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World's Best Longboarders Set to Ride at Canada Olympic Park

Paskapoo Downhill Rodeo has returned to Calgary

Calgary, AB – After a one-year hiatus, WinSport Canada in partnership with the Speed and Longboard Association of Calgary (SLAC) is proud to bring back the Paskapoo Downhill Rodeo to Canada Olympic Park (COP).

On July 24th-26th, 2009, spectators will get the chance to witness some of the world's best longboarders in high-speed action. This event is free to the public and features COP's dynamic, switch-back course known for its smooth ride, sharp turns and ridiculous speed. Six turns, intense straight-aways and the occasional speed bump makes the ride down an absolute thrill. A unique element to the COP course is the fact that there will be a high-speed quad chair taking riders back to the top of the hill. This will help increase the amount of runs riders can fit in during the weekend.

WinSport Canada President and CEO, Guy Huntingford, is thrilled that the Paskapoo Downhill Rodeo has returned to Canada Olympic Park. "Supporting sport is always our main focus. As a community based event, the Paskapoo Downhill Rodeo has gained significant international attention and will continue to be one of the most recognized longboarding events in North America."

The previous Paskapoo Downhill Rodeo registered more than 150 racers from around the world and this year's number of registered riders is expected to be over 200. In the past, the Paskapoo Downhill Rodeo has attracted racers from Canada, United States, Germany, Switzerland, England, Norway, Africa, Brazil and New Zealand. While previous years have required these out of town riders to find off-site accommodations, this year's event will include camping, late-night bonfires, athlete meals and nightly entertainment. With this many competitors, the 3rd edition of the Paskapoo Downhill Rodeo will become one of the largest competitions in the history of skateboard gravity sports.

While the event in 2007 saw racers reach speeds of 84.6 km/h (52 m.p.h.) in stand-up longboard qualifying, it is expected that this year longboarders will exceed 90 km/h (56 m.p.h.). A new technique called "pre-grabbing" has become very popular in the longboarding world. When a rider pre-grabs, he can lift his board off the ground while travelling at high speeds. This technique will come into play when riders approach the two speed bumps on the course.

Local longboard rider, 19 year old Jeff Radomsky, has lived in Calgary his whole life and can't wait to ride the hill at COP. "I've been riding for four years now and this will be my first time shredding at Canada Olympic Park. The course design for the Paskapoo Rodeo is unreal! People are going to see some sick speeds and gnarly crashes. I'm totally stoked about racing in my local community, in front of my friends and family."

Included in the weekend festivities is a "Battle of the Bands", taking place on Saturday, July 25. This event will showcase some of Calgary's young local talent, battling it out for the \$1,500 grand prize.

WinSport Canada

The Canadian Winter Sport Institute provides world-class sport facilities where Canadian athletes can discover, develop and excel. WinSport Canada owns and operates Canada Olympic Park in Calgary, AB, the Bill Warren Training Centre located at the Canmore Nordic Centre, the Beckie Scott High Performance Training Centre on Haig Glacier, AB, and Camp Green on Farnham Glacier, BC. A not-for-profit organization, WinSport Canada supports national sport organizations, encourages educational opportunities and subsidizes the operation of unique training and recreational facilities used by the nation's top athletes and the general public. WinSport Canada also provides the necessary support to host major national and international winter sporting events at the various facilities, making the Calgary/Bow Valley Corridor home

to high performance winter sport in Canada. For more information on WinSport Canada please visit www.winsportcanada.ca.

For more information, please contact:

Brendon Arnold

Communication Specialist

WinSport Canada

T: 403-247-5601

C: 403-461-9074

E-mail: brendon.arnold@winsportcanada.ca