



# ARGRAculture

April 2008 Edition

## Next Dance:

April 26  
Hillhurst-  
Sunnyside  
Community Centre  
1320 5<sup>th</sup> Ave NW  
Doors open  
at 8 pm



2008  
Bud Light  
Canadian  
Rockies  
International  
Rodeo  
June 27-29



Rodeo  
Committee  
Meeting Dates:  
April 29<sup>th</sup>  
May 13<sup>th</sup>  
May 29<sup>th</sup>  
June 12<sup>th</sup>

**Bills...** junk mail, and more bills, seems some days, that is about all one ever gets in the mail. Now, to my surprise back in January the ARGRA mail had a little something more than the latest batch of bills.

Wedged into the mail slot here was a plaque, ARGRA had won an award! Now, I'm not sure how many of you have heard of the website [GayCowboyCentral.com](http://GayCowboyCentral.com), but apparently in 2007 they had a members contest voting on the top 5 rodeos in the circuit, and the Bud Light Canadian Rockies International Rodeo came in 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Now, it is always nice to receive an award, especially when you least expect it, and even nicer when you get to see the comments left by those who voted.

"Great crowd support and best added money purse"

"It is great to have the rodeo and all activities in one site!"

"The best venue, the best people, the best hospitality, the best entertainment and best sponsors"

"A great venue, Camping out, partying and rodeo all in one"

"Best feeling of community – and most fun!!"

"A new Leading Canadian Country Artist plays every year on Friday to kick off the rodeo. Great spectator turnout and a great camp ground. A great rodeo for first time competitors. The ability to have a great time on the grounds and walk back to your trailer on site."

"Been to it... and word of mouth is... it is by far the most authentic outdoor ranch and cowboy rodeo atmosphere on the circuit. Pardner"



"They had the group Emerson Drive Performing at their rodeo. Besides it is a camping rodeo and they serve breakfast right at the rodeo grounds for all the campers. The competitors and spectators are all on site. It is a party all weekend long."

"Everything is right there... no need to ever leave for 3-4 days... no drinking and driving and the parties go on all night long..."

"The best camping, great competition, and all that Canadian hospitality. Everything happens in one place. Yahoo!"

Thanks to all those who voted ARGRA as one of the top 5 rodeo's, and a special thank you to [GayCowboyCentral.com](http://GayCowboyCentral.com) for the award. We have something unique to be proud of, so let's keep up the great Canadian hospitality and see you all at the 2008 Bud Light Canadian Rockies International Rodeo.

Alec Masee  
ARGRA Secretary / Editor









**Spring is in the air...**

I found my “stolen” wallet in a melting snow bank at the edge of my driveway. As I rifled thru it, I found the Visa I cancelled in a panic, the license with the best picture ever taken of me, a couple of trick cards that the ink had ran, some small American bills, a fortune that said “keep a close eye on your most precious belongings” and an assortment of other things that highlighted the irony.

As I sorted everything into ‘trash’ and ‘keep’ piles (I managed to decipher a name and number on one of those trick cards!) I found my ARGRA membership card and was reminded that...

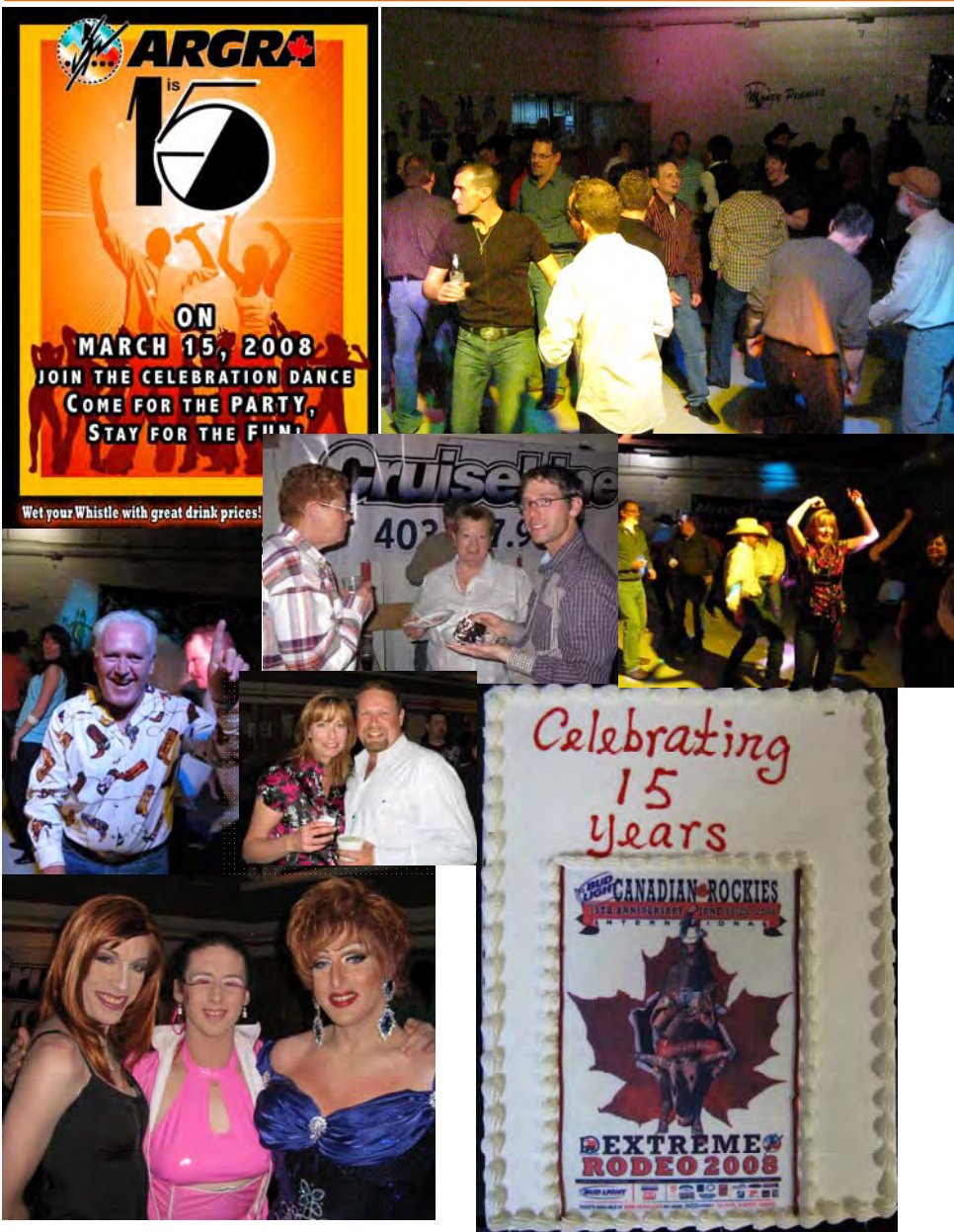
ARGRA memberships expire on May 31! (Seriously, all that stuff above just to make this point)

We’ve made it really easy and rewarding to renew your membership at ARGRA’s Beach Party on April 26<sup>th</sup>. Not only will you keep your membership current, but you’ll also get into the May dance for FREE! If you bring some friends and they join for the first time at the April dance, they get into the May dance for free too!

Throw on some shorts and sandals and welcome in the summer with your friends at a countrified beach party. Who knows, I have my own table for the membership renewals....and to me, well to me that almost calls for a little table dance! Sorry....it’s members only! ;)

Tippin my hat and undoing a shirt snap...  
 Billy Loiselle  
 Membership Director 2008

**PLANNING ON GOING TO THE 2008 BUD LIGHT CANADIAN ROCKIES INTERNATIONAL RODEO?  
 WHY NOT RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP EARLY AND TAKE ADVANTAGE OF MEMBER PRICING FOR WEEKEND PACKAGES, AND GET INTO THE MAY DANCE FOR FREE!**



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## ARGRA – SHARP: A Partnership Of Caring

In February 2008, ARGRA Board Chair presented The SHARP Foundation with a \$5,000.00 cheque to be used for the care and support of individuals living with HIV and AIDS in Southern Alberta. The partnership between ARGRA and SHARP has existed for many, many years – not just in raising much-needed funds but also with helping each other out. ARGRA and the rodeos have also provided great entertainment and an opportunity to connect with the community for more than one of SHARP's residents.

For many ARGRA members there is a personal attachment to the work SHARP does. HIV has been and still is an important issue in the gay community. The community has lost many friends to AIDS or know of someone who is struggling with this chronic disease.

The SHARP Foundation (Society Housing AIDS/HIV Restricted Persons) was started in 1990 by Walter Beswick and a group of friends who wanted to provide a compassionate 'home' for AIDS-afflicted persons to die. Since that time SHARP has cared for over 200 people in a safe, non-judgemental environment. Many passed away peacefully in Beswick House, and many more have become healthier and are living successfully in our community.

Fortunately we now have medication that can keep HIV+ people alive well into their senior years. However it is not always an easy life – it requires a regimen of good nutrition, lowered stress levels, and taking medications on time. This is even more difficult when you are being discriminated against because of the disease or the lifestyles typically associated with the disease. Or you can no longer work and try to eek out a life on social assistance. SHARP's residents are typically the most vulnerable in our community.

SHARP's mission is to provide a 'wholistic' continuum of care to its residents including medical, psychosocial, physical and spiritual health. We are taking this care beyond our current homes, Beswick House and Scott House. The Foundation and its partners are planning to provide a variety of supports and housing options to better meet the diverse needs of the people infected with and affected by HIV. In a few months SHARP will officially start its outreach care initiative. The aim of this program is to help former residents stay healthy and happy in the environments they choose to live.

In collaboration with many other community-based agencies, SHARP is investigating options to bring palliative care to the most chronically-homeless in Calgary. It is partnering to build an apartment building that provides affordable, supported living options to individuals and families. The demand for SHARP's services is increasing and it is always looking for innovative ways to meet the need. But it will never compromise on its core values of caring, compassion and being non-judgemental.

The SHARP Foundation is thankful to ARGRA, its members and its partners who have given of their time and money to improve the quality of lives of persons infected with and affected by HIV/AIDS. Thanks for caring! We look forward to continuing this valuable partnership.

For more information on The SHARP Foundation check the website

[www.thesharpfoundation.com](http://www.thesharpfoundation.com) or feel to chat with one of its volunteers at this year's Rodeo!

## CANADA DOES FT. LAUDERDALE



13 Calgarians (including Olds and DeWinton residents) traveled South to enjoy the sun, surf, sand and great rodeo action at the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Sunshine Stampede in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. Canadians have a reputation for knowing how to party but they are also gaining a reputation for knowing how to compete. They brought home lots of ribbons and 2 buckles. Congratulations to Janie V. and Jamie C. for winning their first buckles!

See the weekend results on the next page.....



# Marnie Campbell

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**Striving for excellence in ARGRA** is of utmost importance to all that are involved. ARGRA has worked hard in supporting community donations, putting on extra events and creating awareness of the western gay lifestyle.

ARGRA continues to strive in a leadership role to promote the businesses that support us as a community. I would also like to thank those sponsors who without their support this production could never have become as amazing as it is.

As member's you know we have a great deal of activities that are held outside the anticipated monthly dances, there are dance lessons, a horse club and sky the limit for our fund raising coordinator. Our Horse club is becoming more and more popular, the word is getting out and people are joining up. We saw the overwhelming growth the amount of local competitors this year at the 14 annual Canadian Rockies International Rodeo. We have had many members don their cowboy hats and head south to compete in one, two or multiple rodeos of the twenty-eight International Gay Rodeo Associations. For more information you can be visit [www.igra.com](http://www.igra.com) about these different events.

In this years activities ARGRA also will be involved with the ISCCA Coronation XXXII, International GLBT Film Festival, June Pride activities, parade and festival and many more community driven involvement.

There are many facets to putting on a jaw dropping event. The Canadian Rockies International Rodeo 2007-08 is a result of dedicated individuals. The ARGRA Executive lead by myself and the Rodeo Committee led by Rodeo Director Lorrie Murphy have spent hundreds of hours organizing and planning the upcoming rodeo as well as monthly activities.

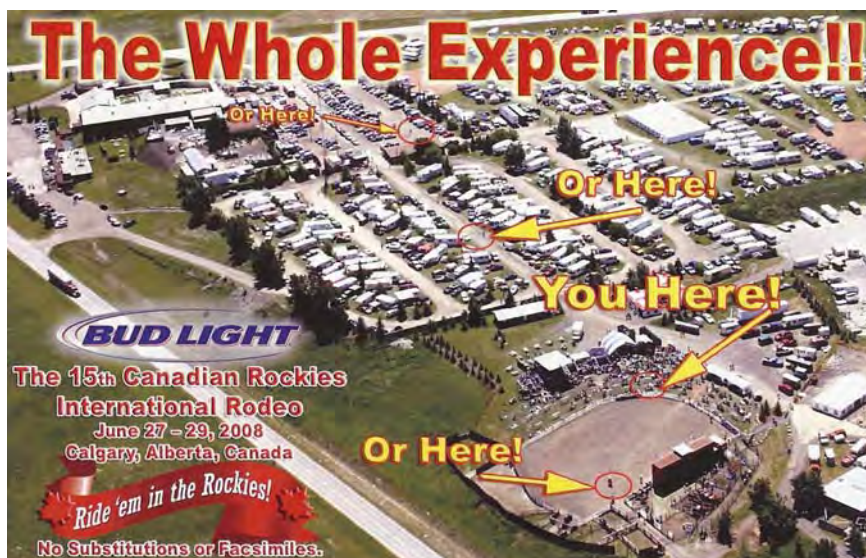
Watch ARGRA activities in many different facets and please come out join the fun new faces are always encouraged and needed.

Giddy Up,  
Heather Murray  
ARGRA PRESIDENT 2005-2009



**Canadian Results from Ft. Lauderdale**

	Sat	Sun	Overall
W. Calf Roping on Foot – Janie V.	1st		1st Place – 1 <sup>st</sup> Time Buckle
M. Calf Roping on Foot – Jamie C.		1st	1st Place – 1 <sup>st</sup> Time Buckle
W. Chute Dogging – Dale T.		1st	
M. Chute Dogging – Jamie C.	2nd	4th	3rd Place
- Rob S.	5th	7th	5th Place
- Jeremiah W.	7th		
Goat Dressing – Jeff N / Jeremiah W.		6th	8th Place
Steer Decorating – Dale T. / Rob S.	6th	6th	6th Place
Wild Drag Race –			
Janie V. / Jeff N. / Jeremiah W.	3rd	4th	2nd Place
Judy M. / Jamie C. / Ed M.	6th	2nd	3rd Place
Lori A. / Dale T. / Shawn M.	3rd		



**Git yer Rodeo Tickets while they last !**

Yep, that's right... the Bud Light Canadian Rockies International Rodeo packages are selling like hotcakes.

The most exciting part is that you can order your tickets online at [www.arga.org](http://www.arga.org) any time of the day or night.

Just click on Rodeo then Tickets and Packages.

We are now set up for PayPal and can take just about any credit card you have or if you have a PayPal account you can use that. Please note the Visa line is no longer in service.

Remember May 31<sup>st</sup> is the cut off for the discounted rate for your rodeo package so book it now and git yer boots shined up for the wild rodeo weekend June 27-29, 2008 at Symons Valley Ranch. You can also purchase Rodeo packages at the April 26<sup>th</sup> Beach Party Dance at Hillhurst Sunnyside Community hall.

Keep your eyes open for our new website which should be appearing next month.

Judy Munson

ARGRA Communications Director





**BEACH PARTY**  
with **ARGRA**  
Hope to see you there!

**ON APRIL 26, 2008**  
**WEAR YOUR BEST BEACH APPAREL!**  
**COME FOR THE PARTY, STAY FOR THE FUN!**  
**WWW.ARGRA.ORG**  
**Wet your Whistle with great drink prices! Late Night Buffet!**

Where: Hillhurst-Sunnyside Community hall, 1320 5th Ave. N.W., Calgary, Alberta  
Doors open at 8PM. Membership available for purchase, Admission Members \$6 - Non Members \$10.

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BUD LIGHT, Out, S, M, KFC, P, 13

## HORSE CLUB NEWS

Hi I'm Lori Andrews your 2008 horse club coordinator. I thought I would write a quick little note to let you know what the horse club is and how you can get involved if you are interested. We get together usually once or twice a month to get instruction from MerryAnn Stoney in Barrel Racing, Pole Bending and Flag Racing. Each clinic costs \$20.00. We are also planning a couple of afternoons of obstacle training for you and your horse. These are things you would see out on the trail, in the ditch, things to go over, under, you name it we will try to plan it! Over the summer and fall we usually take our horses out to the mountains a time or two so if that interests you let us know. If you want to send me your email address I will add you to our Horse Club list and you will be notified of any upcoming events. My email address is [runninghorseranch@platinum.ca](mailto:runninghorseranch@platinum.ca) or my phone number is 403-938-7329.

### OVER 18 POLICY

Due to our liquor license anyone under the age of 18 will not be allowed into the ARGRA dances. This includes the monthly dances as well as the CRIR Entertainment and dance Friday night, Saturday night dinner and dance, Sunday night awards and dance. All ages are welcome to attend the rodeo Saturday and Sunday. If you look like you may not be 18, then you will need to produce a picture I.D. Thanks for helping us enforce our liquor license obligations.

**ARGRA DANCE'S 07-08**

- September 22, 2007
- October 20, 2007
- November 17, 2007
- December 8, 2007
- January 12, 2008
- February 16, 2008
- March 15, 2008
- April 26, 2008
- May 31, 2008

CRIR June 27-29, 2008  
[www.ARGRA.org](http://www.ARGRA.org)

ContactARGRA	Boardmembers	
<p><b>Website:</b> www.argra.org</p> <p><b>Telephone Hotline:</b> 403-541-8140</p> <p><b>Fax:</b> 403-26-ARGRA (403-262-7472)</p>	<p><b>Trustee</b> Pierre Cadieux . . . . . 403-275-4544 <i>trustee@argra.org</i></p> <p><b>President</b> Heather Murray . . . . . 403-472-7499 <i>president@argra.org</i></p> <p><b>Vice-President</b> Rob Somers . . . . . 403-512-4954 <i>vicepresident@argra.org</i></p> <p><b>Secretary</b> Alec Masee. . . . . 403-238-7520 <i>secretary@argra.org</i></p> <p><b>Communications Director</b> Judy Munson. . . . . 403-938-7329 <i>communications@argra.org</i></p>	<p><b>Membership Director</b> Billy Loiselle . . . . . 780-779-6530 <i>membership@argra.org</i></p> <p><b>Sponsorship Director</b> Darrel Reid. . . . . 403-720-0687 <i>sponsorship@argra.org</i></p> <p><b>Fundraising Director</b> Ross Scarrett . . . . . 403-370-4390 <i>fundraising@argra.org</i></p> <p><b>Rodeo Director</b> Lorrie Murphy. . . . . 403-470-7411 <i>rodeodirector@argra.org</i></p> <p><b>Treasurer</b> Brent Zuber . . . . . 403-802-1263 <i>treasurer@argra.org</i></p>
<p>ARGRAculture is produced 6 times a year(Aug, Oct, Dec, Feb, April &amp; May) as a communications to the membership. If you have any questions, concerns or feedback, we would love to hear from you. You can reach any of the executive via their contact information.</p>		