

Rockwood Hollywood - again

By Rebecca Ring

Rockwood continues to be a favourite location for film and television. This time, it is playing the roles of PEI and New Brunswick in the CTV production of *Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning*. The three-hour TV event is set to air in the spring of 2008. Filming took place on Monday and Tuesday at the Rockwood Cemetery and the old Rockwood Academy, which is now the home of sculptor Andre Drenters.



ANNE OF GREEN ROCKWOOD? Film crews were in Rockwood this week shooting the CTV production of *Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning*. Hannah Endicott-Douglas plays young Anne, and is shown here preparing for a scene at the Rockwood Academy. - Rebecca Ring Photo

The film, written and directed by Kevin Sullivan, tells the story of Anne's early years, before she was orphaned. Viewers will find out who Anne's parents were, how they died, and whether she had any siblings. The mystery unfolds when Anne discovers a secret letter hidden under the floorboards of Green Gables in P.E.I., 50 years after the Cuthberts took her in as a little orphan at the turn of the last century. The film begins and ends with Anne as an older, widowed woman in her 50s or 60s.

The story of *Anne of Green Gables* has captured the hearts and minds of people

the world ever since the novel by Lucy Maud Montgomery was first published in 1908. It sold over 19,000 copies in the first five months and has since been translated into over a dozen languages

with more than 50 million copies sold to date. The television movies and series have proven to be just as popular. *Anne of Green Gables* has been viewed in more than 150 countries. In Japan, where Anne has been part of the culture since the end of WWII, the feature-film version has run for over five years, grossing more than top Hollywood blockbusters at the box office. *Anne of Green Gables: The Sequel* aired in 1987 and has remained the highest rated mini-series to air in Canada with over 5.4 million viewers. The little red-head is responsible for a large part of P.E.I. tourism dollars, with more than 350,000 people visiting Anne's fabled, gabled home every year in Cavendish on the island.

Twelve-year old Hannah Endicott-Douglas of Toronto plays young Anne Shirley. She was chosen from almost 1000 girls competing for the role worldwide. She co-stars with Academy Award winner Shirley MacLaine, Rachel Blanchard and Academy Award nominee Barbara Hershey. Hannah's older sister, Vivien Endicott-Douglas, is

also in the film playing the role of Violetta.

Hershey plays Anne as an older woman reflecting on her past, Blanchard plays Louisa Thomas, and MacLaine plays Louisa's forceful mother-in-law, Amelia Thomas. Introduced in Lucy Maud Montgomery's first novel, Amelia has been shaped into a principal character in Sullivan's new screenplay. She is a wealthy, powerful, unlikeable widow who runs Marysville, New Brunswick, a prosperous lumber town, with saw, cotton and cider mills belonging to her family. After taking in her daughter-in-law Louisa, and her grandchildren, Amelia's miserable temperament is quickly transformed for the better under the influence of the precocious and lively Anne Shirley.

Sullivan first made a splash with his adaptation of *Anne of Green Gables*, which he produced, wrote and directed in 1985. In addition, the subsequent 91 episodes of his television series *Road to Avonlea* established the reputation of his company, Sullivan Entertainment. *Anne of Green Gables* and *Road to Avonlea* won numerous awards including four Emmys, the George Foster Peabody Award, CableAce Awards and numerous Gemini's.



EDEN MILLS SALE BIG SUCCESS: Last Saturday, shoppers at the Eden Mills book sale enjoyed great deals on books and much more. Organizers Brian Skerrett and Kit Bresnahan said they raised over \$1000 for the Carbon Neutral Project, which is officially launched tonight at 7 pm at the Eden Mills Community Centre. Shown, from left, are Ralph and Evelyn Billings, Louise Marshall and Rich Lee. - Rebecca Ring Photo



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Rockwood remembers...

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James Alfred Edwards (Alf), whose name is on the cenotaph with his older brother, Thomas Lenton Edwards. Tom died in WWI and Alf in WWII.

Scott ended the service by recognizing the late Jim Milne, a WWII vet who was an integral part of both organizing and conducting past Remembrance Day services in Rockwood. He thanked township staff and Sam Alexander in particular, "for doing an outstanding job in taking over these duties."

Smith recalled the Colour Party and called the parade to attention with the Guelph Pipe Band. They marched to the firehall with the salute received by ex-serviceman Wes Kutasienski, Mayor Chris White, WWII veteran Sytske Drijber, Master Bombardier Dennis Bingham and WWII veteran Wally Graham.

At the firehall, White thanked everyone for coming, and said he hopes the township expands the service for remembrance of vets of past and current conflicts. Reverend Linda Paquette of the Rockwood Presbyterian Church, spoke about the need for peace in the family, community, nation and world.

"Millions of lives are affected and changed by war," she said, "The onus is on us to look for peace in any way we can." She then prayed for all

to live as loving neighbours, to be one people, and live in the community of love.

Rev. Bandy read from the Gospel of St. John, chapter 16, where Jesus instructs people to "Love one another as I have loved you" and that there is no greater love than to lay down your life for that of your friend. She then called the children forward to gather for a story. She told them about poppies, and how they grew in Flanders' Fields where soldiers died in battle.

Eight-year old Jade Kastor read In Flanders' Fields. Bandy read a story about what a poppy means; "For the wounded; For the dead; For the brave who remain; A poppy is to remember."

Reverend Pauline Head of St. John's Anglican Church finished the service with a prayer for "the peace that is promised and with God's help we can achieve. Render no evil for evil. Honour all people and love and rejoice in each other."

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