

MEDIA RELEASE

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For immediate release

BEST WESTERN NAMED TOURNAMENT ACCOMMODATION FOR THE 2006 RAYMOND JAMES VICTORIA OPEN TENNIS TOURNAMENT

VICTORIA, BC – theClayCourts Sport Inc. proudly announces that the Best Western Carlton Plaza Hotel will be the official tournament accommodation for the Raymond James Victoria Open Tennis Tournament, the largest tennis tournament on Vancouver Island, Canada.

Last year's 2005 Victoria Open attracted over 300 players, ranging from under 10 years old to over 65 years old, travelling from as far away as Toronto and California.

Top level juniors will be competing to represent British Columbia in the Nationals, which are held in the summer.

For some players this will be their first tennis tournament - whether a youngster under 10 years old or a newcomer picking up the "sport of a lifetime." Wheelchair athletes will also have an opportunity to play.

Many athletes are drawn to the tournament by the challenge of playing the top players in the province and Pacific Northwest for prize money. Yet other players attend for the sheer love of the sport and for the social aspect of mixed doubles.

The Best Western Carlton Plaza, centrally located in downtown Victoria , completed first-class renovations last year. Free valet parking and hi-speed Internet, in addition to special rates are provided for the tournament players and spectators. Karen England, Director of Sales, states "we are pleased to help Victoria become a mecca for tennis, as we do for other sporting events. We like to provide the athletics with a 'home away from home', as we know the challenges of competition are tough enough."

"We are happy to see the support for the tournament, from not only the Greater Victoria region, but also from visitors to our fine city," states Art Hobbs of theClayCourts Sport Inc., organizer of the event.

Participants, volunteers and sponsors can check out www.victoriaopen.ca for more information or contact:

Ludo Bertsch, Tournament Coordinator
(250) 592-1488; www.VictoriaOpen.ca

Best Western Carlton Plaza Hotel is located at 642 Johnson St., Victoria, B.C. Contact Karen England at (250) 413-2191 or email karen@bestwesterncarlton.com.

Raymond James is a leading North American full-service independent investment dealer. Its Victoria office is located at Suite 1000, 1175 Douglas St. For more information phone (250) 405-2400 or visit www.raymondjames.ca

theClayCourts Sport Inc. is a BC-based company that supports the sport of tennis and is the organizer of the 2006 Raymond James Victoria Open Tennis Tournament & Tennis Clinic (visit www.theclaycourts.com for more information or phone (250) 592-1488).