



MEDIA RELEASE

Rhonda Orr & Devon Schade Win Golf Manitoba Golfers of the Year and George McLeod Honoured as Distinguished Service Award Recipient

(Winnipeg, MB Monday, October 24th / 16) – Southwood Golf & Country Club's Rhonda Orr and Elmhurst Golf & Country Club's Devon Schade were awarded the Golf Manitoba Female and Male Golfer of the Year Awards at Golf Manitoba's Annual Awards Dinner at the Niakwa Country Club.

As part of our centennial celebrations in 2015, Golf Manitoba announced that we will now be awarding both Female and Male Golfer of the Year Awards moving forward. This decision would allow for the appropriate recognition for both genders, while recognizing their outstanding performance in all levels of competition on an annual basis.

Rhonda Orr won the Manitoba Senior Women's Championship and finished 5th at the Manitoba Women's Amateur Championship. She was a member of the Provincial Senior Team that finished 5th in the team competition at the nationals where she finished tied for 4th in the individual competition. Orr tied for low individual at the Women's Interclub A Championship, was a member of the Alternate Shot Championship winning team and was also a member of the Southwood team that won the women's Nassau League. She also qualified for and competed in the United States Golf Association (USGA) Women's Senior Amateur Championship.

The other finalists for this premier award for amateur golf in Manitoba were 2015 Female Golfer of the Year Camryn Roadley of Glendale, Bri-ann Tokariwski of Elmhurst and Bobbi Uhl of the Shilo CC in Brandon. Two other players earned honourable mentions for their 2015 accomplishments: Rebecca Kuik of Niakwa and Marissa Naylor of Pine Ridge.

Devon Schade repeated as the Nott Autocorp Men's Amateur Champion, was tied for 3rd in the Match Play Championship Qualifier where he lost in the semi-final match, finished T16th at the Glencoe Invitational in Calgary and tied for 61st at the Canadian Men's Amateur. As the captain of the University of Manitoba Bison Golf Team, he had four top five individual results and a fall scoring average of 72.6. He was also named the University of Manitoba Bison Athlete of the Week for October 2nd to 6th. Schade was also the 2015 Male Amateur Golfer of the Year winner.

Three other players were finalists: Travis Fredborg of Pine Ridge, Eric Johnson of Breezy Bend and Marco Trstenjak of Elmhurst. Garth Collings (Breezy Bend), Ryan McMillan (Elmhurst) and Zach Wytinck (Golf Manitoba Public Player Club) all received an honorable mentions for their 2016 accomplishments.

The Golf Manitoba Amateur Golfer of the Year Award dates back to 1975, and was presented for the 42nd time on October 24th.

Volunteer Distinguished Service Award

A third prestigious award was presented on Monday night to Brandon's George McLeod as the tenth recipient of the annual Golf Manitoba Distinguished Service Award.

George started volunteering in the 1980's as a Rural Representative for the Wheat City Golf Club with the Manitoba Golf Association (MGA). He was then nominated and elected to the Board of the MGA in 1985. During the 20 years on the Board, he served on every committee the MGA had with the exception of the Finance Committee and eventually moved on to be President (2002 – 2004). He was the last President of the MGA and the first President of the newly formed Golf Manitoba.

George was also instrumental in the formation and inauguration of the Manitoba Golf Hall of Fame and Museum.

Nationally, he served on the Royal Canadian Golf Association Board of Directors as Manitoba's Class "C" Governor for 10 years. Following a governance change with Golf Canada, he then went on to become a member of the Golf Canada Governors Council, served on the Membership Committee and was Chair of the Canadian Turf Grass Research Foundation until 2015. McLeod also assisted Golf Canada with the amalgamation of the Canadian Ladies Golf Association (CLGA) and the RCGA and served on numerous committees for ten years as a Governor.

George has been a rules official, course rater, and volunteer starter/scorer for Golf Manitoba, the RCGA & Golf Canada for over 30 years. Some highlights are: In 2013 he was a rules official for 4 days at the Nott Autocorp Men's Amateur Championship held at Neepawa. In 2014, he was the Golf Canada Tournament Chair and Starter/Scorer at the CN Future Links Prairie Championship held at the Shilo Country Club. He was a Starter/Scorer at the 2014 Canadian University Championship at Southwood and a Starter/Scorer at the Canadian Men's Amateur at Southwood that same year.

"I am very humbled by this honour and privileged to be in the distinguished company of the previous recipients", said McLeod. "Golf Manitoba has already awarded me with a lifetime of cherished times, memories and friends that is unmatched by anything I've been involved with."

"On behalf of the Board and Staff of Golf Manitoba, I would like to extend congratulations to George McLeod as this year's recipient of the Distinguished Service Award," commented Tammy Gibson, President of Golf Manitoba. "George's leadership, commitment and dedication to the game over the years are certainly worthy of this award and we are appreciative of his many contributions to amateur golf in Manitoba, North West Ontario and Canada" added Gibson.

Golf Manitoba is very pleased to honour Mr. George McLeod as the Distinguished Service Award Recipient for 2016.

Past recipients include Jerry Budyk (2007), Don Forsyth (2008), Betty Grant (2009), Brian Gilhuly (2010), Rudy Boivin (2011), Joyce Collier (2012), Bob Forcand (2013), Don MacDonald (2014) and Barbara Hamill (2015).

Golf Manitoba is the governing body for golf in the province of Manitoba and Northwest Ontario. Its mission is to develop, promote, govern and service the game of golf in Manitoba and Northwest Ontario for the benefit of all participants. To learn more about Golf Manitoba or programs and services available to amateur golfers, visit www.golfmanitoba.mb.ca. Follow Golf Manitoba on twitter @golf_manitoba.

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