

Londergan receives award from NEBF

Devil's Elbow author to host creative writing workshop

-WARREN-

By Jennifer Robert
Quabong Current Reporter

Living in West Brookfield for eight years, the story of the original settlement really struck a chord with Edward Londergan and prompted him to create a work of captivating historical fiction. After bouncing the story around in his head for years, he one day sat down and started writing. Behold, the Devil's Elbow was born, and the 2013 New England Book Festival found it worthy of an award in the Young Adult category.

"It took me three and one half years to write and edit it," Londergan said. "I did all sorts of research, tried to figure out how I was going to tell the story and then finally, made up a whole bunch of characters, mixed in some fiction and then it was born." Londergan said that he was influenced by Kenneth Roberts, a historical fiction author who died the same year Londergan was born, and decided to try writing the story in a style similar to Roberts.

"I love writing and I love history and once I found the way I wanted to write it, it came together," he said. "I originally tried to write it to take reader's back to the 1670's-their way of life was very religious and what not-and it was so awful. No one would have read it. So I decided to bring the 1670's to the readers, instead." The Devil's Elbow, which was originally released in August 2012 under a private publisher and then re-released in

May 2013 under Indian Rock Publishing, Londergan's own publishing house, is the first in a series of three books. The second book, *The Long Journey Home*, is expected to be released this spring and will be a continuation of the first book. The third book, which is not yet titled, will bring the story to modern day, telling the tale of descendants of the original characters.

Londergan will be at the Merrick Public Library in Brookfield on Thursday, Feb. 13 from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. selling signed copies of the Devil's Elbow. He said that some of the topics that most frequently come up during his signings are how he gets ideas for his stories and questions on publishing.

"People say to me that they want to write a book or they have written a book and they want to know how you get it published," he said. "People are very interested in the publishing process." The questions raised during signings prompted Londergan to raise the idea of hosting a creative writing class.

"I was at the Warren Public Library for a signing and I got talking to Elaine [Barrie, Director] about how people have ideas to write but they feel like they don't know how," Londergan said. "Well, I had no idea how to do it either! I just sat down and did and I thought that holding a creative writing class would be a great way to take people through the process and show them that they too can write. Everyone can do it." The creative writing classes will be held at the Warren Public Library three times this year, with the first class being held on Saturday, Feb. 1 from 1 p.m. to 3 p.m.

"People out here really value local history, which you do not see everywhere," Londergan said. "Being a history lover, I love seeing that and I love being able to bring these old stories to the modern people."