

**MEDIA RELEASE**  
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### **Ariya Jutanugarn Wins Manulife LPGA Classic**

**Cambridge, Ontario** – World No. 2 Ariya Jutanugarn defeated Lexi Thompson and In Gee Chun on the first hole of a playoff to win the 2017 Manulife LPGA Classic. Jutanugarn was awarded the winner's cheque of \$255,000.

"Congratulations to Ariya Jutanugarn, the sixth Manulife LPGA Classic champion," 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 event. We are proud to have brought this tournament to Waterloo Region for the past six years. We are very proud of our association with this world-class professional sporting event and the benefits it brought to female golf, our Kitchener-Waterloo community and our charity partner, St. Mary's General Hospital Foundation."

In blustery conditions, Jutanugarn fired a 3-under-par 69 Sunday, with just one bogey. "I just (went) out – and today is really windy and pretty hard to make birdie and even hit on the green – I just (made) sure I'm committed to every shot and go out and have fun," she said.

With the win, it's likely Jutanugarn will ascend to No.1 in the Rolex Rankings, along with No.1 on the season-long Race to the CME Globe. She played in front of an estimated weekly attendance of 57,812.

"I want to thank our spectators, volunteers, and partners for the support they have shown the tournament, and to Manulife for their partnership in putting on this world-class event," said Hugh Morrow, CEO of Sports Properties International. "The support we've had from the Waterloo Region and Southern Ontario has been tremendous and we hope to continue with the event in the region."

**\$413,536 Million Raised for St. Mary's General Hospital Foundation**

The Manulife LPGA Classic is thrilled to announce this year's donation of \$413,536, surpassing \$2 million through various initiatives over the past six years.

"We are incredibly grateful for the support of Manulife and Sports Properties International over the past six years," said Susan Dusick, President of the St. Mary's General Hospital Foundation. Not only have the funds raised help to equip and expand the Region's Cardiac Care Centre, but the tournament has provided a forum to raise awareness of women's heart health. The community's involvement with Red Day has far surpassed expectations and is an initiative that we look forward to continuing."

Red Day Friday continues to be a crowd favourite on and off the green. This year Red Day had support from the entire community, with over 162 companies involved, including local dignitaries, businesses, media outlets, and more rallying by wearing red for women's heart health and St. Mary's General Hospital Foundation.

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

The Manulife LPGA Classic is one of only two Canadian stops on the LPGA Tour and features a standard eligibility field of 150 players, 72 holes of stroke play and a purse of US\$1.7 million. The 2017 event will take place June 7-11, at Whistle Bear Golf Club near Cambridge, Ontario in Waterloo region, home of Manulife's Canadian Division headquarters. [manulifeclassic.ca](http://manulifeclassic.ca)

#### **About Manulife**

Manulife Financial Corporation is a leading international financial services group that helps people achieve their dreams and aspirations by putting customers' needs first and providing the right advice and solutions. We operate as John Hancock in the United States and Manulife elsewhere. We provide financial advice, insurance, as well as wealth and asset management solutions for individuals, groups and institutions. At the end of 2016, we had approximately 35,000 employees, 70,000 agents, and thousands of distribution partners, serving more than 22 million customers. As of March 31, 2017, we had \$1 trillion (US\$754 billion) in assets under management and administration, and in the previous 12 months we made almost \$26.3 billion in payments to our customers. Our principal operations are in Asia, Canada and the United States where we have served customers for more than 100 years. With our global headquarters in Toronto, Canada, we trade as 'MFC' on the Toronto, New York, and the Philippine stock exchanges and under '945' in Hong Kong.

#### **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. More information about Sports Properties International can be found 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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