



Pacific National Exhibition

2901 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V5K 5J1 Telephone: 604 253-2311 Fax: 604 251-7753
www.pne.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NEWS RELEASE

PNE AWARDS APRIL 2006 MIRACLE MILE ATHLETE BURSARY TO PORT COQUITLAM'S GARY WONG

VANCOUVER, B.C. - The Pacific National Exhibition's April 2006 Miracle Mile Athlete Bursary has been awarded to Port Coquitlam's Gary Wong, a figure skater we just might see up on the podium representing Canada in 2010.

Gary Wong has been skating for over twelve years. He is a member of the Vancouver Skating Club, BC Senior Team and is one of the athletes taking part in the 2010 Game Plan training at the BC Centre of Excellence.

Gary's many figure skating achievements include, placing second at the 2006 Provincials (up from third the year before), first at the 2005 Whistler Challenge and third at the 2006 Westons. In 2003 he achieved international success by winning a bronze medal for Canada at the North American Challenge.

"We are very excited to award our April 2006 Miracle Mile bursary to Gary Wong, an athlete currently training to represent Canada in 2010," says Michael McDaniel, President and CEO of the Pacific National Exhibition. *"We hope this will give him an indication of the support British Columbians wish to extend to athletes as they prepare to take on the world in Vancouver in 2010."*

In addition to Gary's many achievements in figure skating, he is also a dedicated member of his community. He volunteers at the local senior care centre assisting seniors in a recreation therapy program and has volunteered at the local SHARE centre delivering Christmas hampers. He is also heavily involved in the skating community. Gary works as a Rising Stars Skating Seminar group leader and a CanSkate! Program instructor.

Gary's goals for 2006 include placing in the top five at the National Championships in Ottawa and earning a spot on the Junior National Team. He is currently working on improving his skills with a focus on the triple axel and quadruple jump. In the years to come Gary hopes to improve his standings at the international level working towards a place on the podium at the World Championships and the 2010 Games in Vancouver.

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For more information on the PNE's Miracle Mile Bursary please visit www.pne.ca or call 604-251-7708.

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Owned by the City of Vancouver, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is a healthy and vibrant non-profit charity organization dedicated to providing over 3 million visitors a year with first-class cultural, sporting and family entertainment events. Founded in 1910, the PNE operates from a 114-acre site at Hastings Park, a multi-facility venue in Vancouver where the organization operates four business streams: an annual 17-day Fair, Playland Amusement Park, maintenance and care of the Hasting Park site and management of the site's year-round facilities. These facilities are utilized to celebrate a variety of hockey, amateur sporting, music, community, social, cultural and commercial events throughout the year.

For more information, please contact:

Laura Ballance

Media Relations

Pacific National Exhibition

604-684-3170

604-771-5176 (cell)

laura@curvecommunications.com