

The day from the ground and air



Photo: Kevin Frayer
An excited fan near the front of the stage lets loose as the mega concert finally gets underway yesterday afternoon.



Photo: Donald Weber
The show brought Americans and Canadians close together, as evidenced by this fan, who supported clothing of both nations.



Photo: Jonathan Hayward
Andy Johnson of Atlantic City, NJ sips from one of the many bottles of water distributed by organizers.

“The bottom line is we’ve got a bunch of sailors on board HMCS Fredericton right now because we’re unable to get the Stones concert. So we got our Forty Licks albums out and we’re going to have a little vigil here”

A disappointed Lieutenant Paula Jardins on the Canadian frigate when reached by telephone about satellite difficulties.

“I hope the half-a-million people or so ate Canadian beef. I know that they’ll all be mingling amongst one another. None of them will get SARS. And none of them will get mad cow disease. Guaranteed”

Alberta Premiere Ralph Klein

“I think it’s unfortunate that more money wasn’t being put toward actual charity events. I think \$1 from every ticket is a little low, considering the salaries that people are getting paid”

Folk artist Kathleen Edwards

“Rush and the Rolling Stones will be coming on after sunset because scientists aren’t sure how sunlight affects Geddy Lee and Keith Richards”

Master of ceremonies Mike Bullard

“I know that the national vehicle in Canada is a snowmobile. And I know that when you’re born in Canada you’re issued a case of beer and a puck”

Jim Belushi

“This was a success long before anyone stepped on stage”

Tea Party drummer Jeff Burrows

“It was this ocean of humanity. It was incredible”

Sass Jordan on the size of the crowd

“What’s with the eh?”

Paul Sabota from Annapolis Md



The set-up for yesterday’s concert at Downsview Park was massive. The main stage, in the foreground, is dwarfed by the mass of humanity crowding before it. To the left, behind the crowd is the largest of the barbecue stations that served about 500,000 hamburgers and hot dogs. To the right of it, a row of service trucks cuts a swash through the middle of the crowd, pointing directly toward centre stage. Stage right is the tent that provided handicapped concert-goers with a superior view of the day’s acts. Looking further out into Downsview, port a-potties litter the landing strip of the former military base, and the Toronto skyline is clearly visible through the midsummer haze, broadcasting to the world that SARS has come and gone, and the CN Tower is indeed still standing.



Photo: Taras Kovaliv
An ice-cream vendor peddles relief from the heat amidst a swirling sea of concert-goers.



Photo: Andrew Wallace
Alberta Premier Ralph Klein serves up a Canadian hamburger. Klein and other western premiers served Canadian beef to concert-goers.



Photo: Kevin Frayer
Sweltering fans hosed down by security in front of the stage. With nearly 500,000 people crushed so close together in the summer heat, organizers were taking every measure to cool things down and keep fans safe.