



Bishop's 100th Anniversary Celebrations

AUGUST 19-21

“ For information, times and locations visit:
www.elizabethbishopns.org,
 or email
ebfestival2011@gmail.com ”

Elizabeth Bishop was a Pulitzer Prize-winning writer who, although born in the US, always considered Great Village, Nova Scotia, her home. This year, the 100th anniversary of her birth, there are celebrations around the world and across Nova Scotia. For the past two years, a small group of volunteers from the Elizabeth Bishop Society of Nova Scotia has been hard at work planning a spectacular three-day festival that will highlight our shore and our communities. It is being held this summer on August 19th, 20th and 21st in Great Village, Colchester County.

At the start of the summer season, vibrant Elizabeth Bishop centenary banners and colourful flower baskets will be placed on poles in the communities from Five Islands to Masstown. A trip down our shore is always a beautiful journey, and this summer the area will look festive and inviting for residents and visitors alike as they partake in the many exciting events and intriguing activities planned for the Elizabeth Bishop Arts Festival in August.

On Friday evening, August 19th, noted actor Lenore Zann will deliver a dramatic reading from a work by Donna Smith, and songstress Rosalee Peppard will present two sets of original musical compositions.

Raylene Rankin, Cindy Church and Susan Crowe, each a renowned songwriter

and singer in her own right, will join voices in concert at Saint James United Church on the Saturday evening, August 20th. Sunday evening will feature a musical presentation by Musique Royale, featuring soprano Suzie LeBlanc and The tempest Baroque Ensemble. All performances are at 7:30 pm in Saint James United Church, Great Village, with special pricing for those attending all three evenings.

Respected Canadian writers Anne Simpson, Joan Clark, Michael Crummey, Sheree Fitch, Don MacKay, and Sandra Barry will be in to Great Village to share readings and conduct interviews on Saturday and Sunday afternoons. There will be writing workshops for adults, and one for children, on Saturday morning, in the historic houses of Great Village. The book launch of the novel 'Great Village' by Mary Rose Donnelly will take place on Friday afternoon. Art exhibits and the screening of short films from EB Projected will be open for public viewing. Most events are free of charge, and on a first come, first served basis, with the exception of the evening concerts and the writing workshops, which are \$20 each, per participant.

Sunday morning, August 21 will see area churches participate in a special 10:30 am Community Church Service, set in the year 1911. Attendees are encouraged to wear hats



Photo of Elizabeth Bishop in 1954.

or vintage clothing, and to linger in the Village for the old-fashioned Blueberry Tea, to follow at 11:30, featuring a performance by Rosalee Peppard.

Individuals of all ages and groups within the area community groups are invited to join in the fun of in a lively "Board to Boat Contest" in the Village. Each team of four will have a time period of two and a half hours craft their cardboard boat. Duct tape and cardboard will be provided for construction of the vessels; each team will be responsible for bringing their own life jackets. Once the boats have been completed, participants will gather in Great Village for the official judging of the most attractive/innovative boat. This will be followed by a walking parade of boats to a local pond for the boat races, each with a person aboard. There will be many wonderful prizes, so even if your team loses the competition, you could win a prize for most spectacular sinking! Why not issue a challenge to another group to design, build and float the finest cardboard boat in the Village!

The Bass River Heritage Society will be holding their Heritage Day on August 20th. There are plans for a blacksmith jamboree next to the Bass River Museum to celebrate the importance of Elizabeth Bishop's Mate Fisher, who was featured in her writings.

The Elizabeth Bishop Arts Festival weekend festivities include guided walking tours of the Great Village, tours of the Elizabeth Bishop house, and old-fashioned horse and wagon rides within the Village. Amazing food can be found at the expanded Great Village Market on the Saturday morning, and meals for visitors will be available at many of the restaurants between Masstown and Five Islands. Engage and delight in the festivities within the Elizabeth Bishop Arts Festival in Great Village, August 19 - 21.

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Elizabeth Bishop Biography

Elizabeth Bishop was born in Worcester, MA, on 8 February 1911, the only child of William Bishop and Gertrude Bulmer. Due to the early death of her father and the subsequent grief-induced mental illness of her mother, who was hospitalized from 1916 to her death in 1934, Bishop spent her early childhood with her maternal grandparents, William and Elizabeth Bulmer, in Great Village.

In 1918, she lived briefly with her paternal grandparents in Worcester, Massachusetts, then during the 1920s with a maternal aunt and uncle in Revere, MA, making yearly visits to Nova Scotia.

Through her adult life, Bishop traveled widely, visiting places as exotic and far-flung

as the Galapagos Islands and Bergen, Norway. She lived for more than fifteen years in Brazil, yet she always returned to Nova Scotia to visit her family and the village which was so important in her childhood. In May 1979 she made her last visit, to receive an honorary degree from Dalhousie University. Elizabeth Bishop died on 6 October 1979.

Many of Bishop's best loved poems are about her childhood in Great Village. People from around the world have traveled here, to see the home that inspired this Pulitzer Prize-winning author. Home is a central theme in her work, and she wrote about her childhood home with honesty, eloquence and humour.

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ENGAGE and DELIGHT in the ELIZABETH BISHOP ARTS FESTIVAL GREAT VILLAGE, NS AUGUST 19 ~ 21, 2011

FRIDAY, AUGUST 19

~ Art Exhibitions and Short Films
 ~ Writing Competition Readings
 ~ Book Launch - **Mary Rose Donnelly**
 ~ EB House & Great Village Tours
 ~ Dramatic Reading by **Lenore Zann**
 ~ Musical Performance by
Rosalee Peppard both at 7:30 pm*

Paint the Village June 4 and 5, 2011

Artists gather and paint in Great Village
 Watch for Exhibitions opening July 5 at
 Nova Scotia Community College, Truro

SATURDAY, AUGUST 20

~ Great Village Market 8 am - 1 pm
 ~ Writers Workshops for adults and children 9 am - 12 noon
 ~ Author Readings and Interviews
 ~ Art Exhibitions and Short Films
 ~ 'Board to Boat' Competition for all ages
 ~ Horse and Wagon Tours
 ~ Walking Tours of Great Village
 ~ Elizabeth Bishop House Tours
 ~ Concert featuring **Raylene Rankin, Cindy Church and Susan Crowe** United Church, Great Village 7:30 pm*

SUNDAY, AUGUST 21

~ Old-time Church Service 10:30 am United Church, Great Village
 ~ Blueberry Tea 11:30 am - 1 pm
 ~ Author Readings and Interviews
 ~ **Musique Royale** Concert featuring Soprano **Suzie LeBlanc** and the **Tempest Baroque Ensemble**
 St. James United Church, Great Village 7:30 pm*
 * Special ticket pricing for all three evenings

For information, times and locations visit
www.elizabethbishopns.org
www.elizabethbishopcelebration.ca

