

Favorite Daughter

Celine Dion rocks Canada
Top Stops with 2008 run

by DAVE BROOKS

While its neighbors to the south experienced serious financial turmoil, Canadian venues have fared all right during the recent economic downturn. While some experts believe the Maple Leaf economy is protected by rigorous banking standards, it's hard to deny the economic impact of Canada's first daughter Celine Dion.

Fresh off her five-year residency in Las Vegas, Dion provided the ultimate economic stimulus for Canada with 22 concerts played in front of nearly 400,000 for an eye-popping gross of \$48.9 million.

Celine was also the choice of many venues managers when asked for their most memorable performances of 2008. *Venues Today* caught up with facility managers from all over the country to talk about last year's favorite shows.

Dean Clark, Prospera Place, Kelowna, B.C.

Cirque du Soleil's Saltimbanco, June 4-8

We did nine shows and the attendance was virtually sold out. We hit all ages and demographics and felt the show represented well in our community. It was a perfect match for us because our main tenants were out of the playoffs and June is typically a quiet time.

Neil Donnelly, Brandt Centre at EVRAZ Place, Regina

Elton John, Sept. 16-17

Gross: \$1.7 million

We had two sold out shows with Elton John, so if I had to pick one performance, that would be it. Our two shows sold out in four minutes, which is very hard to top. Other standout shows included Rush, Iron Maiden and Neil Young. To have those four in the same year is an honor, especially with the size of our market.

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TOPSTOPS

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Based on concert and event grosses from Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2008, as reported to *Venues Today*.

VENUE, LOCATION	NO. OF SEATS	TOTAL GROSS	ATTENDANCE	SHOWS
> 15,000 AND MORE CAPACITY				
1. Air Canada Centre, Toronto	20,000	\$41,326,732	454,811	36
2. Bell Centre, Montreal	21,500	\$41,249,606	387,921	30
3. Rexall Place, Edmonton, Alberta	18,100	\$27,543,342	494,262	66
4. Molson Amphitheatre, Toronto	16,000	\$13,432,079	232,945	22
5. General Motors Place, Vancouver, B.C.	20,763	\$9,364,390	127,926	13
> 10,001-15,000 CAPACITY				
1. John Labatt Centre, London, Ontario	10,200	\$15,442,199	240,548	54
2. MTS Centre, Winnipeg, Manitoba	15,000	\$12,151,859	162,899	17
3. Credit Union Centre, Saskatoon, Sask.	13,300	\$4,835,243	64,497	9
4. Halifax (Nova Scotia) Metro Centre	10,594	\$2,111,438	36,624	6
> 5,001-10,000 CAPACITY				
1. Brandt Centre, Regina, Saskatchewan	7,000	\$2,767,128	32,461	6
2. Moncton (New Brunswick) Coliseum Arena	9,000	\$1,552,476	27,252	6
3. Mile One Centre, St. John's, Newfoundland	7,582	\$1,311,831	25,517	5
4. Save On Foods Mem. Centre, Victoria, B.C.	7,000	\$1,292,981	21,896	5
5. Prospera Place, Kelowna, B.C.	8,000	\$991,554	16,340	4
> 5,000 AND FEWER CAPACITY				
1. Massey Hall, Toronto	2,753	\$3,313,871	57,266	22
2. Sony Centre for Perf. Arts, Toronto	3,200	\$2,802,841	27,655	9
3. Commodore Ballroom, Vancouver, B.C.	990	\$1,649,669	60,951	66
4. Kool Haus, Toronto	2,500	\$1,508,858	60,018	25
5. Orpheum, Vancouver, B.C.	2,796	\$1,461,825	25,632	9

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