



Pacific National Exhibition

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NEWS RELEASE

RUSSIA TAKES FIRST PLACE AT THE PNE'S INTERNATIONAL SAND SCULPTURE COMPETITION

Vancouver, BC – After five days of intense sand sculpting, the third annual PNE International Sand Sculpture Competition has come to a close with Russia's Ilya Filimonstev taking first place with a beautiful sand creation named "The Time of the Musketeer."

Czechoslovakia's Radovan Zivney takes second place with "Swimmer" and the United States entry "Fantasy Sand Castle" by Richard Varano takes third place, as well as the People's Choice Award. Fair-goers had the pleasure to watch art come to life while sand shaped and molded their creations along historic Miller Drive. They were then able to cast their ballots for their favourite sculpture.

This year, the competition brought together eight international sand sculptors representing the Czech Republic, Portugal, USA, Netherlands, Russia, Australia and Canada. Each year, the sand sculptures manage to awe fair-goers with their intricate details and variety in themes.

"The PNE is extremely proud to host this world class event," says PNE President and CEO Michael McDaniel. *"The caliber of this year's entries is unprecedented."*

All eight sand sculptures can be viewed along historic Miller Drive until the end of the Fair on September 3rd. For more information about the 2007 Fair at the PNE visit: www.pne.ca. For more information on sand sculptures, please visit www.sandemons.com.

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Owned by the City of Vancouver, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is a healthy and vibrant non-profit charity organization dedicated to providing over 3 million visitors a year with first-class cultural, sporting and family entertainment events. Founded in 1910, the PNE operates from a 114-acre site at Hastings Park, a multi-facility venue in Vancouver where the organization operates four activity streams: an annual 17-day Fair, Playland Amusement Park, maintenance and care of the Hastings Park site and management of the site's year-round facilities. These facilities are utilized to celebrate a variety of hockey, amateur sporting, music, community, social, cultural and commercial events throughout the year.

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