



GREY CUP FEVER

Touchdown! The renovated BC Place stadium welcomes the 99th annual Grey Cup **BY LESZEK APOUCHTINE, JENNIFER PATTERSON & SHERI RADFORD**

ROAR, YOU LIONS, ROAR!

"The Pride of all BC" plans to roar past the competition and play in the 99th Grey Cup this month at BC Place. The BC Lions, Vancouver's professional football team, have called BC Place home ever since the stadium opened in 1983. They were forced to relocate for more than a season while the stadium was renovated, but returned to their home turf at the end of September to a near-capacity crowd of more than 50,000 screaming fans.

The BC Lions are part of the Canadian Football League (CFL), which started in 1958. The CFL continues a long tradition of Canadian football, and includes the Toronto Argonauts, a team that started back in 1873, making the Argos the oldest professional football team in North America. NFL fans will notice a few differences in the way Canadians play the game, including the larger CFL field, an extra player per team in the action and one less down. Many friendly debates can be heard at local bars and pubs when Americans dare to claim that their style of play is better.

The BC Lions date back to 1954, but are currently the youngest franchise in the CFL. They have played in the Grey Cup nine times, won five of those times, and are hoping to pounce on any opponent that stands in their way of winning the championship on home turf.

The Lions are wrapping up a great year, which saw them clinch a spot in the play-offs with a few games still left to play in the regular season. This will be the 15th straight play-off run for the Lions—a team record and tied for the fourth longest run of play-off appearances in CFL history. Not many people would have predicted they could pull it off after starting the season with five straight losses.

As the season winds down and the play-offs get underway, the Lions have never looked better under the new roof of BC Place.

So, to quote the Lions' catchy fight song, "C'mon and roar, you Lions, roar!"—L.A.

PHOTO COURTESY BC PAVILION CORPORATION (PAVCO)

2011 GREY CUP FESTIVAL EVENTS

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

Gibson's Finest Player CFL Awards	VCC	7 pm-8:30 pm
Blakes After-Party	VCC	8:30 pm-12 am

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 25

Telus StreetFest	TFP	11 am-10:30 pm
PlayNow.com Main Stage	TFP	11 am-10:30 pm
CN Field	TFP	11 am-10:30 pm
Scotiabank Football Experience	VCC	11 am-9 pm
Molson Canadian House	VCC	12 pm-1 am
Vanier Cup Championship	BCP	6 pm
Nissan Family Zone	JPP	11 am-6 pm
Canadian Direct Stage	JPP	11 am-6 pm

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 26

Safeway Grey Cup Festival Parade	DV	10 am-11:30 am
Telus StreetFest	TFP	11 am-10:30 pm
PlayNow.com Main Stage	TFP	11 am-10:30 pm
CN Field	TFP	11 am-10:30 pm
Scotiabank Football Experience	VCC	11 am-5 pm
Molson Canadian House	VCC	12 pm-1 am
Scotiabank Show Your Colours Gala	VCC	6:30 pm-11 pm
Nissan Family Zone	JPP	11 am-5 pm
Canadian Direct Stage	JPP	11 am-5 pm
Vancouver Sun FanFest	JPP	11 am-5 pm

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 27

Telus StreetFest	TFP	11 am-3:30 pm
PlayNow.com Main Stage	TFP	11 am-3:30 pm
CN Field	TFP	11 am-3:30 pm
Scotiabank Football Experience	VCC	11 am-3:30 pm
Molson Canadian House	VCC	11 am-3:30 pm
Nissan Family Zone	JPP	11 am-3:30 pm
Canadian Direct Stage	JPP	11 am-3:30 pm
99th Grey Cup Championship	BCP	3:30 pm

LEGEND **BCP** BC Place **DV** Downtown Vancouver **JPP** Jack Poole Plaza **TFP** Terry Fox Plaza **VCC** Vancouver Convention Centre West

BC PLACE

After 17 months and \$563 million in renovations, BC Place reopened in September. Gone was the much-maligned air-supported dome roof (critics compared it to a large marshmallow), replaced by the world's largest cable-supported retractable roof, which takes just 20 minutes to open or close. The eco-friendly building also boasts new scoreboards, brighter lighting, a new sound system, wider seats and better air circulation.

BC Place has hosted countless huge events over the years, from Madonna and Michael Jackson concerts to a royal visit from Queen Elizabeth II to the opening, closing and nightly victory ceremonies for the 2010 Olympic Winter Games. It continues to be the home of the BC Lions and now also serves as home base for the Vancouver Whitecaps, the province's only Major League Soccer club.—S.R.

FESTIVAL FUN

More than 500,000 football fans are expected to descend on downtown Vancouver, celebrating both the Vanier Cup (Nov. 25) and the Grey Cup (Nov. 27). Fans can choose from an abundance of events all weekend long (see sidebar at left), including a street festival, a parade with local boy—and *Glee* star—Cory Monteith as grand marshal, and concerts by Said the Whale, Hey Ocean, Colin James and many others. For all the details, visit www.2011greycupfestival.ca or, for the mobile web app, go to m.2011greycupfestival.ca.—S.R.



When open, BC Place's new retractable roof reveals more than 100 m (325 ft) of blue sky

GET GEAR

Looking to buy official CFL jerseys, t-shirts and baseball hats while sightseeing downtown? Browse through Town & City Enterprises (849 Hornby St.), Robson Sports (653 Robson St.), Granville Sports Corner (925 Granville St.) or SportChek (777 Dunsmuir St., in Pacific Centre) to find the perfect souvenir.—S.R.

WATCH

Good luck trying to find tickets to the big game—they sold out months ago, and in record time, too. Instead, head to one of the many restaurants and bars around town filled with enthusiastic fans and giant screens showing the game. A few of our favourites:

- Cactus Club Cafe (page 67).
- Forum (page 53).
- G Sports Bar and Grill (page 54).
- Phat Sports Bar and Restaurant (page 66).
- Red Card Sports Bar + Eatery (page 54).
- Score on Davie (page 54).
- Shark Club Bar and Grill (page 54).—S.R. 

PHOTOS BY KKLAW



AN ODE TO TERRY FOX

The newly erected Terry Fox Memorial, designed by acclaimed local artist, author and Fox family friend Douglas Coupland, features four increasingly larger-than-life bronze statues of Fox running. The significance? Fox's 1980 Marathon of Hope inspired an annual run each September, now the world's largest one-day fundraiser for cancer research. Pay respect to this hometown hero and visit the memorial on the west side of the new BC Place.—J.P.