

The arts

Lucy Maud Montgomery (1874-1942) is the province's best known literary figure. As the author of *Anne of Green Gables* and its sequels, which are still read throughout the world, she has made the island familiar to generations of readers. Each year thousands of visitors scour the island for locations described in the books. The most popular attraction is the "Green Gables" house, situated in Cavendish.

Milton Acorn, Prince Edward Island's leading poet, has done much to communicate to other Canadians the island's special character and the warmth of its people.

For most of its history the island had to rely on its own resources for its cultural expression. However, to commemorate the centenary of the 1864 Charlottetown Conference, the other provinces contributed funds towards constructing the Charlottetown Confederation Centre of the Arts. This cultural complex, the first to be built in Canada, includes a theatre, art gallery and library.

The 1965 summer festival featured a musical version of *Anne of Green Gables* and it has remained a sold-out favourite every season since then.

During the rest of the year, the Centre attracts many national and

international performers, from ballet companies to rock stars, and provides a home base for Island performers. Among these is the Confederation Centre Boys Choir which has made several tours of regions of Canada and the United States of America.

The Charlottetown Centre art gallery is one of Canada's most prestigious and is famous for its rich collection of works by Robert Harris. His most notable commission was to paint a record of the 1869 Quebec conference — the well-known "Fathers of Confederation" painting. No other Island painter has achieved Harris's fame, but the province's attractions have long acted as a magnet to draw painters, writers and other creative artists.