



## **Fact Sheet**

### **JUMP IN THE SADDLE AND BECOME A COWBOY**

Today's morning commute on the subway sipping a latte and reading the paper, is in stark contrast to that of yesterday's cowboy steering cattle for hundreds of miles, with nothing more than a strip of jerky. While the profession may not be as popular as it was in 1875, cowboys are still out on the range roping cattle and travelling by horseback through rugged countryside. The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair plays home to some real cowboys this November where they come to compete and show off their skills.

#### **Rock out at The Royal's Rodeo – Sunday, November 8, 2009**

It's the closest thing to heading to the Wild West. The Royal's Rodeo pits cowboys of the East against the cowboys of the West in a draw to see who really are the best. The Rodeo features Barrel Racing, Bronc Riding, Bareback Riding and the toughest sport in the world, Bull Riding. Put on your wild-west best and mosey on down to the Ontario Toyota Dealers Royal Rodeo beginning at 1 pm.

##### **Barrel Racing**

Primarily a rodeo event for women, barrel racing consists of the horse and rider racing to complete a "clover-leaf" pattern course around barrels in the fastest time.

##### **Bronc Riding**

This event involves a horse, sometimes called a bronc or bronco, trying to throw or buck off its rider. The rider attempts to stay on the horse using only one hand for a full eight seconds. This event was originally based on the necessary "horse-breaking" skills of a working cowboy dealing with wild horses. Winning this event includes staying on the horse and receiving a score for riding abilities as well as the horses bucking skills.

##### **Bull Riding**

Presently rated the number one extreme sport in the world, bull riding involves the rider hopping on the back of a large bull and attempting to stay mounted for at least eight seconds. Rodeo clowns or bullfighters are on hand to protect the athletes from the bucking bull after they have been thrown off.

#### **History of the Cowboy**

Many traditions and practices related to our modern notion of a cowboy, come from Spain, travelling to the Americas during the 16<sup>th</sup> century as the Spanish made their way to what is now Mexico and Florida. With the America's having a similar dry climate with sparse areas of grass as in Spain, the settlers had to cover large distances in order to feed their cattle. Travelling by horseback was the easiest way to travel with the herds – thus the cowboy was born.

(more)

### **Cowboy Lingo**

- The word 'jerky' comes from the similar sounding Spanish word for dried meat, 'charqui'
- The word 'cowboy' is a translation of the Spanish word 'vaquero' which means *an individual who managed cattle while on horseback*.
- The word 'rodeo' is derived from the Spanish word 'rodear', which means *to turn*.
- There are two main styles of horseback riding: English and Western. English riding features a flat saddle, as opposed to the Western saddle that dips down and has a horn at the front. English riding requires the rider to have both hands on the rein, while in Western riding only one hand manages the reins.

### **From city to gritty**

Yearning to find out more about the cowboy life or walk a mile in cowboy boots? Try one of the excursions offered by the companies below offering you a truly unique experience to holiday like a real cowboy.

- Great Excursions – Cowboy Experience in Canada  
<http://www.greatexcursions.travel/excursions/cowboy-culture-experience-near-regina.html>
- Eastview Wilderness Guest Ranch  
<http://wildernessranchcanada.com/>

### **Famous sayings originating in The Wild West**

- Every trail has puddles.
- When in doubt, let your horse do the thinkin'.
- If your horse aint wanting to go there, neither should you.
- The buck stops here.
- Whoa Nellie.
- The fastest way to move cattle is slowly.
- Ride 'em cowboy.
- Don't squat on your spurs.
- Scars are cowboy tattoos with better stories.

**For more information visit [www.royalfair.org](http://www.royalfair.org) – November 6-15, 2009**

**Materials and images can be downloaded for media use**

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