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Gary McRae Inducted into IAFE Hall of Fame

LAS VEGAS, NV — November 28, 2011 — Today at the International Association of Fairs and Expositions (IAFE) 121st Annual Convention, Gary McRae, retired CEO of the Western Fair Association, London, Ontario, was inducted into the IAFE Hall of Fame. The IAFE convention is taking place today through Dec. 1, 2011, at the Paris Hotel in Las Vegas, Nev. The highest honor bestowed by the IAFE, the Hall of Fame Award is presented annually in recognition of an individual's distinguished achievement in, or contribution to, the fair industry.

McRae joined the Western Fair Association on a full-time basis in 1975. He started out as mutuel manager in the harness racing operation and as midway manager for the independent midway operation. He progressed through the organization and served in multiple roles including assistant treasurer, treasurer, and assistant general manager. He was named general manager in 1991 and promoted to Chief Executive Officer in 2004. During his tenure, McRae oversaw millions of dollars in upgrades, renovations, and expansions of the Western Fair Entertainment Centre, including expansion of the slots lounge, a new 165,000-square-foot Agriplex, and safety upgrades to the racetrack. McRae retired from his position in 2009.

Born and raised in Glencoe, Ontario, McRae graduated from Glencoe District High School. Immediately after high school, McRae joined the Bank of Montreal and worked in bank branches throughout Ontario before joining the Western Fair Association.

McRae has been an active and respected leader in the fair industry. He earned his Certified Fair Executive designation from the IAFE in 1993. He has served on numerous IAFE Committees. He served as president of the Canadian Association of Fairs and Exhibitions in 2005. He served as IAFE second vice chair in 2004, first vice chair in 2005, and as chair in 2006. He became past chair in 2007. McRae was a recipient of the Roll of Honour from the Canadian Association of Fairs & Exhibitions in 2007.

In addition to his service in the fair industry, McRae is an active member of his community. He is a past president of the Racetracks of Canada and past president of Tourism London. He is a member of the Technical Standards and Safety Authority Amusement Devices Advisory Council, member and past director of the London Chamber of Commerce, and member and past director of the Rotary Club of London.

McRae and his wife Nancy have three daughters: Susan, Karen, and Julie; and five grandchildren. McRae enjoys golf, reading, travel, and attending fairs.

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