

HERITAGE AWARDS

Jon Keddy Recognized for "The Ginger House" Renovations



Sarah Kinsman, vice chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee for the Town of Truro, presented the Built Heritage Award to Jon Keddy. (Submitted)

The Town of Truro presented a built heritage award to Jon Keddy to recognize the extensive interior renovations and exterior treatment to "The Ginger House" on Prince Street. The solar heating system, renewed landscaping, new painting and lighting

upgrades have been accomplished and the exterior look of the house has retained its original charm and style. Sarah Kinsman, vice chair of the Heritage Advisory Committee for the Town of Truro, presented the Built Heritage Award.

Historical Society Recognizes Captain James Wilbur Johnston



Mary Osborne (left), a relative of Capt. James Johnston accepts the award from Nan Harvey, Archivist. (Submitted)

On February 28th a heritage award was presented by the Colchester Historical Society, posthumously, to Captain James Wilbur Johnston from Great Village who died in 1945. Several years prior to that he wrote an account of his life on the seas, as he described it, an attempt "to try to skim over a few of the 'high spots' of an earlier period of my life." The importance of the stories in High Spots is not just that they reveal the life of Captain Johnston, but that they provide insight into the daily life and work at sea, the adventures and attitudes of the hundreds of men like him, from Colchester County—and all of Nova Scotia—who sailed the seas and traveled the world in the age of sail. Nan Harvey, Archivist, made the presentation to Mary Osborne a relative of Capt. James Johnston.

For the first time in the more than 30 years of presenting heritage awards, the Colchester Historical Society presented an award post humously. The award on was accepted by Mary Osborne, a relative of Captain James Wilbur Johnston who died in 1945. Several years prior to his death he wrote an account of his life on the seas, as he described it, an attempt "to try to skim over a few of the 'high spots' of an earlier period of my life."

Melanie Ballard, Chair of the Heritage Committee of the Colchester Historical Society read the following citation prior to Nan Harvey, Archivist, making the presentation. In the first few pages of High Spots: The Seagoing Memoirs of Captain James

Wilbur Johnston, we learn that he wrote it in response to the requests of his children to hear about his early life. He modestly writes that "as few souls save your trusty selves, Laura and Tom and Grier, are apt ever to clap eyes on these pages, I intend not to strain after literary effect nor to pay much attention to grammar nor to spelling - nor to punctuation". However, after reading High Spots, it is clear that Captain Johnston is a skillful story teller, who used language in unique and picturesque ways.

It was through the efforts, in particular, of Dick Akerman, another son of Great Village and amateur historian, that the manuscript was first discovered, and eventually brought to publication. He spoke about the manuscript at a meeting of the Great Village Historical Society which was reported in the Shoreline Journal. From there, Captain Johnston's granddaughter, living in Arizona, got in contact with Mr. Akerman, and provided much information on her grandfather. Captain Johnston's memoirs were meant for his family, but to our great fortune, his family allowed the publication of his manuscript for all of us to enjoy.

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Sandra Barry Recognized for "Elizabeth Bishop: Nova Scotia's Homemade Poet"



Sandra Barry of Great Village accepts the award from Museum Curator Aidan Norton. (Submitted)

A Heritage Award was presented by the Colchester Historical Society to Sandra Barry of Great Village for her book Elizabeth Bishop: Nova Scotia's Homemade Poet.

This book is a brief biography of Elizabeth Bishop, describing her ancestry, immediate family and childhood, as well as the principal sites of home: Great Village, Nova Scotia and Revere, Massachusetts. It looks at her young adulthood and her adult travels. It also looks at the way Bishop is seen today and why interest in her life and art continues to grow. Curator Aidan Norton presented the award.

Melanie Ballard, Chair of the Heritage Committee of the Colchester Historical Society provided a background for the award.

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Elizabeth Bishop is remembered as a sophisticated, worldly poet, yet she herself has attributed her childhood experiences in Great Village to shaping her life and art. Miss Barry writes that "Elizabeth's artistic abilities and achievement were first and foremost a result of what late in life she called a homemade aesthetic. Her life and art were initially and enduringly shaped by the environment of her childhood home, Great Village, Nova Scotia, Canada, and by what she called, early in her career, "a family with pets": her extended maternal family, the Bulmer-Hutchinsons."

Throughout this book, there are many photos of the members of this family, as well as other Great Village residents, buildings and sights. Side bars on each page add bits of history and interesting highlights to the biography. Miss Barry clearly makes a strong argument for us to claim Elizabeth Bishop as a daughter of Colchester, for though she was not born here, and did not live her whole life here, the early influence of her mother's family made a strong impact on Elizabeth Bishop for life.

Lions Club Holds Annual Speak Out Competition



Shown in the above photograph are (L-R) King Lion Richard Stanley (Amherst Lions), Morgan Brine (3rd), Sarah Colpitts (1st) Destiny Hoeg (2nd), David Towns (Parrsboro Lions) and Zone Competition Chairman Rubin Millard. (Submitted)

By David Townes

The Lions Club annual Speak Out Competition was held at the Zone level in Amherst on Saturday, March 16th. The Speak Out competition is an annual public speaking competition hosted by local Lions Clubs in which young people of high school age are encouraged to develop the skill of being able to speak in public.

As it is well known that most adults are terrified of speaking in front of a group at any time, the Lions firmly believe that permitting young people the opportunity to present their ideas in a public form serves several purposes.

First it empowers them to think independently and develop their own opinions on subject of interest to themselves. Second it gives them the opportunity to present these opinions to a wider audience than their school and classmates. Third it develops their character in that they embrace a skill which will serve them later in life; the ability to speak to an audience without fear. Giving

young people these resources is an important consideration for the Lions Clubs of Canada.

The students first speak at a 'club' level in their own community for small cash prizes. Those selected then move on to a Zone level, competing against young speakers representing other Lions clubs in their particular 'zone'.

Two young women from the Parrsboro community represented the Parrsboro Lions Club at the Zone Competition held in Amherst. The winner of this level of competition will then move on to Sydney at the end of April to compete against the winners of other Zone competitions for further cash awards. The Lions Clubs also pay the student's expenses to go to the provincial competition.

The competition this past Saturday resulted in Sarah Colpitts, Parrsboro placing first, Destiny Hoeg, Southampton placing second and Morgan Brine, Joggins third. Sarah will now move on to the Sydney competition at the end of April.

Story Ideas?
Deadline for the May issue of
The Shoreline Journal is April 23
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