

President's Report - 2019 EBSNS AGM

Twenty five years is a milestone in human years; a twenty-fifth birthday or anniversary is always cause for celebration and so it is that we have gathered here today to celebrate twenty five wonderful years of existence for the Elizabeth Bishop Society of NS. The society was formally registered pursuant to the Societies Act of Nova Scotia in the spring of 1994 and has as its mandate to celebrate the life and work of the poet Elizabeth Bishop and to seek through its various activities to reclaim Elizabeth Bishop as a Nova Scotia writer, thus enriching our literary and cultural heritage. I believe it has succeeded in what it set out to do a quarter of a century ago. Bishop has been reclaimed and honoured and celebrated through the ongoing efforts of this small, but dedicated group of people. In fact a number of those individuals who were involved in establishing the EBSNS in 1994 are with us today - Meredith Layton, Lois Bray, Sandra Barry and Gus and June Chisholm.

It has been a very full 25 years. There have been lectures, publications, a writing competition, festivals, board meetings, AGMs, boat races, a bus tour, a centenary and a pergola to name just a few of the moments and monuments of those years.. Throughout it all there has been a connection with Great Village and the white house across the road that Bishop called home for a short, but meaningful period, and to which she returned throughout her life. Due to the hard work and dedication of Laurie Gunn and the Preservation Society the Elizabeth Bishop house continues to thrive and provide retreat space for writers and artists.

Today we join together with our special guests Rita Wilson, Penny Lighthall, Harry Thurston and Margo Wheaton to add another moment and memory to the EBSNS timeline. It has been an honour and a privilege to be part of this wonderful organisation and to count as friends the fine and dedicated people who are involved with it. I will continue to be a board member, but at this time I will draw to a close my term as president and welcome the incoming president of the EBSNS - Pat Townsend.