



This year's 70th Annual Cloverdale Rodeo promises to be the best one yet: says association president
Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair May 20-23, 2016

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Surrey B.C. – Although Cloverdale Rodeo organizers had 70 years of history to compete against when planning this year's May 20-23 rodeo, they are confident the 70th annual will be the best action-packed one yet, assures **Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibit Association President Shannon Claypool**.

"Seventy years of history makes for an interesting challenge. You know the event is already a proven success yet you also have to ensure fans will be even more thrilled with what you have planned for an important anniversary year," Claypool adds.

A new addition to this year's family-fun event is the fireworks planned for **May 20th at 10pm**. Promising to be a stunning display of spectacular pyrotechnics, Claypool says rodeo fans won't want to miss this colorful, jaw-dropping sky show.

And of course, fans can expect to see what turned the event into a 70-year must-attend tradition that began in 1946 after two local horse enthusiasts, Jack Shannon and Clarke Greenaway, decided Cloverdale needed to host a rodeo like the one they saw in Kamloops in 1944. "They instinctively knew what they were witness to in the ring would go over well in their local area," explains Claypool.

Although the event location has stayed the same, the rodeo itself has evolved over the years. One of these changes was the replacement of the chuck wagon races with what Claypool describes as "[quirky bed races](#)" – a tradition that started 39 years ago. These unique races have gained in popularity with each passing year as they draw in large crowds to see who will win the coveted Bed Pan Award.

As the cowboys have named it, the "Big Red Barn", or **Longhorn Saloon**, will be back providing music and entertainment to rodeo goers as it has for over 20 years. Beside the saloon, a newer venue, the **CMA Boots and Buckles**, will return for its second year combining the old with the new and creating a new entertainment district at the rodeo.

Shannon Claypool emphasizes that one of the reasons the rodeo and fair have been a huge success for so long is because of the volunteers.

"Volunteerism continues to be a huge part of what makes the rodeo so successful. The event started out based purely on volunteer work and still thrives on that today. There are up to 300 volunteers currently signed up and a lot are youth as the Cloverdale Youth Initiative Foundation, which allows students to volunteer for the Rodeo and have the opportunity to win scholarships."

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For a detailed schedule of event, performances, competitors list, and to purchase tickets, please visit www.CloverdaleRodeo.com.

Event: 2016 Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair

Dates: May 20-23, 2016

Location: Cloverdale Fairgrounds in Surrey, BC

Tickets: Admission for all Rodeo Performances is \$25; (12 and under free)
Country Fair admission is \$10. (12 and under free).

Pre-Purchase Gate Admission at selected London Drugs Stores and save \$2.00, available now for purchase. Click here for a list of the London Drug Stores participating: <http://www.cloverdalerodeo.com/country-fair/event-and-ticket-information/>

Pre-Purchase Midway All-Day Ride Passes at select Marketplace IGA stores for one \$29. For more information on this visit: <http://www.cloverdalerodeo.com/country-fair/midway-and-rides/>



Image: Cloverdale Marching Band - May 24, 1956. The building in the background is the old Surrey Co-op. The buildings on the right are still standing; they are now the Cloverdale Traditional School.

(Image courtesy of the Surrey Archives)

About the Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair:

The Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibition Association is the non-profit organization that manages the world famous Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair, held every year on the May long weekend at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds in Surrey, British Columbia.

The Association is also responsible for the year-round management of the eight facilities on the Cloverdale Fairgrounds that host over 1,000 events annually, including trade shows, concerts, festivals, sporting events, horse and dog shows, swap meets, flea markets, weddings and meetings.

For more information on the Association and the 70th annual Cloverdale Rodeo and the 128th annual Country Fair, visit www.CloverdaleRodeo.com.

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