

# Neighbours of **Stittsville**

JANUARY 2024

Issue #80

An exclusive  
magazine serving  
the residents of  
Amberwood Village,  
Crossing Bridge,  
Cypress Gardens,  
Forest Creek,  
Granite Ridge,  
Westwood  
and Wyldewood



**The Writer  
Behind Your  
Stories:**

**Meet**

*Amanda  
Monterrosa*

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## The Writer Behind Your Stories:

Meet

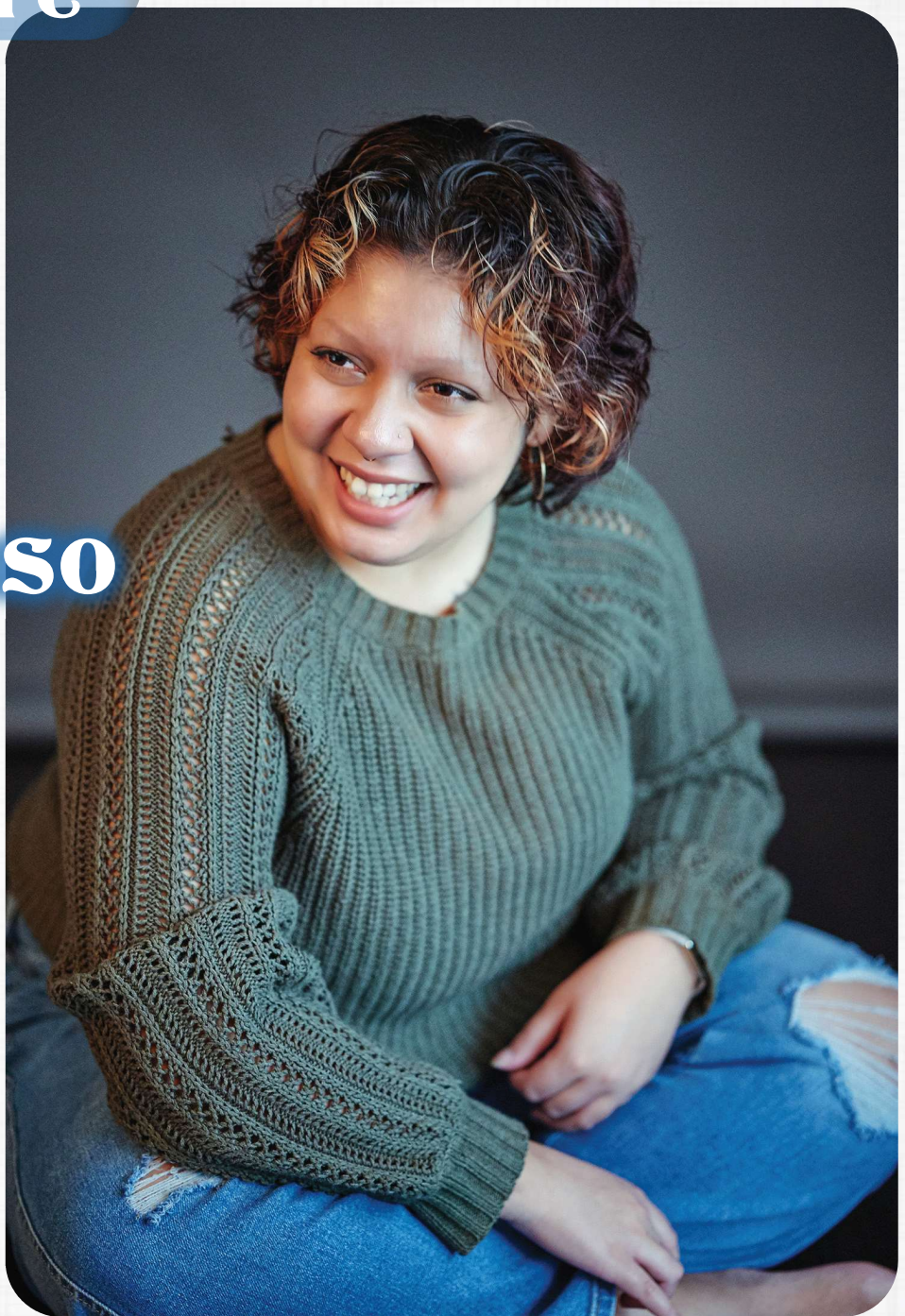
# Amanda Monterroso

By Amanda Monterroso

Since early last Spring, Amanda Monterroso has had the exciting opportunity to get to know neighbours all over the city and share their stories as a writer for our *Neighbours* magazines in West Barrhaven & Cedarhill, Stonebridge, Centrepointe & City View, Kanata Lakes, and Stittsville. Born and raised in Ottawa, she is happy to have found her footing in the local writing scene while also contributing to a sense of community city-wide. From marathon-running physiotherapists to talented local artists, Amanda has gotten to know some amazing individuals and can't wait to meet more as she progresses. But for now, we turn the tables and use this month's issue to get to know her!

Amanda grew up in the Carlington neighbourhood, where she enjoyed the greenery of nearby parks and, of course, the expansive fields of the Experimental Farm. "That's probably where my love for plant life came from," she said. "That, and the jungle of plants my family home always had. My mom and dad passed their green thumb down to me, but I wouldn't say I'm at their level yet. Maybe one day!"

As an adult, Amanda hasn't strayed too far from home. She now resides in the Westboro area with her many plants and partner, Zack Nadeau. "It's funny—we



actually went to the same high school. I remember him playing Dracula in a school play one year. But that's all I remember. We didn't talk much then," she reminisced. "We reconnected years later through mutual friends," Zack continued. "And the rest is history."

In their daily life, Amanda and Zack love to host their friends and family for charcuterie and game nights. Zack especially enjoys entertaining, whether in his TV and radio broadcasting work

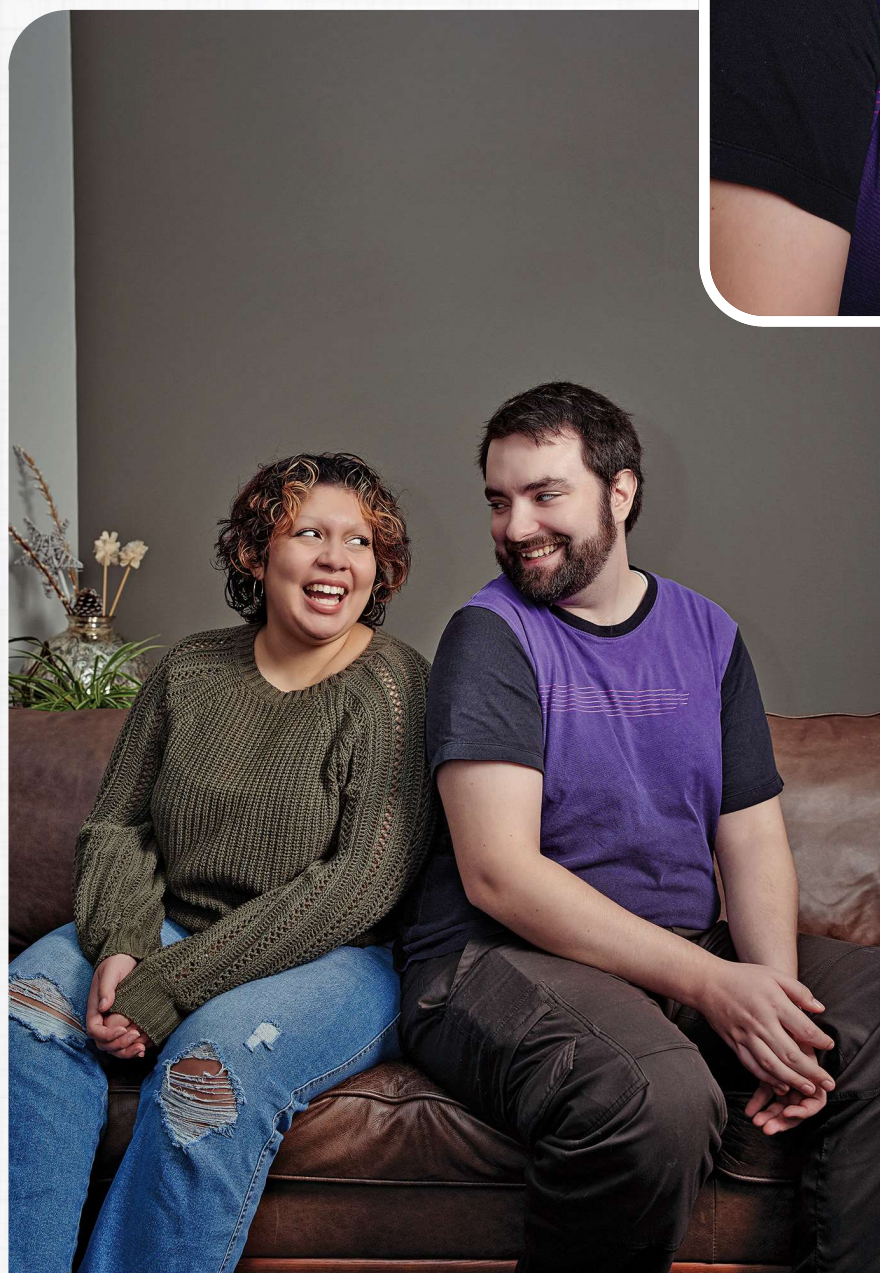
or letting his imagination roam free while planning Dungeons and Dragons campaigns. "It's fun creating a world and bringing characters to life. I like brainstorming story ideas with Amanda, too. We like being creative together," Zack said.

This past Spring, Amanda graduated from Algonquin College's Professional Writing Program, though her love for writing started from a young age. "I always loved reading. I was a shy kid with her

head buried in her Magic Tree House and Junie B. Jones books,” she said. “That eventually translated into a desire to write my own stories. I was about nine or ten, and when they asked me what I wanted to be when I grew up, the answer was always ‘an author.’”

Her path to becoming a writer wasn’t straightforward, however. “It took a lot of trial and error,” she said. “I was in an on-again-off-again relationship with university for years until I finally accepted it wasn’t for me.” Between those periods, Amanda worked as a receptionist and office administrator at a real estate company, then as a food-service worker when the pandemic hit. “It was a lot of back and forth. But I’m grateful for it because it allowed me to rediscover my passion for writing.”

As fate would have it, she discovered Algonquin’s Professional Writing Program in 2021 and enrolled right away. The two-year program was the perfect balance between creative and professional writing, which Amanda now employs regularly as a freelance content writer.



“Between writing feature stories with Best Version Media and blog writing with other clients, things are going pretty well. I love writing. I love telling stories—especially about real people. I thank my Narrative Nonfiction and Writing for the Web classes for that,” she said.

On the side, Amanda writes poetry and short stories, which she has published on Spine Online, Algonquin Times, and in print via a short story anthology titled *By the Fire: A Dark Night*. “That was published as part of our program’s final project. I was the lead editor, and we planned the entire publication and book launch as a class. It was such an amazing experience. I learned so much,” she said. Her personal favourite writers are Virginia Woolf, Sylvia Plath, and Olivia Gatwood.

As a feature story writer and content coordinator for your local magazine, Amanda is proud to be your storyteller and introduce you to your neighbours. “I love talking to new people for the magazines. I call them ‘interviews,’ but really, they’re just conversations unveiling your unique voices and perspectives,” she said. “Through the feature residents I’ve met so far, I’ve learned that there’s beauty in the everyday. I’m proud to help shine a light on that. And I thank you all for being a part of this story.” **S**

**Do you know a neighbour who has a story to share? Contact us at [amonterroso@bestversionmedia.com](mailto:amonterroso@bestversionmedia.com)**