

CANADA'S ULTIMATE WOMEN'S HOCKEY WEEKEND SET TO TAKE PLACE AT KINGSTON'S K-ROCK CENTRE

CWHL, Scotiabank, Ontario Women's Hockey Association and Greater Kingston Girls' Hockey Association to host National Canadian Women's Championship Finals on March 21st

Toronto, ON: March 6 2009 – The Canadian Women's Hockey League (CWHL) and the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA), in partnership with Scotiabank and the Greater Kingston Girls' Hockey Association, today announced they will host the highly anticipated National Canadian Women's Championship Finals, at the K-Rock Centre in Kingston, Ontario on March 21st, 2009. The championship game between the CWHL and the Western Women's Hockey League (WWHL) will be broadcast live nationwide on TSN, with color commentary from former Olympian Cassie Campbell.

"Women's hockey is a significant part of Canada's iconic national pastime and part of our mission in the CWHL is to draw attention to the importance of this sport in our country," said CWHL Executive Director, Brenda Andress. "Canada and Kingston are home to some of the best hockey players in the world and we are very much looking forward to hosting the Finals in Kingston this year."

"Scotiabank is proud to support both the CWHL and the National Canadian Championship Women's Final," said Marianne Hasold-Schilter, Scotiabank Senior Vice President, Leadership and Top Talent Management. "The CWHL play great hockey, and the CWHL players are also exceptional role models for a generation of girls across this country who are working very hard to achieve their goals on and off the ice. We believe there is a big future for women's hockey in Canada and currently sponsor a number of girls hockey teams across the country."

The National Canadian Women's Championship Finals brings together the two premier women's hockey leagues in Canada, the CWHL and WWHL, for a complete weekend of elite hockey and interactive events sponsored by Scotiabank. At the end of the season, the top two teams from each league will face off at the Finals in Kingston. The tournament will start with two games on both Thursday, March 19th and Friday, March 20th. The final two teams will compete for the Clarkson Cup on Saturday, March 21st at the K-Rock Centre.

"The Ontario Women's Hockey Association is a strong leader in women's hockey throughout the world with experience hosting national, international and world class events," said Fran Rider, President of the OWHA. "The National Canadian Women's Championship Final is an event that will encourage female hockey enthusiasts and members of the general public to support women who are both exceptional hockey players and role models."

"The National Canadian Women's Championship Final is a great example of the elite level sporting events we support in the City of Kingston," said Gary Kelly, Manager of Sport Tourism for Tourism Kingston. "Jayna Hefford and Brooke Beazer from the CWHL are two of our own and we look forward to cheering them on in their bid for the title."

Kingston is associated with many former and current NHL and CWHL players including Jayna Hefford, Brooke Beazer, Don Cherry, Paul Coffey, Doug Gilmour, and Sean Avery. Team Canada forward Jayna Hefford lives in Kingston and currently plays for the CWHL's Brampton Canadette-Thunder. Last season Jayna was voted CHWL Most

Valuable Player and led the league with 26 goals in 27 games. This year she is striving to regain her title as top scorer for the season. The city even once laid claim to being the 'birthplace of Hockey' so Kingston's connection to hockey extends right back to the very beginning, making it a fitting location for the women's final series.

"Reaching the National Canadian Women's Championship Finals is what our players strive for all year," said Jayna Hefford, Team Canada gold medalist and Brampton Thunder team member. "Every player across the country has focused hard on training and performance all year, in addition to juggling families and other careers. Taking your team to the finals is the recognition of all that work and I can think of nothing better than winning the final game in my home town of Kingston."

About CWHL

Comprised of many former and upcoming Olympic athletes, the CWHL was established in 2007 by the players themselves. The CWHL is a not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising the profile of women's hockey in Canada while providing a place where the best female hockey players can train and compete. By day, these women are moms, have successful careers, and graduate from top tier universities. By night, they're Canada's finest female hockey players – unpaid, underestimated, and ultimately unknown. In 2008, the CWHL teamed up with the Ontario Women's Hockey Association (OWHA) and Scotiabank, the Official Bank of the NHL, NHLPA, NHL Alumni and CWHL. These partnerships have been key in the development of the league. For tickets and information please visit www.cwhl.com.

About Scotiabank

Scotiabank has a long tradition of supporting hockey in Canada from local teams and minor hockey associations to professional players and leagues. Through its partnerships, Scotiabank's hockey programs enrich the communities where Canadians live and work by engaging fans and players in new ways to celebrate our game. Scotiabank supports the passion and pride Canadians feel for the game and believes it is fundamental to helping young people learn about teamwork camaraderie and the spirit of competition. Scotiabank is the Official Bank of the NHL, NHLPA, NHL Alumni and CWHL, and has partnerships with the Calgary Flames and the Ottawa Senators whose home arena is Scotiabank Place. For more information, on Scotiabank's hockey programs visit www.scotiahockey.com

Scotiabank is committed to supporting the communities in which we live and work, both in Canada and abroad. Recognized as a leader internationally and among Canadian corporations for its charitable donations and philanthropic activities, in 2008 the Bank provided about \$43 million in sponsorships and donations to a variety of projects and initiatives, primarily in the areas of healthcare, education, social services and arts and culture. Visit us at www.scotiabank.com.

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