



Pacific National Exhibition

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NEWS RELEASE

RED ROBINSON TALENT SHOWDOWN CROWNS SURREY RESIDENT AS TOP TALENT FOR '07 FAIR

Vancouver, BC – The 2007 Fair at the PNE played host to some of BC's most talented young performers in the first-ever Red Robinson Talent Showdown. Thousands of entries for the event came from across British Columbia, with semi-finalists performing on the Rogers Amphitheatre stage throughout the Fair to compete for a \$10,000 grand prize.

"As a whole, this was the most talented group of young performers the PNE has ever seen," says Patrick Roberge, creative director of the PNE. *"We were amazed by the quality and passion that each performer brought to the stage day after day of the Fair."*

The 2007 grand prize winner was 28-year-old Kerry O'Donovan of Surrey/White Rock. Singing and playing piano, O'Donovan blew the judges and audience away with his rendition of Queen's "Somebody to Love" during the final competition on September 1, 2007.

"I'm so ecstatic. I cannot wait to finish my CD," said O'Donovan said after being named the Red Robinson Talent Showdown's first-ever grand prize winner. Winner of the talent show's youth category was Elaine Mareau of Kelowna, who amazed judges with her rendition of "Art Is Calling For Me" by Kiri Te Kanawa. Mareau will represent the PNE at the 2007 Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions in its Canadian Youth Talent Competition from November 14-17, 2007.

With hundreds of performers seen throughout the Fair, each day of the competition featured its own semi-finalist, who moved on to compete for the \$10,000 grand prize on September 1, 2007. The semi-finalists were:

August 18, 2007 – **Joe Given** of Surrey

August 19, 2007 – **Emily Taylor Adams** of Langley

August 20, 2007 – **Justine Ankiewicz** of North Vancouver

August 21, 2007 – **Cameron Gordon** of Maple Ridge

August 22, 2007 – **Elaine Mareau** of Kelowna

August 23, 2007 – **Jessica Ho** of Richmond

August 24, 2007 – **Vanessa Marie Croome** of Nanaimo

August 25, 2007 – **The Jocelyn Trio** of Squamish

August 26, 2007 – **Michaela Slinger** of Port Moody

August 27, 2007 – **Nicheshia Garrick** of Port Coquitlam

August 28, 2007 – **Brett Trac** of Coquitlam

August 29, 2007 – **Andrew Alcalde** of Vancouver

August 30, 2007 – **Jeff Laing** of Richmond

August 31, 2007 – **Kerry O'Donovan** of Surrey/White Rock

For more information on the Red Robinson Talent Showdown, visit www.pne.ca.

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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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