

## **MONTGOMERY CHRISTMAS, NORVAL – VISION STORY**

### **Original Vision:**

In 1993 Julie Pomeroy and Kathy Gastle, both from old Norval families, met for the first time with Bob Crawford, long-time resident and owner of Crawford's Village Bakeshop, to discuss celebrating one of Norval's most famous former residents: literary icon Lucy Maud Montgomery. Their idea was to create a community event honouring her life and works, particularly her nine years in the village, where she lived from 1926 through 1935.

### **Strategies & Resources:**

Part of the understated charm of a Montgomery Christmas is the activities. From its beginning, many different attractions have been offered; old-fashioned horse-and-buggy rides, guided historic walking tours, puppet shows, poetry readings, guest speakers, historic displays, music, face painting, book signings, and three country-church bazaars. The brass band from Norval United Church entertains with Christmas carols — and Santa can often be found entertaining the many families who travel to Norval for this event. Crawford's Village Bakeshop bakes "Aunt Maud's Christmas Cake" from Montgomery's own handwritten cookbook, which is always on display for Montgomery Christmas. This year Dr. Mary Henley Rubio of the University of Guelph signed copies of the biography she has written, *Lucy Maud Montgomery: The Gift of Wings*.

### **Achievements:**

Visitors to Montgomery Christmas have travelled from around the world to attend Norval's community event and to visit the Lucy Maud Montgomery Heritage Gardens, first developed in 1992.

The Norval Community Association promotes community events and projects, including a celebration of the 100th anniversary of the first publication of *Anne of Green Gables*. In 2008 the Association opened the Lucy Maud Montgomery Museum at Crawford's Village Bakeshop.