

# Show, shop & save at the 2017 Royal Winter Fair



The colorful Ames Construction six-horse Percheron hitch from Iowa at the 2016 Royal Winter Fair in Toronto. Ames Construction sponsors the Royal Horse Show Six-Horse Hitch Championship. Photo by Allen MacMillan, MacMillan Photography

By Kim MacMillan, Freelance Writer

What goes better together than horse shows and shopping? For many the answer would be that there's nothing better! The Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto in early November offers the best of both and for U.S. citizens traveling north of the border, this year is a chance to save a little more on tickets, hotel and shopping.

According to Lindsay Brock at Jump Media, the press agency for the Royal Winter Fair Horse Show, the current press-time exchange rate gives U.S. visitors to Canada about twenty percent more buying power when changing to the Canadian dollar.

The Royal Winter Fair has also negotiated a very favorable room rate at the prestigious downtown Toronto hotel, the Fairmont Royal York, for the duration of the event. "Royal York room rates are usually \$450/night, but the special Royal Horse Show promotional price is \$209/night, plus taxes and fees, through late September," said Brock.

The link for this special Royal Fair room rate is: <https://aws.passkey.com/event/49300849/owner/12204/home>

The Royal Horse Show includes classes for draft horses, antique coaches, international show jumpers, a dressage invitational, fine harness and roadster horses and ponies, Hackney horses, Arabian horses, hunters,

and a sport horse breeding show. Highlights of the 10-day horse show include: the Ames Construction \$25,000 North American Six Horse Hitch Classic Series; a Longines World Cup show jumping class; the \$87,000 GroupBy 'Big Ben' Challenge; the \$15,000 K9-Equine Challenge (a show jumping/dog agility pair class;) an indoor eventing competition; the Braeburn Farms Hunter Derby, and an antique coaching appointments class.

Some of the Royal Fair Horse Show



Literally a sea of tons of horsepower in the Clydesdale six-horse hitch class at the 2016 Royal Winter Fair Horse Show. Photo by Allen MacMillan, MacMillan Photography

classes, including the draft horse show, are open to U.S. competitors. Entries for the shows close Sept 25, 2017. For the draft horse show prize list go to [www.royalfair.org/PDFs/HeavyEntry\\_WebFinal.pdf](http://www.royalfair.org/PDFs/HeavyEntry_WebFinal.pdf)

In addition to the competition, there is always featured equine entertainment at the Royal including the popular Canadian Cowgirls drill team, Australian horseman Guy McLean, the Ontario Toyota Dealers Rodeo on Sunday, November 12, and Amber Marshall of CBC's Heartland will make special appearances on Saturday, November 12, and Sunday, November 13. An official announcement about this year's Royal Horse Show full entertainment lineup will be made in early September.

The Royal is ideally timed to finish your Christmas shopping. Hundreds of commercial vendors offer wares for sale ranging from tack, show clothes, horse care products and trailers, to gift items, Canadian agricultural food and fiber products, housewares, health and beauty items and jewelry, clothing and footwear. And, if you enjoy epicurean adventures you can sample Canadian delicacies including maple syrup products, jams and jellies, cured meats, goat cheese, wine and beer, and produce from around Canada as well as ethnic foods from many other countries in the Royal Food Court.

VIP subscriptions and group tickets are on sale now. Individual tickets go on sale September 5. To plan your visit to the Royal Winter Fair go to [www.royalfair.org](http://www.royalfair.org).