



American eventer Bruce Davidson, Jr. and Wundermaske competing in the \$20,000 Horseshare Indoor Eventing Challenge.



Darcy Hayes and Say When competing in the \$15,000 Braeburn Farms Hunter Derby at the 2015 Royal Horse Show.

# *The Royal* Looking Forward To: *The Royal*

AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

If there were such a thing as a universal horse show bucket list, the Royal Horse Show, held as part of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, would be at the top. A 93-year legacy has established the Royal Horse Show, which takes place each November in Toronto, Canada, as one of the premier indoor horse shows in North America, drawing fans from around the world. The Royal, however, is much more than just a horse show.

In 2016, The Royal returns to downtown Toronto from November 4th through 13th with ten days of top show jumping, dressage, indoor eventing, and a full schedule of events to keep any Fair-goer busy.

The Royal Horse Show offers the serious show jumping

competitor an opportunity to gain valuable world ranking points in the \$132,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Toronto. One of only four Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping events to be held on Canadian soil, the competition is a qualifying event for the 2017 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Final in Omaha, Nebraska.

McLain Ward, who has impressively won the grand prix the last three years in a row, has been attending The Royal since he was a child. His father was a regular competitor, and Ward fondly recalls cheering his dad on from the perimeter of the Ricoh Coliseum. While Ward has won the Royal Horse Show grand prix a total of seven times, what he cherishes most about the event is the atmosphere.





Canadian Olympian Belinda Trussell and her mount Anton won the \$20,000 Royal Invitational Dressage Cup, presented by Butternut Ridge, at the 2015 Royal Horse Show.

Ireland's Conor Swail and Martha Louise competing at the 2015 Royal Horse Show.

# Agricultural Winter Fair

By Lindsay Brock/Jump Media  
Photographs by Ben Radvani Photography

"I love The Royal," said Ward, who continued the family tradition by bringing his nine-month-old daughter, Lilly, to The Royal. "It is a first-class, traditional event held in a beautiful city. Seeing a packed house dressed in black tie is special. It means a lot for me to now have my daughter come here and be a part of it."

Ward won the \$132,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Toronto last November aboard HH Azur, the horse that would carry him to the 2016 Rio Olympic Games. Underscoring the international appeal of the Royal Horse Show, Dermott Lennon of Ireland placed second while Colombia's Roberto Teran took third.

Aside from international-caliber competition that draws riders from around the world, the Royal Horse Show also knows that spectators want to have fun. The \$20,000 Horsecare Indoor

Eventing Challenge, which brings the exhilaration of jumping natural cross-country obstacles as well as traditional show jumping fences into an indoor setting, encourages fans to vocalize their support for the competitors.

In 2015, newly-minted Pan American Games bronze medalist Waylon Roberts excelled in front of an eager crowd to win his record eighth \$20,000 Horsecare Indoor Eventing Challenge riding West River.

"It takes a handy horse," said Roberts of the technical and innovative Indoor Eventing Challenge. "One that's going to be really obedient for the tight turns and have the quick speed."

Another fan-favorite, the \$15,000 Canine-Equine Challenge,





McLain Ward and his canine partner on their way to victory in the Canine-Equine Challenge.



McLain Ward was named Leading International Rider at the 2015 Royal Horse Show.



Spectators enjoy a bird's-eye view of the Royal Horse Show from the VIP Terrace inside Ricoh Coliseum.

matches up teams of horse-and-rider combinations with professional agility dogs. Each rider navigates a show jumping track before their canine partner tackles an agility course in front of an erupting crowd, with the fastest time winning.

Adding to the multi-disciplinary repertoire of the Royal Horse Show is the \$20,000 Royal Invitational Dressage Cup. In 2015, the line-up was not lacking talent with Pan American Games team silver medalists Belinda Trussell and her mount, Anton, bringing home the win.

The Royal Horse Show also stirs up national pride among the Canadian riders who attend. The \$100,000 Greenhawk Canadian Show Jumping Championships sees the top-ranked Canadians going head-to-head over two days, with the winner being crowned the Canadian Show Jumping Champion. In 2015, Olympic team silver medalist Jill Henselwood riding Farfelu du Printemps unseated ten-time Canadian Show Jumping Champion Ian Millar who was attempting to defend his title.

In addition to show jumping, riders at The Royal share the spotlight with a host of other breed and performance events. From draft hitches to pleasure driving and breed classes, the

event covers all the equine bases.

When taking a break from the action, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair offers unlimited choices for both the shopaholic and the sweet tooth in every show jumping fan. From a sea of shopping opportunities to rows and rows of vendors wielding an endless array of tasty treats, The Royal is a traditional country fair that has been taken to a whole new level.

True to its agricultural roots, The Royal boasts over 2,000 agricultural competitions featuring more than 5,000 animals, vegetables, Ontario wines, the ever-popular butter sculptures, and much more. However, unlike the traditional county fair one might envision, The Royal also offers six restaurants and bars within the fair itself, endless competitions from livestock to fine wines, and even a cooking stage for culinary enthusiasts.

It is not uncommon to see ball gowns and tuxedos mingling with jeans and cowboy boots in the Royal Horse Show audience. The Royal has seamlessly blended a traditional country fair with the class and style of show jumping, making it a shopping spree, vacation, and classic horse show all built into ten exciting days.



From left to right: Dermott Lennon of Ireland, McLain Ward of the United States and Roberto Teran of Colombia at the press conference following the \$132,000 Longines FEI World Cup™ Jumping Toronto in 2015.



Tickets are available at [RoyalFair.org](http://RoyalFair.org).

Come early to shop hundreds of vendor booths and take a stroll through the stabling area to meet some of the four-legged stars of the Royal Horse Show. Bring your appetite, and don't forget to try one of the famous hot apple dumplings!

See you at The Royal!



Heavy horses take their turn in the Ricoh Coliseum spotlight.



Canadian Olympian Mac Cone and Gasper van den Doorn competing in the 2015 \$100,000 Greenhawk Canadian Show Jumping Championships.



Waylon Roberts, eight-time winner of the \$20,000 Horsemare Indoor Eventing Challenge, aboard West River 2.