

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JUNE 04, 2014

## THE ROGERS RADIO STANLEY PARK OPEN, PRESENTED BY PENN

### **Path to tennis superstardom now officially carved out in Stanley Park**

**VANCOUVER, BC** – Five thousand people will watch 900+ tennis players over 11 days, including some of the best talent ever seen in Stanley Park, at the newly-minted [Rogers Radio Stanley Park Open Presented By Penn](#), taking place from Thursday July 10 to Sunday July 20. Tennis Canada and [Tennis BC](#) open registration today for enthusiastic players from across BC and around the world, including future Federers and Sharapovas – not to mention Bouchards and Raonics.

Free to the public, this locally-loved 83-year-old event has total tournament prize money of \$25,000 – the [Canadian Direct Insurance](#) Women’s \$10,000, and the [Silex](#) Men’s \$15,000 Futures.

The event raises its nets not only for the 400+ adult players playing at [NTRP levels 2.5 to 5.0+](#), the [National Juniors’ Open Series](#) (U12, U14, U16), and the [Rogers Rookie Tour](#) (U8 to U18), but now also for female and male players keen to advance on the [International Tennis Federation’s professional circuit](#). This is a system of hundreds of entry-level events in which players climb the world-rankings ladder through a point system. For ITF play, the RRSPo will host a 32-player main draw and a 32-player qualifying singles event, plus a 16-team doubles draw.

Former Stanley Park Open champions [Rebecca Marino \('05, '06, and former world no. 38\)](#), and touring pro [Philip Bester \('10, '13\)](#) are lending their support to the RRSPo as this year’s ambassadors.

“British Columbia is an extremely supportive and vibrant tennis market, and so we are excited to bring pro tennis back to Vancouver,” said [Tennis Canada](#)’s Gavin Ziv, director of national events. “This event will let fans cheer on up-and-coming players and provide a valuable chance for Canada’s emerging athletes to compete globally on home soil, which is important for the development of players. We look forward to working with a fantastic organizing committee on this great inaugural pro tournament that will continue to gain traction as an influential and international tennis experience.”

Adds Sue Griffin, executive director of Tennis BC: “Watching our young players competing right here is an exciting and critical component of providing a pathway to playing tennis within BC. For the first time in Vancouver since 2003, women will be able to compete for an ITF crown. With the kind of local support we need and receive in Stanley Park, this tournament has become a platform to [launch budding careers](#).”

Generous support for the event has also been provided by the Province of BC and Hosting BC, administered by ViaSport British Columbia, which will [live-stream](#) the tournament. “Hosting sport events brings people together, attracts visitors, promotes sport and generates revenue,” said Coralee Oakes, Minister of Community, Sports and Cultural Development. “Hosting BC is an excellent program that helps make it all happen by funding sporting events throughout the province, and we’re proud to support it.”

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The courts, with [parking lots](#) adjacent, are located beside the [Fish House Restaurant](#), the [Stanley Park Pitch & Putt](#), and the [Stanley Park Lawn Bowling Club](#). Nearest [transit stop](#) to the RRSP is a five-minute walk from Davie and Denman at English Bay, via [#C21 Davie](#), [#C23 Beach](#). From downtown, the [#19 Stanley Park](#) heads to the bus loop near the park's Coal Harbour entrance on West Georgia. For cyclists and universal access, the [Comox-Helmcken Greenway](#) connects everyone downtown to Stanley Park.

## ABOUT TENNIS BC

*At Tennis BC we work with our members to inspire and enable tennis throughout communities in British Columbia. Valuing leadership, integrity, excellence and teamwork, Tennis BC develops and delivers programs with community partners to grow community tennis, enhance competitive infrastructure for all levels, stimulate and foster the development of facilities, showcase tennis through major events and increase consistency and competency of coaching and officiating.*

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## MEDIA CONTACT

Sheri Wisnowski, [secretweapon.pr](mailto:secretweapon.pr)  
text or call **604.728.6160** cell / [secretweapon.pr@gmail.com](mailto:secretweapon.pr@gmail.com)

Sue Griffin, Executive Director, Tennis BC  
text or call **604.809.9140** cell / **604.737.3086** x9 office / [ed@tennisbc.org](mailto:ed@tennisbc.org)

## AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST – AMBASSADOR INTERVIEWS

- Former world no.38 and former Stanley Park Open Champion [Rebecca Marino](#)
- Current touring pro and former Stanley Park Open Champion [Philip Bester](#)

## PHOTOS ON 4<sup>th</sup> PAGE, MORE TO BE POSTED SOON ON [TENNISBC.ORG](http://TENNISBC.ORG)

- Male and female amateur players, at the 82<sup>nd</sup> Stanley Park Open in 2013 (top)
- Aerial view of the Stanley Park Courts, including 1930s clubhouse now known as The Fish House
- Rebecca Marino, playing an international pro event (bottom left)
- Philip Bester, showing his crown-winning form at the 2013 Stanley Park Open (bottom right)

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