



CLOVERDALE RODEO AND COUNTRY FAIR CELEBRATES 'COWBOY CHURCH'

For Immediate Release

Surrey, British Columbia - Like most traditions, necessity was the mother of invention in the evolution of a wild-west phenomenon known as 'Cowboy Church'. The luxury of formal church services was rarely available to ranch hands on long cattle drives or isolated on ranches. Occasionally, the spiritually inclined would take time to reflect back on their week of trials and successes, and offer thanks for disasters averted. These cowboy church services were a thread that kept not just families but communities together during difficult times, and a tradition that continues to live on today.

On **Sunday, May 17th at 10:00am** in the Stetson Suite at the Cloverdale Rodeo Fairgrounds, the Reverend Coy Huffman, a tough-as-lumber looking cowboy with a deep mid-west accent, will begin his sermon, one of the inspirational sort, with a prayer of thanks.

"We've been doing a Cowboy Church here on rodeo weekend for as long as anyone can remember," says Cloverdale Rodeo Chairperson Penny Smythe. *"It's really an amazing experience, one we encourage anyone inclined to come and experience it."*

Cowboy Church is a nondenominational service open to all.

For more information about the 2009 Cloverdale Rodeo and Country Fair visit:
www.cloverdalerodeo.com.

About:

The Cloverdale Rodeo and Exhibition Association is the non-profit organization that manages the world famous Cloverdale Rodeo & Country Fair held every year on the May long weekend (May 15th – 18th, 2009) at the Cloverdale Fairgrounds in Surrey, British Columbia.

The Association is also responsible for the year-round management of the eight facilities on the Cloverdale Fairgrounds that host over 1,000 events annually, including trade shows, concerts, festivals, sporting events, horse and dog shows, swap meets, flea markets, weddings and meetings.

For more information on the Association and the 63rd annual Cloverdale Rodeo and the 120th Country Fair visit: www.cloverdalerodeo.com.

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