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Brittany Lang, Paula Creamer, and Stacy Lewis Scheduled to Return to Waterloo for the 2013 Manulife Financial LPGA Classic

Waterloo – Defending champion Brittany Lang, former major championship winner Paula Creamer, and former number one player on the Women’s Rolex Golf Rankings, Stacy Lewis, top the list of early commitments for the 2013 Manulife Financial LPGA Classic at Grey Silo Golf Course, July 10-14.

“With such high caliber players committed to compete in the Manulife Financial LPGA Classic, fans and spectators are sure to enjoy outstanding golf,” Marianne Harrison, President and CEO of Manulife Canada. “We are pleased to welcome all the participants in this year’s tournament and we’re delighted that the roster includes three of the world’s top female golfers.”

In her 154th start as an LPGA player, Brittany Lang became a Rolex First-Time Winner at the 2012 Manulife Financial LPGA Classic, capturing a victory in a four-way, three-hole sudden death playoff. In addition to this victory, Brittany had a busy year in 2012, securing three top 10 finishes out of the 25 events she competed in. Currently ranked 42nd in the Women’s Rolex Golf Rankings, Brittany will be looking to defend her title here in Waterloo when she returns to compete in the 2013 Manulife Financial LPGA Classic.

“2013 has been an exciting year so far, and I’m looking forward to my trip back to Canada,” Brittany Lang, Champion of 2012 Manulife Financial LPGA Classic. “I really enjoyed it there, I am super excited to return to the course, it will be my first time defending a title and I can’t think of a more supportive crowd to return to; I look forward to another amazing week!”

In her ninth year on the LPGA Tour, Paula Creamer narrowly missed notching her 10th LPGA Tour victory after losing in a nine-hole playoff to Jiyai Shin at the Kingsmill Championship in 2012. Creamer has been ranked as high as number two in the Women’s Rolex Golf Rankings and currently sits at number 11. Creamer is the fastest player in LPGA history to cross the \$3, \$4, and \$5 million marks in career earnings, and boasted 22 of 22 cuts made in 2012, in addition to seven top-10 finishes, and three top-five finishes.

Stacy Lewis earned Rolex Player of the Year honors following a four-win season in 2012, and led the Tour in birdies, eagles and rounds in the 60s. On March 17, 2013, by virtue of her win at the RR Donnelley LPGA Founders Cup in Arizona, Stacy Lewis unseated Yani Tseng to become the number one ranked women’s golfer in the world. The victory was her second of the season. Lewis now sits in the number 2 spot and is excited to return to Waterloo.

While Lang, Creamer and Lewis are scheduled to play in the tournament, the remaining field is not yet set.

“It is with great excitement that we are able to share this first player announcement,” Tournament Director Richard Kuypers. “Although it is still too early in the year to know the final field of who is coming to the Manulife Financial LPGA Classic, I can say that the girls had a blast during their time in Waterloo in 2012, thanks to the support of this incredible community and we anticipate an impressive return-rate.”

Tickets to the 2013 Manulife Financial LPGA Classic are priced as low as \$30 and can be used any day of the tournament. Children age 15 and under will be admitted free of charge when accompanied by a ticketed adult. Purchase your tickets now at www.manulifeclassic.ca.

About the [Manulife Financial LPGA Classic](#)

The Manulife Financial LPGA Classic is back for its second year on the LPGA Tour and will feature a standard eligibility field of 144 players, 72 holes of stroke play and a purse of \$1.3 million. The tournament will take place July 8 – 14, 2013, at Grey Silo Golf Course in Waterloo, Ontario, home of Manulife Financial’s Canadian Division. For more information please visit: www.manulifeclassic.ca. Follow us on Twitter: @ManulifeClassic.

About [Manulife Financial](#)

Manulife Financial is a leading Canada-based financial services group with principal operations in Asia, Canada and the United States. Clients look to Manulife for strong, reliable, trustworthy and forward-thinking solutions for their most 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. Funds under management by Manulife Financial and its subsidiaries were C\$555 billion (US\$547 billion) as at March 31, 2013. The Company operates as Manulife Financial in Canada and Asia and primarily as John Hancock in the United States.

Manulife Financial Corporation trades as ‘MFC’ on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under ‘945’ on the SEHK. Manulife Financial can be found on the Internet at manulife.com.

About [St. Mary’s General Hospital](#)

Located in the heart of Kitchener, Ontario, St. Mary’s is an adult-acute-care hospital and Regional Cardiac Care Centre. Serving Waterloo Region, Wellington County and beyond, St. Mary’s has an established reputation for providing quality, compassionate and innovative care. The hospital’s cardiac team provides more than 3,400 cardiac catheterizations, 1,050 coronary angioplasties, 750 cardiac surgeries and 275 pacemaker insertions every year.

St. Mary’s patient-centered approach to care is augmented by a strong and dedicated team of more than 500 volunteers who contribute nearly 40,000 hours of service a year in 100 unique roles and programs. www.smgh.ca

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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 thirteen 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 www.brunoeventteam.com for additional information.

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