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NEWS RELEASE

Gala celebration honours Calgary Stampede Western Legacy Award recipients

Calgary – The Calgary Stampede honoured three outstanding individuals and a youth-oriented Calgary organization at the 5th annual Western Legacy Awards presentation earlier today. The Western Legacy Awards were established in 2005 to recognize those who demonstrate commitment to western values and support for western heritage.

“We received several excellent nominations in all four categories so making our final selections was a challenging but pleasant responsibility,” says Steve Major, chair of the Calgary Stampede Western Legacy Awards committee. “We’re excited to recognize another deserving group this year.”

This year’s recipients truly embody the values and commitment to the Stampede’s western legacy:

- **Sustained Contribution (Individual)** – George Ward is a founding member of the Stockmen’s Memorial Foundation and has displayed a commitment to his neighbours and the rural community for decades.
- **Sustained Contribution (Group)** – The Boys and Girls Club of Calgary has a 70 year history of community service including a 37 year partnership with the Calgary Stampede.
- **Innovation** – John Ayer was the driving force behind the preservation of the 40 acres now known as Fort Calgary. Ayer rallied citizens and politicians alike in his quest to ensure Calgary’s western heritage was preserved.
- **Youth** – Justine MacDonald may only be 19 years old and she’s faced many life challenges, but she’s turned those challenges into exceptional community achievements.

Recipients of the Sustained Contribution category exhibit extraordinary community support over a number of years while the award for Innovation recognizes a person or group that has created a single visionary project that speaks to western values. The Youth category is open to young people under 25 years of age, and recognizes youth who have demonstrated their commitment to making a difference.

The 2009 Western Legacy Awards will be broadcast on Shaw TV – Channel 10 on the following dates and times:

October 14 – 9 p.m., October 22 – 7 p.m., October 28 – 9 a.m., November 4 – 9 p.m. November 9 – 9 a.m.

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The Calgary Stampede is a volunteer-supported, not-for-profit community organization that preserves and promotes western heritage and values. The Stampede contributes to the quality of life in Calgary and southern Alberta through its world-renowned 10-day Stampede, year-round facilities, western events and several youth and agriculture programs. All revenue is reinvested into Calgary Stampede programs and facilities. For more about the Stampede, visit www.calgarystampede.com.

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Limited

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