



Fact Sheet

THE ROYAL HORSE SHOW

This year The Royal will roll out the red carpet for the world's equestrian royalty. Our Canadians, fresh off the heels of a Team Silver and Individual Gold at the Olympic Games, will welcome some of the best in the world from the United States, France, Ireland, the Netherlands and Switzerland to vie for over \$350,000 in prize money.

Canada's individual gold medalist Eric Lamaze and his incredible mount Hickstead will once again pair up – this time on Royal soil – to compete alongside their silver medal show jumping team members including Ian Millar, Jill Henselwood and Mac Cone.

Adding fuel to the competitive fire will be members of the U.S. gold medal show jumping team, as well as riders from Europe who will be riding at The Royal to take back championship titles that, no doubt, they believe are their birthright.

The most prestigious and important indoor equestrian event in North America, The Royal Horse Show continues to captivate audiences 86 years after its inception. This year's show is no doubt going to dazzle audiences like never before with the presence of these world famous riders, competing in all three of the Olympic disciplines: Show Jumping, Dressage and our own Indoor Eventing.

More than 55,000 spectators are expected at this year's ticketed events. A million additional viewers will tune into the action at home through select Canadian broadcasts, as well as webcasts by The Royal and Dressage.com TV.

Horse Show tickets and schedule. All horse show tickets include full General Admission to all areas of the Fair. All evening and matinee horse show performances are ticketed events, with the exception of the evening performance, Monday November 10th. The Royal Horse Show program features 11 reserved seating performances during the full span of The Royal. Staged at the impressive Ricoh Coliseum, these performances will showcase the best in equestrian sport; combining the thrill of competition with family entertainment in a package not found anywhere else. Tickets can be purchased through www.royalfair.org, www.ticketmaster.ca, any Ticketmaster box office, the Ricoh Coliseum, or by calling Ticketmaster at 416-872-7777. For the horse show schedule, visit www.royalfair.org.

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Canada's top jumping talent

The prestigious Canadian Show Jumping Championships are a highlight of the opening weekend lineup. Presented by **Greenhawk, The Canadian Show Jumping Championships** feature 25 of the nation's top equestrian athletes vying for the national title and \$100,000 dollars in prize money, over two days of competition.

RCMP Musical Ride

The world-renowned military pageant is back this year with 121 years of history. The Musical Ride is choreographed to music and performed by a full troop of thirty-two riders and horses, plus the member in charge. Demanding utmost control, timing and coordination, these movements are formed by individual horses and riders, in two's, four's and eight's at the trot and at the canter. The highlight of the Musical Ride is, without a doubt, the charge when lances, with their red and white pennons, are lowered and the riders and their mounts launch into the gallop. The RCMP Musical Ride will perform as part of The Royal Horse Show on Friday, November 7, Saturday, November 8 in both the matinee and evening performances, and Sunday, November 9 as part of the Ontario Toyota Dealers Royal Rodeo.

A coast-to-coast competition

Scheduled for the night of Saturday, November 8, the **Kubota Cup National Finals** will be the exciting wrap-up to the Kubota Cup Canadian National Show Jumping Series, the incredible national coast-to-coast show jumping tour. Twenty-one talented riders have qualified to compete for the national title based on their overall standings, drawing from the Eastern and Western Kubota Cup Championships. Riders will compete for a cash prize of \$70,000.

Ride 'em cowboy!

NEW THIS YEAR IN THE RODEO: POLE BENDING!

Close to 50 top competitors will take part in The Ontario Toyota Dealers Royal Rodeo "East" versus "West" competition, a favourite with Fair-goers. The Ontario Toyota Dealers Royal Rodeo, taking place Sunday, November 9 features one of the world's top extreme sports with bulls and is the unquestioned highlight of this action-packed show. Audiences can expect edge-of-your-seat action as riders struggle to stay astride bucking bulls with an average mass of more than 680 kilograms (1700 pounds) for a heart-stopping eight seconds! Cowboys will also compete in saddle bronc riding and bareback riding while the cowgirls will vie for first place in the ladies' barrel racing events. With \$20,000 up for grabs you can bet you will be seeing the best of the best.

NEW THIS YEAR: FEI WORLD CUP QUALIFIER FOR DRESSAGE

Wednesday November 12th (afternoon) and Thursday November 13th (evening)

In an exciting North American head-to-head challenge, the top three Canadian Dressage riders will go up against three of the top US riders in the Royal's first Dressage FEI World Cup Qualifier. Dressage fans in Toronto know their stuff, and Thursday night at The Royal will be a sold-out crowd cheering on their favorites hoping to claim their share of the \$20,000 in prize

money. Horses and riders will be judged on their ability to achieve the precise teamwork required for top-level dressage, including the most popular freestyle to music competitions.

Milestones Carriage Racing Derby

There's only about two and a half centimeters of room around each obstacle, and 180-degree turns are common. Only the steadiest nerves need apply at this event – the only indoor race of its kind in North America. Carriage Racers will compete Thursday, Friday and Saturday the 13th – 15th.

The **Six-Horse Hitch** competitions take audiences back to a time when these beautiful draft horses were a familiar part of everyday life, used for everything from pulling elegant carriages to delivery wagons. Three consecutive evening competitions will feature the Belgian, Clydesdale and Percheron breeds, climaxing in The Royal Six Horse Hitch Championship event held the evening of Saturday November 15th. Total division prize money over four nights totals \$29,000.

Highlights of the International Jumper Division include:

HICKSTEAD! Come see our very own Eric Lamaze with his stellar stallion Hickstead, competing in Ontario for the first time since winning the Individual Gold Medal in Show Jumping at the Olympic Games.

The **International Jumping Competition** brings together up to 23 of the world's best show jumpers, including eight top Canadians. The horse and rider teams will compete for over \$350,000 in prize money and the prestigious "Leading Rider" titles, working to clear jumps up to an impressive 1.6 metres (5.2 feet) high.

Wednesday November 12th

\$100,000 CN FEI World Cup™ Grand Prix

It takes a very special horse and rider to win the title of **CN FEI World Cup™ Grand Prix Champion**. This event will feature the biggest jumps, the best horses and the most prize money of the week. At the end of the qualifying season, the top two Canadians in the World Cup standings will go on to represent Canada at the 2008 World Cup Finals in Las Vegas.

Friday November 14th

\$50,000 Weston Canadian Open. A premier event showcasing the finest show jumpers worldwide as they compete for \$50,000 in prize money.

Saturday November 15th (afternoon)

\$15,000 Canine/Equine Open Jumper Challenge. In an event that's always a crowd favourite, open jumper horses and selected IAMS SuperDogs are matched up to compete in the International Canine/Equine Open Jumper Challenge. In this relay race the dog/horse team speeds through their respective obstacle course, shooting for the best time and fewest penalties. \$15,000 goes to the top dog – and horse, of course.

Saturday November 15th (evening)

\$75,000 Ricoh Big Ben Challenge. International Jumping Competition all week leads up to this final event named in memory of Ian Millar's celebrated horse Big Ben. Riders will be competing for the \$75,000 purse this year. No one wants to win this class more than Ian Millar himself. And with an Olympic Team Silver medal in his pocket this year he will be working even harder to bring this title back home.

For more information on The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair visit www.royalfair.org

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