

Day-long event set for Saturday

Norval ready to celebrate sixth Montgomery Christmas

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Christmas is coming early to Norval, thanks to one of its most famous former residents.

Anne of Green Gables author Lucy Maud Montgomery will be celebrated at the sixth annual Montgomery Christmas, to be held Saturday, Nov. 28. In the past, the event has attracted visitors from Minnesota, Mississippi, Prince Edward Island and as far away as Japan.

Montgomery lived in Norval from February 1926 to March 1935, while her husband, Ewan Macdonald, served as the minister at the Presbyterian church. Their son, Stuart, attended the Norval School.

This year celebrates the release of the fourth volume of Montgomery's diary, *The Selected Journals of L.M. Montgomery*. The book, co-edited by Mary Henley Rubio and Elizabeth Hillman Waterston, spans Montgomery's years in Norval. Professor Rubio will be on hand Saturday, from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to sign copies of the book, at Crawford's Village Bakeshop. (Waterston will be signing copies in advance). Authors Jack and Linda Hutton will also be at Crawford's from 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. to sign their book *Lucy Maud Montgomery and Bala — A love story of the North Woods*. This book deals with Montgomery's novel *Blue Castle*, her only book set outside of P.E.I.

Between 11:30 a.m. and 4 p.m., Crawford's will also be the site of a lunch, featuring some of Montgomery's favorite dishes. Visitors are invited to try her Christmas cake. The instructions for this and Montgomery's other favorites will be on display at Crawford's in her hand-written recipe book. Crawford's is also the home of *The Norval Clayworks*, which will hold an open house from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Around town, both St. Paul's

Anglican Parish Hall on Adamson Street and Norval United Church on Guelph Street will host lunches, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., and bazaars featuring handmade crafts, Christmas tree ornaments and baked goods. Norval Presbyterian Church, also on Guelph Street, will be holding a country craft sale from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Reverend John Guirin and his wife Lois will be opening the Presbyterian Manse where Montgomery and her family lived from 1:30 p.m. to 5 p.m. for afternoon tea, served by the Kindred Spirit Society of Hamilton. This will be the best opportunity to see the manse, as tours will not be available this year.

Those looking for something a little out of the ordinary can stop by Canoe Country. From 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., members of the Ontario Woodcarvers Association will be demonstrating their craft. Those inspired by all the creative activity can enter Canoe Country's art contest. Entrants need to design a piece of art which demonstrates Montgomery's love of nature. Details and entry forms are available at Canoe Country.

Before leaving, visitors should also stop by the Norval Community Association Exhibit, also at Canoe Country. This exhibit offers homemade preserves, dried flowers from village gardens as well as seeds from The Lucy Maud Montgomery Heritage Garden. A raffle (grand draw at 4 p.m.), refreshments and folk singer/harpist Anneliese Cameron round out Canoe Country's festivities.

Costumed citizens, including Councillor Kathy Gastle, and The Norval United Church Brass Ensemble will be appearing at various points around the village.

For more information, contact

Canoe Country Outdoor Shop and Nature Centre (846-5000), Crawford's Village Bakeshop (451-

0347) or the Halton Hills Chamber of Commerce (877-7119).

—By Katherine Sealey, special

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Folk singer/harpist Anneliese Cameron will be on hand to entertain the crowds at this Saturday's annual Montgomery Christmas in Norval.

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