

LMM Day, October 27th, 2018.

"L.M. Montgomery at Home in Leaskdale"

During her Leaskdale years, Lucy Maud Montgomery, already a successful author and writer, experienced for the first time the role of wife, minister's wife and mother of her own children. This multiplicity of roles provides fertile ground for thought provoking insights into her life in Leaskdale. The following papers will be presented on this subject.

Leaskdale Beginnings and Becomings: L. M. Montgomery and Motherhood

In this presentation, selections on motherhood from Montgomery's journals and relevant fictional examples will be organized as a series of complementing readings that show the range of her emotional and psychological responses with the aim of identifying a maternal narrative for Montgomery that was central to her Leaskdale years.

Presenters: Rita Bode, Lesley D. Clement, and Margaret Steffler

Growing Independence: L.M. Montgomery in Leaskdale

This paper will argue that while Prince Edward Island is the iconic setting for most of Montgomery's work, the author needed her time in Leaskdale to develop as an individual: making her home, meeting new people, defining her role as a minister's wife, and becoming a mother.

Presenter: Caroline Jones

"Pangs and Passions" L. M. Montgomery's Reflections on Her Adolescence While Living in Leaskdale

This paper will provide new insights into how the author used journal writing to revisit her adolescence while living in Leaskdale.

Presenter: Melanie Fishbane

Businesswoman and Poet: L. M. Montgomery during the Leaskdale Years

This paper focuses on Montgomery's career as a businesswoman and a poet who sold her work to a wide range of mainstream periodicals of her era, paying particular attention to the ways in which her poems tie into some of the novels she wrote while in Leaskdale.

Presenter: Benjamin Lefebvre

Maud's Leaskdale Neighbours

This presentation will give a historical perspective on the families, the people and places in the hamlet and surrounding countryside that were part of Montgomery's life between 1911 and 1926.

Presenter: Allan McGillivray

Speakers:

Lesley D. Clement has held teaching and administrative positions at various Canadian universities including Lakehead-Orillia. She has published on visual literacy, empathy, and death in picture books. Her work on Montgomery appears in *Studies in Canadian Literature* and *L. M. Montgomery and the Matter of Nature(s)*. Recent projects include co-editing with Rita Bode, *L. M. Montgomery's Rainbow Valleys: The Ontario Years, 1911 to 1942*(MQUP) and with Leyli Jamali, *Global Perspectives on Death in Children's Literature*(Routledge)

Rita Bode, Professor of English Literature, Trent University, is co-editor with Lesley D. Clement of *L. M. Montgomery's Rainbow Valleys: The Ontario Years, 1911 to 1942*(MQUP), and with Jean Mitchell of *L. M. Montgomery and the Matter of Nature(s)*. Other recent work includes chapters on George Eliot and Harriet Beecher Stowe in *Transatlantic Conversations* (2017), and George Eliot and Edith Wharton in *Edith Wharton and Cosmopolitanism* (2016)

Margaret Steffler is an Associate Professor in the Department of English at Trent University where her areas of research and training include Canadian literature and girlhood studies. Her publications include articles and book chapters on Montgomery's journals and fiction.

Caroline E. Jones has taught Montgomery's work in a variety of classroom settings, published on M. Montgomery in several collections, including *L. M. Montgomery and War* (MQUP) 2017, and continues to pursue new readings of Montgomery in reading, research, writing, and conversation. She teaches composition and American Literature at Austin Community College in Texas.

Melanie Fishbane holds an M.F.A. from the Vermont College of Fine Arts and an M.A. from Concordia University. She speaks internationally on children's literature and L. M. Montgomery and has an essay in the collection, *L. M. Montgomery's Rainbow Valleys: The Ontario Years 1911 to 1942*. Melanie teaches English at Humber College in Toronto and is the Web Coordinate for the LMML. Her first YA novel, *Maud: A Novel* was published in 201

Benjamin Lefebvre PhD is director of L.M. Montgomery Online. His previous publications include an edition of L.M. Montgomery's rediscovered final book, *The Blythes are Quoted*. He recently prepared and introduced a Penguin Classics Deluxe Edition of *Anne of Green Gables* (2017). He is now editor of The L.M. Montgomery Library (University of Toronto Press), which collects Montgomery's extensive periodical work, beginning with *A Name for Herself: Selected Writings, 1891–1917* (forthcoming in 2018) and *A World of Songs: Selected Poems, 1894–1921* (forthcoming in 2019).

Allan McGillivray

Allan taught elementary school for 17 years before becoming Curator of the Uxbridge Scott Museum. He has written many newspaper articles about local history, and wrote *Decades of Harvest*, a history of Scott Township, published in 1986, and *Tales from the Uxbridge Valley*, published in 2000. Allan and his wife Caroline live in the former Presbyterian Church in Zephyr.