



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
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**Calgarians Stephen Ames and Darryl James Lead Four Canucks into Shaw Charity Classic**  
*Champions Tour veterans Rod Spittle and Jim Rutledge round out Canadian foursome*

**CALGARY**—Calgary's PGA TOUR professional, Stephen Ames, and local professional, Darryl James, will welcome the world to their backyard at the PGA TOUR's Champions Tour 2015 Shaw Charity Classic, August 5-9.

Ames, who has played a mix of Champions Tour and PGA TOUR events since joining the senior circuit last spring, will make his second appearance in the tournament he helped bring to Calgary two years ago. Ames is part of the six-person philanthropic Patron Group who has backed the award-winning tournament that doles out record-setting charitable donations for youth-based charities in Alberta.

"This is the back nine of my career so I am thrilled once again to have the opportunity to play in a Tour event in a city that is very special to me," said Ames, who also spends time living in Vancouver. "Many of us worked very hard for a long time to bring an event of this caliber to this market. Hopefully I will play well and it would be great to have a Canadian at the top of the leaderboard on Sunday."

Ames has played 22 seasons on the PGA TOUR where he has racked up nearly \$20 million in earnings. The longtime Calgary resident won four times on the PGA TOUR, most memorably The Players Championship victory in 2006. A top-10 finisher 58 times on the elite TOUR, Ames has two European Championship titles to go along with six, top-10 finishes at major championships.

Another local boy, Darryl James, will take advantage of a sponsor's exemption to tee it up with a star-studded international field that includes the best senior golfers on the planet. James, an instructor with the National Golf Academy in Calgary, was a Tuesday qualifier for last year's tournament. James made it to the final stage of qualifying school, but came up short in his bid to earn one of five full-time cards for the senior circuit.

"Qualifying last year was an absolute dream come true. It was the biggest day of my life," said James, who was on-hand at Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club for the third annual media day horse race competition on Wednesday. "The experience kind of reignited the fire in me to start playing more competitively again, and I hope to build on the knowledge gained last year to put in a strong showing next week. I am grateful to everyone at the Shaw Charity Classic for providing me with this opportunity."

Joining the Calgary-based Canucks will be Champions Tour veterans Rod Spittle and Jim Rutledge.

Born in St. Catharines, Ont., Spittle is the lone Canadian to win a Champions Tour event since joining the 50-and-over Tour in 2005. A three-time finisher in the top-10, Spittle who is recognized as one of the nicest guys on Tour captured the 2010 AT&T Championship in San Antonio, TX.

Victoria's Jim Rutledge will round out the Canadian contingent. A regular on the Champions Tour since 2009, Rutledge will look to find some magic on home turf as he continues to search for his first Champions Tour win.

The four Canucks will prowl the fairways of Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club with 81 of golf's greats that includes: 10 PGA TOUR major winners (O'Meara, Janzen, Woosnam, Stadler, Tway, Simpson, Sluman, Calcavecchia, Pavin, Brooks); three World Golf Hall of Fame Members (Couples, Montgomerie, O'Meara); Champions Tour rookies Lee Janzen and Scott McCarron; and other newcomers to Calgary – Peter Jacobsen and Carlos Franco.

**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://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://facebook.com/ChampionsTour) and on Twitter @ChampionsTour.

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