

MEDIA RELEASE
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Caroline Masson, Brooke Henderson, Brittany Lang, Lexi Thompson, Ariya Jutanugarn, and Suzann Pettersen scheduled to compete at Manulife LPGA Classic

Brittany Lang to speak at Women of Influence Luncheon presented by The DivaCup

Waterloo, Ontario – Defending champion, Caroline Masson, and fan favourites Brooke Henderson, Brittany Lang, Lexi Thompson, Ariya Jutanugarn, and Suzann Pettersen top the list of early commitments for the 2017 Manulife LPGA Classic at Whistle Bear Golf Club from June 7 to 11.

Returning today to Whistle Bear to host Media Day, Caroline Masson is eager to defend her title. “We are thrilled to welcome Caroline back to the Waterloo Region to heighten the excitement of the LPGA’s return in just a few weeks”, said Tournament Director, John Gaskin. “Joined in the field by some of the top competitors on Tour shows how much these players appreciate the support of the community year after year.” The Rolex First-Time Winner captured her first win on Tour last year by firing a final round 67 to claim a one-shot victory and narrowly missing a playoff.

Brooke Henderson, will be welcomed by large galleries as she searches for her first win on Canadian soil. Henderson became the second youngest player in LPGA history to win a major championship with her victory at the 2016 KPMG Women’s PGA Championship and has picked up two other LPGA Tour wins. The teenager has 18 career top-10 finishes, including 15 last year.

Manulife Ambassador, Brittany Lang, was a force on Tour in 2016. Along with six top-10 finishes, she captured her first-career major at the U.S. Women’s Open. The inaugural Manulife LPGA Classic champion will share her personal stories of perseverance as a guest speaker at the second Women of Influence luncheon

presented by The DivaCup, taking place Tuesday, June 6 at Whistle Bear. Limited tickets available for purchase [here](#).

While no stranger to Waterloo Region, this will be Lexi Thompson's first attempt at 'taming the bear'. The top-ranked American sits 5th in the Rolex Rankings and is eager for her first win in 2017. The seven-time champion has won an event in each of the past four seasons, including one major.

Ariya Jutanugarn took the LPGA by storm last year. The Rolex Ranked no. 2 player earned early recognition as the first Thai to win on Tour and went on to lead all players with five wins. Jutanugarn finished strong, becoming the second player to capture the Rolex Player of the Year, Race to the CME Globe and the LPGA Official Money Title all in the same season. She will be looking to top her T5 finish last year.

With her fiercely competitive play, Tour veteran, Suzann Pettersen, is on the hunt for a repeat victory after staying in contention last year with a T5 finish. The 15-time LPGA Tour Winner boasts two victories in Canada, the 2015 Manulife LPGA Classic and 2009 CN Canadian Women's Open.

Additional player commitments will be announced in the coming weeks.

For more information on the tournament, tickets, hospitality and sponsorship options, or to find out more on how to get involved as a volunteer, visit manulifeclassic.ca. Youth 17-and-under are admitted free.

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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. www.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.

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.

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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