
THE ELIZABETH BISHOP SOCIETY OF NOVA SCOTIA NEWSLETTER

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 Scotian writer. The EBSNS publishes an annual newsletter and holds its AGM in Great Village in June of each year. For more information about EBSNS and about membership, visit our website <http://www.elizabethbishopns.org>. You can also find more information about Elizabeth Bishop on the EBSNS blog www.elizabethbishopcentenary.blogspot.com. You can also visit our Facebook page "The Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia" <https://www.facebook.com/EBSofNS>



The Elizabeth Bishop Festival Market

Editorial

After a long winter's nap, the EBSNS is waking to spring and gearing up for the next event, the Annual General Meeting on 18 June. More information about this gathering is found in these pages. Also, the society wants to remind members about our newest offering, "The Elizabeth Bishop Fridge Magnet." Check out the description of that delightful fund-raiser. We also have expanded our social media presence, and an update about what it entails is also included in the newsletter. The memories of last year's big event, "The Elizabeth Bishop Festival," on 8 August 2015, are still vivid. The main feature of the newsletter is a recollection of that day in words and images. This year will be relatively quiet for the EBSNS, no major undertakings; but that only means we are biding our time and gathering our resources. We will let you know what the next project will be.



Follow the road to Great Village on 18 June, for the EBSNS Annual Meeting!

On a warm August morning in 2015, Great Village began to stir early. Welcoming signs were posted, tents were set up on the church lawn, breakfast was prepared in the café kitchen, vendors laid out their wares in the legion, a blacksmith set up his forge in the yard of the Elizabeth Bishop House, villagers in period costume began to stroll around, a brightly coloured wagon with two beautiful horses appeared. And as the morning unfolded, over thirty artists and artisans arrived to meet with and perform for art lovers from across the province, Canada and even the US. The Elizabeth Bishop Festival, 2015, was underway. There was something for everyone. Events went from morning to night.



To list the names of all the artists and artisans would take a great deal of space, and one runs the of risk of forgetting someone. You can see photos of the festival artists and artisans if you go to the EBSNS website and click on the Publications page, scroll down to find the link for the 2015 Newsletter. The EBSNS extends a heartfelt thank you to all the writers, painters, poets, storytellers, musicians and crafters who gathered to share their work and their love of the arts. All of the artists and artisans had some kind of connection with Elizabeth Bishop, but the purpose of the festival was to celebrate the incredible artistic diversity and excellence in Nova Scotia.



Breakfast was stand-up comedy. Lunch was Brazilian guitar and en plein air painting. The afternoon was filled with lively conversations with writers and painters. The evening was glorious world music with four extraordinary musicians. Visual art was everywhere: in the legion, in the café and especially in the EB House where ghostly images of Elizabeth Bishop haunted her childhood home, as songs inspired by “herstory” were sung. The horses clip-clopped slowly back and forth showing eager riders, tucked in the colourful wagon, the sights of the village. There

was tasty food and refreshing drink all day at the café. In the calm sanctuary of St. James Church, a storyteller kept a hushed audience spellbound and, later, poets read their electric poems. The young ones, and some not so young, got their faces painted. And the blacksmith made rings out of horseshoe nails. In the legion, a dozen artisans sold their wares — from pots to photographs, from chocolates to wooden spoons, from honey to quilts, from hooked rugs to books. And so much more.



As with all such events, the festival could not have happened without a troop of generous volunteers, who welcomed one and all with big smiles and dispensed information; who stood guard to direct traffic on the busy road; who transported and set up the necessary equipment, and then took it down; who managed the social media; who supervised the venues and helped with whatever needed to be done in the moment; who hosted the musicians overnight because they had come from such a distance. And so much more. The EBSNS extends another hearty thank you to the folks from Great Village and beyond who embraced the festival and helped in countless ways.

The festival received financial support from The Charles and Mary MacLennan Foundation, the Municipality of Colchester County, the Nova Scotia Department of Communities, Culture and Heritage, and from a number of private donors. These funds were almost exclusively used to support the artists who attended. Again, the EBSNS is profoundly grateful for their generosity.



The EBSNS hopes that the dozens and dozens of people who attended the festival went away feeling uplifted, enlightened and stirred to creativity. Nova Scotia is the home of a tremendous artistic practice and cultural heritage. It was great fun for the society to bring together so many people to share and learn and to experience some of this bounty.



Natalia Povalyaeva

Last fall, the Belarussian artist Natalia Povalyaeva gave the EBSNS one of her enchanting images of Elizabeth Bishop to use as it saw fit to help raise money for the society. After some discussion, the EBSNS decided to do a fridge magnet. You can order the magnet by going to the “Gift Shop” page of the EBSNS website. The society extends heartfelt thanks to Natalia for her generous gift.

Natalia Povalyaeva (b. 1971) is a writer, graphic artist, book illustrator, and a professor of modern and contemporary English Literature at Belarussian State University, Minsk, Belarus. She has written numerous publications on twentieth-century English women’s prose including, *Polyphonic prose of Virginia Woolf* (2003) and *Jeanette Winterson, or Rebirth of Lying* (2006). She also translated the novel *Lighthousekeeping* (2006) and several short stories by Jeanette Winterson into Russian. Most recently, she completed a book on Victorian Music Hall as a setting and personage in Neo-Victorian fiction (2014).

Natalia has been drawing since the age of two. She studied with Belarussian artist Vasily Sumarev and has taken courses in sculpture and art history. Her pictures have been sold in many countries, including the USA, France, Germany, Norway, Finland and Italy. She does a lot of book illustrations and cover designs (mostly for Russian publishing houses) and graphic art in mixed media. Among her works are illustrations for a three-part bestseller “Porebrik iz bordurnogo kamnya” (“Pavement border made of curb stone” — a comic book on Moscow-St.Petersburg cultural differences — by Russian writer Olga Lucas).

Social Media Update

The EBSNS is excited to announce that our new website, which was revamped last year, has been updated. For the first time, the back issues of the EBSNS Newsletter are now available digitally. Go to the “Publications” page and you will find nearly all the back issues in pdf form. We hope to fill the few gaps very soon. The EBSNS Newsletter has appeared every year since 1994, and contains a wealth of information about all things EB and NS. We are excited to make this impressive resource available to the world. We will not post the current year’s newsletter until the following year. You can visit it the website at: www.elizabethbishopns.org.

The bigger announcement is that the EBSNS has also expanded its social media presence. The EB100 blog (www.elizabethbishopcentenary.blogspot.ca) is still active, but now the society has its own Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/EBSofNS>). The society set up a Facebook page for The Elizabeth Bishop Festival 2015, and found it so helpful in spreading the word about that event, it was decided the society itself needed to join Facebook. We hope you will take time to check it out and “like” the site.

Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia 2016 AGM

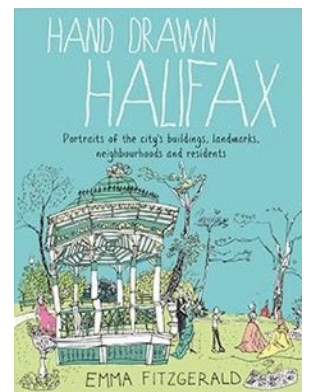
On **Saturday, 18 June 2016, at 1:30 p.m.**,
 the
EBSNS will hold its Annual General Meeting
 at the
“In the Village” Café
 in
St. James Church, Great Village, N.S.
 This event is open to the public.
Everyone is welcome.
The café will provide light refreshments.

The society is excited to announce that our guest speaker for the afternoon is artist Emma FitzGerald. Her presentation is entitled, “Walking with Bishop: Emma FitzGerald wanders to the homes of Elizabeth Bishop.” Last year, Emma did an artist residency at Largo das Arte, a contemporary art centre in downtown Rio de Janeiro. Her project while there was to walk in Bishop’s footsteps and visit her houses.



Emma FitzGerald was born to Irish parents in Lesotho, a small mountainous kingdom in Southern Africa. She moved to Canada at a young age and spent most of her childhood in Vancouver, BC. These early travels have instilled in her a keen interest in people and places. These days, she calls Halifax home.

Her art practice is characterised by on-site drawing, social practice, and a sense of the poetic. She has exhibited widely and most recently attended the Santa Fe Art Institute’s thematic residency in New Mexico. She is the author of *Hand Drawn Halifax*, a best-selling book based on her chosen home in Nova Scotia. *The Globe & Mail* describes it as “part journal, part sketchbook, *Hand Drawn Halifax* is a love letter to Atlantic Canada’s largest city.”



Join us to hear the most recent news and activities of the society, and experience Brazil through the eyes of a gifted and expressive visual artist.