



MEDIA RELEASE
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Manulife LPGA Classic field includes 29 Olympians and 85 of Top 100 Golfers

Largest Canadian field for this tournament

Cambridge, ON – The 2016 Manulife LPGA Classic field will include 29 Olympians and 85 of the top 100 earners on the LPGA Tour money list. This year's tournament takes place at Whistle Bear Golf Club, August 31 – September 4 just outside Cambridge, Ontario.

Olympic silver medalist and world ranked No. 1, Lydia Ko, will be joined by fellow Olympians including world ranked No. 2 Ariya Jutanugarn, and world ranked No. 3 Brooke Henderson. Olympians Alena Sharp, Stacy Lewis, Suzann Pettersen, Sandra Gal, Charley Hull, Azahara Munoz, Minjee Lee, Mariajo Uribe and Sei Young Kim and 17 more athletes who recently competed in Rio will also take to the course at Whistle Bear.

"These golfers made history less than 10 days ago when they represented their sport and their countries at the Olympics," said Milaina Wright, Tournament Director. "They captured our attention on television and we're thrilled to welcome them to Whistle Bear next week."

Paula Creamer and Michelle Wie to compete

Additional players included in the field are Paula Creamer and Michelle Wie, who will each be making their first appearances at Whistle Bear, plus Brittany Lang, Mo Martin, Morgan Pressel, Brittany Lincicome, Cristie Kerr and Cheyenne Woods.

Fans attending the Manulife LPGA Classic will be able to get up close to watch and cheer on the Olympians and LPGA Tour players. The M&T Printing Group Autograph Alley behind the 18th green will be an ideal location to get close to players for an autograph or selfie. Multiple public bleachers have been added around the course so spectators can choose from several great spots to watch their favourite players.

Supporting Canadian golfers

"It is important that stops on the LPGA Tour be well represented with Canadian talent so we created a Canadian-focused sponsor exemption strategy," said Marianne Harrison, President & CEO, Manulife Canada. "It's no secret that Canada is home to some excellent golfers and we want to make sure that our golfers get the chance to compete against the best in the world."

The following Canadian players have accepted sponsor exemptions to compete this year:

1. Inaugural Manulife Ladies Classic Award recipient, **Selina Costabile**, from Thornhill, Ontario. This will be Selena's first time competing in an LPGA event.
2. Top-ranked Canadian Women's Amateur and National Team member, **Maddie Szeryk**.
3. National Team member, **Josée Doyon**
4. Up-and-coming golfer and Manulife player ambassador, **Jennifer Kirby**, from Paris, Ontario.
5. Canadian Golf Hall of Famer, **Lorie Kane**.
6. Former National Team member and Symetra Tour rookie, **Jennifer Ha**

Other Canadians in the field include Maude-Aimee Leblanc, Samantha Richdale, Anne Catherine Tanguay, plus Henderson and Sharp.

The tournament opens on Wednesday, August 31 for spectators and official tournament rounds begin on Thursday, September 1. For tickets and information, including a full field list, visit Manulifeclassic.ca

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About the Manulife LPGA Classic

The Manulife LPGA Classic is back for its fifth 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\$1.6 million. The tournament will take place August 31 – September 4, 2016, at Whistle Bear Golf Club in Cambridge, Ontario. For more information, please visit: manulifeclassic.ca. Follow us on Twitter: @ManulifeClassic.

About Manulife

Manulife Financial Corporation is a leading international financial services group providing forward-thinking solutions to help people with their big financial decisions. We operate as John Hancock in the United States, and Manulife elsewhere. We provide financial advice, insurance and wealth and asset management solutions for individuals, groups and institutions. At the end of 2015, we had approximately 34,000 employees, 63,000 agents, and thousands of distribution partners, serving 20 million customers. At the end of June 2016, we had \$934 billion (US\$718 billion) in assets under management and administration, and in the previous 12 months we made more than \$25.4 billion in benefits, interest and other 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. Follow Manulife on Twitter @ManulifeNews or visit www.manulife.com or www.johnhancock.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.

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.

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 for additional information.

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