

Vacation Guide

Royal Agricultural Winter Fair attracts spectacular international contenders

By FRANK AVERST
 TORONTO, Ont. — Barn boots and overalls hobnob with top hats and mink at this city's annual Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, where farm and fashion mingle in what has been called the World Series of North American fall and winter festivals.

Popularly known as "The Royal", it is a rare blend of high society and barnyard conviviality, and will be staged in the Coliseum of Toronto's Exhibition Place this year from Nov. 8 to 17, its 51st show.

Under one roof are 27 acres of champions, demonstrating to the nation where its food originates and how it is produced. Thousands of animals, food of every description, exciting auctions, displays and activities appeal to the entire family throughout the exhibit areas, show rings and barns.

The Royal is for everyone—whether a city dweller used to the feel of pavement underfoot or a farmer who wants to see the latest in techniques and machinery.

The show's traditional pageantry helps to make it perhaps the most elegant occasion on the Canadian social calendar. The private boxes, especially during the visit of royalty or the Queen's representative in Canada, are impressively festooned in gorgeous raiment and military decorations.

In the tanbark ring The Royal Horse Show, a highlight for half a century and a major sporting event acclaimed throughout the world, will have leading international riders, jumpers, roadsters, hackneys, paterinos, draft horses and hunters competing for Canada's top awards.

Along with Canada's best, these spectacular events perennially attract the best riders and horses from several countries, particularly the United States, Argentina, Mexico, Brazil and Ireland, distinguished contenders all.

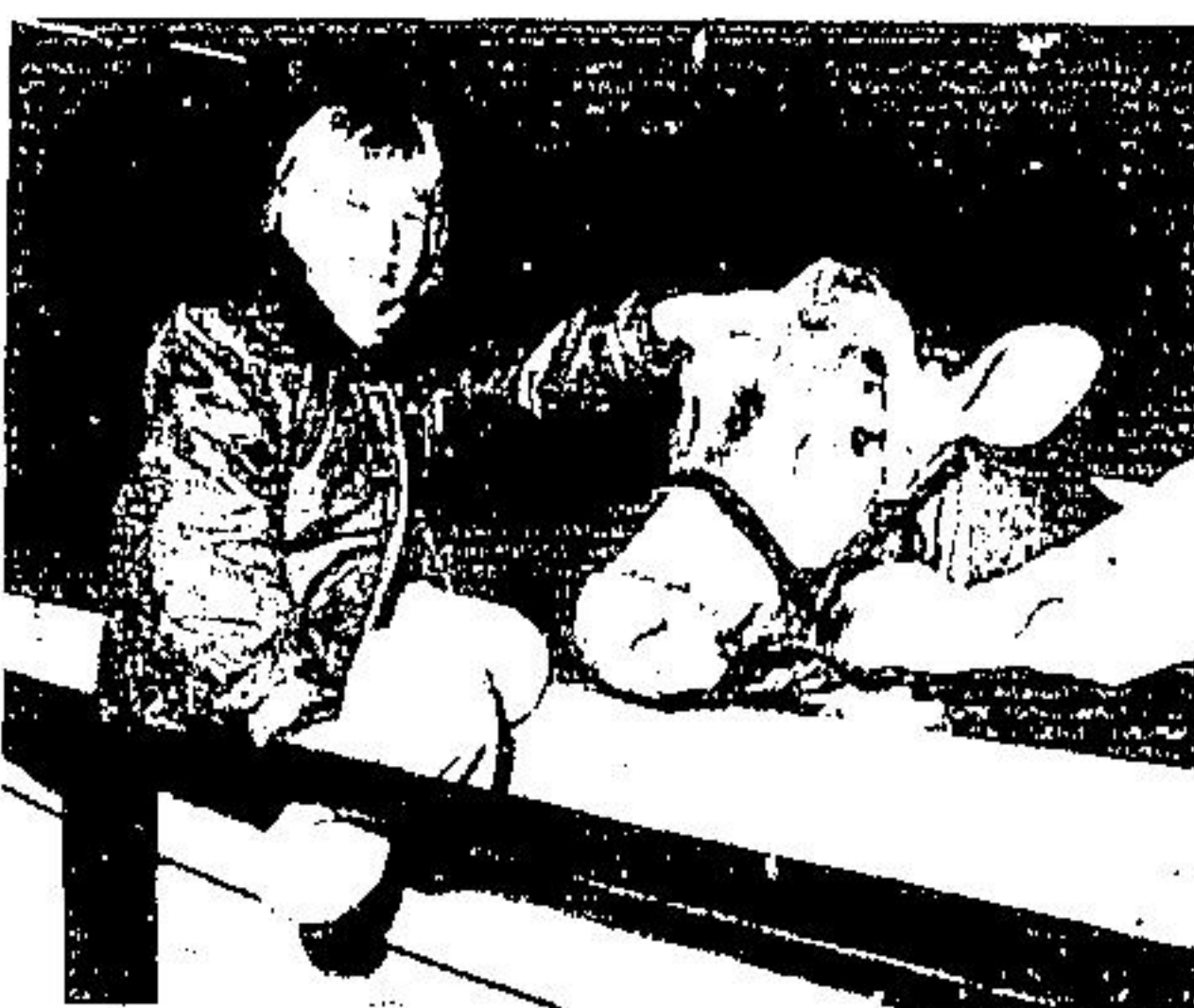
Horse show performances are held most evenings and on several afternoons.

Despite the opulence of some of its visitors and patrons the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair is still, as it began more than 50 years ago, a farm show, and the directors fight a constant battle to keep the word "Agricultural" in its long and unwieldy title.

A champion's ribbon at The Royal is the ultimate achievement in the art and sciences of agriculture. One of the past slogans was "If you've won The Royal, you've won it all."

The select of all breeds of livestock are carried many hundreds of miles to the Royal and are shown along with the most nearly perfect examples of vegetables, fruit, grain, flowers, butter, cheese, honey—all the output of the farm. This year some 20,000 entries of almost boundless variety—from steers to tropical fish—are expected to be shown by thousands of exhibitors from all parts of Canada, the U.S. and several foreign countries.

The superharvest is dramatically displayed and explained for both city and farm visitors, as the Royal is aimed, not only at improving the standards of Canadian agriculture, but also at increasing understanding and co-operation between urban and rural people. In recent years the fair has put growing emphasis on food, a



Nothing could possibly recapture the gleeful grin of this pert little miss as she caresses a prize-winning contestant at the Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, an annual fixture in Toronto coming to its 51st year.

subject that interests both farmers and city people, as producers and consumers.

For example, there are cooking demonstrations emphasizing the quality and versatility of Canadian farm food.

Too, the young of a host of farm animals—calves, piglets, chicks, ducklings and other members of the barnyard smallfry—are there for

the special benefit and delight of the youngest visitors.

Last year the Royal welcomed international visitors from 45 countries from Australia to Zambia, including 30 states of the U.S., according

to registrations made the Guest of Canada booth.

Catering to the inner rumblings stimulated by all this bounteous fare are a licensed dining room, a cafeteria and

snack bar.

In sun, The Royal is young, enthusiastic people, exhibiting and judging.

The Royal is a photographer's field-day with its riot of floral creations.

It is grandparents relishing the nostalgia stirred by the charm of exquisite hand-sewn quilts and home-made goodies.

It is a spotless show in keeping with the cleanliness of the city in which it is held.

It is a wholesome change from the hectic conditions of a worrisome world.

It's open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Monday to Saturday and

from 10 a.m. on Sunday.

Parking is available on the Bathurst-Exhibition street-car or Go-Train will take you right to the site.

Admission: Adults \$2.75; students \$1.50, children under 12 \$1.00 and, on Nov. 9, senior citizens \$1.00.

For ticket information contact: Royal Agricultural Winter Fair, Exhibition Place, Toronto, Ontario, Canada, M6K 3C3. Tel: (416) 366-9051

For information on other Ontario attractions write: Ontario Travel, Dept. G.K., Queen's Park, Toronto, M7A 2E5, or call collect (416) 965-4008 (weekdays).

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