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RENO-TAHOE PREPARES FOR PGA TOUR PLAY AUG. 6 – 9 AT MONTRÉUX GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB

Legends Reno-Tahoe Open returns for 11th annual event at Jack Nicklaus course

RENO, Nev. (Summer 2009) – Known as much for its scenic beauty as for its trying terrain, Montréux Golf & Country Club, home to the 11th annual Legends at Sparks Marina Reno-Tahoe Open and northern Nevada's only Jack Nicklaus Signature Design Golf Course, has its staff working round the clock in preparation for the West Coast's only summertime PGA TOUR event, which is broadcast to viewers around the globe. With tournament play starting in just a few days, grounds crews are taking extra measures to make certain the course is up to PGA TOUR par, such as speeding up the greens, firming up the fairways by relying more on hand watering and adding extra fertilizer to the rough to increase its density.

"It's important that our course be in top form not only for our members, but also for the Legends Reno-Tahoe Open and the PGA TOUR," said Lisa Anderson, general manager of Montréux Golf & Country Club. "We want to showcase — in the best possible way — our course, real estate and residential community and the surrounding area to the players, in addition to the public and the millions of television viewers around the globe."

"Making sure the course plays well while also presenting itself well on television can be a tricky process," explained Doug Heinrichs, Montréux's superintendent of golf. "It needs to be dry and firm to ensure fast play but it's also key to keep the rough growing as long and tall as possible, which requires more water and fertilizer – It's a delicate balance – especially with the high heat we've been experiencing and the intense sunlight at an elevation of 6,000 feet."

To keep the course in top-notch condition while also guarding against heat and turf stress, Heinrichs works closely with PGA TOUR agronomist, Bland Cooper for one week prior to the tournament as well as during the Legends Reno-Tahoe Open. The tournament begins with a Pro-Am event, which takes place Monday, Aug. 3. No carts are allowed on the course one week before to the event when special care is taken to repair all divots, ball marks and any other inconsistencies in the course in order to develop a firm, consistent, grain-free playing surface.

"Eight to 10 weeks in advance of the tournament we review course conditions with the PGA TOUR agronomist and go over everything from greenspeed to mowing patterns and the type of soil we fill the divots with," continued Heinrichs. "And then we work forward from there, monitoring everything from moisture levels to the height of every sprinkler head and the depth of the sand in our bunkers. We take every measure possible to ensure that the course is in its best condition for tournament play."

As host to northern Nevada's only professional-level sporting event, Montréux's 18 championship holes amble along 7,472 yards of stunning Sierra scenery including creeks, towering pine trees and formidable drops in elevation. Named among *Golfweek* magazine's "Top 100 Residential Golf Courses," Montréux sits at approximately 5,700 feet and boasts seven lakes and four waterfalls, in addition to a 50-acre practice facility with 4 practice holes.

For more information on this year's Legends at Sparks Marina Reno-Tahoe Open, including ticket sales, volunteer and sponsorship opportunities, visit www.LegendsRenoTahoeOpen.com or contact the tournament office at 775-322-3900.

The 11th annual Legends at Sparks Marina Reno-Tahoe Open, an official PGA TOUR event, takes place Aug. 3 – 9, 2009 at Montréux Golf & Country Club in Reno, Nev. As the PGA TOUR's only summer West Coast venue, the tournament is a regular full-field stop on the TOUR schedule and is part of the FedExCup series, a points competition for PGA TOUR professionals. The nationally-televised tournament brings in millions of dollars in coverage for the Reno-Tahoe region through its affiliation with The Golf Channel as it follows 132 PGA TOUR professionals competing for a share of the tournament's \$3 million purse. The Legends Reno-Tahoe Open is operated and managed by the Reno-Tahoe Open Foundation comprised of its members including RED Development's The Legends at Sparks Marina, Eldorado Hotel Casino, EMPLOYERS, Montréux Development Group, NV Energy, and Reno-Tahoe.

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