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[www.CWHL.ca](http://www.CWHL.ca)

#### CANADIAN WOMEN'S HOCKEY LEAGUES NAMES GTA CENTRE OFFICIAL SPONSOR OF 2013 CWHL AWARDS NIGHT

MARKHAM, Ont. – The Canadian Women's Hockey League is pleased to announce that the City of Markham's soon-to-be constructed, state-of-the-art sports and entertainment complex the GTA Centre, run by president Graeme Rouston is the official sponsor for the 2013 CWHL awards night.

The special event is taking place Wednesday, March 20 at the Hilton Toronto-Markham Suites Conference Centre and Spa to honour CWHL players and their performances throughout the 2012-13 season, and to help kick off the 2013 Clarkson Cup, which runs March 20-23 at the Markham Civic Centre. The Clarkson Cup is awarded annually to the team that wins the CWHL championship and is considered widely to be The Stanley Cup of women's hockey.

"We are extremely excited to sponsor the 2013 Clarkson Cup awards night, to help recognize the incredible role models that compete within the Canadian Women's Hockey League," Rouston said. "Not only are they talented athletes, but also truly inspiring individuals, and we're proud to support them as they help their league grow, prosper and become the place to play for the top women's hockey players in the world."

"Graeme has long been a strong supporter of the female game, and an important sponsor for our league, so we're absolutely thrilled to have him work with us again as the official sponsor of the 2013 CWHL awards night," Canadian Women's Hockey League commissioner Brenda Andress said. "They sincerely care about our vision of giving elite level women's hockey players a place to pursue their goals, while inspiring young fans and players to pursue their own dreams, both on and off the ice, and we can't thank Graeme enough for his ongoing generosity toward our league."

In addition to welcoming all players competing at the 2013 Clarkson Cup, the awards night will feature Canada's National Women's Team alumna Cheryl Pounder as emcee and senior advisor to the Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment board of directors Brian Burk as guest speaker. Pounder is a two-time Olympic gold medallist and five-time world champion, while Burke is a long-time professional hockey executive, most recently spending the past four seasons as general and president of the Toronto Maple Leafs.





Canada's National Women's Team alumnae and women's hockey pioneers Jennifer Botterill, Thérèse Brisson and Angela James will also be attending the annual awards night as CWHL special guests.

The 2013 CWHL awards night will recognize the Canadian Women's Hockey League's regular season-winning team, coach of the year, most valuable player, goaltender of the year, rookie of the year and defenceman of the year. In addition, the Angela James Trophy, named after one of the first women to be inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame, will recognize the player who recorded the most points during the 2012-13 season. Finally, the CWHL will introduce the brand new Humanitarian Award at the 2013 Clarkson Cup awards night.

For CWHL media requests, please contact communications advisor Kristen Lipscombe at [communications@cwhl.ca](mailto:communications@cwhl.ca) or (403) 826-4819. For City of Markham media requests, please contact director of corporate communications Dennis Flaherty at [media@markham.ca](mailto:media@markham.ca) or (905) 415-7520.

#### **About the Canadian Women's Hockey League (CWHL):**

The CWHL is the most premier, professionally run women's hockey league in the world. It enables elite female hockey players to pursue their dreams of competing at the highest level possible, while enhancing the lives of others through exceptional athleticism, entertainment and motivation. The league is centrally funded, with all participating teams in the CWHL receiving equal access to financial support and given the same opportunities to succeed. The CWHL is a not-for-profit organization, with every dollar going towards building a league that is dedicated to raising the profile of women's hockey, providing a place for the best female players in the world to compete and inspiring the next generation of female hockey heroines. Since the CWHL's inception in 2007, each hockey season has culminated in an exciting play-off round in which the top teams face off for the Clarkson Cup, named after former Governor General of Canada Adrienne Clarkson. *For more information, please visit [www.CWHL.ca](http://www.CWHL.ca), follow the CWHL on Twitter at [www.Twitter.com/CWHL](http://www.Twitter.com/CWHL) and "like" the CWHL fan page on Facebook. For interview requests, please email [communications@cwhl.ca](mailto:communications@cwhl.ca).*

#### **About the Hilton Toronto-Markham Suites Conference Centre and Spa**

The only Four Diamond full service all-suite hotel in the York Region. Hilton Toronto-Markham Suites features spacious two-room suites with separate bedroom and living room, a restaurant, lobby and Hilton H Honors lounge connectivity station, along with a full service spa, salon and health club. With over 20 years of service excellence, Hilton Toronto-Markham Suites can cater to every need, your places or ours. We are host to many galas, conferences, tradeshows and special events, with 45,000 square feet of function space accommodating up to 1,200 guests. We're also easily accessible from major highways and nearby to shopping, golf, restaurants, and major local attractions. Visit





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#### **About the City of Markham**

Markham, a municipality with more than 310,000 residents centrally located in the Greater Toronto area, is home to 400 corporate head offices and 900 high tech and life science companies. Founded in the 1790s, today Markham is Canada's most diverse community, enjoys a rich heritage, outstanding community planning and services, and a vibrant local economy. Canada's newest urban city as of July 1, 2012, Markham has received the Excellence Canada PEP III Integrated and Accessibility Awards, and multiple heritage and environmental awards.

#### **About Scotiabank**

Scotiabank is the Official Bank of the NHL®, NHL Alumni™, CWHL, Winnipeg Jets®, Toronto Maple Leafs®, Calgary Flames® whose home arena is the Scotiabank Saddledome, and the Ottawa Senators®, whose home arena is Scotiabank Place. The Bank also has a partnership with the Montreal Canadiens®. Scotiabank has a long tradition of supporting hockey in Canada from local teams and minor hockey associations, to professional players and leagues. Across Canadian communities from coast to coast, Scotiabank's Community Hockey Sponsorship Program reaches out to more than 3,700 minor hockey teams and leagues. To find out more about Scotiabank's hockey programs, please visit [www.facebook.com/scotiahockeyclub](https://www.facebook.com/scotiahockeyclub). Scotiabank is committed to supporting the communities in which we live and work, both in Canada and abroad, through our global philanthropic program, 'Scotiabank Bright Future'. Recognized as a leader internationally and among Canadian corporations for our charitable donations and philanthropic activities, Scotiabank has provided on average approximately \$45 million annually to community causes around the world over each of the last five years. Visit us at [www.scotiabank.com](http://www.scotiabank.com).

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