



## **CNE Presents The EX Games: Massive Half-Pipe Features High-Flying Extreme Skateboarding, BMX and In-Line Skating Shows**

PLUS – “**ACTION**”-packed attractions including the newest **Aerial & Acrobatic Ice-Skating Show** starring Elvis Stojko; all-new **Waterski Show** returning to Lake Ontario; **75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Canadian International Air Show**; and get ready for **Classic Championship Wrestling** with WWE Hall of Famers

- August 16 to September 2 –

[MEDIA ACCREDITATION IS NOW OPEN](#)

**TORONTO, ON (July 30, 2024)** – Back for its 145th year, Ontario’s favourite fair and end-of-summer rite of passage, the Canadian National Exhibition (CNE) is set to make its grand return, August 16 to September 2, 2024. This year’s attractions are bringing all the thrills with extreme sports taking centre stage. On the heels of the Paris Olympics, the oldest competing skateboarder, 51-year-old Andy Macdonald of Great Britain, will make his CNE debut joining an exciting line-up of pro-skateboarders, BMX bikers and in-line skaters for **The EX Games**. A massive 12ft half-pipe, will be the playground for some of the world’s best extreme athletes who will put on a high-flying show daily in front of the iconic Princes’ Gates.

There’s plenty more EX-hilaration from sea to sky with the return of the popular waterskiing show, **CNE Aquarama**, on the West Channel of Lake Ontario – showcasing incredible flips, spins, and human pyramids on the water; as well as the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the **Canadian International Air Show**, featuring the beloved Canadian Forces Snowbirds, Royal Air Force Red Arrows, and the United States Air Force F-22 Raptor. Three-time world champion skater **Elvis Stojko** is back with an all-new Aerial & Acrobatic Ice-Skating Show “**ACTION!**”; and icons of wrestling will be ringside to sign autographs and put on a show at **Classic Championship Wrestling** including WWE Hall of Famers **Jimmy “The Mouth of the South” Hart**, **Tito Santana**, and **Jerry “The King” Lawler**; along with **Canadian legend “The Mountie” Jacques Rougeau**, and Mexico’s AAA wrestling superstar **Sam Adonis**.

And for those who want to ‘fight’ their way to the top of the leader board, the **CNE Gaming Garage**, sponsored by Intel, is back with the first-ever national **CNE Master Clash ft TEKKEN 8 Tournament**. In collaboration with Intel, MSI, and Best Buy, preliminary rounds will take place in Calgary, Vancouver, Edmonton and Montreal and top qualifiers will receive a trip to Toronto to compete at the CNE Finals for the \$12,000 prize pool. Registration is still open, with the Last Chance Qualifiers taking place at the CNE on August 24. Families and young gamers can also enjoy interactive play in the new Byte Sized Gaming Zone, watch the FIRST Robotics Competition, or go ‘old school’ with retro arcades.

Speaking of retro, visitors can learn about the history of television and marvel at TVs of yesteryear at the **MZTV Museum of Television Exhibit**; or ‘step right up’ to the **Carnival Exhibit** of quirky artifacts from the Conklin company, one of the oldest travelling carnivals. In association with the **Art Gallery of Ontario (AGO)**, the CNEA’s Withrow Common Gallery will feature “**Bridging Eras & Galleries**” – exhibiting images of important artworks by Group of Seven and other distinguished artists that were once owned by the Canadian National Exhibition, before the historic art collection was transferred to the AGO in the 1960s. Through various art displays, exhibits, walking tours, and even ghost walks, visitors are encouraged to discover the CNE’s heritage, history, and influence.

For full programming details, CNE opening hours, show times and ticket information, go to [TheEx.com](http://TheEx.com).

## **MORE NOTEWORTHY HIGHLIGHTS:**

**Bell CNE Bandshell Line-Up:** Some of the most exciting touring acts in music this year are coming to the Bell CNE Bandshell stage including **Manchester Orchestra, Big Boi, Brittany Howard, Big Wreck, and Sloan** with special guest, The Hip's **Paul Langlois**. Canada's **Down With Webster, MacKenzie Porter, Bahamas, Born Ruffians, Ruby Waters, The Reklaws,** and **April Wine** (to name a few) have also been announced to headline; along with the return of Drag Extravaganza with **Tynomi Banks** and **Sapphira Cristál**, Soca Night with stars from Trinidad and Tobago, **Destra** and **Farmer Nappy**, with DJ **Dr. Jay**, and a Tribute to Bob Marley by **Classic Albums Live** with support from Canadian reggae favourite, **Jay Douglas**.

**The CNE SuperWheel is Back!:** Last year's debut of the CNE SuperWheel instantly became a hotspot for Instagram-worthy photos, matched only to the views from the iconic CNE Sky Ride. North America's tallest travelling Ferris wheel to grace the Toronto skyline is back, soaring 150 ft high at its tallest viewpoint with air-conditioned pods and picture-worthy panoramic views of the CNE and city.

**Kitchen Stage:** Top celebrity chefs and some of Toronto's favourite restaurateurs will be sharing recipes, kitchen hacks, and advice on everything from wine and cheese to sourdough and sustainability. Daily presentations will feature the likes of Fire Masters judge Andrea Nicholson, Food Network Canada's Afrim Pristine, The Great Chocolate Showdown producer and chef Lindsay Greflund, and more!

**Ribfest:** Back by popular demand, Bandshell Park will be home to some of the city's best ribs. This year, RibFest takes on an international theme with flavours from the Philippines and Caribbean, Asian-fusion and Halal ribs, and traditional smoked ribs. Grab a napkin and get ready to bite into RibFest.

**CNE Casino Presented by PokerStars:** The CNE Casino is now open! Operating for an additional two weeks through to September 8th, the CNE Casino features a variety of games including Multi-Action Blackjack, Roulette, WAR, Spanish 21, Three Card Poker, and OmahaPoker. The CNE Casino is also holding a No Limit Hold'em with a maximum prize pool of \$320,000 with the winner receiving a poker experience of a lifetime – a trip to Las Vegas for the North American Poker Tour (NAPT). Guests can also enjoy nightly live entertainment on the licensed outdoor patio.

**Food Truck Frenzy and Craft Beer Fest:** More than 20 food trucks and craft breweries will take over Princes' Blvd starting Saturday, August 17. No need for globetrotting, foodies can feast on fare from around the world right here at the CNE. From Egyptian street food to Vietnamese-Latin fusion, butter chicken samosas to Caribbean roti, and everything in between. Take a break and enjoy a cold craft beer from one of the 10 local breweries, and don't forget to end off with a sweet treat with Beavertails or Craig's Cookies to name a few.

**Biinaagami AR Exhibition:** Biinaagami (Anishaabemowin) that translates to "clean water", is an immersive exhibit activated by Augmented Reality that takes visitors through the discovery and exploration of the Great Lakes with Indigenous narratives that highlight the importance of water preservation. The AR experience transports participants to Canada's vast and beautiful oceans, lakes and rivers such as the St. Lawrence estuaries; encounter true-to-scale Canadian wildlife; and play digital games to learn about the impact of plastics on the environment.

**"Mr. T" is coming to the CNE Farm:** The CNE Farm in the Better Living Centre has long been a go-to destination for all ages to learn about where our food comes from, watch daily demonstrations such as sheep shearing, meet Ontario farmers and learn how they care for their animals, get inspiration for balcony gardens, and kids can have plenty of fun playing farmer for a day with interactive games, an inflatable corn maze and haystack pyramid. New this year, meet the adorable shaggy-haired three-year-old Highland cattle, affectionately dubbed "Mr. T."

**CNE Foundation's Grand CNE 50/50 Raffle:** The CNE Foundation's Grand CNE 50/50 fundraiser is back with another guaranteed \$100,000 minimum cash grand prize! Every purchase supports the CNE Foundation's community and youth programs such as the Pee Wee Baseball and 3-on-3 Basketball tournaments, scholarships, and Smiles on Faces program that treats vulnerable kids to a day of fun at the CNE. Grand CNE 50/50 tickets will be available on-site during the CNE, and online at [CNEF5050.com](https://www.cnefoundation.com/raffle) beginning August 1 at 10 a.m., with the winner selected on September 2 at 5 p.m.

The 145th annual CNE takes place **from August 16 to September 2, 2024** at Exhibition Place in Toronto, ON.

CNE Media Office: [mediaoffice@theex.com](mailto:mediaoffice@theex.com) / 416-263-3817