



ARGRAculture

Summer/Fall 2009 Edition

Calling All Members !!!

The Annual General Meeting for the Alberta Rockies Gay Rodeo Association is Wednesday September 9th at 7 pm.

Location: 223 12 Ave SW (Old Y, main floor common room)

Upcoming Events:

Calgary Pride Parade:
September 6th

Next Dance:
September 26th

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Thank You! ARGRA Volunteers Appreciation HOE DOWN!

SATURDAY SEPT 26, 2009



All ARGRA Volunteers Get in Free! Members \$6, Non-members \$10!

Wet your Whistle with Great Drink Prices!

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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Wasn't That A Party!!

WOW - After 10 months of hard work and planning ARGRA has put on another amazing rodeo weekend!

When we decided to make the move to Strathmore this year we were all a little apprehensive. We had 15 very successful rodeos at Symons Valley Ranch and had everything running like a well oiled machine.



This year we basically had to "re-invent the wheel" and believe me that took tremendous hard work and dedication from the entire Rodeo Committee. There were literally thousands of hours that went into creating the spectacular event that was the *2009 Canadian Rockies International Rodeo*. But as anyone that was there will attest to; it was well worth the effort!!

This year's rodeo was attended by more spectators than ever and they were witness to a number of new attractions. ARGRA partnered up this year with non-profit groups to put together the *Olde Tyme Country Carnival* which was the brain child of *Gay Calgary and Edmonton Magazine*. The carnival brought a festive atmosphere to the midway and our plan is that it will be even bigger and better next year. As well, the *Outlooks Magazine* Silent Auction was a huge success, there were hundreds of items with a retail value of \$50,000. Added to all that, we also had the opportunity to bring in a variety of food vendors this year and offered our spectators and competitors a number of options for snacks and meals.

The rodeo itself has moved to a new level - we are now one of the largest rodeos on the IGRA circuit and continue to draw contestants from all over North America. Everyone who attended was overwhelmed by our new professional facility and had lots of praise for the move.
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THIS IS AN **IGRA** SANCTIONED RODEO

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were there you couldn't help but feel blown away by the intense energy on the dance floor. The weekend came to a conclusion Sunday night with the Awards Banquet and another



There were some sceptics that had worried that we couldn't maintain the intimate party atmosphere that ARGRA has become known for but we have once again proven that we know how to throw a party!!!



concert. We had local Albertan Steve Arsenault perform for us Sunday night and the comments and reviews from everyone

next year. I really appreciate that you took the time to put your comments in writing and promise that next years' rodeo committee will take them into account when they begin planning for the 2010 CRIR.



were incredibly positive.

I'd like to thank those of you who sent me notes and emails with suggestions on how to change or improve things for

In closing I'd like to remind everyone that Saturday, September 26 is our Volunteer Appreciation Dance and it would be great to see you all there! Please remember that everything ARGRA does could not happen without the support of our membership.

Friday night's concert was well attended and everyone enjoyed the show put on by Gord Bamford and Tera-Lee. Saturday we had the Dance Hall rockin' right from the first dance and if you



Happy Trails,
Janie Van Santen
2009 CRIR Rodeo Director

ARGRA Annual General Meeting

Wednesday

September 9th at 7pm

Location:

223 12 Ave SW

(Old Y. main floor common room)

The ARGRA board of directors would like to invite you to participate in this years Annual General Meeting. This is your association, so why not come out and be involved.

The elections to be held this year are:
President – 2 year term
Vice-President – 2 year term
Sponsorship Director – 2 year term
Rodeo Director – 1 year term
Fundraising Director – 1 year term
Membership Director – 1 year term

Position descriptions for election can be found on page 5 of this edition of ARGRAculture.

The purpose of this meeting is for the annual review of the association operations and finances, as well as the election of new officers. If you have any questions regarding this meeting, please contact the association secretary in advance of the meeting.

Alec Masee – Secretary
secretary@argra.org

IGRA NOTES

★★★ CCGRA PRESENTS ★★★ IGRA SILVER ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION RAFFLE!

★ Enter to win a GRAND PRIZE worth over \$500 ★

**BUCK the
BORDER
&
CLIMB
ON TOP**

NOV 11-15

HOST HOTEL
Marriott
TORONTO BLOOR
YORKVILLE

**tourism
Toronto**
Toronto Convention & Visitors Association

FOR EVERYTHING COUNTRY VISIT ccgra.ca

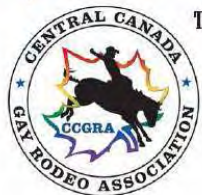
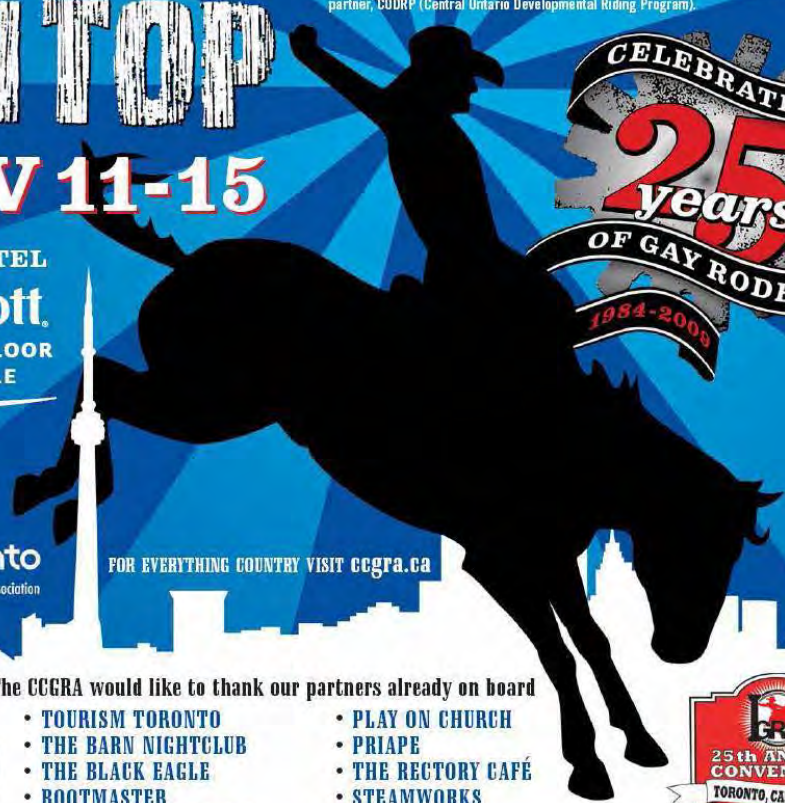
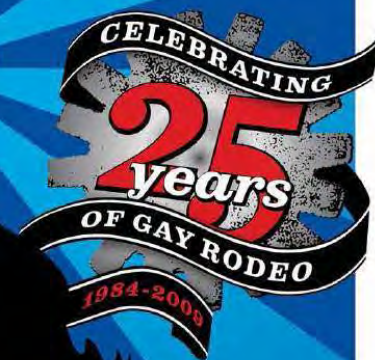
GRAND PRIZE

- ▶ 3 Nights Hotel Stay at the Marriott Yorkville
- ▶ Free Weekend Car Rental
- ▶ Dinner for 2 at the Southside Restaurant
- ▶ Free Individual Delegate Registration
- ▶ Free Ticket for the Saturday Night Hoedown
- ▶ CCGRA Competition Rodeo Shirt
- ▶ Convention 2009 T-shirt
- ▶ Boot Jack and more!

TICKETS [EACH] ★ \$20 DONATION

★ 2 RUNNER-UP PRIZE PACKAGES TO BE WON! ★

For a full listing of all prizes visit ccgra.ca/2009Raffle. To purchase Raffle Tickets please find a CCGRA representative or contact the CCGRA at ccgra.ca. Prize Draw will be held Saturday, October 17th, 2009 at the World Gay Rodeo Finals. You do not need to be present to win. A portion of the proceeds will be used to support CCGRA's charity partner, CDDR (Central Ontario Developmental Riding Program).



The CCGRA would like to thank our partners already on board

- TOURISM TORONTO
- THE BARN NIGHTCLUB
- THE BLACK EAGLE
- BOOTMASTER
- CEDAR'S CAMPGROUND
- GLADAMAN'S DEN
- METROPOLITAN COMMUNITY CHURCH OF TORONTO
- PLAY ON CHURCH
- PRIAPE
- THE RECTORY CAFÉ
- STEAMWORKS
- WOODY'S
- THE SOUTHSIDE RESTAURANT
- NEW COUNTRY 95.3FM
- 104.5 CHUM FM



Mikey may like it, but
FRANKIE
did it !!!

Congratulations goes out to ARGRA's very own Keri Long (Frankie) for achieving Arena Crew Coordinator certification.



Upcoming Rodeo's

MGRA Show-Me State Rodeo
Kansas City, Missouri
September 4-6, 2009

Greater San Diego Rodeo
San Diego, California
September 11-13, 2009

BigHorn Rodeo
Las Vegas, Nevada
September 18-20, 2009

World Gay rodeo Finals
Albuquerque, New Mexico
October 23-25, 2009



PRESENTED BY THE INTERNATIONAL GAY RODEO ASSOCIATION

*Thank
You!!*

**The Canadian
Rockies
International 2009
Rodeo Committee
extends a huge**

Thank You...

To all the competitors and spectators who believed in us and came out to our new venue, I know you'll be back now that you've seen this amazing facility!

To our amazing group of sponsors who saw the vision of what this move could mean, without your support none of this could have happened!

To the dedicated volunteers who came out that weekend and gave selflessly of their time, they are the backbone of ARGRA!

To *The SHARP Foundation* who continue to come back year after year and work the entire weekend on parking and ticket sales!

To Strathmore residents who put together an amazing group of volunteers and covered every bartending shift all weekend!

To our great Rodeo Officials who work so hard to make the Rodeo a success year after year, you keep us safe and continuously provide us with a great show!

To the Town of Strathmore, the people, the businesses, the officials, we were truly overwhelmed by your generosity and support!

To the Strathmore Ag Society for taking a chance on us and helping to make the 2009 CRIR weekend such a success!

Janie Van Santen
2009 CRIR Rodeo Director

ARGRA position descriptions for election in 2009

President – 2 year term

As president, you will be a member of all committees organized by ARGRA, including the Rodeo Committee. You will attend and preside over all meetings of the Association and the Board of Directors. The President, or other designate (i.e. Communications Director), shall be the official spokesperson for ARGRA. You will coordinate all efforts of the Association and act as a leader for the organization. This is a demanding position that requires dedication and involvement for success.

Vice-President – 2 year term

As Vice-President, you will preside over all meetings the President is not able to attend, and shall take over the Presidents role if s/he is unable to fulfill her/his duties. The Vice-President shall chair the committees designated by the Board and fulfill such Association duties as assigned (i.e. organizing dance lessons, participation in Calgary Pride Parade). You will assist in the coordination of all efforts of the Association and also act as a leader for the organization.

Sponsorship Director – 2 year term

As Sponsorship director, you are responsible for the maintenance and management of all sponsorship relations, working with the executive and various rodeo committee coordinators. As the primary contact for all sponsors, you will be responsible for negotiations of all sponsor contracts, advertising sales for rodeo programme, retail tent, sponsor invoicing and follow up, and compliance for all contracts. This is a demanding and yet rewarding position that requires strong organizational, managerial and interpersonal skills for success.

Membership Director – 1 year term

The Membership Director was a new position created to provide consistent and effective communications with the membership, being the voice of the membership. Duties include maintenance of membership list, annual membership drive, communicating with the membership on events (phone), member surveys, etc. Working closely with the VP, Secretarial and Sponsorship, the Membership Director will develop and enhance the benefits awarded to our membership. Membership Director will also be responsible for volunteer recruitment, coordination and of scheduling all volunteers as required for all rodeo and association activities and act as an onsite resource for volunteers at all activities. Dedication to the membership and strong relational skills are an asset to this position.

Fundraising Director – 1 year term

The Fundraising Director is responsible for the organization and production of all fundraising activities for ARGRA. These include fundraising dances held in Calgary, as well as increasing out-of-town activities deemed appropriate by the Association and other ad hoc fundraising activities. This is a very time intensive position and you will be responsible for venue selection, planning and organization. Prior to all events, gather and transportation of supplies is required as well as returning or storing all supplies after events is required. Recruitment of entertainment and disc jockey, planning and ordering supplies, managing supplies and procuring agreements from suppliers is also a function of the Fundraising Director. You will plan fundraising events from all aspects and ensure success of fundraising efforts. You will also liaise with other organizations to create mutually beneficial events and fundraising opportunities. The creation, production and execution of these events are also a responsibility of the fundraising Director. You will control financial reporting and expense management of individual events in this position. The selection, ordering, managing, pricing and storage of ARGRA branded merchandise is also a responsibility of this position. This position demands a commitment at all fundraising activities from start to finish and requires strong organization, managerial and interpersonal skills for success.

Rodeo Director – 1 year term

As the Rodeo Director, you are responsible for coordinating a committee of volunteers to create a world-class rodeo event in Calgary. Experience in rodeo production is strongly suggested for success in this position and this is an extremely time-intensive position, particularly leading up to and including the rodeo weekend. You will need to be aware of what is required to put on a smoothly executed rodeo that meets all Association requirements as well as exacting IGRA rules and regulations, and the requirements of any other company or organization that ARGRA has an agreement with (i.e. sponsors, suppliers, etc.) You will take ultimate responsibility for all facets of rodeo operations and production during the planning, set up, running, and tear down of the rodeo both before, during and after rodeo week. You will be responsible for organizing contracts with the rodeo venues, and all other contracts and agreements (except where another designate is responsible for such actions). You will also be responsible for setting and maintaining accurate records of all activities pertaining to the rodeo and the creation and maintenance of the rodeo budget. Quick decision making skills, strong interpersonal skills, impeccable organization, dedication and major time commitment, and experience in the production of a major rodeo event are all imperative for success as Rodeo Director.

ARGRA volunteers at Strathmore Heritage Days Rodeo

This years' 2009 CRIR Rodeo Committee members turned out on the August long-weekend to volunteer at Strathmore's Heritage Days Rodeo and had an amazing time!!

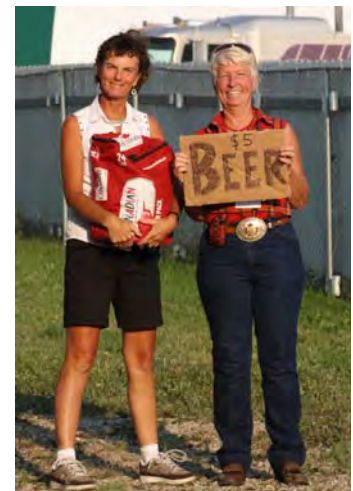
We were overwhelmed at our rodeo this year with the volunteer support from Strathmore residents and felt that we would like to show our thanks and appreciation by volunteering



arms and it was fun and interesting to see the differences between the two Rodeo's. The Heritage Days team incorporated a couple of ideas that they picked up from ARGRA and we picked up a few hints on how to do things differently next year.

ARGRA would like to congratulate the Strathmore Heritage Days Rodeo team for a job well done!!!

Janie Van Santen
2009 CRIR Rodeo Director



at their Rodeo. We spent a couple of days helping with 50/50 tickets and beer sales in the grandstand and made a number of new friends in the process.

We were welcomed back to the community with open

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ARGRA.ORG

DANCE DATES 2009~2010

- September 26, 2009
- October 24, 2009
- November 21, 2009
- December 12, 2009
- January 23, 2010
- February 27, 2010
- March 27, 2010
- April 24, 2010
- May 29, 2010

THE BUDLIGHT CANADIAN ROCKIES INTERNATIONAL RODEO July 2-4, 2010

ARGRAculture is produced 4 times a year(Spring / Summer / Fall / Winter) 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.