



## Media Release

Attention Sports Editors  
For Immediate Release  
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For Information: Melanie Campbell  
Media Manager  
(613) 747-1007 ext. 2516

### **BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Western and Eastern Challenge events return to Mississauga**

OTTAWA, ON: Skate Canada announced today that Mississauga, Ont. will host the 2008 BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Western and Eastern Challenge events.

Both the Western and Eastern Challenge, which are qualifying events for both the 2008 BMO Canadian Championships and the 2008 BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Junior Nationals, will take place Dec. 5 – 9, 2007 at the Hershey Centre.

“Skate Canada is very pleased to bring the BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Western and Eastern Challenge events back to Mississauga,” said Jackie Stell-Buckingham, Skate Canada Director of Skating Programs and Events. “The Hershey Centre is an exceptional venue, and the city has been very accommodating when hosting this large event in the past.”

“BMO Financial Group is proud of its partnership with Skate Canada and is pleased to be the title sponsor of the BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Western and Eastern Challenge events for a twelfth consecutive year,” says Susan Payne, Senior Vice-President, Corporate Marketing, Head of Marketing & Client Strategy, BMO Financial Group. “Our figure skating sponsorship provides BMO with a way to celebrate excellence while connecting us with communities where our customers and employees work and live. We're looking forward to returning to Mississauga this upcoming skating season.”

“We are extremely pleased to have been chosen as the host venue for Skate Canada’s 2008 BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Western and Eastern Challenge,” said Mike Hamilton, General Manager of the Hershey Centre. “We have been privileged to host this event in previous years and look forward to working with Skate Canada once again to showcase Canada’s best up-and-coming figure skating talent in the award winning Hershey Centre.”

“Mississauga Tourism is proud to have worked with Skate Canada to bring this prestigious event to Mississauga,” says Dragana Micic, Director of Sport Tourism for Mississauga. “There is a tremendous economic benefit to local hotels, restaurants and

entertainment venues when we welcome athletes and spectators from across Canada for events of this magnitude.”

Approximately 500 of Canada’s best skaters will compete at the event this year.

This will be the third time that Mississauga has hosted the BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Western and Eastern Challenge events since the two events were amalgamated in December 2004. The city also hosted the 2005 and 2006 BMO Financial Group Skate Canada Western and Eastern Challenge events.

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*Skate Canada, the national governing body responsible for the development and administration of figure skating in Canada, is the largest figure skating association in the world. With skating programs for athletes of all ages, offered at 1326\* clubs across the country, Skate Canada is an association dedicated to providing every Canadian the opportunity to experience the passion, spirit and triumph of skating.*

*BMO Financial Group is the title sponsor of the BMO Canadian Championships, Junior Nationals and the Synchronized Nationals as well as the qualifying events that lead to the national championships, the Sectional and Challenge events. Recognizing the need to support young skaters in their quest for excellence, BMO Financial Group also supports Skate Canada's learn-to-skate program, CanSkate, which is taught in over 1,300 skating clubs and schools across Canada.*

\* As at August 30, 2006.