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NEWS RELEASE

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## Exotic iron: Century-old Rumely highlights Vintage Tractor bash

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CALGARY – Who'll be looking down on the Calgary Stampede's Centennial festivities with a big, benevolent smile? Well, Guy Weadick, of course. Can't forget the Big Four, either.

And Frank Sherring? His smile will be as wide as those big ol' steel wheels on his vintage masterpiece.

The Stampede's Farm Equipment committee wanted to pull out all the stops for The Greatest Outdoor Show on Earth's hundred-year birthday bash this summer. And they did it — by finding a farm tractor that's older than the Stampede itself, and still in working order to boot.

The exotic iron in question is a 1911 Rumely OilPull Model B 25-45 owned by Ted Sherring of Medicine Hat, and kept at the Pioneer Acres museum near Irricana, Alta. The steel-wheeled, kerosene-burning masterpiece was lovingly restored by Ted and his father Frank, a former heavy-duty mechanic who passed away in September 2010.

It will be the centerpiece of the Stampede's 22<sup>nd</sup> annual Vintage Tractor Pull and Vintage Tractor Show & Shine on Saturday, July 7 and Sunday, July 8 under the Big Top — a fact that has Ted bursting with pride.

"I'm ecstatic already. And I guarantee that Dad will be beaming from ear to ear. It was his baby, and it was always a dream of ours to have it at the Stampede," says Ted. "I know Dad will be as proud as a punch, especially since the Stampede is celebrating its 100<sup>th</sup> year."

The Sherring family's Rumely OilPull, built in La Porte, Indiana, is the oldest surviving, operational, and "original restored" Model B 25-45 Rumely in existence. Regionally speaking, a single surviving example of a 1910-built prototype dubbed Kerosene Annie resides somewhere in Montana.

The Sherrings' 23,000-pound behemoth was purchased new by the Skooling Ranches of Hussar, Alta. Measuring 25 horsepower at the draw-bar and 45 horses at the belt pulley, this Rumely was used for both ploughing and threshing, and reached about three kilometres per hour in forward gear.

Ted and Frank Sherring purchased it from a Drumheller scrap dealer in the early 1970s, slowly collected original parts from across North America, and in 1989 began the two-year restoration process in earnest — even travelling to a Rumely reunion in the U.S. that year to make absolutely certain that their makeover was letter-perfect. The resulting paint job — Brewster Green and Trend Red, with Harvest Yellow pinstriping and hand-painted replica decals — mimic the exact appearance of the company's 125<sup>th</sup> Model B. "We wanted it to look exactly the way it came out of the Rumely factory," says Ted.

The 1911 Rumely OilPull has made appearances at Spruce Meadows and at the Lethbridge Ag Expo, but has been more or less stationed at Pioneer Acres for the past 20 years. Dave James, who chairs the Stampede's Farm Equipment committee, jumped at the chance to make it part of the 2012 Vintage Tractor extravaganza.

Calgary Exhibition and Stampede Limited

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"We needed a major eye-catcher as part of the show this year, and what better way than to get a tractor that was built in the same era as the Stampede starting up?" says James.

A by-invitation affair, this year's Vintage Tractor Pull and Vintage Tractor Show & Shine will draw 36 immaculately restored vintage beasts from Alberta, Saskatchewan, and British Columbia, built in 1960 or earlier, for a stroll down mechanical memory lane.

The Vintage Tractor Pull will see competitors and their stout-hearted steeds compete in six different weight classes, from featherweight (1,000 to 3,999 pounds) up to the giants of Class 5 (8,500 to 9,999 pounds). International Harvesters, Oliver's, John Deeres, Minneapolis Molines, McCormicks and more, with horsepower of 20 up to 80, will demonstrate their sled-pulling prowess under the Big Top, with winners determined via the highest aggregate score over two rounds. The first round will get hand-cranked up, so to speak, on Saturday, July 7 at 5 p.m., and the finale will be staged on Sunday, July 8 at 3:30 p.m.

Meanwhile, the Vintage Tractor Show & Shine will run for an hour from 4 to 5 p.m. under the Big Top on Saturday, July 7, with tractors prepped, polished, and primed to within an inch of their lives — and the winner again receiving a handtooled Stampede belt buckle.

Perry and Ellen Widdifield of Markerville, Alta., will bring back their immaculately restored 1924 Waterloo Boy, built by John Deere, and 1930 Hart-Parr. There'll again be metal-versus-muscle exhibitions, as tractors go toe-to-hoof with a team of Belgian heavy horses to determine who's got the ultimate horsepower. There'll also be a vintage tractor presentation on Sunday, July 8, as the Vintage Tractor Pull and Vintage Tractor Show & Shine are highlighted at the Agriculture 100 exhibit in the Victoria Pavilion. "I think it's going to be a heck of a show this year," says James.

The Stampede will be webcasting all events being held in the Scotiabank Saddledome and the Big Top this year. Visit <http://ag.calgarystampede.com/saddledome-ustream> for live streaming of Saddledome action, and <http://ag.calgarystampede.com/big-top-ustream> for events under the Big Top. Following the 2012 Stampede, groundbreaking will begin on the Agrium Western Event Centre, the largest project in Stampede history. For details and artistic renderings of this magnificent 150,000-square-foot agriculture showcase and competition venue, scheduled for completion in 2014, visit <http://corporate.calgarystampede.com/about/park-development/agrium-western-event-centre/>

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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](http://www.calgarystampede.com).

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