**2023 RBC Canadian Open Message Document**

1. **On to Oakdale:** Established in 1904, the RBC Canadian Open is the second-oldest non-major on the PGA TOUR schedule behind the BMW Championship (1899). Oakdale Country Club hosts the tournament for the first time in 2023 and becomes the first new venue for the RBC Canadian Open since Angus Glen Golf Club in 2002. Oakdale will also host the 2026 RBC Canadian Open.
2. **Canadian success on the PGA TOUR:** Canadians are enjoying a banner year on the PGA TOUR this season. Three of the eight active Canadian TOUR members have won this season, the most in a single season in TOUR history: Mackenzie Hughes (Sanderson Farms Championship), Adam Svensson (The RSM Classic) and Corey Conners (Valero Texas Open). Since the inception of the FedExCup in 2007, there has not been a year in which multiple Canadians advanced to the TOUR Championship, and entering the week, there are four Canadians in the top 35 in the FedExCup standings: Corey Conners (27), Nick Taylor (32), Adam Svensson (33) and Mackenzie Hughes (34). 14 players from Canada are credited with PGA TOUR wins (37 total), led by George Knudson and Mike Weir with eight each. Weir is making his 30th start in the event. The last Canadian to win the RBC Canadian Open was Pat Fletcher in 1954 (not recognized as an official PGA TOUR win).

**Canadians in the field (21):** Wil Bateman, Aaron Cockerill, **Corey Conners**, Myles Creighton, Taylor Durham, **Michael Gligic**, **Adam Hadwin**, **David Hearn**, **Mackenzie Hughes**, Daniel Kim, Stuart Macdonald, Drew Nesbitt, Etienne Papineau, **Taylor Pendrith**, Ben Silverman, Roger Sloan, **Adam Svensson**, Sebastian Szirmak, **Nick Taylor**, Johnny Travale, Mike Weir

***bold*** *active PGA TOUR members*

All eyes will be on these Canadians ahead of the 2024 Presidents Cup which will be played at Royal Montreal. The International Team will be Captained by Mike Weir, who famously took down Tiger Woods in Singles at Royal Montreal in 2007, where Woods arrived as World No. 1 and on the heels of seven PGA TOUR wins that calendar year. The 2024 Presidents Cup will be played September 24-29, 2024.

1. **Three-peat?:** Rory McIlroy is looking for his third consecutive win at the RBC Canadian Open, having won the tournament in 2019 (Hamilton Golf & Country Club) and successfully defending his title in 2022 (St. George’s Golf & Country Club) (canceled due to COVID-19 in 2020 and 2021). The last player to win three consecutive titles at a TOUR event was Steve Stricker at the John Deere Classic in 2009, 2010 and 2011. McIlroy, who has top-10s in his last two TOUR starts (T7/PGA Championship, T7/the Memorial Tournament presented by Workday), went on to win the FedExCup in both seasons that he won the RBC Canadian Open. The tournament team saw a unique opportunity to do something special for him – develop an [RBC Canadian Open championship ring](https://baronrings.com/Rotations/rbc-canadian-open-2022-rory-mccllroy/). To the tournament’s knowledge, it’s the first championship ring to be presented on the PGA TOUR.
2. **Welcome to the show:** After finishing No. 1 in the 2023 PGA TOUR University Ranking, Texas Tech’s Ludvig Aberg became the first player to earn a PGA TOUR card via PGA TOUR University and will make his first start as a TOUR member at the RBC Canadian Open. Aberg, who joined Jon Rahm (2015, 2016) as the only players to win the Ben Hogan Award in multiple years (2022, 2023), earned PGA TOUR membership for the remainder of the 2022-23 season and all of the 2024 season. This week will mark his professional debut, having made five previous starts on TOUR as an amateur (most recently: 2023 Valspar Championship/T61).
3. **Fighting for a spot in the FedExCup Playoffs:** Just nine weeks (11 events) remain before the start of the FedExCup Playoffs, and new in 2023, only the top 70 in the FedExCup Playoffs and Eligibility Points List through the Wyndham Championship will qualify for the FedEx St. Jude Championship. Notables in the field outside the top 70 in the FedExCup standings include 2019 Open Championship winner Shane Lowry (No. 88) and Canadian Taylor Pendrith (No. 117), a 2022 Presidents Cup participant. The winner of the RBC Canadian Open receives 500 FedExCup points.
4. **Commitment to Golf and Communities:** RBC is a long-time supporter of golf and is committed to growing the game – both in the U.S. and Canada – with title sponsorships of the RBC Heritage and the RBC Canadian Open, and through community initiatives like RBC Community Junior Golf. Since joining as title sponsor in Canada, RBC has helped raise more than $10 million dollars in support of local charities. Launched in 2021 in partnership with Golf Canada, RBC Community Junior Golf provides affordable access to the game for underrepresented groups and socio-economically disadvantaged youth by enabling the growth of First Tee – Canada and Youth on Course, which offers subsidized rounds of $5 or less at participating courses for junior golfers across the country.

On Wednesday, RBC ambassador Corey Conners competed in a friendly challenge that combined golf and hockey on the iconic 14th hole, also known as “The Rink”. Conners joined [RBC Community Junior Golf](https://c212.net/c/link/?t=0&l=en&o=3863607-1&h=1900394115&u=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.golfcanada.ca%2Frbcjrgolf%2F&a=RBC+Community+Junior+Golf) participants, shooting as many golf balls as they could into a hockey net on the green, while Conners added the challenge of using a hockey stick and gloves when making his shots.

Team RBC: Two teams comprised of ten PGA TOUR and two LPGA Tour players. The International Team includes Sam Burns, Matt Kuchar, Webb Simpson, Sahith Theegala and Cameron Young. The Canadian Team includes Corey Conners, Adam Hadwin, Mackenzie Hughes, Taylor Pendrith, Adam Svennson, Nick Taylor and LPGA players Brooke Henderson and Alena Sharp.