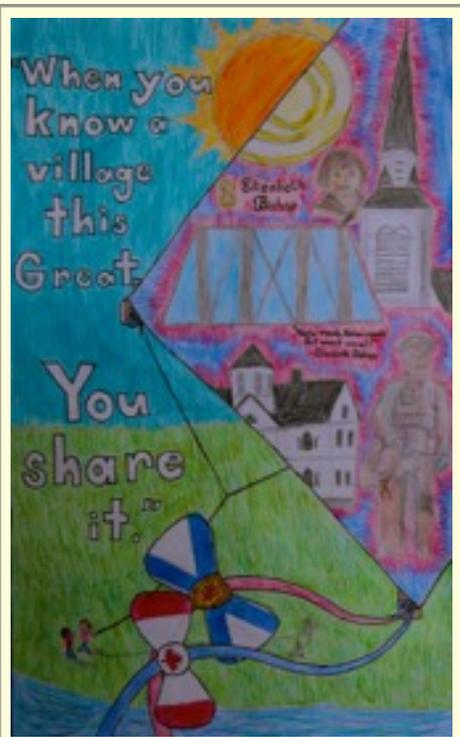
Film-maker John Scott is currently working on his fourth short film based on an Elizabeth Bishop poem. He has already created films based on "Sandpiper," "One Art," and "First Death in Nova Scotia." This work has been well-received and shown in film festivals around the world. In September 2012 "First Death in Nova Scotia" was screened at the Atlantic Film Festival. His current short film is based on Bishop's iconic "In the Waiting Room." He did some shooting for this film in Halifax in January 2013. This work is in advance of a full documentary about Bishop, which is in the planning stages. You can find out more about John Scott's work at his production company's website: [www.magpieproductions.com](http://www.magpieproductions.com)



"Reaching for the Moon" (Flores Rares)

In February 2013, Bruno Barreto's film *Reaching for the Moon*, a feature film (biopic) about the relationship between Elizabeth Bishop and Lota de Macedo Soares, premiered at the Brazilian Film Festival. It was premiered in the U.S., in New York City, in April at the Tribeca Film Festival. The reviews have been generally positive and if you want to see glimpses of it, there are several short scenes running on YouTube. The Toronto Film Festival and the Atlantic Film Festival programming people are aware of the film and hopefully it will be brought to Canada by one or both of these festivals. According to a review in *Variety* by Guy Lodge, the film gives scant attention to the "north," but, even so, audiences, especially Bishop fans, in North America will be interested to see the Brazilian take on this complex relationship, which had such a profound affect on both women. The film is based on Carmen Oliveira's novelistic biography *Flores Rares e Banalissimas: A história de Lota de Macedo Soares e Elizabeth Bishop* (translated by Neil Besner, *Rare and Commonplace Flowers: The Story of Elizabeth Bishop and Lota de Macedo Soares*). If the film comes to the Atlantic Film Festival, we'll let you know.

## An EBSNS Postcard



Bethany MacKinnon, a grade seven student at WCCS, took part in the "Images of My Village" permanent banner competition. Although her entry did not work as a banner because of all the detail, the members of EBSNS decided (with Bethany's permission) that it would make a wonderful postcard.

These delightful postcards are for sale at Lowland Gardens in Great Village at \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00 or contact Laurie Gunn at [lauriegunn@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:lauriegunn@ns.sympatico.ca)

Don't forget to visit [www.imagesofmyvillage.com](http://www.imagesofmyvillage.com) to see all the creative efforts of the students of Colchester County.



## Celebration of Creativity Day in Great Village

On Saturday, 18 May 2013, the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia hosted a "Celebration of Creativity Day" at the Great Village School gymnasium. The day began with workshops for Grades 3-6 and Grades 7-9 with award-winning illustrators and authors Susan Tooke and Richard Rudnicki. Afternoon festivities included the unveiling of a permanent banner for Great Village with artwork done by April Sharpe, a young artist from Great Village, and the launch of "Images of My Village," a virtual website of art work by 201 young people in Colchester County. ([www.imagesofmyvillage.com](http://www.imagesofmyvillage.com))

After celebratory cake and ice cream, Colchester County fitness instructor Celeste Chesal got everyone dancing with "Music and Motion." There was also face painting with Halifax writer and artist Susan Kerslake. Susan Tooke and Richard Rudnicki were in attendance for the whole event and signed copies of their books, which were for sale.

**Banner and Virtual Exhibition background:** In the fall of 2012, the EBSNS requested all students in Colchester County to create and submit an "Image of My Village" to be part of a virtual exhibition. Approximately 200 images were submitted. The EBSNS, in partnership with two media arts students at the Nova Scotia Community College, Truro Campus, through their Capstone programme, created a virtual exhibition of all submissions ([www.imagesofmyvillage.com](http://www.imagesofmyvillage.com)). The EBSNS assembled a panel of judges from the

community to select one image, from a young person directly connected to Great Village, to be a permanent banner for Great Village.

"Images of My Village" banner and virtual exhibition is an Elizabeth Bishop Centenary Legacy project.

You can find out more information about this and other EBSNS projects and activities at: [www.elizabethbishopns.org](http://www.elizabethbishopns.org) or at [www.elizabethbishopcentenary.blogspot.ca](http://www.elizabethbishopcentenary.blogspot.ca)



Susan Kerslake face painter extraordinaire working her magic.



Artist, April Sharpe receiving the banner from Karen Casey, MLA.



Susan Tooke's workshop for Grades 3-6.



Richard Rudnicki's workshop for Grades 7-9.



Board members enjoying cake with Richard Rudnicki and Susan Kerslake.



Our beautiful cake donated by Masstown Market.



Web masters Riley MacDonald and Nathan McDonald.

## ***ECHOES OF ELIZABETH BISHOP NOW AVAILABLE!***

The EBSNS is excited to announce the publication of *Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop: Elizabeth Bishop Centenary (2011) Writing Competition*. Designed and printed by the award-winning Gaspereau Press of Nova Scotia, this elegant volume of writing and images, created during the Elizabeth Bishop Centenary, is a must for your library and makes a perfect Christmas gift!

*Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop* is an Elizabeth Bishop Centenary Legacy project.

*Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop* is available primarily through the EBSNS. You can order online (PayPal) on the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia website: [www.elizabethbishopns.org](http://www.elizabethbishopns.org).

If you want to pay by cheque, write to the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia, P.O. Box 138, Great Village, Nova Scotia, B0M 1L0. Copies will also be for sale at Bookmark, Spring Garden Road, Halifax, N.S. If you have any questions, contact the co-editors Sandra Barry ([slbarry@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:slbarry@ns.sympatico.ca)) or Laurie Gunn ([lauriegunn@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:lauriegunn@ns.sympatico.ca)).

***Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop* ISBN 978-0-9881083-0-1**

**\$15.00, plus \$5.00 postage/handling Canadian; \$10.00 postage/handling U.S./International**

### ***Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop* background:**

As part of the year-long celebrations marking Elizabeth Bishop's 100th birthday in 2011, the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia sponsored a writing competition (with assistance from Nova Scotia Communities, Culture and Heritage) for writers of all ages. Submissions came in five categories (Grades Primary to Six, Grades Seven to Nine, Grades Ten to Twelve, Post-Secondary and Adult). The competition received 106 entries and 15 writers were awarded prizes. Many of these writers are from Nova Scotia, but there are also writers from other parts of Canada, the United States and as far away as Australia. Winners received their awards at the Elizabeth Bishop Centenary Arts Festival in Great Village, 19-21 August 2011.

The EBSNS launched *Echoes of Elizabeth: Elizabeth Bishop Centenary (2011) Writing Competition* on 22 June 2013. It contains the winning entries of the competition, as well as six colour images: photographs and paintings, which were part of two Elizabeth Bishop Centenary visual art exhibitions: Truro Art Society's "Paint Great Village" exhibition held in Truro and Great Village, July–August 2011; and ViewPoint Gallery's "One Art" photographic exhibition held in Halifax, September 2011.

## **EBSNS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**&**

### **BOOK LAUNCH**

Great Village Legion, Great Village, N.S.

**Saturday, 22 June 2013**

**AGM 1:00 to 1:30 p.m.**

**Book Launch: 2:00 p.m.**

### **LAUNCH OF: *Echoes of Elizabeth Bishop: Elizabeth Bishop Centenary (2011) Writing Competition***

Meet some of the contributors (writers and artists).

Copies will be for sale – get your copy signed!

Light refreshments

