



## OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALIST TO MAKE RARE CANADIAN APPEARANCE

*Current Olympic Champion, Canada's Eric Lamaze will come home to compete at the 89<sup>th</sup> Royal Horse Show this November*

October 14, 2011

**Toronto, Ontario** – The 2008 Olympic Individual gold medalist, Canada's **Eric Lamaze**, will headline the International Division of this year's Royal Horse Show during the 89<sup>th</sup> Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, making a rare competitive appearance on home soil.

Currently ranked world number one on the FEI Rolex World Rankings index, Lamaze has competed in Canada just a handful of times since winning the individual gold medal and helping his teammates secure the silver in 2008.

Based in Brussels, Belgium, but still maintaining a training facility in Schomberg, ON, Lamaze has had an outstanding 2011 competitive season including a second-place finish at the 2011 Rolex World Cup Final and wins in the €200,000 Longines Grand Prix of La Baule, the €200,000 Loro Piana Grand Prix of Rome, the €100,000 Grand Prix of Barcelona and the \$1,000,000 CN International this September - marking the second career win for Lamaze of the richest event in show jumping.

“We are excited and honoured that Eric will be competing once again in Toronto, at The Royal, as part of our world-class international division,” remarked John Dunlap, president of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair. “Having an Olympic champion on hand always ‘ups’ the level of competition, and Canadian fans love watching Eric compete at home. We’re thrilled he’s added Toronto to his competition schedule this November and are looking forward to some top-notch show jumping in the Ricoh Coliseum.”

Lamaze was Canada's only double medalist of any sport at the 2008 Olympic Games and has consistently been in the top four in the World Rankings since winning the individual gold medal. Currently he is headed to Guadalajara, Mexico, to represent Canada at the Pan Am Games, October 25-30<sup>th</sup>.

The Royal Horse Show opens Friday, November 4<sup>th</sup>. International riders will compete between Tuesday, November 8<sup>th</sup> and Saturday, November 12<sup>th</sup>, in matinee and evening competitions including the **\$31,000 Jolera International Power & Speed**, the **\$100,000 FEI World Cup Grand Prix**, the **\$50,000 Weston Canadian Open** and the *always* sold-out **\$75,000 Ricoh Big Ben Challenge**. All weekday matinee performances are free with general admission to the Fair. Thursday evening's performance offers an exciting double-

bill featuring International show jumping as well as the **\$40,000 CDI 3\*\*\* FEI Grand Prix Dressage Freestyle to Music** competition, where **Ashley Holzer** will appear to defend her 2009 & 2010 titles. The complete timetable is available at [www.royalfair.org](http://www.royalfair.org).

*About the Royal Horse Show and Royal Agricultural Winter Fair ~ A family tradition since 1922, the Royal Horse Show brings world-class horses and riders from Canada, the U.S. and overseas, including Olympic and World champions, to Toronto each November to compete for more than \$780,000 in prize money and prestigious Titles. Over 1,000 horses of all shapes and sizes participate in show jumping, dressage, indoor eventing, driving, coaching and so much more, over the ten-days of competition. Special features such as the Spirit of the Horse Ring, EquiMania!, the Farmer's Market, Trade-Fair Shopping, educational and agricultural events & competition round out this family tradition. Since its debut, the Royal has been a highlight of the Toronto fall social calendar, visited by Royalty, politicians, farmers and horse-enthusiasts for generations. For more information, "The Royal Online" LIVE webcasting, complete schedule, results and to purchase tickets, please visit [www.royalfair.org](http://www.royalfair.org).*

Media Accreditation at <http://www.royalfair.org/MediaAccreditation> or contact below for Royal Horse Show specific.

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Media Contact:  
Michelle Dunn  
AIPS / IAEJ  
Royal Horse Show  
c. 905-464-3056  
[mdunn@royalfair.org](mailto:mdunn@royalfair.org)

Attached Photos: Olympic Gold Medalist Eric Lamaze, of Schomberg, ON, will make a rare Canadian competition appearance at the 89<sup>th</sup> Royal Horse Show this November. Lamaze is currently the number one ranked rider on the World Rankings list. Photo credit © [mdunnphoto.com](http://mdunnphoto.com) Image may be used in relation to this release only. Kindly advise of links to web postings.