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Top Canucks on the PGA TOUR Champions Celebrate Canada Day by Adding Names to Shaw Charity Classic Field

—Stephen Ames and Rod Spittle look to become first Canadian winners of prestigious event—

CALGARY—The Shaw Charity Classic is getting into the spirit of Canada's 150th birthday celebrations by adding the top-two Canucks on the PGA TOUR Champions, Stephen Ames and Rod Spittle, to the star-studded field in Calgary, August 30 – September 3.

PGA TOUR professional, Ames, hopes to have the chance to put on the winner's white Stetson cowboy hat at the award-winning tournament he helped bring to his own backyard five years ago. The Calgarian, who captured his first PGA TOUR Champions victory in April at the Mitsubishi Electric Classic, will make his fourth trip to Canyon Meadows Golf and Country Club since joining the 50+ Tour.

"I absolutely love it out here on the PGA TOUR Champions, and I always look forward to coming home, playing in front of the big crowds in Calgary, and seeing a lot of familiar faces walking around the golf course," said Ames. "It was a real thrill to finally win out here and would be nice to celebrate another one at the Shaw Charity Classic's fifth anniversary."

One of Canada's most renowned golfers, Ames is enjoying his best year while sitting in sixth spot on the Charles Schwab Cup Money List, thanks to his five top-10 finishes in 10 events.

Ames is no stranger to the winner's circle having captured four PGA TOUR victories during his illustrious career, and has racked up nearly \$20 million in earnings. Ames finished in the top-10, 58 times on the main TOUR, and is recognized most for his dominant win at the 2006 Players Championship at TPC Sawgrass.

Fans will also be waving the Canada flag outside the ropes while cheering on fellow Canadian Rod Spittle.

Born in St. Catharines, Ont., Spittle is the only other Canadian to win a tournament on the 50-and-over Tour since he joined it in 2005. Recognized as one of the nicest guys on Tour, Spittle has had a solid start to the 2017 season with two top-10 finishes this spring. His lone victory on the senior circuit came in 2010 at the AT&T Championship in San Antonio, TX.

"It's very special to have the Canadian flag on my bag, and I can't think of what would be better than to see the maple leaf at the top of the leaderboard of the Shaw Charity Classic in what is such a special year for the country," said Spittle. "I just love getting back to Calgary and getting introduced on that first tee as one of a few Canadians in the field. We are bonded by the flag with the crowd, and that is just really cool."

The two Canadians will join a big-name class of golf's greats who have already booked their tee times for Calgary. Earlier this week, Colin Montgomerie announced he will return to Calgary in hopes of taking care of some unfinished business. Montgomerie will join fellow Hall of Fame members, Nick Faldo and Jose Maria Olazabal. The most interesting man in golf, Miguel Angel Jimenez, will also be back for another showdown at the Canyon Meadows track, along with U.S. Open winners Corey Pavin, Lee Janzen and Scott Simpson.

"We are thrilled with the way this year's field is taking shape, and the number of world class players ready to make their mark on youth-based charities in Calgary once again," said Sean Van Kesteren, executive director, Shaw Charity Classic. "Adding some Canadian flare to the field with Stephen and Rod will bring additional excitement for our spectators. It would be a moment to remember for sure if they could get their names at the top of the leaderboard Sunday in what is such a special year for our tournament and country. I know there will be thousands of Canadians pulling for them on Labour Day."

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 30 – September 3, 2017. The field, which will consist of 78 stars on the PGA TOUR Champions, will compete for US \$2.35 million in a three-round, 54-hole stroke-play tournament. The winner will receive US \$352,500. The only annual PGA TOUR Champions stop in 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, Allan Markin, Keith MacPhail, Jim Riddell, Guy Turcotte, Gary Peddle and PGA Tour Professional – Stephen Ames, along with title sponsor, Shaw Communications Inc, the Shaw Charity Classic won the prestigious President’s Award as the top event on the PGA TOUR Champions in 2015 and 2014. The Tournament has raised more than \$13.8 million in its first four years, with a PGA TOUR Champions record setting donation of \$5,217,713 raised in 2016 that was distributed amongst 124 youth-based charities in Alberta. For more information on the event, please visit www.shawcharityclassic.com. Follow the Shaw Charity Classic at facebook.com/shawcharityclassic and on Twitter @shawclassic. The Shaw Charity Classic is managed by Bruno Event Team and Shaw Communications Inc.

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