



L. M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site of Canada FACT SHEET

Connecting fact and fiction

Background

Designated in 2004, L. M. Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site of Canada includes The Site of L. M. Montgomery's Cavendish Home and Green Gables Heritage Place. This area in Cavendish is where the author was raised, where she discovered her love of writing, and where she imagined and wrote her most famous novel, *Anne of Green Gables*.

Lucy Maud Montgomery was born November 30th, 1874, in Clifton, Prince Edward Island, to Clara Woolner Macneill and Hugh John Montgomery. When Maud was 21 months old, her mother passed away from tuberculosis and her father moved to Saskatchewan. Maud was raised by her maternal grandparents, Alexander and Lucy Macneill.

Montgomery's writing was first published in the Charlottetown *Patriot* at the age of 15 with her poem, "The Legend of Cape Leforce". This success, as well as her deep love of nature, inspired her to continue writing.

Montgomery returned to Cavendish in 1898, after her grandfather's death, to help her grandmother run the community post office, which was located in the family's kitchen. It was during these "Cavendish years" that Montgomery would write her first and most famous novel, *Anne of Green Gables*, published in 1908 by the L.C. Page Co. of Boston.

After publishing 23 novels and over 500 poems and short stories, Lucy Maud Montgomery died on April 24th, 1942 at the age of 67. She is buried in the Cavendish cemetery where visitors from all around the world continue to pay their respects and visit her beloved Cavendish.

Insights



Green Gables Heritage Place is owned and operated by Parks Canada.



The Site of L. M. Montgomery's Cavendish Home is cared for and operated by John and Jennie Macneill. John is the great grandson of Alexander and Lucy Macneill.



Milestones

1874

Lucy Maud Montgomery is born in Clifton (presently New London), Prince Edward Island.

1894

Graduates from Prince of Wales College with her Teacher's License.

1908

Anne of Green Gables is published by L.C. Page Co.

1909

First translation of *Anne of Green Gables* is published in Swedish, with translation into over 20 more languages to follow.

1911

Montgomery marries Reverend Ewan MacDonald on June 5th.

1923

Montgomery is the first Canadian woman inducted as a member of the Royal Society of Arts and Letters.

1937

Green Gables becomes part of Prince Edward Island National Park.

1942

Montgomery dies and is buried in Cavendish.

1943

Montgomery is declared a person of National Historic Significance.

1985

The Site of L. M. Montgomery's Cavendish Home is open to the public.

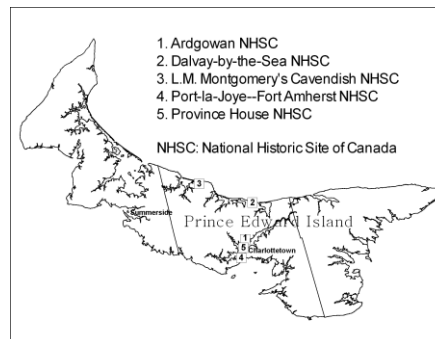
2005

The Site of L. M. Montgomery's Cavendish Home and Green Gables are designated Lucy Maud Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site of Canada.

2008

The 100th anniversary of the publication of *Anne of Green Gables* is celebrated throughout Prince Edward Island.

Location



Lucy Maud Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site is located near the intersection of Route 6 and Route 13 in Cavendish, PEI.

Reason for National Historic Significance

Bringing together the real and imaginary worlds of Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942), this landscape is intimately associated with her formative years and prolific career as a writer. To the northeast are the ruins of the Cavendish farmhouse where she lived with her maternal grandparents, Lucy and Alexander Macneill, following her mother's illness and death. It was here that Montgomery wrote her most famous novel, *Anne of Green Gables* (1908), and her beloved *The Story Girl* (1911), as well as numerous other stories and poems. She drew inspiration for much of her writing from these surroundings, including the house to the west, now known as Green Gables, and places such as the Haunted Wood and Lover's Lane, which are cherished by her fictional character Anne Shirley.

This landscape of rolling farm fields, woodlands, and winding paths provided Montgomery with great joy in her early years, and remained dear to her throughout her life. This setting also holds special meaning to generations of her admirers, who continue to visit and reflect upon the life and work of this well loved, internationally renowned author.

-- Historic Sites and Monuments Board of Canada 2004

Want to know more?

Lucy Maud Montgomery's Cavendish National Historic Site of Canada

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