



Canadian  
National  
Exhibition  
Association

# 2025 Year in Review



May 29, 2026 | CNEA Annual Meeting | Toronto, Canada

Visit our  
CNE Heritage Website

.....  
[www.cneheritage.com](http://www.cneheritage.com)

## CNE HERITAGE

Please join us on a “time-travelling” journey through the rich and colourful 146-year-old history of the Canadian National Exhibition Association (CNEA).



### Explore featured galleries



Animals & Agriculture



Food



Advertising



1920s

[Explore More](#)



1



2



3

## CNE Anniversaries Celebrated in 2025

- 1 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Friends of the CNE program (2000)
- 2 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the EXpress Train (2010)
- 3 35<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of aLEX the Beaver (1990)
- 4 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the CNE Citizenship Ceremony (2000)
- 5 65<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Tiny Tom Donuts (1960)



4



5

# About the Canadian National Exhibition Association

The Canadian National Exhibition Association (CNEA) continues to maintain resiliency and focus on strengthening the foundations on which its more than 146-year history has been built.

Founded in 1879, the CNEA has continuously risen to face the challenges and changing tides throughout the times. The CNEA's flagship event, the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE), is an iconic end-of-summer tradition that is the 18-day fair. The CNE event has evolved with the community it serves, as reflected in the more than 1.4 million visitors who attend each year.

The CNE's storied narrative lives on as we move through the 21st century and the CNEA continues to advocate for itself and its community as the site and surrounding areas are being redeveloped. As industry leaders we look forward with a decided optimism - with all intentions of continuing our legacy as a partner on the site.

## **An Agricultural Society and Not-for-Profit**

The CNEA is a not-for-profit Agricultural Society and has been independent from the City of Toronto since 2013. In a typical year the CNE, its signature event, generates enough revenue to reinvest back into itself, its surrounding community and new business initiatives.

The CNEA and its volunteer Board of Directors operate under the jurisdiction of three provincial acts: the Canadian National Exhibition Association Act, the Agricultural & Horticultural Organizations Act of Ontario, and Ontario Not-for-Profit Corporations Act.

The CNEA is made up of as many as 159 individuals and member organizations, who represent the four sections of the Association: **Agriculture, General & Liberal Arts, Manufacturers & Industry and Municipal**. Each member association appoints a representative to the CNEA, and 15 individuals are appointed directly by the Association itself from the **Community-At-Large**. The CNEA has member organizations from a wide variety of sectors ranging in scope from the Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies, to the Canadian Society of Decorative Arts, to the Greater Toronto Hotel Association.

In a typical year, the CNEA does not receive significant or sustained federal, provincial, or municipal funding to subsidize the operating costs of the event.\*The revenues from each annual fair finance the presentation of the Canadian National Exhibition the following year.

## **The Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) Event**

The CNE is Canada's largest community event and one of the top agricultural fairs in North America. Founded in 1879 as the Toronto Industrial Exhibition, the CNE has enjoyed a distinguished history as a showcase of the nation. People came to experience the latest innovations in technology and commercial products, to enjoy the popular entertainers of the time, and to engage in a collective community celebration.

The CNE continues to be an iconic event - offering substantial entertainment value for money. Taking place over the 18-days leading up to and including Labour Day, it is affectionately embraced as an end-of-summer ritual by more than 1.4 million visitors annually, visitors who reflect the rich diversity of Toronto and the region.

## **Economic Impact**

Though the CNE has changed enormously over the years, it remains a vibrant and popular Canadian tradition that generates major economic impact for both the Greater Toronto Area (GTA) and the Province of Ontario.

In 2025, the CNEA contracted Enigma Research Corporation to conduct an economic impact study which reports that the CNE generates an estimated \$129.4 million for the Greater Toronto Area, and \$164.1 million for the Province of Ontario each year. Further, the CNE event helps employ more than 5,000 people annually, attracts over 1,000 entertainers and performers, and 800 businesses.

More than a beloved Toronto event and top agricultural fair in North America - the CNE notably stimulates local and provincial economies, encouraging tourism and spending in the region, while also helping to provide employment.

\*The 2025 MYTHOS project was funded in part by the Government of Canada through the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario (FedDev Ontario).

### Relationship with the City of Toronto

For more than a century, the CNEA was responsible for the operation of the entire fairgrounds 365-days a year. In the period ranging from 1983 to 2013, the CNEA maintained its status as an Agricultural Society. During this time, the CNE fair was a program of Exhibition Place, a board of management of the City of Toronto.

In 2011, a KPMG study entitled *City of Toronto Core Services Review*, commissioned by the City of Toronto, advised that the City should divest of programs such as the CNE, which are not directly related to the City's core business. Acting on the recommendation of this report, the CNEA worked to become independent from the City of Toronto, which became effective on April 1, 2013.

Since 2013, the CNEA as an independent entity has paid more than \$90 million in licensing fees, rent and work orders to the City. Prior to that, the CNEA was a part of Exhibition Place and the City of Toronto – meaning all CNEA surpluses (and deficits) were absorbed by Exhibition Place and the City of Toronto. The CNEA's overall contributions from 1919 through to 2025 equate to more than \$464 million.\*

### CNEA, Exhibition Place Site and the Future

The CNEA's rich and colourful history is deeply entrenched in Toronto's legacy and Exhibition Place; grounds that the CNEA historically had a part in helping build and shape.

In 1924, the CNEA hired the architectural firm of Chapman and Oxley to create a fifty-year plan for the redevelopment of the eastern end of the CNE grounds. A significant feature of this plan was the construction of the monumental entranceway to the CNE event with the City of Toronto – now affectionately known as the Princes' Gates.

Today, there is intent to continue to develop the Exhibition Place site. The vision – having the site's 192-acre footprint transform into a more connected, accessible and vibrant, year-round destination for residents and visitors. This would include improved transit integration through the future Ontario Line, enhanced waterfront connectivity, and increased capacity to host large-scale events in purpose-built spaces.

As an advocate for itself and the community it serves, it is the CNEA's desire to not only be a part of those discussions but also be a key player in helping develop and activate this site year-round, as we have historically done.

We will continue to enrich our community by honouring the past, showcasing the present and promoting the future – on these grounds, our home.



Photo: CNE Midway.

\*In today's dollars.

# Canadian National Exhibition Association (CNEA)

## Board of Directors

June 6, 2025 to May 29, 2026

### Executive Committee

Randy Bauslaugh, President & Chair  
Suzan Hall, Honorary President  
Jennifer Ward, First Vice-President & Section 4  
Susan Antler, Vice-President Section 3  
Councillor Stephen Holyday, Vice-President Section 1  
Helen Wojcinski, Vice-President Section 2

### Municipal / Section 1

Mayor Olivia Chow, by-right-of-office  
Deputy Mayor Ausma Malik  
Deputy Mayor Paul Ainslie  
Councillor Stephen Holyday  
Councillor Nick Mantas  
Councillor Chris Moise

### Manufacturers' & Industry / Section 2

Paul Egli\*  
Andrew Mifsud  
Ted Papadatos  
Greg Pollock  
Helen Wojcinski

### Agriculture / Section 3

Susan Antler  
Larry Davis  
Darryl Kaplan  
Lyle Shipley  
Lorna Wilson

\*To April 2026

\*\*March to August 2025

### General & Liberal Arts / Section 4

Randy Bauslaugh  
Mark Stephens  
Michael Wallace  
Jennifer Ward  
Janice Warren

### CNEA Executive Staff

Mark Holland, Chief Executive Officer  
Mike Cruz, Interim Chief Executive Officer\*\*  
& Chief Operating Officer  
Adam Blodgett, Chief Financial Officer  
Jane Matthews, Chief Marketing Officer

### Past President

John Kiru

### Honorary President

Suzan Hall



**Randy Bauslaugh**  
President & Chair,  
Canadian National Exhibition Association

# Message from the President & Chair of the Board

As I come to the end of my second and final term as President and Chair, I've been reflecting on the past year. What a year! It was one that began with a bit of uncertainty, but one that is ending with something far better: confidence, optimism, and a renewed sense of direction.

When I stepped into this role two years ago, I promised to put the Canadian and National back into The Ex. I didn't expect the path to be easy but I am proud -- deeply proud -- of how we responded. Our staff, our Board, and our volunteers all came together. We made difficult decisions. We stayed focused on our values and our traditions. And we kept this organization moving forward with integrity and purpose.

One of the most consequential outcomes of last year was the search for, and recruitment of our new CEO, Mark Holland. It was a rigorous, thoughtful process - because it had to be. Mark has brought exactly the leadership this moment in our history requires: decisive, strategic, grounded in community, and respectful of our long tradition. With Mark at the helm, I am confident we are now heading toward the destination we set for ourselves in our strategic plan.

Over the past year, we also made meaningful progress across several fronts, including the following:

- Implementing our new strategic plans for both the CNEA and the CNE Foundation
- Leading the recruitment and interview process that brought CEO Mark Holland to the organization
- Revising and renewing the mandate of the investment subcommittee, recruiting respected experts, and modernizing and implementing our investment policy to strengthen our short, medium, and longterm stability
- Advancing governance improvements and a strategy to revise our governing legislation
- Supporting a membership recruitment drive to bring more diverse voices and experiences into the Association

My role also included the CNE Foundation (CNEF), which plays a vital role in investing in youth programs, strengthening community ties and preserving CNEA heritage. Our Foundation worked hard to make an impact on the lives of individuals and our surrounding community - through our charitable programs, and I am so fortunate to have been a part of that.

At the AGM, you'll hear more about the exciting lineup for this year's Fair and the new partnerships and projects we'll be pursuing over the next five years to animate these grounds 365-days a year. These plans reflect the creativity and resilience of our Association and the imagination, foresight, and tireless work of our staff.

As I move into my new roles as Honorary President (Immediate Past President), and Chair of both the Nominations & Credentials Committee and continuing on as Chair of the Investment Subcommittee, I remain dedicated to strengthening the diversity of our membership and our Board. Bringing new people and new voices into our governance is essential to our longterm success. If you have skills, experience, or a community perspective to offer, I encourage you to consider getting more involved, putting your name forward for Board or Committee work. More hands make the work easier and more diverse perspectives make us stronger.

Thank you for everything you've done to move us forward. Our future is bright because of your membership in the CNEA, because of your efforts and because of the dedication of our expert staff. And thank you for allowing me the privilege of serving as your President and Chair. It has been an honour to help steer this organization toward the future it deserves.



**Randy Bauslaugh**

President & Chair, Canadian National Exhibition Association

**Let's Go to the EX!**

# 2025: The Year in Review

## by Mark Holland, CEO

The CNE Association's (**CNEA**) flagship event, the Canadian National Exhibition (**CNE**), remains the ultimate end-of-summer destination. Since 1879, we have championed community, connected people, and celebrated Canadians. Year after year, more than 1.4 million visitors walk through our gates—a testament to the enduring magic of the CNE and its place as a beloved tradition across all generations and cultures.

I was brought onboard days before the 2025 CNE was set to open. One of my first introductions to the CNE team was participating in the much-anticipated Media Day (held the Wednesday before Opening Day). During the sweet chaos of move-in week, the buzz on the grounds was immediately felt, with that pace riding on through until Labour Day and beyond. With a team that accomplishes an incredible amount within a limited window of time, I am excited to see what we can achieve through sustained, year-round engagement - a true call back to our legacy when the CNEA used to operate this site year-round.

### The 2025 CNE Fair

The 2025 CNE theme illuminated the foundation of our organization that is woven into the very fabric of the CNE event - we are a "Truly Canadian Tradition." In that spirit, we wrapped our gate pillars in celebration of an important anniversary: the **60th Anniversary of the Canadian Flag**.

We also commemorated the **25th Anniversary of the Friends of the CNE Volunteer Program** and the **15th Anniversary of the EXpress Trains** with a uniquely made, limited edition CNE medallion & lapel pin respectively.

The **Food Hall of Fame**, in its second year, celebrated the foods that have shaped the CNE experience. The five iconic inductees were: **Rainbow Grilled Cheese**, **Jumbo Turkey Leg**, **The Colossal Onion**, **The Bug Dog** and the ever-humble crowd pleaser: **The Corn Dog!** These awards were presented at the Food Building in front of a buzz of media and fairgoers alike - immortalized in banners hanging from the rafters of the building that started it all!

### Spotlighting Community:

- We offer free Kids Passes. Additionally, the Kids Pass School Design program is in its second year and works in partnership with the school boards that participate in our school Kids Pass distribution program. In 2025, students at Alexander Muir/Gladstone Jr. & Sr. Public School created the cover design for the 2025 Kids Pass. This pass was distributed to more than 600,000 youth across the GTA through our school Kids Pass distribution program.
- Through our CNE Foundation we support community sports like Peewee Baseball and Women's Fastball, which are hosted as part of the CNE event.
- The CNE collaborates with a number of community partners to distribute upwards of 20,000 general admission passes to guests who receive support from ODSP, Ontario Works and Youth Outreach Workers programs, as well other at-risk communities.



Photo: 2025 Princes' Gates with banner.

- We invest in the CNEA venue Withrow Common – a community space with year-round programming.
- We host free pre-fair agricultural community events leading up to the Fair (ie. HorseCapades & Agriculture Adventures presented by the CNE Farm) which are often attended by local community centres and daycares.

### Rooted in Agriculture

As a proud not-for-profit Agricultural Society, the CNEA is committed and sincere in showcasing agriculture. One of our CNE mainstays is **The Ambassador of the Fairs** program. It was launched in 1971 with the objective of fostering awareness, education and engagement in Canadian agriculture while also bridging the gap between rural and urban communities. Since its inception, more than 3,000 young people from 100 communities throughout the province have taken part. Congratulations to our 2025 Ambassador of the Fairs winner **Lexi Johnston** from the Listowel Agricultural Society.

Some new agricultural programming also included: Goat Yoga, the well-attended Farm Trivia Game Show, a Mini Tractor Pull and a brand-new Tractor Simulator.

### 2025 CNE Programming Highlights

Canadians have been “summering with us” for more than 146 years; enjoying the thrills, eats, entertainment, our showcases of innovation, world class exhibits and much more...making memories that last forever, and traditions that extend through generations!

This year’s event featured a spectacular display of both traditional and new programming elements. We brought back the nostalgic favourites: midway entertainment,

wacky tasty treats, international performances, the SuperDogs, Canadian International Air Show and shopping galore!

### Enhanced EXperiences

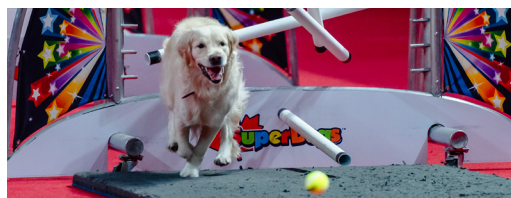
New this year were two programs that required an additional ticket on top of CNE admission. Both these programs animated new parts of the site (Stanley Barracks and Annabel’s in the Queen Elizabeth Building respectively) that have not been traditionally programmed in recent years!

During the 18-days of the CNE, patrons enjoyed dinner or cocktails with **Dinner in the Sky**, which suspended guests 150-ft in the air with 360-degree views of the CNE and Toronto skyline.

**Drag Brunch** was a one-day, sold-out performance that saw brunch-goers dazzled by drag performances that served up laughter, lip-syncs, and jaw-dropping glamour!

### Music, Attractions, Gaming and more!

Music and performances packed the seven entertainment stages throughout the grounds daily. The marquee **Bell CNE Bandshell** saw the likes of: Shawn Desman, 98 Degrees, Loverboy, The Commodores, Cold War Kids, July Talk, Marianas Trench, and Dean Brody to name a few.



*Clockwise from top right:* Evolution: An Aerial Balloon Show; CNE Drag Brunch EXtravaganza; Bell CNE Bandshell performer interacting with crowd; CNE Skyride and Dinner in the Sky; aLEX with giant Kid’s Pass; SuperDogs Show; Guests experiencing MYTHOS.

**MYTHOS** was a groundbreaking indoor immersive anthology premiering at the CNE, bringing to life stories passed down across global cultures. Meanwhile, outside by our Princes' Gates entrance our new act, **Evolution: An Aerial Balloon Show** wowed audiences with a high-flying cirque celebration that honoured the CNE's enduring legacy.

The ever-popular, loved-by-all-generations aerial and acrobatics Ice-Skating Show returned to the Coca-Cola Coliseum with a new show called: **epic!** The show featured Canada's beloved figure skater **Elvis Stojko**, a three-time World Champion, two-time Olympic silver medalist.

The 18-day EXtravaganza that is the **CNE Gaming Garage** featured thrilling stage activations, Japanese arcade cabinets, board games and tabletop gaming and much more! While **Kids' World** presented beloved family-friendly elements that included: Birds of Prey, the new Fizzlewit's Fairy Finding Tour, Under the Little Top circus workshop, Emma Memma on the Kids' World Stage and more! In Heritage Court, we featured the **Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation Exhibit**, which explored and honoured the Mississaugas' deep-rooted connection to and stewardship of these lands through cultural artifacts, storytelling and interactive elements.

#### **Other NEW programs of note:**

- **CNE Coffee Party presented by Nabob:** a one-day, ultimate summer perk-up party that featured complimentary Nabob Coffee brew and Tiny Tom Donuts at Bandshell Park.
- **SuperCrawl:** the CNE teamed up with Hamilton's legendary music and arts street festival for a creative collaboration of live art installations and more!
- **CNE in Colour: The Joyful Lens of Gregg "Scooter" Korek:** featured Korek's heartfelt tribute to the spirit of the CNE through vibrant images he captured throughout the years.
- **CNE Archives Exhibit: Celebrating the Legacy of the CNE:** showcased the more than a century of shared CNE memories.
- **Chocolate Sculpting & Cake Decorating:** Competitions and workshops!

- **Marriage on the Midway:** was a contest designed to find couples with a special connection to the Fair who wanted to celebrate their commitment in an unforgettable way – with an all-expense paid wedding celebration on our midway. The outpouring of support and stories shared were a reminder that the CNE is more than just an annual event, it is full of love, connection and experiences.

#### **We Made an Impression**

Our CNE event **Marketing Campaign** leaned into the tagline "Summer with Us". This theme was woven into all aspects of our messaging and creative, highlighting all the reasons why more than 1.4 million people attend our event.

2025 **media relations** efforts garnered an impressive **2.52+ billion impressions** in earned media coverage through traditional print, television, radio and online platforms – not counting social media engagement! Our media preview day continues to deliver with 120+ media in attendance. It was curated to highlight new programming, and a sampling of more than 30 new foods.

Our in-kind **Media Partnerships** were enhanced with a focus on creating integrated in-fair promotional experiences. These activations could be seen in the in-kind support we received: Z103.5's Tony Monaco Euro Slide Day, having various radio personalities introduce all performers at the Country Stage and select Bell CNE Bandshell performers, various on-site activations and live broadcasts, and having FLOW 93.5's on-air host, Celebrity Dru, present at Food Products Day, the Food Hall of Fame and emcee the Coffee Party presented by Nabob.

Additionally, we hosted CNE's **Second Annual Food Drive** in partnership with **Second Harvest**. The CNE has always been about community and while we know many visit us to experience our amazing food scene, we know that there are those in our community that are in need. Our staff, volunteers, vendors, exhibitors and partners rolled up their sleeves the day after the CNE closed and worked to help donate available leftover product. We hope to continue this program in the future as we work to be a more sustainable organization.

### Continued Organizational Excellence

In 2025 on our website we launched: our new AI Chatbot “Ask aLEX the Beaver”, the enhanced Interactive Map (which can help guests wayfind via their mobile devices on-site), and added a “Sustainability” & “Awards & Recognition” section. On-site we continued to develop wayfinding opportunities for guests attending the CNE with our four digital kiosks by fine-tuning the rotating messaging to include programming schedules, targeted announcements and site maps.

Led by the CNE Guest Experience Team, we introduced Sensory Rooms for guests who required a sensory safe place to go during the Fair.

All these developments were created to improve guest experience at the CNE, and we plan to continue to build on this in the future.

The CNE event also won a **Top 100 Award** from Festivals and Events Ontario (FEO) and was named one of the Top 50 Fairs in 2025 by Carnival Warehouse.

### The Road Ahead

We have been entertaining Canadians since 1879 – and we are good at it! Our event is built on the stories of the community we serve, and we hope to continue to serve it in the future.

As the times change, we evolve. Our history is rich with successes, determination, and community support. Our legacy is tied to these grounds, and our organization has been a guardian and animator of this site for decades. We will continue to deliver exceptional experiences through the CNE event and beyond, that will entertain, engage and inspire.

Thank you for your ongoing support and we look forward to seeing you at the 2026 Canadian National Exhibition in Toronto from August 21st to September 7th. Let's Go to the EX!

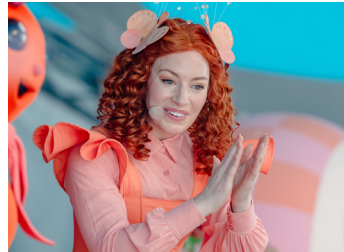
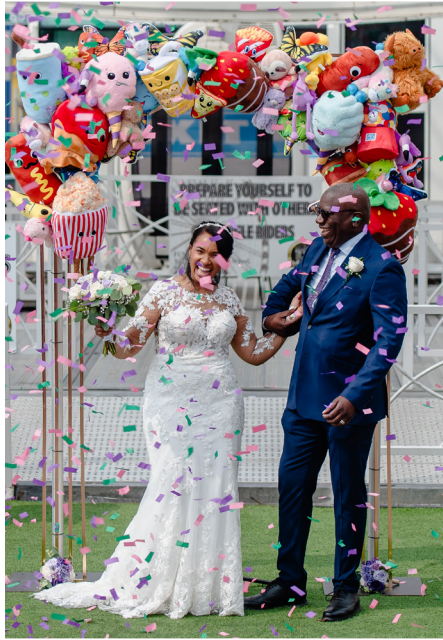
Sincerely,



**Mark Holland**  
Chief Executive Officer



Photos: Princes' Gates; Sky Ride; CNE letters at night.



# 2025 CNE Highlights



Clockwise from top left: Bell CNE Bandshell crowd; Classic Champion Wrestling match; Snowbirds flying over during the Canadian International Air Show (CIAS); Emma Memma performing at the Kids' World Stage; Nabob Coffee Party at Bandshell Park; Yo Highness performing on the International Stage; Warriors' Day Parade; Elvis Stojko during an Ice Skating & Acrobatic Show; Marriage on the Midway couple after saying "I do!".

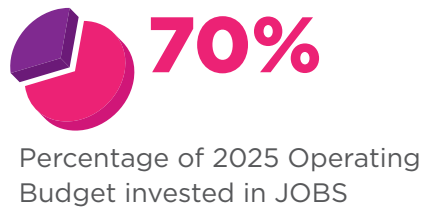
# 2025 CNE Competition Winners



Clockwise from top left: 2025 Lions-CNE PeeWee Baseball Boys Champions; 2025 Ambassador of the Fairs winner, Lexi Johnston; Rising Star Junior Grand Champion, Josiah Hibbs; Rising Star Youth Grand Champion, James Clark; CNE Cake Competition Winner; 3-on-3 Girls Basketball Champions; CNE Garden Show Vegetable Competition winner.

# Canadian National Exhibition Association

## The CNE in an Average Year

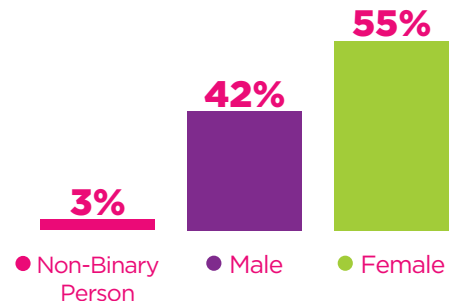


\*\*Enigma Research Corporation: 2025 Canadian National Exhibition Economic Impact Study

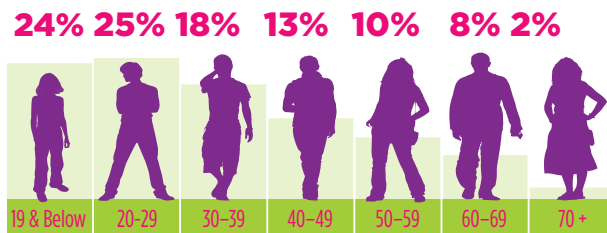
## Our Visitors



Visitor average household income\*\*



Gender\*\*



Visitor average age\*\*



Average CNE visit length 6 Hours\*\*

**\$120.3 Million**

Total spend by non-local CNE attendees\*\*



**Average Individual Spend**

**\$117**

Average spend\*

## Our Impressions

**2.5+ Billion**  
Media Impressions

**5,466**  
News Mentions

**272+ Million**  
Preview Day Impressions

### Social Media Stats

**205K+**  
Followers

**70.1K**  
Followers

**15.8K**  
Followers

**215K+**  
CNE EXclusive  
Subscribers

\*Dig Insights: 2024 Research Report

\*\*Enigma Research Corporation: 2025 Canadian National Exhibition Economic Impact Study

# Sustainability at the CNE

Fostering a sustainable future through innovation and collaboration

As **Canada's largest community event**, the CNE recognizes its responsibility to the community, and to the planet, to ensure that waste produced during its 18-day event, including food surplus, can be offset to promote a circular economy and work towards the City's Net Zero goals.

As an organization, our mission is to establish new sustainability benchmarks and share best practices within the event industry.

## Innovation

In 2025 the CNE augmented its waste diversion program by mandating all food vendors to use a third-party certification that ensures all food serving packaging 100% compostable.

Through a partnership with Coca-Cola, the CNE also introduced Oscar AI machines to help guests sort and identify the proper bin to dispose of their food, plastics, and waste.

## Collaboration

In partnership with **Second Harvest**, Canada's largest food rescue organization, and participating food vendors, at the end of the 2025 Fair, the CNE donated more than 25,000 lbs of surplus produce, canned goods and leftover prepared foods to be distributed to communities experiencing food insecurity. Newly added in 2024, the food rescue initiative has become part of the CNE's overarching commitment to environmental stewardship.

The CNE also partnered with **CHEP Canada** to recycle 800 wooden pallets through their circular supply chain program. This initiative diverted 23.6 tonnes of material from landfills.

## BY THE NUMBERS

**93.8 tonnes**  
of organic waste diverted



**23.4 tonnes**  
of used cooking oil  
repurposed and recycled



**842.5 tonnes**  
of material successfully  
diverted from landfills



**11 tonnes**  
of surplus food donated

**800 pallets**  
recycled, diverting 23.6  
tonnes of material from  
landfills



Photo: Food being donated to Second Harvest.



Each year, the CNE Foundation strives to raise essential funds that are vital for sustaining and growing our charitable programs. As the philanthropic arm of the Canadian National Exhibition Association (CNEA), the CNE Foundation supports programs that extend the community spirit and legacy of the CNEA. With the invaluable support of our dedicated CNE community, generous funders and compassionate donors, CNE Foundation initiatives make a meaningful impact throughout the year and collectively help uplift the community we serve. Join us in our ongoing journey of making a meaningful difference together.

**Youth Sports** - The CNE Foundation sponsors youth sports programs at the CNE, such as our **youth baseball tournaments**. The contributions help provide not only memorable experiences, but also valuable opportunities for young athletes and youth who face barriers, to build confidence and develop essential life skills.

**Community Building** - The CNE Foundation supports **community grants** for qualifying organizations and **scholarships** for outstanding post-secondary students. Additionally, through the **Smiles on Faces Program**, we provide the joy of CNE visits to 25 children facing critical illnesses and their families.

**CNE Heritage Preservation** - Donor support plays a vital role in protecting and celebrating the storied history of the CNE through the CNE Foundation's **Archives Project**. This program funds the digitization and preservation of 64,000+ at-risk archival photographic negatives in the CNE's archival collection. This work ensures that our shared memory and the legacy of this iconic event live on.

**CNE Foundation Fundraisers** - Your support of our fundraisers throughout the year was vital in raising essential funds to sustain and grow our charitable programs.

Winners of the 2025 50/50 fundraisers included: Maryhazel Buenaventura of Brampton, ON, who took home the Grand CNE 50/50 jackpot of \$220,110; Alex Tran, Toronto, ON, winner of \$14,845 in the Spring 50/50 Raffle; and Drew Doughty, Toronto, ON, winner of \$8,438 in the Holiday 50/50 Raffle.

The CNE Foundation Silent Auction fundraiser was well supported by both auction item donors and participating bidders, and we are sincerely grateful. Additionally, the inaugural CNE Golf Tournament in support of the CNE Foundation was held in the fall of 2025 - thank you to all who participated.



## About the CNE Foundation

### Board of Directors (June 2025 to May 2026)

Randy Bauslaugh, President & Chair  
Susan Antler  
Mike Cruz<sup>1</sup>  
Mark Holland<sup>2</sup>

Suzan Hall  
Councillor Stephen Holyday  
Darryl Kaplan  
Ted Papadatos

Greg Pollock  
Jennifer Ward  
Janice Warren  
Helen Wojcinski



The Canadian National Exhibition Foundation is a public foundation and registered charity. To learn more about CNE Foundation programs, or to donate, please visit: [cnefoundation.com](http://cnefoundation.com). Charitable Business Number: 118834639 RR 0001

*Photos:* CNE Golf Tournament Silent Auction art; CNE Golf Tournament in full swing.

<sup>1</sup>From March 2025 to August 2025 - Interim CNEA CEO <sup>2</sup>As of August 2025 to present - CNEA CEO

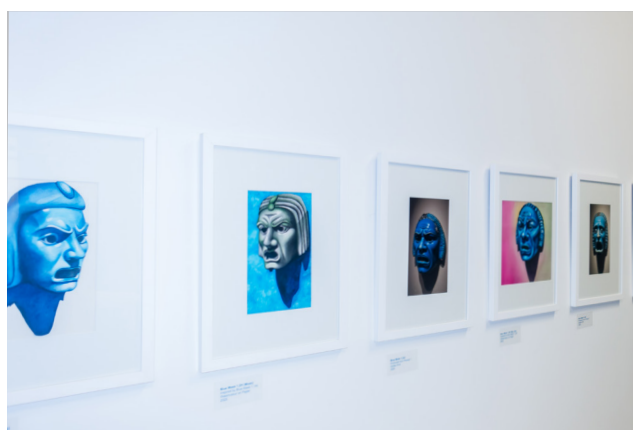
# Withrow Common Community, Programming and more!

Throughout the year we hosted impactful art shows that celebrated creativity and culture. These events created meaningful opportunities for artists and attendees to experience the power of art as a unifying force, particularly during community arts events like Nuit Blanche Toronto, where Withrow Common was one of the host venues.

After supporting many of these community-based initiatives, the CNEA determined the need for a refreshed direction for the Withrow Common space beyond solely being an art gallery. Withrow Common now serves as a year-round hub for community initiatives and events, a CNE-focused incubation space, and a flexible rental venue.

Under this new approach, the CNEA's Greenlight Committee was formed in an effort to provide a structured, objective, and transparent process for reviewing ideas and proposals that wish to activate the space.

Below is a snapshot of exhibits, workshops and celebrations hosted at Withrow Common. We look forward to continuing to activate this space in meaningful ways.



*Clockwise from top left: Guests walking into Withrow Common Entrance; Guests viewing Gregg "Scooter" Korek photography exhibit; Guest sitting in Withrow Common; Opening of art exhibit; Nuit Blanche Toronto Exhibit.*

# Canadian National Exhibition Strategic Plan (2024-2028)

## Mission:

Champion community, connect people and celebrate Canada

## Vision:

Continually create exceptional experiences that entertain, engage and inspire by honouring the past, showcasing the present, and promoting the future

## Values:

Fun and Family • Connection and Community • Accessibility and Inclusion  
Equity and Diversity • Heritage and Tradition • Innovation and Inspiration  
Ownership and Accountability • Environmental Stewardship • Reconciliation

## Strategic Goals



### No. 1

Expand Delivery on Toronto's  
Traditional Exhibition Grounds



### No. 2

Amplify Variety  
of Programming



### No. 3

Enhance Viability  
as an Organization



### No. 4

Champion  
Community



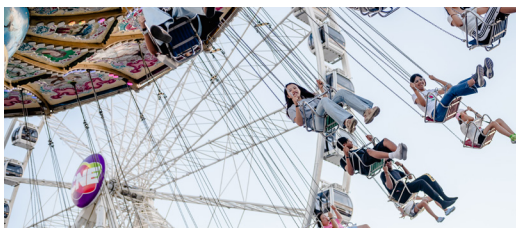
### No. 5

Expand  
Membership



### No. 6

Invest in Continued  
Organizational Excellence



Clockwise from top left: CNE Midway Swing Ride; Guests on the Ferris Wheel; CNEA Member Organizations Booth; Food Building South Entrance; CNE Midway Stage.

# The CNE Team



## The CNEA works in close partnership with many organizations including:

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Access 2

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Alcohol and Gaming Commission of Ontario

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Bank of Canada

---

Canada Border Services Agency

---

Canadian International Air Show

---

City of Toronto

---

Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions (CAFE)

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Electrical Safety Authority

---

Exhibition Place

---

Government of Canada - Special Events  
Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada

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Health Canada

---

Lions Clubs International

---

Ontario Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Agribusiness

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Ontario Association of Agricultural Societies (OAAS)

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Ontario Disability Employment Network (ODEN)

---

Ontario Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Gaming

---

Ontario Ministry of Children, Community and Social  
Services

---

Ontario Ministry of Labour, Immigration, Training and  
Skills Development

---

Ontario Place

---

Scouts Canada

---

Technical Standards and Safety Authority (TSSA)

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Toronto Fire Services

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Toronto Paramedic Services

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Toronto Police Service

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Toronto Public Health

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*Photo: 2025 CNE staff in front the Administration Building.*

# CNE Food Hall of Fame 2025 Inductees



Clockwise from top left: The Colossal Onion; Rainbow Grilled Cheese; The Corn Dog; Jumbo Turkey Leg; The Bug Dog.



**Shawn Desman** | Friday, August 15  
**Loverboy** | Saturday, August 16  
**STARS, Chantal Kreviazuk** | Sunday, August 17  
**Moist** | Monday, August 18  
**Rêve, Jessia and Aqyila** | Tuesday, August 19  
**Trans-Canada Highwaymen** | Wednesday, August 20  
**Luciano** | Thursday, August 21  
**July Talk** | Friday, August 22  
**98 Degrees** | Saturday August 23  
**The Commodores** | Sunday, August 24  
**Cold War Kids** | Monday, August 25  
**Bishop Briggs** | Tuesday, August 26  
**The Dirty Nil** | Wednesday, August 27  
**Rural Alberta Advantage with Yukon Blonde** | Thursday, August 28  
**Marianas Trench** | Friday, August 29  
**Dean Brody** | Saturday, August 30  
**GBM Nutron, Mical Teja and special guests** | Sunday, August 31

**Bell** | CNE Bandshell



*Photo: Vintage CNE logo which originated in the early 1920s.*

# THANK YOU TO OUR 2025 PARTNERS

FUNDED BY

# Canada

## PRESENTING PARTNERS



**Coca-Cola  
Canada  
Bottling  
Limited**

## PROGRAM PARTNERS



## CONTRIBUTING PARTNERS



**FACTOR\_**  
freshprep



**BLACK HOLE**  
EXPERIENCE AN ESCAPE BY AGE OF 18+

