

Past Activities of the L.M. Montgomery Literary Society

read more in *The Shining Scroll* periodical

est. 1991



Anne meets Marilla

In recent years, members have presented their papers that were given at Montgomery conferences at the University of Prince Edward Island. One member is related to L.M. Montgomery (her father was a first cousin) and shared her family history with us as well as performing the song, "Anne Theme," from the long lost 1919 silent film of *Anne of Green Gables*.

Our members are willing to do presentations and special programs for groups. We are teachers and readers with interest and expertise in children's literature; we are researchers and writers and enthusiastic fans. Our members have hundreds of early and first edition copies of Montgomery's books available for display. We also have several hard to find videos about Montgomery's life. We have collections of Montgomery related memorabilia (films, theater), and photo albums of sites on Prince Edward Island.

Pati Kachel is an excellent story teller and has a program especially designed about *Anne of Green Gables* and L.M. Montgomery: [Pati Kachel, storyteller](#). For more about her, read this new [article](#).

March 3, 2012 Hosted by Betty Heath: LMM's short stories and Rea Wilmshurst's first volume of collected stories *Akin to Anne*.

November 19, 2011 Avalon Tea Room in White Bear Lake. Pati Kachel presented her holiday program.

August 13, 2011: LM Montgomery and Leaskdale Ontario. Christy Woster shared her collection of books with poetry, essays, and quotes by LMM in them and her many finds of Montgomery material in dozens of magazines, Mary Beth Cavert gave an overview of Montgomery's time in Leaskdale ONT, Penny Schreck and Pati Kachel added to Christy's goodies on the food table.

Saturday, April 9, 2011: Christy Woster presented the paper that she and Emily gave at the 2010 L. M. Montgomery International Conference: "A Book by its Cover: Collecting the Artistic Interpretations of L. M. Montgomery's Works."

Betty Heath invited the group to her home in **January 8, 2011**. We had a "perfectly scrumptious" lunch and much conversation; we toured Betty's beautiful home filled with period textiles and maritime antiques as well as Betty's stunning original hooked rugs and hangings.

See her "Ipswich Clam Diggers" at <http://www.newearthdesigns.com/pattern/pictorial/index.html>. Read a wonderful article about Betty here: [More than 100 rug hookers create their crafts at camp - People - Living - The Western Star](#)

Beth Cavert reprised her paper, *The Chords of Our Natures Are Perfectly Attuned: LM Montgomery's Natural Friendships*, which she presented to the 2010 LMM conference.

Pati Kachel hosted us on **October 9, 2010**: Pati, Ann Johnson, Beth Cavert and Christy Woster reported on the LMM conference, held in June at University of PEI; the discovery of the second segment of *Una of the Garden* that Christy located this summer [see *The Shining Scroll* 2010 - part 1]; Carolyn Collins brought members up to date on some of the news from Prince Edward Island (see "News from PEI" in *The Shining Scroll* 2010 - part 3); Christy reported on the Laura Ingalls Wilder conference.

The L.M. Montgomery Literary Society met on **March 20, 2010** at the home of Pati Kachel. After a magnificent buffet including an egg bake, fresh fruit, home-made cinnamon rolls (courtesy of Penny Shreck), an array of fruit juices, and tea, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the publication of Montgomery's *Kilmeny of the Orchard*. Beth Cavert conducted the program and presented a copy of the publication by Donna Campbell and Simon Lloyd, *Una of the Garden*, and encouraged members to visit our web site to get information for its [purchase](#). Beth read her paper about Bertie MacIntyre, Montgomery's cousin, to whom *Kilmeny* is dedicated and also shared her collection of first editions of the book from publishers L.C. Page, Isaac Pitman, A.L. Burt, George Harrap, Angus and Robertson, Grosset and Dunlap, and Ryerson.

The L.M. Montgomery Literary Society met on **December 12, 2009** at the home of Carolyn Collins. The topic of the afternoon was: Celebrating the 100th Anniversary of the publication of *Anne of Avonlea*. Everyone brought some of their favorite quotations, scenes, and chapters from the book (or related items) to share with our members. Beth Cavert brought many editions of the book to compare and led the discussion. Raspberry cordial, ribbon sandwiches, fruitcake, and cookies (courtesy of Penny Shreck) were on the tea-table.

2009 In celebration of the 90th Anniversary of the filming of the first movie of *Anne of Green Gables*, Carolyn Strom Collins presented "Re-creating the 1919 Lost Silent Movie of Anne of Green Gables" for the [Dedham, Massachusetts, Historical Society](#) meeting on November 19, 2009.

The movie was filmed in and around Dedham in August 1919 and was premiered there in November 1919. Collins' recreation uses still photographs, a long-lost 'script' of the movie, and other resources to show how the movie was put together and how it differed from the Anne books on which it was based. She presented some details on the Hollywood scandal that

finally led to the destruction of the original film.

This program was originally presented as part of the 2008 L. M. Montgomery International Symposium in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island.

Literary Society Events in 2008 and 2009 to Celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Anne of Green Gables

Don't miss Simon's Lloyd's wonderful presentation on "Making Maud Feel at Home: Collecting L.M. Montgomery at the University of Prince Edward Island" [on web site] -- care for it, share the knowledge and beauty it contains, and grow it.

Learn about

LMM's ties to Prince of Wales College and the PWC collection,
UPEI as the depository library for PEI,
the importance of the LM Montgomery Institute,
the Ryrie-Campbell Collection

Read the **text** and see the beautiful **slides** on the web site!

May 2, 2009: Members of the LMM Literary Society were invited to be part of a community tea-party event in Brooklyn Park, MN. The Brooklyn Park Community Center provided and served tea and refreshments to about 60 mothers and their daughters while we told the audience about *Anne of Green Gables*. We helped them create some "Anne" crafts based on some of those in *The Anne of Green Gables Treasury*. Pati Kachel presented a story-time session and her collection of Victorian hats and costumes were available for trying on and for picture-taking - a great hit! The sold-out event was a delightful way to introduce our society to another audience.

from <http://www.inglesideimpressions.com/newsandevents.html>

April 25, 2009: The LMM Literary Society welcomed University of Prince Edward Island Special Collections Librarian Simon Lloyd. He gave a very special presentation on UPEI's extensive collection of LM Montgomery publications and personal artifacts as well as methods of collection, preservation, display, and scholarly study. He noted that LMM's pocket watch and miniature version of her OBE were recently donated to the UPEI collection by descendants of L. M. Montgomery and showed photographs of these and other items during his presentation.



Beginning February 19, 2009: a book club for adults who love children's literature will meet at The Red Balloon Bookshop, 891 Grand Av., from 6:30 to 8:00 pm on the *third Thursday* of every

month. The club is sponsored by the Children's Literature Network and the bookstore. Discussions will be led by Gail Nordstrom, youth services supervisor at the Stillwater public library and a member of the 2002 Newbery Award committee." If you are planning to be there, would you please contact the store to add your name to the list of attendees. The store staff would also appreciate receiving your phone number in case they need to contact you if there are any changes to the plans. You may call the store at (651) 224-8320 or e-mail the store at RedBallBks@aol.com. Please put "Chapter & Verse Book Club" in the "Subject" line if you decide to send an e-mail.

More details about the club are included on The Red Balloon's web site:
www.redballoonbookshop.com

November 29, 2008: Christy, Emily, and Anne Woster and Penny Schreck hosted a scrapbooking party to raise funds for the Leaskdale Manse and Church.

November 8: The first meeting of the LM Montgomery Literary Society for the 2008-9 season was held Saturday, November 8, at 1 pm at the Serendipity Cafe in Andover. Our topic of discussion was the recent LM Montgomery Conference held in Guelph, Ontario, which five of our local members attended. [the December 2008 edition of *The Shining Scroll*]

Much attention was given to Mary Rubio's new LMM biography -- *The Gift of Wings* -- and her presentation about it at the Conference. One of the most poignant discussions was in regard to the details of LMM's death. Kate Macdonald, LMM's granddaughter, recently announced that her grandmother committed suicide; Mary's account leaves that opinion in some doubt.

More discussion around other papers given at the Conference -- Betsy Epperly's comments on digitizing archival material, Elizabeth Waterston's analysis of LMM's handwritten manuscript of *Rilla of Ingleside*, Elaine Crawford's report on her family's publication of *Aunt Maud's Recipe Book*, Irene Gammel's presentation on her new book *Looking for Anne*, and others -- gave a chance for those members who could not attend the Conference an idea of what we experienced. We reported on the tours to Bala, Leaskdale, and Norval; Jack and Linda Hutton's program on the lost 1919 Anne silent movie, and the opening of the display about LMM at the Guelph art museum.

November 7: Professional storyteller Pati Kachel had the pleasure of introducing 200 elementary students at Nevada Community School near Ames, Iowa, to Lucy Maud Montgomery and Anne Shirley. Nevada's multi-age classroom teachers are strong advocates for inspiring the love of reading and writing in their students. Their curriculum theme this year is, "Water, Water, Everywhere". Aware that Maud loved nature and that she used the imagery of water throughout the *Anne* book series, Pati crafted an interactive story program for her young listeners.

Four separate groups of approximately 50 students came to spend an hour with Pati. She dressed up in her Victorian style costume, complete with three layers of petticoats, pantaloons and laced up boots. The classroom where she gathered the students featured six educational

stations of colorful display boards created by our Minnesota society members. One station featured Emily Woster's Avonlea School Room display where children could see and learn about the kind of textbooks, chalkboard slates and toys that children would have used during the turn of the 20th century. One of Sarah Riedel's displays provided a good geography lesson with her map of PEI. The kids enjoyed putting together a large jigsaw floor puzzle of Canada provided by Christy Wooster. The children colored and made their own flags of Canada to take home. Sarah Riedel's display board featuring her beautifully taken photographs of PEI helped the kids to see the wonderful sights of many kinds of water that Maud wrote about. Pati read excerpts from *Anne of Green Gables* describing all of the various bodies of water -- the sea, the brooks, the rivers and the lakes on PEI. Sarah Riedel also created a photo display of the Green Gables House through the years.

In another area Pati displayed her personal scrapbook from her vacation to PEI in 1993, along with dozens of her books about Montgomery, the island and her treasured collection of Anne Shirley dolls. Pati also brought along her extensive wardrobe of antique clothing and accessories and invited the kids to walk through her "Victorian Times" corner, where her students had to use their "museum eyes". There they could see the vintage fashions described by another one of Christy Woster's displays constructed with pages from women's magazines and catalogs from that period in history. During their time together, Pati read aloud from Elizabeth McLeod's book about Lucy Maud Montgomery written especially for young readers and then had a question and answer time afterwards. She gave away handouts of her "Ann-with-an-e-isms" - listing all of the funny things Anne Shirley said. She also gave away many copies of the PEI vacation planner catalogs and bookmarks.

But by far, the place that the students enjoyed the most was at the end of each hour when both girls and boys could put on straw hats with red braids and boyish caps, had freckles painted on their faces, and then had their photos taken with their classmates. The delightful students and the dedicated teachers of the multi-age learning program of Nevada Elementary and our traveling storyteller had a wonderful day together. Pati is confident that 200 new Iowan Anne fans were added to our kindred spirits club that day!

October 15: Christy Woster was the speaker at an *Anne of Green Gables* tea held on at the Brooklyn Park, Minnesota Community Center. Sixty people attended. Christy and Penny Schreck set up a display of dolls, old books and information on L. M. Montgomery, and Christy did a presentation about the author. A lunch was served and participants brought their own teacups, which made the beautifully set tables even more festive. A special thank you to Pat Busch, Adult and Senior Center Activity Director at the Community Center, for doing an outstanding job setting up the tables, planning lunch and coordinating the event. Ms. Busch has asked Christy to plan another event with the help of our Literary Society for spring of 2009, and a Mother/Daughter "Anne" tea is in the planning stages.

July 24, 2008 The Red Balloon Bookshop and the L. M. Montgomery Literary Society, hosted "A Tea Party to Celebrate 100 Years of *Anne of Green Gables*" at the historic University Club of Saint Paul. A hundred guests attended and viewed the three rooms of 17 + tables of L.M.

Montgomery Literary Society exhibits about the author of *Anne of Green Gables* as well as displays of collectible Anne dolls, books about Montgomery, early edition books, several editions of the new *Anne* prequel book, and many artifacts related to *Anne*, Prince Edward Island, and the author. Our thanks to LMMLS members Sally Rigler (representing Red Balloon) and Christy Woster for their superb organizing skills.

May 31, 2008 The Red Balloon Bookshop staff (Sally Rigler, Amy Baum, and Michelle Cromer-Poiré) hosted a happy 100th Birthday Party for *Anne of Green Gables* May 31, 2008 at their store on Grand Avenue in St. Paul. Christy Woster and Penny Schreck brought lots of display materials, crafting supplies, and scrapbooks along with door prizes to give out. Pati Kachel entertained the capacity crowd with stories about LMM and Anne (from Elizabeth McLeod's new children's biography on LMM and Dierdre Kessler's new *Anne of Green Gables* for young readers). Carolyn and Christina signed copies of the new *Anne of Green Gables Treasury - Special Commemorative Edition*. Ann Johnson assisted with the display tables. To top off the party, a cake decorated with a picture of the original *Anne of Green Gables* book cover was served.

April 19th, 2008 The Literary Society hosted its first *Anne* event at the Rum River Library. The displays brought in by our members were attractive, informative, interesting, and impressive. Christy and Emily Woster, and Penny Schreck organized the day. Sarah and Pat Riedel brought a table full of antique household tools that intrigued children and adults; they also brought beautiful display cases that held a large number of LMM first editions for the 150 visitors to view. Pati Kachel did two story-telling events and also provided a large selection of vintage dresses, hats, aprons, gloves, etc., for visitors to dress up in and have their pictures made. Thanks to Ann Johnson, Carolyn Collins, Christina Eriksson, and Beth Cavert for helping out.

April 2008 Betty Heath and Ann Johnson designed beautiful *Anne* displays for their local libraries in Bayport, Woodbury, and Hastings, Minnesota.

January 5, 2008 The Literary Society met at the Avalon Tea Room where Pati Kachel did a lovely presentation on Christmas Memories -- lots of nostalgia as well as humor -- and the tea served by the tearoom was very elegant and tasty. Christy presented a host of ideas for the "Anne Day" and we brainstormed on additional ideas and details.

Summer 2007 Carolyn Collins participated in Prince Edward Island's "Anne 2008" events by speaking at some community libraries about life on PEI during the time of L.M. Montgomery's youth and the setting of *Anne of Green Gables*. Her presentation was "Around the Waterloo Stove: the Heartbeat of Green Gables." She explained how LMM used the kitchen for writing *Anne of Green Gables* as well as the room's function for food preparation, laundry and all the activities that required the iron cook stove in "Anne's day."