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For Immediate Release

## **PGA of BC Golfathon for ALS doubles funds raised**

***8,664 holes of golf played by 55 professionals and amateurs at 29 different courses throughout B.C.***

Members of the Professional Golfers' Association of B.C. played golf all day long at golf courses throughout the province in the month of June to raise money for the ALS Society of BC.

When all the scores and pledges were counted up, a total of more than \$110,000 has been raised to date in support of ALS Society of BC patient services. That's more than double the \$51,000 raised in the 2006 campaign.

"We're very proud of the effort our golf professionals put into this venture," said PGA of BC Executive Director Brian Butters. "The number of professionals participating more than tripled this year, as did the number of facilities. That's really impressive, and our members have been very gratified by the response from ALS patients and their families."

Wendy Magee, Executive Director of the ALS Society of BC, has personally thanked all participants in this year's event and said every one of them has committed to help the campaign again next year.

"I am thrilled with the amazing support of the golf community," she said. "Because of their support and the increased revenues, the Society is able to provide additional patient services to enhance the quality of life for people living with ALS. I cannot thank the PGA of BC golf pros enough."

The Golfathon concept originated three years ago when Comox-area ALS patient Bruce Taylor voiced his concern for the lack of awareness about ALS to two friends, Scott Fraser and Jerry Feniak.

Fraser was then Head Professional at Glacier Greens Golf Club in Comox and Feniak was an active member of the Rotary Club. The three came up with the idea of asking golf professionals to “lend” their muscles and courses for a day of golf – sunrise to sunset – and to enlist the volunteer support of Rotarians to raise donations in support of the ALS Society of BC patient services.

Fraser did the first Golfathon in September of 2005, playing 288 holes (16 full rounds of golf) and raising more than \$6,000 in donations.

From there, the idea was expanded to other courses throughout the PGA of BC and in 2006, 18 professionals at 10 facilities played more than 3,100 holes, including 301 holes each by Fraser and current Glacier Greens Head Pro Bill Kelly.

ALS (Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis) is a neuron-degenerative disorder that affects a person’s motor neurons that carry messages to the muscles, resulting in weakness and wasting in arms, legs, mouth, throat and elsewhere. Typically the person is immobilized or deceased within two to five years of the initial diagnosis.

In B.C., more than 300 people are currently living with ALS.

For more information or to make a donation, contact:

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