

The Uxbridge Cosmos

Vol. 17 No. 30

TheCosmos.ca

Thursday, August 5, 2021

Welcome home, Olympians • Museum open to history • Feeling too young to feel old



CHANNELLING MAUD - Actress Jennifer Carroll portrays Lucy Maud Montgomery during an outdoor performance last summer of *Maud of Leaskdale*, a one-woman show created from the *Anne of Green Gables* author's own writings. The popular production is slated for three shows later this month. See article on page 6 for details, and for insight into how this unique production came to life.

Photo by Melanie Whitfield

Town's most famous author gets her own trail

by Lisha Van Nieuwenhove

Uxbridge is known for many things, and top of the list are *Anne of Green Gables* author Lucy Maud Montgomery and being the Trail Capital of Canada. It was almost inevitable that the two should be combined, and at last, they have.

The newly created Lucy Maud Montgomery Trail is a safe, historic, self-guided driving tour through the countryside the Uxbridge area. The new "trail" features 15 stops in Uxbridge, Leaskdale, and Zephyr that were significant to Lucy Maud Montgomery's life while she lived and raised her family during World War I and the flu pandemic of 1918.

A unique feature of this particular trail is its accompanying podcast, which creates an immersive experience by offering excerpts of Montgomery's journals, narrated by local actors Conrad Boyce and Jennifer Carroll. In addition, the podcast references the historical sig-

nificance of the various stops while providing directions for the journey.

Many of the 15 stops on the tour feature Maud-themed attractions and activities. The Leaskdale Manse, where Montgomery lived and wrote from 1911 to 1926, is providing tea and tour packages, as well as luncheon teas which feature special guests, and kids can enjoy traditional homemade ice cream and Cavendish Cat-themed crafts.

At the Uxbridge Historical Centre, visitors can see three buildings that were relevant to Montgomery and her stories, as well as a Signature Red Cross Quilt with the author's married name sewn in.

Local businesses are also joining in on the fun and offering special products. The Bridge Social is offering Anne's favourite Organic Cold Brew Raspberry Cordial, as well as a pretty pink natural Lip & Cheek Rouge in the shade 'Maud'. At Blue Heron Books, younger visitors can

write a letter to their "kindred spirit" on custom Anne stationery, play a game of hopscotch, and take a picture in the Anne-themed photo booth.

Concession 6 Studio and Greenmantle Pottery will be showcasing relevant art and memorabilia. And older thirsty travellers can enjoy a specially crafted raspberry cider along the route at Banjo Cider.

Children can also entertain themselves with *Anne of Green Gables* Activity Books, which can be picked up at the Uxbridge Library and Welcome Centre, or at various stops along the journey.

"We are so excited that we have been able to bring this fun and safe experience to life," exclaims Lisa John-Mackenzie, tourism development coordinator for the Township of Uxbridge. "For Lucy Maud Montgomery enthusiasts, history buffs, and fans of *Anne of*

...continued on page 3



The Township of UXBRIDGE

Trail Capital of Canada

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Council & Committee Meetings

Meeting Schedule for August, 2021

Monday, August 9

COUNCIL MEETING, 10:00 a.m.
ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY
COMMITTEE, 4:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 10

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
COMMITTEE, 7:00 p.m.

Tuesday, August 17

B.I.A. BOARD MEETING, 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday, August 18

AGE FRIENDLY COMMITTEE, 3:00 p.m.
COMMITTEE OF ADJUSTMENT
MEETING, 7:00 p.m.

Thursday, August 26

TRAILS COMMITTEE, 9:00 a.m.

Proclamations for the Month of August
Saturday, August 21, 2021
Flight of the Monarch Day

DISCOVER UXBRIDGE

THIS WEEK IN UXBRIDGE:

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Trail - New!
Embark on a self-guided driving tour while listening to the podcast that tells the incredible story of Maud's life here over 100 years ago.

Afternoon Luncheon Tea - August 4th
Join the Leasdale Manse National Historic Site for a "100 Years of Rilla of Ingleside" celebration.

Oceanside Caribbean Night - August 6th + 7th
Join the York-Durham Heritage Railway for a Caribbean-themed dining experience.

Princess in the Park - August 7th
Join Elsa for a story time, dancing, a sing along, royalty lessons, a craft, and photos!

LEARN ABOUT THESE EVENTS & MORE AT
WWW.DISCOVERUXBRIDGE.CA

WELCOME BACK TO UHC

Reopening / August 7th 2021
Every Wednesday to Sunday
7239 Concession 6
uxbridgehistoricalcentre.com / 905.852.6854

Uxbridge at a Glance

The Corporation of The Township of Uxbridge
51 Toronto Street South, P.O. Box 190
Uxbridge L9P 1T1
905-852-9181 info@uxbridge.ca

Employment Opportunities

Details of all current positions are available at www.uxbridge.ca/careers

Uxbridge Library – Part-time Student
Closes August 6, 2021

Uxpool – Aquafit Instructors
Closes August 18, 2021

Uxpool – Lifeguards
Closes August 18, 2021

Uxpool – Swimming Instructors
Closes August 18, 2021

Public Works Department – Truck Driver
Closes August 31, 2021

Public Works Department – Truck Driver/Backhoe Operator
Closes August 31, 2021

We are an equal opportunity employer in accordance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005 and the Ontario Human Rights Code (OHRC). The Township of Uxbridge will provide accommodations throughout the recruitment and selection and/or assessment process to applicants with disabilities and/or needs related to the OHRC. Personal information provided is collected under the authority of The Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act.

Bids & Tenders

All current bid opportunities are posted to uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders

U21-27 South Balsam Trail Bridge and Boardwalk Rebuild
Closes August 26 at 2:00 p.m.

All bids must be received by the Township by the deadline stated, either electronically via the Township's website or in-person (by appointment only) at the Township Office located at 51 Toronto St. South. Public tender openings are not happening currently however bid results will be posted at uxbridge.ca/bids_and_tenders in a timely manner.

Uxpool Now Open!

Registration is required for all programs via Activenet.
www.uxbridge.ca

THE UXBRIDGE HISTORICAL CENTRE PRESENTS...

TAKE-HOME HERITAGE CRAFT KITS

AVAILABLE FOR AGES 5+ WITH ALL MATERIALS INCLUDED!
Check out our social media or email us at museum@uxbridge.ca for more information!

Crafts change each week!

Public Notice

NOTICE is hereby given that the Council of the Township of Uxbridge proposes to enact a By-law to convey the following described lands:

Part of Lanes, Plan 733, Now Parts 15, 16, 17 and 18 on Plan 40R-17011 (Nicholson Drive), Township of Uxbridge, Regional Municipality of Durham

FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the Township Council at its regular meeting held on March 7, 2005, declared by Resolution No. 2005-13 the aforementioned lands to be surplus to the needs of the municipality. A copy of the plan showing the location of the lands may be viewed in the Office of the Clerk.

Dated this 30th day of July, 2021.

Debbie Leroux, Clerk

2020 Consolidated Financial Statements

The 2020 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of The Corporation of the Township of Uxbridge have been approved by Council and are now available to the public on the Township's website, www.uxbridge.ca/en/your-local-government/financial-statements.aspx?_mid_=23667. A copy of the 2020 Audited Consolidated Financial Statements of the Township of Uxbridge are available for pick up (at no cost) upon request, at the Tax Department in the Municipal Building, located at 51 Toronto St., South in the Township of Uxbridge.

Help Us Redesign Downtown Uxbridge!



Landmark Buildings? Greenspace? Town Square?
Have your say and prioritize the features you like
Complete the visualization survey
uxbridge.ca/myuxbridgedowntown

My Uxbridge Downtown

Building on Yesterday - Planning for Tomorrow

Support Your Local Animal Shelter



ONLINE DONATIONS NOW AVAILABLE



Donations made to the Uxbridge-Scugog Animal Shelter are now available under the Township of Uxbridge Animal Control webpage:

www.uxbridge.ca/en/living-here/animal-control

Monetary support directly impacts animals in your community by feeding, housing, and providing veterinary services to animals in need.

July-September 2021

Notice of Road Closure



Planks Lane from 3rd Ave. S. to Franklin Street is closed except for local traffic. Sidewalks are also closed.

Ongoing road work is occurring in this area.

The Township of UXBRIDGE
Trail Capital of Canada



Township of Uxbridge documents are available in alternate formats upon request. Please fill out the Request for Alternate Formats Form at uxbridge.ca/accessibility

email: accessibility@uxbridge.ca
phone: 905-852-9181 ext.209

Uxbridge's Olympic athletes return home disappointed but content

by Justyne Edgell

The 2020 Tokyo Olympics draw to a close this Sunday, and Uxbridge can feel proud of its representation on the world's largest athletic stage. Two athletes are returning home with no medals in hand, but happy memories in their hearts.

Uxbridge's Haley Hunter-Smith hit the mountain bike course early last Tuesday morning, her first time competing at the Olympic Games. She placed 29th on the world stage.

"The race itself was not the performance I'd hoped for," says Smith, "but Tokyo 2020 was, in so many ways, about the start line rather than the finish line."

Smith says she arrived at the starting line ready to fight with pride, knowing she had persevered through "innumerable obstacles and setbacks."

"That week in Japan will remain one of the most special weeks in my life - a snapshot in time that I will always look back on with powerful emotions," says Smith.

Uxbridge's second athlete, Jessica Phoenix, who was lined up to represent Canada in Equestrian Eventing, alongside her horse Pavarotti (Rotti), encountered an unfortunate early end to her Tokyo appearance.

After Rotti sustained a minor injury during a gallop, Phoenix and her team made the difficult decision to pull out of the competition.

"While I am devastated that Rotti will not get to compete and show his talent on the world stage, I am thankful that he will be back to his usual self soon," says Phoenix. "I am blessed that our Canadian riders are a tight group of supportive teammates who rally around each other in our times of need."

Follow Smith and Phoenix on Instagram at @haley-huntersmith and @official-teamphoenix



Explore a new trail in Uxbridge

Green Gables, the Lucy Maud Montgomery Trail provides a safe and fun way to get out to explore our area and hear the incredible story, through Maud's voice, of what life was like for the famous author living here 100 years ago!

The new Lucy Maud Montgomery Trail was produced by the township in partnership with Central Counties Tourism, Durham Tourism, and the L.M. Montgomery Society of Ontario.

"The L.M. Montgomery

Society of Ontario operates an award-winning authentic historic experience at the Leaskdale Manse, National Historic Site and this new Lucy Maud Montgomery Trail is a way to get the word out about what they offer, as well as guiding visitors to discover more of our sites and businesses when they come to this area," says John-Mackenzie.

Promotion for the new trail labels it as part of the "Anne and Maud Experience" at AnneandMaud.ca,

in partnership with the Pickering Museum, which is providing the Anne Experience at the Pickering Museum. The "Anne and Maud Experience," along with the Lucy Maud Montgomery Trail, provides a full day of activities in Durham Region.

The family-friendly podcast journey is available now at discoveruxbridge.ca/lucy-maud-montgomery-trail/

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LUCY MAUD MONTGOMERY

trail

Embark on a self-guided driving journey while listening to a podcast which tells the incredible story of Lucy Maud Montgomery's life here over 100 years ago.

WWW.DISCOVERUXBRIDGE.CA

L.M. Montgomery is a trademark of Heirs of L.M. Montgomery Inc. and is used under licence by the L.M. Montgomery Society of Ontario.

MONTHLY DRAW WINNERS

The Rotary Club of Uxbridge is pleased to announce the winners of the July monthly draw for the 2021 Trip of the Month Club.

The 'Sultry Santa Clara' trip was won by Harry Porter, ticket #298, sold by Terry Chapman.

2nd place, \$150, won by Vince Cicchelli, ticket #201, sold by Greg Eickmeier.

3rd place, \$100, won by Jacob and Steph Lyon, ticket #144, sold by Arlene Lyon.

Congratulations to our July draw winners, and best of luck to all our ticket holders for the 2021 Trip of the Month Club draw for August - the 'Hello/Bonjour' package includes round trip airfare to Montreal and home from Ottawa, 2 nights' accommodation at a 5-star downtown Montreal hotel, 2-hour Montreal city bike tour, 2 first class seats Via Rail from Montreal to Ottawa, 2 nights' accommodation in a 5-star downtown Ottawa hotel, 2-hour tour of the Rideau Canal Locks, 1 day hop/on hop/off bus pass, round trip airport to hotel transfers.

As some restrictions are still in place for travel, a voucher for \$2,500 from Getaway Travel or cash option of \$2,250 is available instead of the trip.



Our two cents

Enjoy the history of your backyard

As COVID-19 restrictions gradually ease, people everywhere are eagerly venturing out again, and what better place to start exploring that your own backyard?

The Uxbridge Historical Centre (UHC), unofficially known as the Uxbridge Museum, will reopen this Saturday, and it has lots of interesting exhibits and activities to entice visitors from near and far. Its first exhibition is Quilts on Quaker Hill, and features 24 quilts that have either been made and given to the museum by community members, or are part of the UHC collection. The quilts date from the early 1800s to 2021, and, according to the museum, “the unique patterns of quilts in this exhibition connects the community with Uxbridge quilters, the role of the quilter in the community, and the enduring relationship in Uxbridge to the craft of quilting.”

For youngsters inspired by the quilt collection, the UHC is offering take-home craft kits. Craft options are all heritage inspired and include kid-friendly quilting, bookmark weaving, and more. All supplies and instructions are included in each kit. The kits are available for pick up during museum operating hours for a suggested donation of \$3 per kit, and are appropriate for children aged five and up.

The UHC opens up under new leadership, as manager and curator Pat Neal retired from the position at the end of June. Taking on the role of manager and curator is Jessica Lanziner. Helping Lanziner are assistant manager and curator Robyn Pegg, as well as four summer students who, despite being closed to the public, have been working at keeping the centre's social media active, cataloguing artifacts, and developing tours for the throngs of visitors the UHC hopes to entertain.

For those who aren't willing to brave a public space just yet, it's possible to visit the UHC online. A virtual tour of the 2019 exhibit “Rye, Rebels & Restraint: Uxbridge During Prohibition” is available at uxbridgehistoricalcentre.com, as is an informative blog.

The Historical Centre says it's maintaining a strict safety plan for all visitors, and all appropriate COVID-19 protocols, as set out by regional and provincial health authorities, will be in place. All visitors will be required to wear a face mask while on site, including outdoors while on a tour. Tour groups will be limited to four people, with one staff member, and only one tour group will be allowed inside a building at a time.

Even though we like to travel, there really is no place like home.

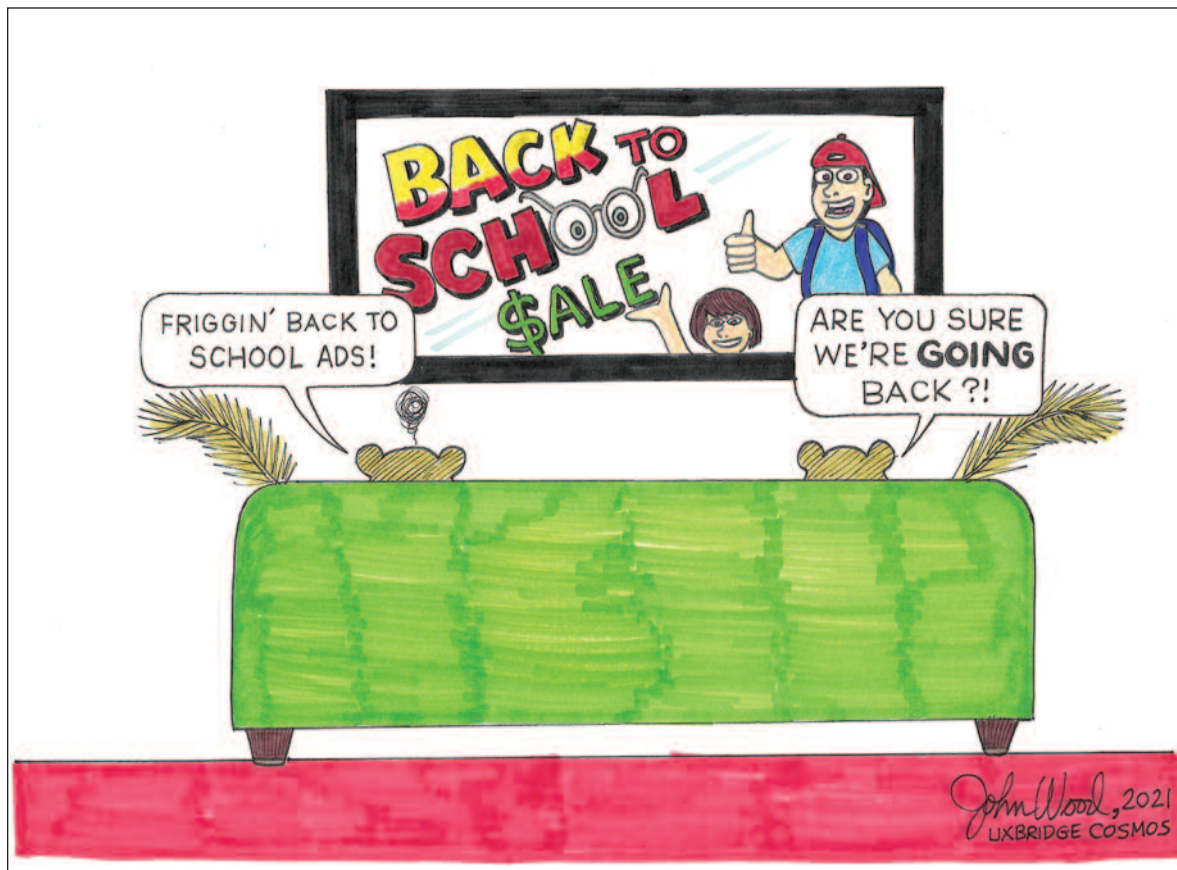


The Uxbridge COSMOS
 Publisher/Editor: Lisha Van Nieuwenhove 905-852-1900
 Advertising/Sales: 905-852-1900

38 Toronto Street North, Unit One, Uxbridge Ontario L9P 1E6
 E-mail: Lvann@thecosmos.ca Web site: Thecosmos.ca

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Letters to the Editor

Thank you for beauty

I would just like to say thank you to Rutledge Jewellers for making a piece of Uxbridge look beautiful. The gorgeous flowers and carts are a eye catcher. Thanks again.

D. Ruddy
 Uxbridge

Re: 'Am I Wrong?', July 22 edition

I felt a mixture of emotions while reading Roger Varley's "Am I Wrong?" column entitled "Time to fight back, ladies." A column in which he describes his awareness of the existence of sexism (yay), but then expresses a desire to see women pick up the proverbial pitchfork and fight back (nay). If I may use another idiom: Mr. Varley, you are barking up the wrong tree. As much as the bark is appreciated, the message is directed at the wrong group of people, showing how important it is that people address these topics in order to lift the veil of ignorance and actually effect change.

Sexism is a form of oppression, which is the prejudice and discrimination of one social group against another, backed by institutional power. There is a plethora of social groupings we, as humans, have constructed over the millennia to differentiate one person from the next, based on gender, race, religion, physical and mental ability, wealth, sexuality, migratory status, etc. These groupings come with membership status that paints the entire group with a broad stroke in terms of behaviours, roles, responsibilities. This practice has and continues to result in inequitable outcomes, where dominant groups experience privilege and advantage at the expense of marginalized groups.

As much as we like to paint certain

individuals as sexist or racist, (guy objectifying the woman at the bar, or guy with the pointed white cloak), we need to better understand that we are talking about oppressive forces acting on a larger scale, and permeating all facets of our society, including our collective understandings, attitudes, and world views.

Bringing it back to Mr. Varley, he was able to find examples of sexism (the oppressive force that advantages cis-men to the disadvantage of cis- and trans-women, and genderqueer people overall) in many different spheres of our society. From the discriminatory regulation (control) of women's clothing in sports, to pay inequality, to inequitable access to jobs, to disproportionate sexual assault cases in workplaces (including the Armed Forces), women, as a group, experience disadvantages on the basis of their group membership.

This does not exempt women from contributing to the perpetuation of sexism (re: the female official that criticized the female athlete) as again, oppression is a force that permeates our collective thoughts and can condition any person to buy in to prejudice and discrimination, even that of their own group. The internalized, unconscious conditioning is what is so insidious about all forms of oppression.

Mr. Varley questions how sexism exists when every man has a mother and women account for half the population. Men, and their mothers, are part of the same training session from birth - socialization, a process by which we teach people, overtly and covertly, the norms of our culture, including the groups they belong to and all the assumptions and values placed upon those groups.

By now, I had hoped more people would be aware of the fight women have taken up in order to attain more equal rights, advantages, and protections. Women's right to vote was fought for by women, and eventually granted by men (who held the power to do so). Today, if men as a group chose to deny women their civil rights, they could. Women, as a group, would not be able to accomplish the same. So, to ask that women start demanding equality from men ignores not only history, but the current lived reality of women in a society in which men are the gatekeepers to rights, advantages, and protections.

Feminism is an equality movement. People try to misconstrue it as a fight against men, a way to flip the scales and position women above men, when it is not. This demonizing tactic shuts down conversations of sexism, playing into a deep-seated interest in denying this form of oppression (similar to efforts to deny racism with responding with 'All Lives Matter' to 'Black Lives Matter'). The fight for equality requires us to center specific groups of people (e.g., women, Black people, and Indigenous children) because when you liberate the most marginalized groups of society, you open the gates to everyone else.

It is time to enter the fight, gentlemen. And by enter the fight, I mean validate and support women, advocate for them in spaces they are absent from, amplify their voices in spaces they have gained access to, continue to learn and unlearn about the workings of our society (and look past yourself as an individual to examine your group's history and socialization), build meaningful relationships with women, and share power with them when possible.

Tonia Lyons
 Uxbridge



...I'm just sayin'

column by Justyne Edgell

Quarter life crisis - ish

I'm not sure if it's a full on quarter life crisis, but it's definitely a little freaky. People are getting married left right and centre, some are starting families and others are moving across the country and even around the world. I'm about to turn 24, and for some reason I still feel like I'm only about 19. I feel like I'm getting old but at the same time still feel so young!

I loved my time in high school. I liked having the path laid out for me, when I knew that what I was doing one year would lead to the next step for the following year. And this feels crazy to say, but in high school, four years until university felt like a long time.

Then my five university years flew by. I always find myself shocked when I realize how long I've actually been out of those good ol' high school days (six years now!), and how grown up people my age are now. I'm not saying I'm immature; actually, I pride myself on having great emotional intelligence and I think that can really only come to those who are mature.

It seems, however, like every time I open Instagram or Facebook, I find out that someone else is engaged or pregnant or newlyweds. And these aren't older cousins or family friends. These are peers! Classmates, people I grew up with! It's not that I think "it's crazy" or that they're "ahead of the game," it just seems to startle me every time I see these big life announcements. Some of my shock is probably the "comparing yourself to others" side effect of social media. The "quarter life crisis" is a coined term, so it's likely that this sort of thing has happened generations over, but the fact that we have everyone's information and life updates so easily accessible makes us more aware of the frequency and volume of grand life changes right as they happen.

So, because I like to think of myself as the friend who is emotionally intelligent and mature, who gives good advice, I have taken it upon myself to generate a few thoughts to help us as we observe these giant life changes or enter quarter life crises. These are somewhat backed by psychology, but mostly backed by just my opinion, so maybe take it all with a grain of salt!

First off, pour yourself into something you love. As we finish school and get into adult life, things may seem to get a bit mundane. I find it beneficial to direct some passionate energy into something I enjoy, whether it's a

side hustle or just a hobby. Find something that keeps you involved in learning, growing and gaining experience.

Find people who relate to your stage of life. It's likely that your friends are feeling very similarly to you, and chatting over how you're feeling can really help! It doesn't need to be a serious sit down, but just collectively freaking out over it can feel a lot better than freaking out alone. You realize you aren't alone in feeling the way you do. In my eversowise 24 years, I've found that, when you open up to people about how you're feeling, they usually can relate in one way or another.

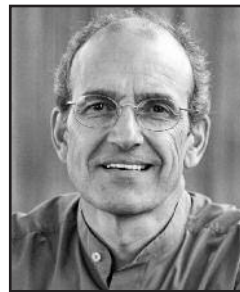
Thirdly, don't get fixated on what you did in school. After my university concentration in television and video, I sometimes feel like I'm letting my education down by not pursuing a career in that field. But I'm happy doing what I'm doing. My business is feeling successful and I feel that I'm growing in what I'm doing. By not defining myself by what I studied, I've been able to branch out and experience new career opportunities and find new hobbies and passions.

Always remember that what people put online isn't always the whole truth of what they're living, so comparing yourself to them is pretty pointless. I find that especially true when it comes to someone or something that we consider to be similar enough to ourselves that it feels "close to home." It's quite likely that you're only seeing the perfectly staged moments of life online. It's good to remind yourself that everyone's life moves at a different pace.

Ultimately, if you feel that you're struggling with getting into your adult life, there is zero shame in seeking out professional help to navigate the life changes.

This is all just the insight I've gained after a year sitting at home, working online, and working in media fields that are very driven by social media and digital perception. And by my experience seeing a million people getting engaged.

I'd say I experience an "oh my god are we really that old?" moment almost daily. And I actually enjoy seeing how other's lives are turning out. As a photographer, I know those meaningful moments are really special. It's easy to get wrapped up in what others are doing; we should all remember to take a chill pill and try to be a little more present in our day to day life. There is plenty of time to panic about the future in the future.



The Barris Beat

column by Ted Barris

Non-essential travel, the real antidote

As we all find ourselves craving to talk to somebody and do it at close range, I bumped into a friend outside the grocery store recently. And we got caught up. First things first; we made sure we were both double-vaccinated. Then, we lowered our masks, so that we didn't sound like we were mumbling, kept our distance, and began to catch up on each other's lives.

"Everybody well in the family?" I asked.

"Yup," she said. "All doubled-vaccinated, including away-from-home kids."

"I noticed you sold your house recently. Are you leaving town?"

"We're leaving everything," she said. "We're going to try the nomadic life."

It must be partly as a result of the pandemic. We've all found ourselves penned up, staying at home, following the rules and avoiding non-essential travel for so long, that with things opening up, as a reflex, a lot of us feel the urge to travel. In the case of my friend – similar to many – they've had a house, poured everything into it for decades. They've raised a family, watched their kids grow, go to university and then vacate home permanently in pursuit of their own career and life paths. Now, with the equity of a house in hand, they've decided to liquidate and do something they've always wanted. "No schedule. No plan. Just hit the road," she said.

Then, I spotted Richard Crouse's story in the weekend papers about so-called "van-nings." According to his feature, people have picked up on Jessica Bruder's book, *Nomadland: Surviving America in the Twenty-First Century*. It's the book on which the Oscar-winning movie *Nomadland* is based; the heroine becomes unemployed when a factory closes, watches her town dying, and according to the movie trailer, "embarks on a journey through the American West, living as a van-dwelling modern-day nomad." Or as Crouse writes, she's "exchanging four walls for four wheels."

By coincidence – or perhaps they were inspired by the movie or the urge to shake off the effects of the pandemic – over the winter, my sister and her husband searched online for a recreational vehicle. They found one across the country, bought it, packed up some essential living utensils, rendezvoused with their new RV and are using this summer to explore Canada en route home.

"In the late '60s, (CBS reporter) Charles Kuralt began a feature called 'On the Road,'"

my sister wrote on her first travelogue in June. "He and his cameraman travelled around the U.S. in an RV, seeking out interesting people and stories. I always thought that would be the best job. You know what's even better? Having your own RV and driving wherever you want to go, seeing incredible places and meeting interesting people – and doing it for pleasure, not work. ... So that's what we've started doing."

As a tribute to Kuralt, Jim and Kate have named their RV "Charles."

I remember the Kuralt features too. In the early 1970s, I thought I'd combine researching my first book – steam navigation on the Canadian prairies – with a van road adventure. I convinced my girlfriend to liquidate our car, buy a van, convert it for travel and hit the road. We got off to a good start. We found a used 1967 Dodge Fargo van, had it inspected, spent a few thousand dollars converting the panel section into living space. Then, on a short trip into the country, I blew the engine. A total loss. Fortunately, friends loaned us a VW bug, and we downsized our van road adventure to a bug and tenting adventure. Miraculously, Jayne still married me, and the book was published in 1977.

As illustrated by my sister's example, a lot of us who've coped with the pent-up desire to escape home after the pandemic have spent recent days planning trips, counting air miles, and dusting off suitcases, carry-ons and backpacks in hopes that non-essential travel might soon resume. Some have already optimistically booked flights to sunbelt locations next winter. Meanwhile, a lot of Canadians have been looking south, wondering when the Americans might open their side of the border to fully vaccinated Canadians wanting to visit family, friends and vacation spots in the Lower 48. So far, the U.S. by land, is a no-van zone.

That means for those of us not in the market for an RV or assigning our air miles to overseas flights or considering cruises an option again, non-essential travel remains pretty localized. We'll be restricted to daydreaming over travel sections in the newspaper, camping down the road at an Ontario provincial park, or venturing to a bed and breakfast within striking distance of home. Whichever it is, travel appears to be the universal COVID antidote.

For more Barris Beat columns, go to www.tedbarris.com

 <p>4 Banff Road Uxbridge 905-852-8889 Open for Dine-in 9:00am to 8:00pm Checkout our full menu at Halibuthouse.ca/menu</p>	<p>2 Haddock Fish and 1 Chips Regular Price \$23.95 Special Only \$16.99</p>	<p>2 Halibut Fish & 1 Chips Regular Price \$30.95 Special Only \$23.99</p>	<p>\$10.00 off! Any Family Pack 5 Fish + Large Chips + 2 Coleslaw</p>	<p>Lunch Special Chicken Souvlaki Only \$11.99 Regular Price \$16.95 Chicken Souvlaki + Greek Salad + Rice Offer valid before 4pm</p>	<p>Breakfast Skillet Special Only \$9.99 Regular Price \$12.95</p>	 <p>Skillet includes 2 eggs, potatoes, bacon, cheese sauteed onion mushroom & green pepper, served with butter toast. Offer valid before 1pm</p>
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Coupons expire September 5, 2021. Coupons valid at Halibut House Uxbridge location. Present coupons at time of purchase. Cannot be combined with any other ongoing offer/promotion/discount.

Now serving breakfast until 1pm

Maud of Leaskdale celebrates 10 years of bringing author back to life

by Barb Pratt

One of Uxbridge's favourite characters is being brought back to life - and the stage - once more.

Maud of Leaskdale, a one-woman show that has been presented every since it was written (including last

year despite the COVID-19 pandemic), is hoping to draw Lucy Maud Montgomery and/or *Anne of Green Gables* fans to learn more about the life of the famed author.

The popular play turns 10 this year, and only three performances will be open to the public: Aug. 26 at 7

p.m.; Aug. 28 and Aug. 29, both at 3 p.m.

The creation of *Maud of Leaskdale* is as local as the Historic Leaskdale Church that Lucy Maud Montgomery's husband preached at.

When he first settled in Uxbridge, actor and playwright Conrad Boyce saw the importance of the Leaskdale Manse National Historic Site as a tourist attraction. The Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario (LMMSO), which is based in Uxbridge, approached Boyce with an idea for a play about Montgomery and her life in Leaskdale. The play, they said, had to be appropriate to the Leaskdale surroundings and educating for visitors. The LMMSO agreed to back the play and act as producers.

Boyce delved into Montgomery's journals, especially those written between 1911 and 1926 (the Leaskdale years). In those pages, he found the author's own elegantly written entries, her dry wit, and her keen observations. The idea came:

use one actress to portray Montgomery, or Maud, as she was known, and have her speak Maud's own words.

Boyce had seen Uxbridge actress Jennifer Carroll on the stage in Uxbridge and had worked with her in several productions. Even though she was very young and living in Dublin, Ireland, at the time, he knew she could be the perfect choice for the part of Maud. As he created the script, choosing excerpts from Montgomery's journals and shaping the excerpts into a coherent account of her inner and outer life, he contacted Carroll to see if she might be interested. She was.

Carroll received the script while still in Ireland and saw the potential for an incredible acting opportunity. She set about learning the lines, and found that the writing somehow lent itself to being spoken out loud. The words came easily and naturally.

Carroll's costume had to be practical and suitable to the era. Two women familiar to the community theatre scene were called upon to give Maud her look. Local seamstress Denise Randall designed and made the blue two-piece suit and cotton blouse, and Debbie Begg designed a beautiful flowered hat that Maud herself would likely have approved.

The debut performance of *Maud of Leaskdale* in 2011, was to a limited audience: the delegates to the LMMSO International Conference in October 2011. The audience was captivated. Maud's own turns of phrase, her shared confidences, and her acerbic wit were given voice by an actor who had the confidence and skill to make the character come alive. There were many tears and much laughter throughout the two-hour presentation, and when it was over, there was delighted incredulity - how brilliant the play, how marvelous the actor, and how did she ever

learn all those lines?

The following summer, the play opened in the Historic Leaskdale Church, where Montgomery's husband, Ewan Macdonald, was minister from 1910 to 1926. As Carroll spoke her words, it felt as though Maud had been there in that church all along, just waiting to be channelled back into existence. Her joys and her sorrows — coming as a bride to the first home she could call her own; the births of her children; the agony of the World War; the death of a stillborn child — Lucy Maud Montgomery was there, describing it all. Tears and standing ovations occurred after every single performance. The summer of 2012 was hot one, and Carroll's costume was made of a light wool, and there was not yet air conditioning in the church...

"It was hot but not unbearable - I always think to myself, 'if Maud lived (and worked and gardened and kept house) through the heat in an outfit like this, then so can I.'" recalls Carroll. "When I think back to the first years we did *Maud of Leaskdale* in the church before geothermal air was installed, I walked that play through some pretty hot days and evenings."

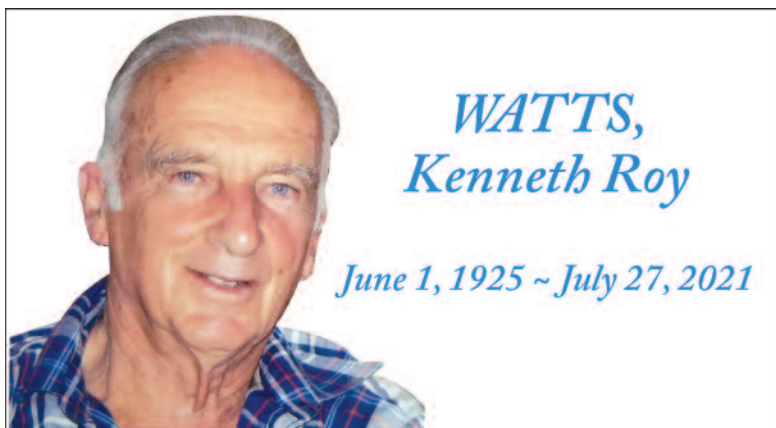
During following summers, the play continued to be a popular attraction. In 2016, Carroll performed in Charlottetown before an audience of delegates to the biennial L.M. Montgomery Conference at the University of Prince Edward Island. The following year, Carroll performed at the Indian River Festival in PEI, in Whitby and in Toronto.

But the most moving performances have been in the small, unadorned country church with the old wooden pews (and now air conditioning) that was Maud's own, and where her presence lingers.

Jennifer Carroll is now almost the same age as the woman she portrays. She has two children, as had Maud. She has matured and deepened. She speaks the same lines, but with perhaps even more authority. But every single performance is as fresh and new as the very first one, and every performance draws the same emotion from its audience.

The Lucy Maud Montgomery Society of Ontario, proprietors of the Leaskdale National Historic Site, present the life of Lucy Maud Montgomery in many ways, through tours, demonstrations, talks, and artifacts. But LMMSO president Melanie Whitfield says, "the most profound is Jennifer Carroll's presentation of *Maud of Leaskdale*."

For more details about *Maud of Leaskdale* and other events at the Leaskdale Manse National Historic Site, visit lucymaudmontgomery.ca



**WATTS,
Kenneth Roy**

June 1, 1925 ~ July 27, 2021

At age 96, Ken passed away in his home with his children by his side.

When Ken's parents initially came to Canada from England, his mom worked as a servant for the Mulock family and his dad worked as a farm hand. Eventually his dad was able to buy his own farm, and Ken grew up on farms throughout his childhood: one at Thornhill (German Mills), where he attended a one-room schoolhouse; one at Woodbridge, where they worked hard milking heifers (Hwy. 27 and Hwy. 7); and then at Richmond Hill (at Headford, south east corner of Major Mackenzie and Leslie). He had a lively home life, with boarders who were treated as family: school teachers, farmhands, and even a friend's uncle his mom found blind and in poverty in downtown Toronto. They were kind to everyone and gave out meals and a place to sleep to passing strangers.

Ken had three siblings, all pre-deceased: Allen, who died at age 4 before Ken was born, and two older sisters, Violet and Bernice. Ken was also predeceased by his dear wife of 70 years, Irene (Renee), who died 11 months ago. Ken was never alone for long; he loved socializing and with his sparkling blue eyes, memorable laugh, many interests and positive outlook, attracted new friends throughout his whole life. Gord Troyer, was his longest and closest friend of 90 years.

Ken met Irene when she offered him a racket on the tennis courts in Stratford. They married within a year and bought half an acre with a small house on a hill near Weston. Fortunately, Ken could build and fix anything, and he doubled the size of the house as his family grew to 4 children. Ken initially did marble and terrazzo work, but soon became a township employee, working in the Roads Department. He progressed to a Garbage Collection Supervisor and finished his career as a Water Works Specialist for the City of North York. After work he dedicated his time to enjoying his family and friends, fixing things around the house, gardening and camping with his family every holiday, modern square dancing with Renee, and clogging.

After retirement he moved to Uxbridge, where he continued to garden by creating plots on other people's land, such as on the Butternut sheep farm where Butternut Manor now stands. He shared the bounty with family, neighbours and friends, sometimes in the form of jam and wine. And many homes are now brightened with his beautiful stained glass work. He had lots of fun helping disabled kids ride horses, drove for Community Care, and helped establish the horseshoe club at the Uxbridge Historical Museum. In his leisure time he enjoyed the Euchre and Cribbage nights at the Seniors' Centre, horseshoes and playing ping pong with his grandchildren.

He spent many winters at a trailer park at the "Tip of Texas" and many summer days at Fenelon Falls Trailer Park. He leaves behind his beloved children David (Jacqui), Bradley (Bev), Adele (Bob) and Christine (Ted); grandchildren Russell (Kallie), Curtis (Lisa), Ryan, Kyle (Victoria), Darren, Kevin, Andrew and Alice; and his six great-grandchildren Isabella, Chelsea, Hadassah, Aliyah, Chloe and Julian. A private family service will be held at the Glendale Cemetery in Woodbridge.

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