



## **May 5<sup>th</sup>: Anne of Green Gables Day at the Canada Pavilion at Expo 2005**

Visitors to the Canada Pavilion at Expo 2005 will soon have the chance to meet one of Canada's most famous fictional characters! May 5<sup>th</sup> is Anne of Green Gables Day at the Canada Pavilion, and a number of events and activities are planned to give visitors a first-hand experience of this beloved Canadian figure.

The featured guest for the day will be Jennifer Toulmin, one of the six storytellers representing Canadian diversity at the Canada Pavilion at Expo 2005. Ms. Toulmin has been playing the role of Anne Shirley in the hit Canadian family classic *Anne of Green Gables: the Musical*, at the Charlottetown Festival, in Prince Edward Island since 2002. An accomplished actress, dancer and singer, she has been gracing Canadian stages since she won a role in the major Canadian musical production "Mamma Mia!" right after graduating from one of the country's most prestigious performing arts programs.

**Anne of Green Gables Day** will begin with a **photo session at the Canada Pavilion at 9:30 am**, where Jennifer Toulmin, in costume, will be available to take pictures with families and visitors of all ages. This will be a unique opportunity for pavilion guests to interact with Anne and a great way to kick-off this special day.

At the heart of the afternoon's activities is a meeting between Ms. Toulmin and Ms. Wakana Uchibayashi, a Japanese actress who portrayed Anne in a Japanese version of the musical. The two actresses will meet on the **Global Common 2 stage at 14:30 pm**, pose for the cameras and share their experiences playing this beloved character with each other and with the audience. The two actresses will also perform a selection of songs from the musical. Visitors will also have an opportunity to receive an autographed souvenir.

In the evening, a special Atlantic dinner reception will be held in the Manulife VIP lounge, featuring Ms. Toulmin, Ms. Uchibayashi, Norman Moyer Commissioner General for Canada at Expo 2005, representatives of a delegation from Prince Edward Island (PEI), as well as many other special guests.

Other Anne-related events are planned throughout the week in conjunction with Jennifer Toulmin's visit to the Canada Pavilion. Jennifer will spend a lot of time on-site interacting with the public, giving pavilion visitors a unique opportunity to meet a real Canadian face to face. A virtual exchange is also being planned in collaboration with the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic between Jennifer, a group of Japanese youth and a group of Canadian students in Halifax. It will be an exclusive chance for Canada and Japan to have a real-time dialogue on diversity with the help of Canadian technology.

Finally, the Canada Pavilion is most honoured to welcome a delegation from PEI headed by the Lucy Maud Montgomery Institute. At a special media event, they will officially announce the celebrations for the 100th anniversary of Lucy Maud Montgomery's classic, "Anne of Green Gables," to take place in PEI in 2008, as well as the launch of a new Japanese language Web site dedicated to the author.

For more information about the Canada Pavilion please visit [www.expo2005canada.gc.ca](http://www.expo2005canada.gc.ca). To request an interview, please contact the Communications team at the Canada Pavilion at 0561 64 5788. Media can also contact us by e-mail at [info@expo2005canada.gc.ca](mailto:info@expo2005canada.gc.ca)