

In honour of the Pacific National Exhibition's 99th anniversary, we present

99 Things We Love About the PNE

TEXT & PHOTOS BY SHERI RADFORD

- 1 Crowds. We Vancouverites love our PNE, and almost a million of us show up every year to prove it.
 - 2 Superdogs. The talented pooches perform three times a day.
 - 3 The PNE Prize Home. For just \$25 (for five tickets), you could live in Kelowna in style. Heck, we'd even accept one of the secondary prizes of a car or scooter.
 - 4 Those Little Donuts. Bet you can't eat just one.
 - 5 The fact that the PNE is so easy to get to. It's just a short bus ride from downtown.
 - 6 Dal Richards. The big-band leader may be 91, but he still performs twice a day.
 - 7 Cotton candy, corn dogs—food always tastes best when served on a stick.
 - 8 Free samples of iced tea, gum or whatever the latest product is.
 - 9 The view from the Ferris wheel.
 - 10 Prizes prizes prizes. If you've ever yearned to own a stuffed Scooby-Doo taller than most adults, visit the midway.
 - 11 The Marketplace. You'll find all those "As Seen On TV" products advertised on late-night television—and more. Shammy, anyone?
 - 12 The West Coast Logger Show, complete with log-rolling and axe-throwing.
 - 13 Seeing chickens, cows, pigs, llamas and other farm animals.
 - 14 Petting baby goats and sheep.
 - 15 Bottle-feeding baby calves. Time it right, and you might even see a calf being born.
 - 16 Cheering on Richard's Racers, those squealing little piggies.
 - 17 Admiring aptly named Peter the Great, a 1,350-kg (3,000-lb) steer.
 - 18 The bee-beard demonstrations in the honey bee exhibit.
 - 19 Horse shows.
 - 20 The sandcastle competition.
 - 21 Temporary tattoos.
 - 22 Mike Battie, juggler extraordinaire.
 - 23 White Spot burgers. Grab an extra napkin or two, or risk dripping Triple O sauce all over your shirt.
- Screaming our heads off on Playland rides:
- 24 Breakdance!
 - 25 Corkscrew.
 - 26 Crazy Beach Party.
 - 27 Drop Zone.
 - 28 Enterprise.
 - 29 Flume. You'll get soaked on this log ride.
 - 30 Gladiator.
 - 31 Hellevator. Get ready to scream.
 - 32 Hell's Gate.
 - 33 Music Express.
 - 34 Pirate. For the most thrills, head for a seat at either end.
 - 35 Revelation.
 - 36 Scooters.
 - 37 Scrambler.
 - 38 Wave Swinger.
 - 39 Westcoast Wheel.
 - 40 Wooden Roller Coaster. It celebrated its 50th birthday last year.

- 41 Red Robinson's Talent Showdown (Aug. 22 to 25). Local crooner Michael Bubl  was discovered at one such PNE talent competition, way back in 1995.
- 42 Psychics.
- 43 Caricature artists.
- 44 Art cars. Let out your inner Jackson Pollock, using a car or truck as your canvas.
- 45 Balloons.
- 46 The Neighbourhood Showcase, featuring more than 100 community groups singing and dancing.
- 47 Face-painting.
- 48 K.C. the Kettle Creek bear, the PNE's roly-poly mascot.
- 49 The climbing wall.
- 50 Motocross races.
- 51 Sipping a cold one in the beer garden.
- 52 Becky Hoops and her many hula-hoops.
- 53 The unique smell that just screams "summertime": a combination of donuts, sunscreen lotion, fried onions and hay.
- 54 Oversized novelty hats.
- 55 People-watching.
- 56 The Toon Rock Parade, featuring Garfield, Snoopy and the Tasmanian Devil.
- 57 The basketball court.
- 58 Deep-fried Oreos, deep-fried Jelly Belly beans, deep-fried mushrooms, deep-fried prawns and chips—pretty much anything deep-fried.
- 59 The shooting gallery.
- 60 The Celtic Legends dance show, which gets toes tapping, even if you're not Irish.
- 61 Baskin-Robbins ice cream cones.

Rides just for the tiniest tykes, including:

- 62 Dune Buggies.
- 63 Flying Elephants.
- 64 Helicopters.
- 65 Honeybee Express.
- 66 KC's Raceway.
- 67 Kettle Creek Mine Coaster.
- 68 Merry-Go-Round.
- 69 Paddle Wheeler.
- 70 Raiders.
- 71 Stunt Cycles.
- 72 Super Slide.



A visit to the PNE is filled with mesmerizing colours (above) and the smell of Those Little Donuts (below), and must include a ride on the wooden roller coaster (bottom)





A fun-filled day at the fair isn't complete without rides (below) and games of skill with giant stuffed animals as the much-coveted prizes (above and bottom)



Free nightly concerts by amazing acts:

- 73** Beatles tribute bands (Aug. 22), in honour of the 45th anniversary of The Beatles' performance at the PNE.
- 74** Mitchel Musso (Aug. 23).
- 75** Doc Walker (Aug. 24).
- 76** En Vogue (Aug. 25).
- 77** Al Jarreau (Aug. 26).
- 78** Rick Springfield (Aug. 27).
- 79** The Headpins (Aug. 28).
- 80** Jaydee Bixby (Aug. 29).
- 81** Barney Bentall and the Legendary Hearts (Aug. 30).
- 82** Elvis tribute acts (Aug. 31).
- 83** Tom Cochrane with Red Rider (Sep. 1).
- 84** Johnny Reid (Sep. 2).
- 85** ABBAmania (Sep. 3).
- 86** April Wine (Sep. 4).
- 87** Chilliwack (Sep. 5).
- 88** The Higgins (Sep. 6).
- 89** Bobby Bruce's Nearly Neil and the Solitary Band (Sep. 7).
- 90** Glowsticks, light sabres and other plastic weapons for sale that kids use to hit each other—and unlucky adults nearby.
- 91** The arcade.
- 92** Finding a cool spot in the shade to rest and relax before hitting the next ride.
- 93** Pizza, fudge-dipped apples, foot-long hot dogs, candy-coated peanuts, French fries, funnel cakes and other tasty (but not particularly healthy) treats.
- 94** The haunted mansion. Scaredy-cats, this is *not* for you.
- 95** The glass-house maze. Good luck finding your way out.
- 96** Ice-cold lemonade. There's nothing more refreshing on a hot day.
- 97** Kaboom! A Pyro Musical Spectacular. Music and pyrotechnics—what more could you want from nightly show?
- 98** After Dark in Spirit Plaza. Bring a glowstick and get ready to dance the night away.
- 99** Line-ups. You can't avoid 'em, so you might as well accept 'em. And never, ever wait until the last minute before seeking a bathroom.

For more info about the PNE, turn to page 106. [W](#)