



FOUNDATION FOR RURAL
EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT

2004 Summer FRED Event

Roundup Party at the Calgary Stampede

Calgary, Alberta

Tuesday, July 13 5:30 PM – 10:00 PM

Hosted By:



On Tuesday, excitement was in the air as more than 600 OPASTCO convention attendees boarded buses for the FRED event. Guests lined up in the hotel lobby starting as early as 4:00 PM for busses that were not scheduled to arrive until 5:15 PM! After the short ride to Calgary Stampede Park, guests filed into the Palomino room, which was decorated with a western theme. Everyone was in awe of the ambiance of the elegant room—many expected picnic tables and dirt floors! Centerpieces provided a shimmering, candle-like effect on the tables which were covered in black linens, a cow print overlays and gold napkins. Hay bales, barrels, western fabrics and holograms projected on the walls set the mood as a live country western singer welcomed the group. The décor was only outdone by the fantastic chuckwagon buffet served. Guests dined on carved striploin coated in western dijon mustard, chicken breast with a sun-dried tomato salsa, fresh salads, hearty sides and of course, plenty of strawberry shortcake with whipped cream and other desserts. Many guests stopped by the FRED information table to declare that the dinner served was the best they ever had at an event like this.

After dinner, everyone exited the ballroom and made their way to the Grand Stand area for the main event for the evening—the Chuckwagon Races! Teams of contestants barreled around the track in this nail-biting competition. While it may have looked like total chaos, these crews were on a mission to complete a figure eight around a set of barrels, and then charge out onto the track at breakneck-speed. This competition did not disappoint—everyone cheered in excitement! Following the races, the crowd was once again impressed by the entertainment of the Grand Stand Show, which many attendees said rivaled a Super Bowl halftime show. Singers, dancers and other performers entertained the audience—despite the torrential downpour and lightning that caused the show to stop momentarily. Guests, perched high atop in the covered grand stand, patiently waited as the clouds passed and the show continued. The evening concluded with a brilliant display of fireworks around midnight. A fun time was certainly had by all.

This evening proved to be one of FRED's most popular summer events ever. A special thanks goes out to all of the individuals who attended, to the sponsors that provided financial support and to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly before and during the event. OPASTCO members will benefit from all of their participation as more than \$30,000 was raised for programs in rural areas.

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