

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 21, 2014

THE ROGERS RADIO STANLEY PARK OPEN, PRESENTED BY PENN

Stanley Park holds its own, in the eye of an 11-day tennis storm

VANCOUVER, BC – In the park's first pro women's and men's tournaments, two oddly-intertwined singles champions were crowned on Sunday, July 20 – both are first-time professional title-ists of almost the same age, both upset the top-seeds to win the crowns, both began playing tennis at almost the same age courtesy of tennis-playing parents, both are recent college graduates from the southern US, both are ranked in the 800-level of world ranking points, and both have similar first names – Alexa and Alexander. And even more spookily, both were dressed in fluorescently-coloured shirts for Sunday's championship play.

Twenty-three-year-old fourth-seed Alexa Guarachi of Dustin, Florida, and University of Alabama graduate, claimed the *Canadian Direct Insurance Women's \$10,000* singles title, after a few rain delays led to a late start time, mid-match delay and an even later finish. The women's world number 825 upset top-seed and world number 527 Yuka Higuchi of Japan in a thrilling three-setter, over 2.5 hours – 6-3, 1-6, 7-6 (6).

Conquering nerves over several hours of rain delay was twenty-four-year-old, sixth-seeded Pepperdine University graduate Alexander Sarkissian of LA, who secured the *Silex Men's \$15,000 Futures* title. The men's world number 864 upset top-seed and world number 608 Connor Smith of Tampa, Florida, in just two sets in 1.75 hours – 6-3, 7-6 (3).

“As a result of hosting the first-ever women's and men's international pro circuit events together in Stanley Park,” said Sarah Dunbar, president of the board of Tennis BC, “We were pleased with the tennis history-in-the-making this year, as we no doubt watched some players in all three tournaments who will go on to great success on court.”

After a stellar nine-day run of heat, sun and blue skies, intermittent rain almost forced the action to completely come to a halt on Days 10 and 11, the final weekend, although play prevailed until late Sunday at 7pm. The only rain cancellation amounted to the fan-friendly *Celebrity Challenge* match (featuring ex-Lion Tommy Europe, ex-Canuck Garry Valk, ex-Lion Brent Johnson and Sportsnet's Caroline Cameron), due to Saturday morning's downpour. Spurred on by the rain, however, were 35 fitness fans who showed up dutifully and early on Day 10 for the free *Tommy Europe Tennis Fitness Bootcamp*, on the wet Stanley Park grass by the courts.

Also playing competitively over the last eleven days were the juniors (National Junior Open Series) and the adult amateurs (NTRP-Levels 2.5-5.0+). In the combined total of all three events that make up the admission-free Stanley Park Open, spectators saw over 900 players in action, from ages 6 to 60+. The one-day and novice-friendly Rogers Rookie Tour for ages 8-16 was also a hit with spectators and supporters of the wanna-be Pospisils and Bouchards.

“All players, from BC and elsewhere, thank the community for its tremendous support,” said Sue Griffin, Tennis BC's executive director. “Nobody gets ahead in this game without the support of local fans at every level of tournament.”

By Day 11 of the trio of tournaments, almost 200 racquets had been strung by a pop-up shop of Vancouver's own Rackets & Runners. Approximately 60 volunteers assisted Tennis BC over the 11 days, totaling untold volunteer hours, run by a former 2010 Olympics volunteer manager. For the first time ever, ViaSportBC Productions live-streamed the final weekend of the Stanley Park Open. The two pro events will be archived on their site this week.

STANLEY PARK OPEN 2014 FINAL RESULTS

2014 Canadian Direct Insurance Women's \$10,000 Champions

- Singles – Alexa Guarachi (4) (US) def. Yuka Higuchi (1) (JP) – 6-3, 1-6, 7-6(6)
- Doubles – Yuka Higuchi (JP)/Hirono Watanabe (JP) (2) def. Alexa Guarachi (US)/Lauren Albanese (US) (3) – 4-6, 6-2 [10-5]

2014 Silex Men's \$15,000 Futures Champions

- Singles – Alexander Sarkissian (6) (US) def. Connor Smith (1) (US) – 7-6(3), 6-4
- Doubles – Daniel Chu (CA)/Kyle McMorrow (US) (2) def. Riann Du Toit (CA)/Alejandro Tabilo (CA) (3) – 6-2, 5-7 [10-7]

2014 National Junior Open Series Champions (Boys)

- U16 Boys Singles – Aaron Diemer (Brentwood Bay)
- U16 Boys Doubles – Andrew Day (Vancouver)/John Schreimer (Kelowna)
- U14 Boys Singles – Matias Benedykczak (Port Coquitlam)
- U14 Boys Doubles – Stefan Mitrovic (New Westminster)/Calvin Thalheimer (Kelowna)
- U12 Boys Singles – Nicholas Hayton (North Vancouver)

2014 National Junior Open Series Champions (Girls)

- U16 Girls Singles – Renee Ren (Vancouver)
- U16 Girls Doubles – Asheigh Jacobs (Calgary)/Alli Valk (North Vancouver)
- U14 Girls Singles – Maya Dukaric (Calgary)
- U14 Girls Doubles – Madison Fan (West Vancouver)/Jayden Nielsen (Port Moody)
- U12 Girls Singles – Alexandra Neilsen (Port Moody)
- U12 Girls Doubles – Hana Cho (Coquitlam)/Alexandra Neilsen (Port Moody)

2014 NTRP-Levels (2.5-5.0+) Amateur Champions

- Men 5.0+ Singles Final – **Ash Andreas Misquith**[4] Evan Mcnicol[1] 6-1 6-0
- Men 4.5 Singles Final – **Nick Brummelkamp**[2] Hyeongdon Park[7] 6-2 0-6 6-2
- Men 4.0 Singles Final – **Yuchan Kuan** Jason Kenneth Klos[1] 6-1 6-7(4) 6-1
- Men 3.5 Singles Final – **Johnny Homsavath** Jeremy Voon[2] 6-2 6-2
- Men 3.0 Singles Final – **Steven Shim** Benjamin Zhao 6-3 4-6 6-1
- Men 2.5 Singles Final – **Alexis Lum** Michel Alsharidah 6-3 6-0

- Women 5.0+ Singles Final – **Tracy Dong**[1] Alejandra Enderica[2] 4-6 6-3 6-2
- Women 4.5 Singles Final – **Cora Wills**[2] Deliana Matei 6-3 6-1
- Women 4.0 Singles Final – **Mary Thompson** Shii Nagaoka 6-3 6-1
- Women 3.5 Singles Final – **Nozomi Lloyd** Heather Brown[1] 3-6 6-4 6-4
- Women 3.0 Singles Final – **Marcia Jacobs** Susan Lazaruk 6-2 6-4
- Women 2.5 Singles Final – **Alexandra Marie Jacobsen** Ludmila Mihalevich 7-5 6-0

- Men 5.0+ Doubles Final – **Manuel Calvo/Steve Deakin**[1] Matis Jasicek/Ash Andreas Misquith 6-2 6-3
- Men 4.5 Doubles Final – **Paul Devine/Steve Yesowick**[1] Grant Clark/Greg Rash[2] 1-6 6-4 6-4
- Men 4.0 Doubles Final – **Kang Lee+Tiger/Hanho Yoon**[4] Otto Kai Chun Chan/Marc Ramus 7-6 5-7 6-3
- Men 3.5 Doubles Final – **Peter Jordan/Philip O'Halloran**[4] Peter Ting Liang/Hui Shi 6-2 6-4
- Men 3.0 Doubles Final – **Raymend Choww/Glen Nguy** Richard Zewang Li/Warren Liu 6-1 7-5

- Women 4.5 Doubles Final – **Michelle Sing/Petra Turek**[1] Brenda Cameron/Shiera Stuart[2] w.o.
- Women 4.0 Doubles Final – **Elena Foxcroft/Jane Qiao**[4] Shelley Lawrence/Verina Zhang 6-0 6-1
- Women 3.5 Doubles Final – **Susie Jackson/Caroline Kusumoto**[1] Laurie Dapavo/Lorraine Macdonald 6-4 7-6(1)
- Women 3.0 Doubles Final – **Trish Tarisai/Mandewo+Vaughan Williams** Aiko Karlshoej/Rochelle Moller 6-1 6-2

- Mixed 5.0+ Doubles Final – **Nadeem Kassam/Kelly Mcnabney** Steve Deakin/Shiera Stuart[2] 6-4 Ret.
- Mixed 4.5 Doubles Final – **Nadeem Kassam/Andrea Stevens** Mark Silverwood/Kateryna Filyus[2] 6-3 7-6
- Mixed 4.0 Doubles Final – **Paul Devine/Kelsey Devine**[2] Seokchul Choi/Gyeongok Jang 6-2 2-6 6-2
- Mixed 3.5 Doubles Final – **Richard Zewang Li/Yuchen Rachel Li**[4] Mark Eccleton/Janice Tai

NEWS RELEASE



ABOUT TENNIS BC

As a non-profit society, Tennis BC works 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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VISUAL EDITORS

See two champion shots below. More player and event photos available upon request.



2014 Canadian Direct Insurance Women's \$10,000 Singles Champion
Alexandra Guarachi (facing) confers with partner Lauren Albanese as they fell to Japanese duo Yuka Higuchi and Hirono Watanabe in the doubles final. Guarachi went on to win the women's singles title.



2014 Silex Men's \$15,000 Futures Singles Champion
New college graduate and freshly-minted tennis pro Alexander Sarkissian of LA whips through a backhand as he overcomes both a lengthy rain delay and top-seeded Connor Smith of Tampa, for the men's crown on Sunday July 20.