



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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### **Fred Couples Focused on Defending Shaw Charity Classic Title**

*Calgary golf fans invited to Shaw Chip 'n' Putt Challenge downtown to win chance to meet and walk inside the ropes with Fred Couples*

**CALGARY**—Fred Couples is coming back to the Stampede City with the hopes of successfully defending his Shaw Charity Classic title, and Calgary golf fans will have the opportunity to win a chance to walk inside the ropes with the World Golf Hall of Fame member.

Couples confirmed he is returning to Calgary to compete in the third annual Shaw Charity Classic at Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club, August 5-9, 2015. One of the greatest names on the PGA TOUR's Champions Tour won the 2014 event in thrilling fashion after a career-best final round 61 that included a chip-in eagle on the 54th hole. Couples got sized up for the traditional white Calgary cowboy hat after winning the first playoff hole over Billy Andrade.

"I said last year I would be back even if Billy won the playoff or I finished 10th. Calgary has been a very enjoyable place for me. I have said over the last two years that I really liked the course, and I felt like I could play it well. To come back and win last year was such a great feeling," said Couples. "I don't know if I've ever shot 61. It was such a great day. I hit the ball pretty well, obviously, and putted like a champ. The crowds are huge in Calgary and the course is always in great shape. Hopefully we can put on another great show in August."

It was the 11th victory on the Champions Tour, and fifth time in the last six years the 55-year-old Couples won multiple times on the senior circuit. A winner of 15 PGA TOUR events, the smooth swinging Couples won the 1992 Masters Tournament.

"Freddie is obviously one of the biggest names on the Champions Tour, and to have him join us as our defending champion will definitely play another huge role in our goal to draw record setting crowds once again this year" said Sean Van Kesteren, tournament director, Shaw Charity Classic.

Couples joined the Champions Tour in 2010. After finishing second in his first start, he went on to win his next three events, becoming the first player ever to win three of his first four tournaments. He also has two major championship victories on the Champions Tour: 2011 Senior Players Championship, and The Senior Open Championship in 2012.

#### ***Shaw Chip 'n' Putt Challenge for the Chance to Meet Freddie***

Two lucky Calgary golf fans will have the opportunity to meet Fred Couples and win a tournament prize package by participating in the Shaw Chip 'n' Putt Challenge as the Shaw Charity Classic takes centre stage on Stephen Avenue starting July 29.

People of all ages and skill level are invited to come and put their short game to the test in a four-hole showdown that includes three holes of putting and one chipping contest for golfers of all levels. Inspired by the closing holes at Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club, the specially designed course will be located at **239 – 8th Avenue SW** in the heart of downtown Calgary.

#### **Contest Format:**

The competition will be broken into three separate components including qualification rounds, semi-finals and the final showdown on the 18th green at Canyon Meadows with Fred Couples.

Participants will play the four-hole challenge in hopes of earning the daily top score. Points will be awarded for each successful shot, increasing from one hole to the next. The top scorer of each day plus the next three runners-up will all advance to the semi-finals on August 5.



The top-two aggregate scores will advance to the final round the following day at Canyon Meadows Golf Club

With Fred Couples in attendance, the two finalists will go head-to-head in a chip off on Thursday, August 6 at 8:30 a.m. on the 18th hole at Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club. The chip-off will be from the same location of Couples' thrilling eagle chip-in last year.

**Contest Dates and Times:**

July 29	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Qualification Rounds	239 Stephen Avenue
July 30	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Qualification Rounds	239 Stephen Avenue
July 31	8 a.m. – 6 p.m.	Qualification Rounds	239 Stephen Avenue
August 4	8 a.m. – 8 p.m.	Qualification Rounds	239 Stephen Avenue
August 5	8 a.m. – 5 p.m.	Qualification Rounds	239 Stephen Avenue
	5-7 p.m.	Semi-Finals	239 Stephen Avenue
August 6	8:30 a.m.	Finals	Canyon Meadows G&CC

**Prizes**

The eight semi-finalists will be awarded a prize pack including signed memorabilia and the choice of a TaylorMade putter or wedge. The champion will also win Sky Box passes on the 18th hole for the weekend, and an honorary observer spot with Fred Couples.

The Champions Tour professionals will play for a purse of \$2.35 million, an increase of \$100,000, when they return to Calgary's Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club from August 5-9. Tickets and corporate packages for the Shaw Charity Classic are available online at [www.shawcharityclassic.com](http://www.shawcharityclassic.com). Youth 17 and under are admitted free with a ticketed adult.

**About the Shaw Charity Classic**

The Shaw Charity Classic will host some of the greatest names in the game of golf in Calgary at the Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club, August 5-9, 2015. The field, which will consist of 81 stars on the Champions Tour, will compete for US \$2.35 million in a three-round, 54-hole stroke-play tournament. The winner will receive US \$337,500 and 300 Charles Schwab Cup Points. The Champions Tour stop in Western Canada will showcase Calgary to the world through its broadcast on the Golf Channel. Led by a philanthropic Patron Group including Tournament Chairman – Clay Riddell, Vice Chairman – Allan Markin, Keith MacPhail, Jim Riddell, Guy Turcotte and PGA Tour Professional – Stephen Ames, along with title sponsor, Shaw Communications, the Shaw Charity Classic won the PGA TOUR's prestigious President's Award in 2015. The Tournament has celebrated record setting charitable donations in each of its first two years by making a charitable donation of \$2,267,251 in its first year, and topped that mark in 2014 by raising \$2,406,610 for more than 20 youth-based charities in south-Alberta. For tickets, or more information on the event, please visit [www.shawcharityclassic.com](http://www.shawcharityclassic.com). Follow the Shaw Charity Classic at [facebook.com/shawcharityclassic](https://www.facebook.com/shawcharityclassic) and on Twitter @shawclassic. The Shaw Charity Classic is managed by the Bruno Event Team and Shaw Communications Inc.

**About the Champions Tour**

Collectively, the Champions Tour has the most recognizable and accomplished players in the game, with many of its 32 members in the World Golf Hall of Fame competing regularly in its events. The Tour also counts numerous other major championship winners among its members. The Champions Tour is a membership organization of professional golfers age 50 and older. Conceived in 1980 as the Senior PGA Tour, it started with just four events and purses totaling \$475,000. The Champions Tour's primary purpose is to provide financial opportunities for its players, entertain and inspire its fans, deliver substantial value to its partners, create outlets for volunteers to give back, protect the integrity of the game and generate significant charitable and economic impact in communities in which it plays. Points earned in official Charles Schwab Cup events in 2014 determined Bernhard Langer as the Charles Schwab Cup champion,



the season-long competition designed to recognize the Champions Tour's leading player. The Commissioner of the PGA TOUR is Tim Finchem. Greg McLaughlin is President of the Champions Tour. The PGA TOUR's website is [pgatour.com](http://pgatour.com), the No. 1 site in golf, and the organization is headquartered in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla. Follow the Champions Tour at [facebook.com/ChampionsTour](https://www.facebook.com/ChampionsTour) and on Twitter @ChampionsTour.

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