

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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**Strong start to 2015 Manulife LPGA Classic as past Champions return to Waterloo Region**

*Inbee Park, Hee Young Park and, Brittany Lang Scheduled to compete for this year's title*

**Cambridge** – Defending champion Inbee Park, plus past champions Hee Young Park (2013), and Brittany Lang (2012), top the list of early commitments for the 2015 Manulife LPGA Classic. The fourth annual LPGA tournament will be held from June 3 to 7 at Whistle Bear Golf Club in Cambridge.

"Our past champions are back to win, including Inbee Park who is currently ranked 2nd in Rolex Rankings, leads the LPGA Tour in rounds under par, and will compete to defend her title," said Marianne Harrison, President and CEO Manulife Canada. "The links-style course will offer a new challenge so fans can expect great play from the best golfers in the world."

Inbee Park, from South Korea, defeated Cristie Kerr by 3 strokes at the 2014 Manulife LPGA Classic. On her way to victory, Park tied a course record with a 10-under 61 to earn the \$225,000 first-place cheque. Park finished the week at 26-under par 258.

Hee Young Park, from South Korea, is currently ranked 64 in the Rolex Rankings and tied for 11<sup>th</sup> at the Pure Silk-Bahamas LPGA Classic in February. She defeated American Angela Stanford in a three-hole playoff at the 2013 Manulife LPGA Classic to capture her second professional victory. Park birdied the par-5 18th hole four straight times to take the win and earn the \$195,000 first-place cheque.

Brittany Lang is currently ranked 60 in the Rolex Rankings and finished 7<sup>th</sup> at the COATES Golf Championship in January became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the inaugural Manulife LPGA Classic in 2012, capturing a victory in a four-way, three-hole sudden death playoff. Lang had a busy year in 2014: 30 events, 26 cuts made, four top-10 finishes including a season-best tie for third at the Reignwood LPGA Classic.

“Brittany, Hee Young and Inbee are off to a strong start on this year’s tour and fans can expect them to bring exciting play as they take on the challenging course at Whistle Bear Golf Club” said Milaina Wright, Tournament Director. “The early commitment of all three past champions is a testament to the continued popularity of the tournament on the LPGA tour.”

For more information, including ticketing and volunteer opportunities, visit [www.manulifeclassic.ca](http://www.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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