

A Royal AFFAIR

Every November, Canada turns out its best equestrian finery for the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, an indoor exhibition to remember.

STORY AND PHOTOS BY SHELLEY PAULSON



The Green Meadows Coaching competition will bring you back to a time when coaches were a common mode of transportation. The Old Times coach is one of the best known in history. Originally built in 1886, the coach was restored by Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Waller of Stockbridge, Mass., in 2001.

A visit to The Royal Agricultural Fair in Toronto should be on every equestrian's bucket list. The event, which runs for two weeks every November, offers the ultimate in fair favorites with culinary delights, farm animals, shopping, and agricultural demonstrations, but at an indoor venue with equestrian competitions that attract some of the world's top names.

"The Royal," as it's often called, was started in 1922 as a place to showcase the best in Canadian agriculture. Its name is the result of petitioning and receiving approval from King George V to add "Royal" to the fair's name.

The Royal Horse Show is a cornerstone of the event with equestrian competitions for driving, draft horse hitching, saddle seat riding, indoor eventing, hunter derbies, and show jumping, including an FEI World Cup competition with a prize for the winner of \$210,000.

THE ROYAL AGRICULTURAL WINTER FAIR

Exhibition Place, Toronto
November 1-10, 2019

Visit www.royalfair.org/horse-show for tickets and info



Bring some spending money when you visit: The Royal brings together some of the best of the world's equestrian brands and talented artisans all in one place for a world-class shopping experience. ABOVE: artist Jessica Potenza.



The Royal is a family-focused event, full of fun opportunities for kids to learn about agriculture and interact with animals.



Roadsters, harness ponies and Hackney classes all add high-stepping pizzazz to the classes offered at The Royal.



The Royal also offers cooking classes taught by celebrity chefs and celebrities like Amber Marshall of the "Heartland" TV series.



The sound of jingling harnesses and a collection of powerful hooves thundering into the arena make the six-horse hitch classes a crowd favorite.



The Royal Horse Show always features top equestrian entertainment. Last year, Australian Guy McLean lit up the crowds with his incredible horsemanship and sharp wit. Equestrian performer Sylvia Zerbini is coming to The Royal in 2019.



American show jumper McClain Ward won the FEI World Cup at The Royal in 2018.