

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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### **Suzann Pettersen wins Manulife LPGA Classic**

Cambridge – Suzann Pettersen, from Norway, won her 15th LPGA Tour title by going 22 under. She finished one shot ahead of 2012 inaugural Manulife LPGA Classic champion Brittany Lang. Pettersen was awarded the winner's cheque of \$225,000.

"Congratulations to Suzann Pettersen, the 2015 champion of the Manulife LPGA Classic," said Marianne Harrison, President and CEO, Manulife Canada. "Thank you to the players, fans, volunteers and tournament staff who all came together this week to create another exciting year. We look forward to bringing the world's best female golfers to the Waterloo Region again in 2016."

Today Pettersen became the first European winner in the event's four-year history, and the inaugural winner at Whistle Bear Golf Club. She led both the second and third rounds earlier in the week, and in the final round played the front nine in 2-under and eagled 12 gaining momentum for two more birdies before sinking her final putt on the 18<sup>th</sup> green. This is Pettersen's first win in over a year and half and 34 starts. With this win, she is projected to move up five spots in the Rolex Women's World Golf Rankings from 10<sup>th</sup> to 5<sup>th</sup>.

"We travel a lot around the world and every time we come to Canada we feel a generous response and support from the crowd and the public. I think it's fun for us players, but it also sets a great frame for a fantastic tournament," said Pettersen.

Thousands, including players, wore red on Red Day Friday in support of women's heart health and St. Mary's General Hospital Foundation, the primary charity beneficiary of the tournament. Emphasizing community support of this event, the Manulife LPGA Classic is thrilled to announce total donations through various initiatives over the past four years have surpassed \$1.2 million.

Volunteerism is a vital aspect of the tournament as well, with almost 1000 volunteers pitching in an estimated 30,000 hours on more than 15 committees including: transportation, shuttle services, marshals, walking scorers, operations, player hospitality and caddie services.

“This was an amazing first year at Whistle Bear,” said Milaina Wright, Tournament Director. “We are proud to be one of the largest events on the LPGA Tour with approximately 63,000 fans in attendance this week. In addition to the 150 world-class athletes, the club’s location and the variety of spectator activities have helped draw this strong crowd. Players and fans have all expressed their excitement about the new course and amenities. We look forward to welcoming everyone back next year when we move to an end of summer date, August 29 to September 4, 2016.

Tickets for the 2016 Manulife LPGA Classic are expected to go on sale this fall. For more information, 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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