

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Friday, December 9, 2011

KINGSTON SET TO HOST MEN'S CURLING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Kingston, Ontario: Tourism Kingston is pleased to welcome the world's best men's curlers and thousands of curling fans to Kingston next week for the second Capital One Grand Slam of Curling event of the season. Draws begin on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30pm and carry on daily to the final championship draw on Sunday, December 18 at 1pm in Kingston's K-Rock Centre.

The BDO Canadian Open features a star-studded line-up of 18 of the top-ranked men's teams from around the world. "We are thrilled to have this calibre of sport championship taking place in Kingston. Not only will the event bring thousands of visitors to the city, but the national broadcast and media coverage ensures that all eyes will be on Kingston. It's a tremendous boost to our economy and an exciting opportunity for residents," says Rob Carnegie, Director of Tourism Marketing & Development for Tourism Kingston. "The BDO Canadian Open organizers and local committee have worked hard to put a 'Kingston flair' on the events, and we're excited about the line-up."

Special offerings include a Wednesday night cameo by members of The Tragically Hip, who will act as ceremonial sweepers of the first rock. A senior's special is available for the 9am and 12:30pm draws on Thursday and Friday, which offers fans aged 55 years and older admission to both daily draws for the price of one. Student Night is Thursday, December 15 and offers half-price admission to the 7:30pm draw with valid student identification from Queen's University, Royal Military College of Canada, St. Lawrence College or any Kingston-area high school for \$10. And on Friday, December 16, is Military Night where members of the military community with valid identification are offered half price admission to the 7:30pm draw. A special military opening ceremony will be held and fans in attendance are encouraged to wear red in support of the armed forces. In addition, Grand Slam Saloons, where fans can meet their favourite curlers, have been organized for each evening of the event. On Wednesday night, a trio of downtown pubs will welcome the curlers – Fanatics Sports Lounge, Sir John's Public House and The Duke of Wellington will host post-event meet and greets; and, on Thursday through Saturday nights, the K-Rock Centre will host the post-event celebrations.

The City of Kingston has also put measures in place to help make visitor travel to the BDO Canadian Open as user-friendly as possible. Recommended parking lots for daytime and daytime/evening combo event goers are the Frontenac Lot (directly across from the K-Rock Centre), Drury Lot (Queen Street between Wellington & King) and Springer Memorial Lot (Queen Street between Montreal & Bagot). "These three lots offer up to 24 hour parking, so attendees don't have to worry about purchasing more parking time between draws or leaving the event early before their time runs out," notes Paula Nichols, Manager of Parking Operations for the City of Kingston. "To help visitors understand their options, special parking information is being made available at the K-Rock Centre, on signage in the lots and online through the City and Tourism Kingston." Other lots offer three-hour parking and after 2:30 p.m. event goers can also purchase evening parking.

Kingston Transit is also offering complimentary service to event ticket holders. Attendees just need to show their valid event ticket and they can ride any Kingston Transit bus for free to the K-Rock Centre.



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"We're thrilled with the level of community interest and involvement in the BDO Canadian Open. Kingston is really putting its best foot forward to show we can host this level of sport and it puts us in a good place for the Scottie's and other future curling events Kingston is hosting," remarks Carnegie.

Tickets for the BDO Canadian Open are on sale and can be purchased online at www.k-rockcentre.com, or in person at the K-Rock Centre at 1 Barrack Street. All discounted tickets including seniors, students and military pricing must be purchased in-person from the Box Office. For more information about the Capital One Grand Slam of Curling, visit www.grandslamofcurling.com.

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