

# AVCON<sub>2009</sub>

CELEBRATE OUR LAST HURRAH  
JULY 24-26 IN TORONTO

OFFICIAL BROCHURE

# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

## July 24, 2009 - Various Locations (Tour guide: Dan Matthews)

8:30 AM - Meet in the parking lot at Black Creek Pioneer Village (will be leaving at 9:00 AM)

10:15 AM - Tour of RTA & Anne 4 Stunt Bridge, near Leaskdale

11:00 AM - Tour of L. M. Montgomery's house, Leaskdale

11:30 AM - Tour of Pine Grove Church, Uxbridge

12:05 PM - Tour of Junior Ranger Camp

12:30 PM - Lunch break in Uxbridge

1:45 PM - Tour of MacDougal House (King Farm)

3:15 PM - Tour of Anne's "Kissing Bridge"; Emmanuel International, Stouffville

3:45 PM - Tour of Diana Barry's house/Avonlea manse; Bruce's Mill Conservation, Stouffville

5:00 PM - Return to Black Creek Pioneer Village; end of day

A bus will be provided by Sullivan Entertainment for attendees; yet, there will still be a few cars coming along. Also note that filming site tour venues are subject to change.

## July 25, 2009 - Black Creek Pioneer Village

9:30 AM - Doors open

10:00 AM - Guest Speaker: James O'Regan

12:00 PM - Lunch break

1:00 PM - Guest Speakers: Mag Ruffman / John Welsman

3:30 PM - Guest Speakers: Ian D. Clark / Michael Mahonen

5:30 PM - End of day

## July 26, 2009 - Black Creek Pioneer Village

9:30 AM - Doors open

10:00 AM - TO BE ANNOUNCED

12:00 PM - Lunch break

1:00 PM - TO BE ANNOUNCED

2:30 PM - Auction benefitting The Good Shepherd

4:00 PM - Guest Speaker: Marilyn Lightstone

5:30 PM - End of AvCon 2009

Please be sure to have money for lunch for all three days. Also, we will be giving away various door prizes on Saturday and/or Sunday.

## ABOUT OUR CHARITY

The Good Shepherd began in 1961 as a men's hostel in Hamilton, opened by the Little Brothers of the Good Shepherd, in response to needs the St. Vincent de Paul Society had in the 1950s. Since then, the organization has served the needs of residents in Greater Hamilton, ON, and now Toronto as well. According to their About page, "We serve troubled youth, abused women and children, the dying, the mentally and physically challenged, the hungry and the homeless. Our ultimate goal is to support people through crisis and assist them in reestablishing healthy and productive lives in the community. Our services are free of cost and are available to anyone in need."

For AvCon 2009, we are accepting not only monetary donations to The Good Shepherd. We are also accepting non-perishable food items, clothing items, and toiletries, which we will pass on to them, in the true spirit of community and co-operation that was so prevalent in *Road to Avonlea*.

For more information, please visit [www.goodshepherdcentres.ca](http://www.goodshepherdcentres.ca)

## ABOUT AVCON, INC.

AvCon Inc. was designed as a grass roots volunteer effort for the purpose of uniting fans and former participants of the Canadian television series *Road to Avonlea* in a cultural, educational and social event. Our profits, after clearing operating expenses, will be donated to charity. AvCon is self-supporting and relies on funds collected from registration fees and donations. It is run by an international committee of unpaid volunteers. It is our hope that with the success of AvCon, we can hold a conference annually or biannually with one or two different charity organizations benefitting each time from our efforts. We are a registered non-profit in the State of Michigan (incorporated 2004), and an external non-profit in the Province of Ontario.

You may visit us online at [www.avonleaconvention.org](http://www.avonleaconvention.org)

## SPONSORS

### P.E.I. Preserve Company

P.E.I. Preserve Company was founded in 1985 by Bruce MacNaughton after his initial business, a restaurant, failed. With 200 pounds of strawberries in his possession, he decided to visit a friend's kitchen and make some preserves. While making the first batch, he was offered a bottle of Grand Marnier, which would become part of the first recipe for the company. In his first year, Bruce sold 450 jars of those preserves.

Since then, operations have moved to New Glasgow, and his preserves – still made in small batches, by hand, and with fruit grown locally – are sold throughout Canada and the United States, both in stores and through mail-order. The company has also expanded into brewing its own teas, baking its own cookies and fruitcakes, and the restaurant has re-opened. Over 150,000 people visit the New Glasgow facility every year, and over 100,000 jars of preserves are produced per year.

You may visit them online at [www.preservecompany.com](http://www.preservecompany.com)

### Sullivan Entertainment

In operation for over twenty-five years, Sullivan Entertainment has been at forefront of bringing quality, award-winning entertainment to Canadian and worldwide audiences. Aside from all three *Anne of Green Gables* miniseries and the most recent installment, *Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning*, and *Road to Avonlea*, production credits include *Looking for Miracles*, *By Way of the Stars*, *Butterbox Babies*, *Wind at My Back*, *Love on the Land* (also known as *Seasons of Love*), *Under the Piano*, *The Piano Man's Daughter*, and *Mozart's Magic Flute*.

Today, their mission to bring quality programming to the masses continues.

You may visit them online at [www.sullivanmovies.com](http://www.sullivanmovies.com)

## GUEST SPEAKERS

### Ian Clark (Simon Tremayne)

No stranger to big and small screens or the stage, Ian's credit list is an impressive one. His resume includes a three-season stint at the Shaw Festival in Niagara-on-the-Lake; movies like *Thirty-Two Short Films about Glenn Gould*, *Man-Eater*, *Paradise Falls*, and *Little Men*; and stints on other television series like *Wind at My Back*, *Twice in a Lifetime*, and *Doc*. He lives in Kingston with his family. (Alumnus, AvCon 2007)

### David Fox (Clive Pettibone)

This versatile actor has been a stage and screen fixture in Canada for over three decades, and is no stranger to *Road to Avonlea's* audience since first appearing in the small town as John Blythe in *Anne of Green Gables: The Sequel*. Other on-screen credits include *The Littlest Hobo*, *Street Legal*, *By Way of the Stars*, *Promise the Moon*, *Due South*, *Little Men*, *Across the River to Motor City* (for which he received a Gemini nomination), and *Being Erica*. (AvCon debut. Please note he will not be speaking formally, but will be mingling with attendees.)

### Marilyn Lightstone (Miss Stacy)

One of the most multi-talented cast members, she is – aside from an actress – a photographer, painter, songwriter, novelist, radio host, and voice-over artist. Other acting credits include *In Praise of Older Women* (for which she won a Canadian Film Award), *The Wild Pony*, *Blind Justice*, *E.N.G.*, *Street Legal*, and *PSI Factor: Chronicles of the Paranormal*. Currently, she is exhibiting a collection of photographs at the artgallery in Toronto's Distillery District; and she hosts a nightly radio show, *Nocturne*, on Classical 96.3 FM in Toronto. She makes her home in Toronto. You may visit her online at [www.marilynlightstone.com](http://www.marilynlightstone.com) (AvCon debut)

Michael Mahonen (Gus Pike)

This Gemini Award-winner has been a fan favourite since he joined *Road to Avonlea*'s cast as Gus Pike in its second season, and he continues to wow people to this day in front of the camera as well as behind it. On-screen credits include *Conspiracy of Silence* (for which he won his Gemini), *By Way of the Stars*, *Viper*, *Giant Steps*, and a guest appearance on the Lifetime TV series *Strong Medicine*. Behind the camera, he wrote and directed the much-acclaimed *Sandstorm*. He makes his home in Toronto. You may visit him online at [www.myspace.com/mahonen](http://www.myspace.com/mahonen) (Alumnus, AvCon 2004, 2007)

James O'Regan (Constable Abner Jeffries)

James O'Regan dons many hats—actor, writer, producer, director. Aside from *Road to Avonlea*, acting credits include *Lantern Hill*, *Top Cops*, *ENG*, *Anne of Green Gables: The Sequel/Anne of Avonlea*, and *The Stork Derby*. He has written for film, television, theatre, radio, and print media, and has produced for film, theatre, television, and radio. James also acts as a public relations consultant for arts and business and offers communications training for various organizations. You may check out his official website at [www.jamesoregan.com](http://www.jamesoregan.com) (Alumnus, AvCon 2005, 2007)

Mag Ruffman (Olivia King/Dale)

Comedienne, serious actress, author, and licensed carpenter. Is there anything this woman can't do? On-screen credits include *Anne of Green Gables* and its sequel, *Looking for Miracles*, *Goosebumps*, *Happy Christmas*, *Miss King* (a.k.a. *An Avonlea Christmas*, for which she was nominated for a Gemini) and *Shadow Lake*. She also hosted two of her own do-it-yourself shows – *A Repair to Remember* and *Anything I Can Do* – and a compilation of fifty of her “Tool Girl” newspaper columns entitled *How Hard Can It Be?* was published in 2003. She has also written a biography of actor/columnist Steve Smith (best known to TV audiences as the loveable Red Green) entitled *We're All in This Together*, based on four years' worth of interviews with him. She lives in Richmond with her husband Daniel Hunter. You may check out her website at [www.toolgirl.com](http://www.toolgirl.com) (Alumnus, AvCon 2005)

### John Welsman (Composer)

John Welsman was awarded four Geminis for his work on *Road to Avonlea*, as well as a fifth for composing *The Bellringer*. He has also composed for the television movies *Stolen Miracle*, *Murder Most Likely*, *Borrowed Hearts*, and *In His Father's Shoes*; documentaries like *David Suzuki's The Sacred Balance*, *Raising The Kursk*, *Moby Dick – The True Story*; the miniseries *Medical Mysteries*; and television series like *The Twilight Zone*; *Comics*; and *Gzowski In Conversation*. You may visit his official website at [www.welsmanmusic.com](http://www.welsmanmusic.com) (Alumnus, AvCon 2005, 2007)

## RAFFLE INFORMATION

This year, we will be holding a raffle of various items. Tickets are \$2 each or \$10 for a string of six (US and Canadian dollars taken at par) and will be on sale all throughout Saturday leading up to the drawings.

### Raffle Items

- ◆ RTA crew jacket from the 7<sup>th</sup> season
  - ◆ Anne 4 DVDs
  - ◆ *StarGate* DVDs - the complete 10 seasons
  - ◆ Mag Ruffman basket (featuring various *Road to Avonlea* items, plus some of her books)
  - ◆ Original P. E. I. preserves, courtesy of P.E.I. Preserve Company
  - ◆ A selection of TV guides and puzzles
  - ◆ *Avonlea* and LMM-themed cross-stitches, courtesy Kerissa (of the website Avonlea Vignettes)
  - ◆ Jasper Dale basket (including “Dreamer of Dreams” and “The Story Girl Earns Her Name”)
- ...and much more!

Please note that items are subject to be added to or dropped from the list at any time.



## AUCTION INFORMATION

We will be having an auction of Avonlea-, Anne-, and AvCon-related memorabilia on Sunday. As with our past auctions, Mike Matthews is returning to act as our auctioneer. He has also portrayed an auctioneer on two *Road to Avonlea* episodes–“Aunt Abigail’s Beau” and “Friends and Relations”– as well as the premiere episode of *Wind at My Back*, “Four Walls and a Roof.”

Proceeds from this auction will benefit The Good Shepherd. Canadian and US funds will be taken at par. We will take cash or cheques made out to Good Shepherd Centres. (For tax purposes, their charity registration number is #13063 6798 RR0001.)

### Auction Items

- ◆ RTA crew jacket from the 1<sup>st</sup> season
  - ◆ One of Sara’s dresses
  - ◆ Marilyn Lightstone (Miss Stacey) basket
  - ◆ Anne 4 DVDs (one is autographed)
  - ◆ RTA puzzle pack
  - ◆ Lunch with Kevin Sullivan
  - ◆ An original, marked up *Avonlea* script
  - ◆ A few props from the studio (lamps or jars from *Avonlea*, a sign, any other times to be determined)
  - ◆ Five never-before-printed photographs
  - ◆ *Road to Avonlea* DVDs
  - ◆ *Avonlea* and LMM-themed cross-stitches, courtesy of Kerissa (of the website Avonlea Vignettes)
- ...and much more!

Please note that items are subject to be added to or dropped from this list at any time.

## OTHER THINGS TO SEE

MARILYN LIGHTSTONE



www.marilynlightstone.com



A RETROSPECTIVE

Paintings, photographs and mixed media

July 18 to August 6, 2009  
Opening reception  
Thursday, July 23, 6 to 9 pm



artagallery  
55 Mill Street, Suite 102, Bldg. 9, Toronto, ON  
in the Historic Distillery District 416.364.2782



Gallery hours: Tue. to Thu. 11-5, Fri. and Sat. 11-6, Sun. 12-5

(for more information please visit [www.marilynlightstone.com](http://www.marilynlightstone.com))

### *Albertine in Five Times* - featuring Patricia Hamilton

Five women, who are really one woman - Albertine - at five different stages of her life. But [playwright Michel] Tremblay has placed them all together so they can talk to each other - possible only through the magic of theatre. And while they are all the same woman, they feel like different women as well. They all review the events from their life together and remind each other of past pains, loves and losses. Madeleine, their sister, is there to hear it all, to hear about how this woman's spirit has suffered, struggled, thrived and survived seventy years of life. (Source: Shaw Festival website; [www.shawfest.com](http://www.shawfest.com))

July 23, 26, 28 at 8 p.m., at the Courthouse Theatre, Niagara-on-the-lake, ON; part of the 2009 Shaw Festival. Tickets may be purchased via the Festival's website. (Patricia plays Albertine at the age of 70.)

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Thank you for your help regarding AvCon 2009. . .

Sullivan Entertainment; Butternut Farm; the MacDougal family (owners of “King Farm”); Good Shepherd Centres, Toronto; Black Creek Pioneer Village; P.E.I. Preserve Company; Cinema 1 at the Devonshire Mall, Windsor, ON; York University; Harold Crawford; Hyedie Hashimoto; Kerissa Leverton; Ian Clark; David Fox; Marilyn Lightstone; Michael Mahonen; Mike Matthews; James O’Regan; Mag Ruffman; R.H. Thomson.

Much love for those who have helped us with past conventions. . .

Carolynne Agee; Nancy Conner; Christopher Urbanek; Elisabeth White; Mike Williams; Lisa Yascheshin; Zachary Bennett; Harmony Cramp; Alexandra Heilbron; Kevin McCabe; American Cancer Society; Make a Wish Canada, Southwestern Ontario Chapter; Doctors Without Borders; ShakespeareWorks (rest in peace); Royal Ontario Museum; Doug Fyfe at Spadina House; Corinne Thornhill at The Stratford Festival of Canada; Travelodge Yorkdale; The Magic Lantern Society.

Last, but never least, we thank YOU – the fans – who have attended AvCon over the last five years. We couldn’t have attempted to pull this off without your support and encouragement.

“ . . .to friends and loved ones, near and far, that wherever you wander, whatever glorious adventures lie ahead of you, you can rest easy knowing you’ve a place to come home to: the dearest spot on Earth: our Avonlea.” ~ Hetty King

– Bobby and Lynda, Kitty, Ruth, Shelly, Sonya, and Zsolt