



100 YEARS

AFTER A TWO YEAR HIATUS DUE TO THE pandemic, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair came back to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 2022. The world's largest combined indoor agricultural and international equestrian event, returned to Exhibition Place to celebrate its 100th anniversary in Toronto, ON on Nov. 4-13, 2022. Welcoming over 300,000 people over 10 days, the experience offered guests delicious food, interactive activities, livestock on display, numerous vendors to shop and the incredible daily horse show.

Appropriately enough, the theme of this year's event was 'A Century of Champions,' as the show celebrated its 100 years of inception. Since 1922, the country has come to the city as farmers, growers, producers and homesteaders travel from all over Canada to exhibit their very best agricultural products and livestock. After the First World War, a collective of notable farmers and horsemen got together to plan an exhibition of Canada's finest agricultural wares. Led by shorthorn cattleman, W.A. Dryden the group believed strongly in Canada's ability to compete at a world-class level. Lacking no ambition, the group solicited and received full support from all three levels of government and was granted the Royal moniker by King George V of England.

Each year, the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair features everything you can imagine about agriculture. From small livestock, to large livestock, heavy horse hitches, show jumping and indoor eventing - there is truly something for everyone. Competitors can contend in pickling competitions, cattle classes, jams and preserves contests and everything the country has to offer. There are Royal Canadian Mounted Patrol musical rides, educational opportunities and rodeo events, which were emceed this year by actress, Amber Marshall.

In the horse show events, over 1,000 competitors vied for more than \$1,000,000 in prize money and the coveted title of Royal Champion. Visitors enjoyed watching Olympians and other top international athletes and horses competing at the highest level in show jumping, while experiencing Canada's largest variety of equine breeds and events. Other equine competitions included pony hunters, and heavy horse cart and teams. Athletic canines also came out in the K9-Equine Challenge, which pairs one international athlete with a SuperDog in an extraordinary team relay.

The return of the Royal was palpable this year, as there was a joyful energy buzzing throughout the building, with all the sights and smells attendees are accustomed to with the event. Here's to another 100 years.

photos by Wildrose Imagery

