

**CLOVERDALE RODEO CELEBRATES HISTORY AND CULTURE WITH NEW ABORIGINAL GATHERING PLACE**

**SURREY, BC –** New this year, the Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair is inviting guests to the **Aboriginal Gathering Place**, a welcoming and inclusive interactive pavilion featuring culturally relevant and historical displays representing several Aboriginal groups. Along with live entertainment throughout the May long weekend (May 17-20), including traditional drumming, dance and colourful dress, the Aboriginal Gathering Place will also play host to official opening and closing ceremonies, during which local Chiefs will bless Shannon Hall Building and the Fair in traditional ceremonial fashion.

**\*\*A special opening ceremony will be held Friday, May 17 at 4pm at Shannon Hall including traditional blessings performed by Chief of the Semiahmoo First Nation, Willard Cook.**

Featuring interactive exhibits from the **BC Metis Federation, Semiahmoo First Nation and Kwikwetlem First Nation,** the Aboriginal Gathering Place will bring together visitors of all backgrounds and Native cultural ambassadors in a welcoming space of learning and traditional festivities. Guests will have the opportunity to explore exceptional pieces that represent Aboriginal history and culture, including the 2010 Olympic TeePee, Don Welsh’s Semiahmoo First Nation fishing village diorama, and two stunning hand-carved cedar canoes from the Kwikwetlem First Nation.

Hands-on activities, including soap stone carving with Mark Gauthier, learning to powwow with Arnie Leon, and a variety of performances, will serve to celebrate and honor the cultural diversity of Canada’s Aboriginal population, the enormous momentum in our national interest in learning and taking action regarding Truth & Reconciliation, and the traditional ways of Aboriginal Culture.

**Hours: Friday, May 17 – 4pm-9pm**

**Saturday, May 18 – 10am-9pm**

**Sunday, May 19 – 10am-9pm**

**Monday, May 20 – 10am-4pm**

**Event: 2013 Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair**

**Dates: May 17-20, 2013**

**Location: Cloverdale Fairgrounds in**

**Tickets: Grounds Admission $12\***

 **Rodeo Performances $20**

 **Kids 12 & under FREE Rodeo and Ground Admission**

**(Must be accompanied by an adult)**

**\*Save $2 on Grounds Admission at select London Drugs and Big O Tires stores**

**\*Save $2 on a combination of Rodeo and Country Fair tickets online**

**For a detailed schedule of events, performances, competitors list, and to purchase tickets visit** [**www.CloverdaleRodeo.com**](http://www.CloverdaleRodeo.com)**.**

**About:**

The Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibition Association is the non-profit organization that manages the world famous Cloverdale Rodeo & 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 67th annual Cloverdale Rodeo and the 125th Country Fair visit: [www.cloverdalerodeo.com](http://www.cloverdalerodeo.com).

-30-

**Media Inquiries**

Laura Ballance Carmen Bennett

Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair

604-637-6646 (direct) 604-631-6651 (direct)

604-771-5176 (cell) 604-762-2250 (cell)

Laura@LBMG.ca Carmenb@LBMG.ca