

LUNENBURG

Art

GALLERY SOCIETY



"It is a miracle that I have ever painted at all." - E.B.



# EARL BAILLY

1902-1977

Thanks to generous collector-donors, the Lunenburg Art Gallery Society owns, or co-owns with the Town of Lunenburg, a significant collection of Earl Bailly paintings, photographs and artifacts. These have been displayed informally in Lunenburg's Town Hall, the Lunenburg Art Gallery, and the Fisheries Museum of the Atlantic in Lunenburg for many years.

Now, work has begun to promote this amazing body of work – and its creator – to the world. Visit the Lunenburg Art Gallery to view our Earl Bailly display, featuring a rotation of his artwork and interesting artifacts. Further plans are underway to find a year-round permanent museum space for the Earl Bailly Collection. Financial and human resources will be needed to see this to fruition; we welcome all inquiries, volunteer time and monetary donations.

We're excited to share the Earl Bailly story in print and other media.



For more information please visit the Lunenburg Art Gallery Society or email: [EarlBailly@lunenburgartsociety.ca](mailto:EarlBailly@lunenburgartsociety.ca)

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DEAR MAPLE, LEAVES  
 I LIKE TO READ YOUR LETTER  
 AND I WANT TO JOIN YOUR CLUB  
 I AM A LITTLE INVALID  
 AGE 8 YEARS, I CANNOT USE  
 MY HANDS OR FEET, SO I  
 WRITE AND DRAW WITH  
 MY PENCIL IN MY MOUTH  
 MY MOTHER TEACHES ME  
 TO READ. I HAVE A DOG NAMED  
 REX, A CAT NAMED FLUFF AND A  
 PAIR OF GOLDFISH. I HOPE  
 MY LETTER WILL BE  
 PRINTED  
*Earl Bailly*  
 AN INTERESTING LITTLE INVALID



**EARLY LIFE**

Earl Bailly was born in 1903 in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, Canada. Stricken with polio at the age of two, he lost the use of his arms and legs. His mother, a school teacher, taught Earl to hold a pencil in his mouth and write. He became interested in drawing and experimented with small watercolours. Spurred by an unquenchable love of the sea, nature, and the fishing life of his community, he learned to paint with a brush clenched in his teeth, developing what would prove to be a remarkable talent.



His brother Don adapted brushes and palette knives for him to use, and provided him with art supplies. By his mid-twenties, Earl Bailly was mounting solo shows around North America and received extensive press in local and American newspapers. In 1931, Earl studied art with George Pierce Ennis of Eastport, Maine and advanced to oil painting with a custom easel that enabled him to create larger works. Inspired by the sea, and tall-masted ships, he painted scenes of his home province, particularly the schooners of Lunenburg, and one of his favourite spots, the scenic fishing village of Blue Rocks.



**MID-CENTURY ACCLAIM**

In 1955, Earl's painting large-scale 'Fisherman' was added to the permanent collection of the National Gallery of Canada. In 1965, he presented artwork as an official gift to Queen Elizabeth and Prince Phillip during their Jubilee visit to Nova Scotia. In 1957, Earl wrote an autobiography titled 'Earl Bailly - His Trials and Triumphs'.



*Earl with Captain Angus Walters, 1933*



*Earl chats with Queen Elizabeth II, 1959*



Earl developed a highly refined sense of colour and composition, being well read in art theory and practice. In 1933, Earl travelled with his brother to the Chicago World's Fair aboard the Bluenose with Captain Angus Walters. When the weather got choppy, they had to fasten his wheelchair to the mast of the ship

His work has been purchased by many prominent collectors including Franklin D. Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, William Lyon Mackenzie King and members of Britain's Royal Family. The Lunenburg Art Gallery Society is honoured to share the life and work of this remarkable artist to the world.