



**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**Manulife LPGA Classic will showcase 92 of top 100 players**

Stratford native Natalie Gleadall and Cindy LaCrosse earn exemptions through the qualifier

**Cambridge** – The stage is set for the fourth annual Manulife LPGA Classic; 92 of the top 100 players on the LPGA money list will be in town this week to compete for the \$1.5 million purse. Held at Whistle Bear Golf Club in Cambridge, the tournament is expected to draw fans from all over Southwestern Ontario; the first of four rounds is Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

The field has 8 of the top 10 ranked players in the world including Lydia Ko, defending champion Inbee Park and Stacy Lewis. Other marquee players who will take on the links-style course are Morgan Pressel, Jessica Korda, Natalie Gulbis, Brittany Lincicome, and Anna Nordqvist who recently earned her fifth LPGA Tour victory by winning the 2015 Shoprite LPGA Classic on Sunday.

"We're thrilled that this year's Manulife LPGA Classic features the largest field to date, with 150 of the world's best women golfers coming to Waterloo Region," said Marianne Harrison, President and CEO, Manulife Canada. "With the quality of the field and the excitement of the new course, the tournament is shaping up to provide fans with an amazing experience."

"The caliber of players attending this year is outstanding," said Milaina Wright, Tournament Director. "The Manulife LPGA Classic has a great reputation of drawing large crowds that support these talented golfers and I'm sure players and fans alike will not be disappointed this year."

Stratford native Natalie Gleadall and Cindy LaCrosse played their way into the field earlier today by posting scores of 72 and 70 respectively during the qualifier held at Deer Ridge Golf Club.

Ten Canadians, including Natalie, will compete in this year's Manulife LPGA Classic. Sara Maude Juneau received the final sponsor exemption and will be joined by Alena Sharp, Sue Kim, Lorie Kane, Augusta James, Jennifer Kirby, Rebecca Lee Bentham and sisters Brooke and Brittany Henderson. Lorie and Brooke were recently announced as the female golfers to represent Canada in the Pan-Am Games later this summer.

St. Mary's General Hospital Foundation is the official charity of the tournament and has received approximately \$850,000 for the Regional Cardiac Care Centre from the tournament over the past three years. Through [ManulifeMatch.ca](http://ManulifeMatch.ca) all donations will be matched by Manulife up to

\$80,000 until June 8th. Friday, June 5th is Red Day and spectators and the greater community are encouraged to wear red to help create awareness for women's heart disease.

Click here for [final field](#). To purchase tickets and for more tournament information, including tee times, visit the website, [manulifeclassic.ca](http://manulifeclassic.ca).

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#### **About the Manulife LPGA Classic**

The Manulife LPGA Classic is back for its fourth year on the LPGA Tour and will feature a standard eligibility field of 150 players, 72 holes of stroke play and a purse of USD\$1.5 million. The tournament will take place June 3-7, 2015, at Whistle Bear Golf Club in Cambridge, Ontario. For more information, please visit: [manulifeclassic.ca](http://manulifeclassic.ca). Follow us on Twitter: @ManulifeClassic.

#### **About Manulife**

Manulife is a leading Canada-based financial services group with principal operations in Asia, Canada and the United States. We operate as John Hancock in the U.S. and as Manulife in other parts of the world. We provide strong, reliable, trustworthy and forward-thinking solutions for our customers' significant financial decisions. Our international network of employees, agents and distribution partners offers financial protection and wealth management products and services to millions of clients. We also provide asset management services to institutional customers. Assets under management by Manulife and its subsidiaries were approximately C\$691 billion (US\$596 billion) as at December 31, 2014.

Manulife Financial Corporation trades as 'MFC' on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under '945' on the SEHK. Manulife can be found on the Internet at [manulife.com](http://manulife.com)

#### **About Whistle Bear Golf Club**

Whistle Bear Golf Club re-opened its clubhouse in July 2014 after a substantial rebuild. With a distinct emphasis on family membership and participation, Whistle Bear has a unique plan to develop into a multi-sport facility; family-friendly and strongly rooted in the community. Unlike traditional clubs, Whistle Bear has no initiation fee and offers an exceptional experience in terms of hospitality and Earth to Table cuisine. For more information please visit [whistlebear.ca](http://whistlebear.ca).

#### **About Sports Properties International**

As owner of the Manulife LPGA Classic, Sports Properties International was created to provide an environment where communities and spectacular sporting events can come together, connected by a common interest. Sports Properties International can be found on the internet at [spint.ca](http://spint.ca).

#### **About Bruno Event Team**

Bruno Event Team (BET) is a Birmingham, Alabama-based sports marketing and event management company formed in 1996 by Ronald Bruno and Gene Hallman. Bruno Event Team is experienced in all facets of event management, employing a year-round staff of 70+ employees in nine offices around the United States and Canada. Bruno Event Team Services each client with expertise in strategic planning, marketing, advertising, public and media relations, ticket and merchandise sales, sponsor relations, hospitality consulting, event operations, event financial planning/accounting, and volunteer coordination. Visit [brunoeventteam.com](http://brunoeventteam.com) for additional information.

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