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Six-horse hitch competitors.

# TORONTO'S ROYAL HORSE SHOW

Celebrating 100 YEARS of combining black-tie formality with a country flair.

BY SABRINA BRASHARES/JUMP MEDIA

Ariel Grange and Legacy

**T**HE ICONIC Royal Horse Show, the marquee event of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair in Toronto, Canada, celebrated a memorable 100th anniversary in November 2022. The prestigious competition featured world-class horse sport while maintaining its rich tradition of combining black-tie formality with a country flair.

After a two-year hiatus due to the global pandemic, the Royal Horse Show returned in all of its splendor with an elevated CSI5\*-W rating from the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) to offer the highest level of international show jumping. Spectators were treated to a star-studded field of riders representing 11 different countries and three of the top-10 riders on the Longines World Rankings list and several Olympic gold medalists, including the reigning champion Ben Maher of Great Britain.

In addition to show jumping, horse sport enthusiasts representing a range of disciplines traveled to the Royal for their turn in the Coca-Cola Coliseum's spotlight. Packed houses enjoyed six-horse hitches, Hackney ponies, four-in-hand coaching, hunter derbies, indoor eventing, and daily performances of the legendary Royal Canadian Mounted Police (RCMP) Musical Ride.

The Royal Horse Show is known for its unparalleled atmosphere. Elaborate light shows and musical entertainment made the transitions between events and course changes into spectacles to behold. One of the rituals that sets this exceptional event apart is the longstanding tradition of black-tie attire. Spectators

drawn to the nines filled the packed coliseum, many of them donning tuxedos and ball gowns with glamorous jewelry that glittered under the lights. After the show, revelers made their way to the Tanbark Club to dance the night away.

The highlight event of the show's centennial celebration was the \$250,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup Toronto, held on closing night in front of a sold-out audience of more than 7,000 fans. Ireland's Daniel Coyle riding Legacy, a 12-year-old Zangersheide mare (Chippendale Z x Bon Am) owned by Toronto's Ariel Grange delivered the only double-clear performance over the course designed by Canada's Michel Vaillancourt to take home the top prize.

Israel's Daniel Bluman riding Gemma W, owned by Blue Star Investments finished in second place while two-time Canadian Olympian Tiffany Foster (page 62) aboard the aptly named Northern Light, owned by Artisan Farms thrilled the home crowd for third-place honors at the conclusion of the three-horse jump-off.

"We are very, very excited about what happened here all week celebrating a century of bringing champions to Toronto with our partners from the FEI and Longines," said Charlie Johnstone, CEO of the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, during the press conference for the \$250,000 Longines FEI Jumping World Cup Toronto. "For 100 years, The Royal has been about bringing the country to the city and being best in class. That is what we have stood for throughout the past century and what we will continue to stand for in the next century." **EQ+** INFO | PAGE 97



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KIPP MEDIA  
Royal Canadian Mounted Police Musical Ride.



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Canadian Olympian Tiffany Foster riding on the Green Meadows winning coach.



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Nicholas Dello Joio and Cornet's Cambridge presented by Mark and Tara Rein.



McLain Ward and Nayel Nassar.



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