

Halton Hills residents meet Prince Charles, Duchess Camilla

Local residents Elaine Crawford and Lois Fraser arrived at Trafalgar Square in time to see the red carpet being prepared for HRH Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla.

A group of 25 Canadians from across the country who are associated with the Prince's Trust Charities were invited to meet with Prince Charles and Camilla. The Prince's Trust is involved in assisting the creation of the Lucy Maud Montgomery Museum and Literary Centre in Norval.

Fraser and Crawford are members of the Norval Montgomery Society, a committee of the Heritage Foundation of Halton Hills, which has signed an option to purchase the house that Montgomery lived in from 1926 to 1935. Montgomery is one of Canada's most beloved authors, with her best known book, Anne of Green Gables, which has been translated into 34 languages. She is in the top 12 women who are being considered to be on Canada's 20 dollar bill. As an author, she wrote five novels, many short stories, and three volumes of personal journals when she lived in Norval.

First, the pair met Duchess Camilla. I introduced her to Elaine who is related to Lucy Maud Montgomery and whose mother was born and raised on the Cavendish Farm house in PEI that is called Green Gables, Fraser said. Camilla was so friendly and talked to us for a long time. She said that her grandchildren have read Anne of Green Gables and they really liked it.

Next came Prince Charles. He had a lovely way about him and was truly interested in our project. He enquired about the Lucy Maud Montgomery manse purchase and wished us well in our fundraising. I told him that we are hoping to raise \$2 million dollars to make this happen, she said.



Elaine Crawford and Lois Fraser meet the Duchess of Cornwall, Camilla. Photo by Jim Ross

Matthew Rowe, who is from Glen Williams and currently works at the Prince's Charities, also attended the event. Mike and Heather Parkhill, who recently moved to Nova Scotia from Georgetown, were there to showcase Mike's books, which are used to educate First Nations people in their own dialect.

After the Royals left, Gordon Campbell, The High Commissioner for Canada at Canada House, conducted a tour of all the rooms. Canada House bought the building next door in 2012, which was previously the Canadian military headquarters in World War II. There is a room in honour of each province, with its art, wood, furnishings, and specially designed woven carpets to reflect the colours, scenery and the people of each province. There are also rooms for all three oceans and four are named for Canadian Prime Ministers: MacDonald, Laurier, Borden and McKenzie King.

The group then enjoyed a lovely meal looking over Trafalgar Square and met the head of security for Prince Charles and the woman who accompanies all royalty on world tours. After Campbell rose to give his speech before

lunch, Fraser jumped up and asked if they could sing O Canada.

For more information on the LMM project in Norval, see www.heritagefoundationhalton.com.

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