

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
**Monday, July 4, 2011**

## **CANADIAN CURLING ICONS TO PARTICIPATE IN SYL APPS CHARITY GOLF CLASSIC**

Kingston, Ontario: Tourism Kingston is pleased to welcome Canadian curling icons Pierre Charette and Mike Harris who will be visiting the Limestone City to promote the 2011 BDO Canadian Open which is taking place in Kingston from December 14-18 at the K-Rock Centre. Mssrs. Charette and Harris are donating their time as celebrity entrants in the 18<sup>th</sup> annual Syl Apps Charity Golf Classic on Friday, July 8 at the Garrison Golf & Curling Club, CFB Kingston.

Pierre Charette, a CPGA golf professional, is President of the World Curling Players Association. He is a nine time Brier competitor representing Quebec, and the only curler to have played all positions, including alternate, at a Brier. He is a key member of the Capital One Grand Slam of Curling event management team that will stage the BDO Canadian Open.

Mike Harris, also a CPGA golf professional, skipped Team Canada to a Silver Medal in the 1998 Winter Olympic Games in Nagano, Japan. He also skipped Team Ontario in the Brier. As CBC-TV Sports Curling Analyst, he will be working the live, nationwide CBC coverage of the BDO Canadian Open here in December.

"We are thrilled to be able to welcome athletes of this calibre to Kingston. The BDO Canadian Open is a big win for the City and their support of our Grand Slam event and the Syl Apps Classic is an added bonus," notes Rob Carnegie, Director of Tourism Marketing & Development for the Kingston Economic Development Corporation (KEDCO). "Throughout the summer, we have an active schedule of promotions to showcase December's BDO Canadian Open and this is certainly a highlight."

"Kingston will be hosting major curling events in the next several years and it seems to be a natural fit to have two great Canadian curlers, who are vitally involved in the Grand Slam of Curling, and who are golf professionals, join us in Kingston as Canadian sport celebrity players supporting the Syl Apps Charity Golf Classic. Mike and Pierre are also here to help give our BDO Canadian Open 'Early Bird' ticket package sales a boost. The 'Early Bird' deadline, and opportunity to save almost 20 per cent and get a \$10 rebate for local curling clubs, has been extended to July 15," said Ken Thompson, Chairman of the Kingston 2011 BDO Canadian Open Committee.

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## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION:**

### **About Pierre Charette**

He is President of the World Curling Players Association and a key member of the Grand Slam of Curling event management team. Charette has played in nine Briers representing Quebec, and is the only curler to have played every position (including alternate) at a Brier. He skipped teams in 1989, 1993 and 2007; played third for Guy Hemmings in 1998 and 1999, played second for Don Westphal in 1997, played lead for Westphal in 1996 and was the alternate for Kevin Adams in 1991 and Ted Butler in 1992. Charette's best performance at the Brier was the two years he played for Hemmings, where they lost in the Brier final on both occasions. Charette had to qualify for the 2007 Tim Hortons Brier by defeating defending Brier champion Jean-Michel Ménard in the Quebec final 12-8. In 2001, Charette played third for Peter Corner in the Ontario provincial championships where they finished 3-6.

### **About Mike Harris**

A curler since the age of 11, training at the Chinguacousy Curling Club, Mike Harris' first major victory in the sport came in 1986, when he won the Ontario Junior Men's Championship, and followed it up three years later with a victory at the 1989 Ontario Mixed Bonspiel. He was runner-up at the 1992 and 1993 editions of the Ontario Men's Curling Championship, but then spent the next several years outside of the final. Therefore it was somewhat of a surprise when his rink (team) won the Olympic qualifying event and earned itself the opportunity to represent Canada at the 1998 Winter Olympics. At the tournament he skipped (captained) his rink to a silver medal, losing only to Switzerland in the final round after falling ill. The year of his return he was made a member of the Brampton Sports Hall of Fame. He has continued to be involved in curling, most notably as CBC Sports' leading curling analyst since 2001 (alongside Joan McCusker), but is also a golf professional and has found work in that activity both at home in Toronto, Ontario and Banff, British Columbia, and abroad in Salzburg, Austria. He is also heavily involved in charitable efforts, including the organization of charity curling events and volunteering with the Special Olympics. In 2004 his rink won the Ontario Men's Curling Championship.

### **About the BDO Canadian Open**

Kingston, Ontario will host the 2011 BDO Canadian Open, the second of four elite men's championships in the Capital One Grand Slam of Curling series. The 2011 BDO Canadian Open is scheduled to take place December 14-18 at the K-Rock Centre in Kingston, Ontario and will feature 18 of the world's best men's curling teams competing for the BDO Canadian Open and Capital One Cup trophies, hundreds of thousands of dollars in prize money, and valuable qualifying points towards a berth into the 2013 Olympic Trials. Ticket packages for the BDO Canadian Open can be purchased online at [K-RockCentre.com](http://K-RockCentre.com), charge by phone at 1-877-554-8399 or at the venue Box Office at 1 Barrack Street.

### **About The Syl Apps Charity Golf Classic**

Since 1992, the Syl Apps Charity Golf Classic has been an annual major fundraising event of The Rotary Club of Kingston with all proceeds going to the Boys and Girls Club of Greater Kingston. Named in honour of former Toronto Maple Leaf star Syl Apps who, after retiring from hockey, became MPP for Kingston and a Rotarian. Co-chaired since inception by ex NHL star Jim Dorey and Rotarian Mark Santoni.



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