



**BANQUE  
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2006

**CHAMPIONNAT de *SQUASH PRO-AM* de la BANQUE  
NATIONALE du CANADA**

*April 6-9, 2006*

**A "Professional Squash Association" World Tour Satellite Event.**

**PRESS RELEASE**

**March 30th, 2006**

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**Host Venue: La Sportheque Club**  
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For the 4<sup>th</sup> year, La Sportheque in Gatineau, Quebec, is hosting a professional and amateur squash tournament that will create significant local and provincial interest. The "**2006 Championnat de Squash Pro-Am de la Banque Nationale du Canada**" will both showcase an extremely exciting level of international squash, and draw interested fans wishing to participate in the A, B, C, D amateur grades, providing a showcase of some of the highest level of squash to ever be played in the region.

This year's Pro event has once again attracted an international group of 24 professional players from 12 countries including Australia, Mexico, Egypt, Great Britain, Japan, and Canada, vying for a share of the \$4500 USD purse. The Pro-Am is a "Satellite" circuit event on the prestigious "Professional Squash Players Association" World Tour, allowing pro-players competing on the tour to gain valuable world ranking points. Additionally, the event is the 12<sup>th</sup> and final tour stop of the "2005/2006 Tempur Canadian Squash Circuit" ([http://www.squash.ca/e/can\\_circuit/](http://www.squash.ca/e/can_circuit/)), a circuit of international level squash tournaments staged throughout the country, which culminates in a Grand Final Playoff in May 2006, in Toronto.

The top seed leading the pack in his first visit to the Gatineau tour stop is Australian player Luke Margan ranked #110 in the world. Canadian Pat Bedore (# 117) is seeded 2nd, with stiff competition expected another newcomer, Ahmed Magda Hamza (#124) from Egypt, seeded 3<sup>rd</sup> and last weeks losing finalist in the Saskatchewan Open Tour stop, plus last year's Pro-Am semi finalist, Jose Becceril (#124) from Mexico, seeded 4th.

Of local interest, the Qualifying Draw hosts several other Canadian players, in particular, Ottawa natives, Josh McDonald (formerly ranked # 114 in the world, and #2 at doubles squash in the world), Johnny Wilson (Ottawa Athletic Club Pro), Sportheque's top players Steve Wren and Maxym Leclair (Quebec's top junior player).

**The Men's Pro Draw and Qualification Draw are on the attached sheet.**

**Schedule of Play, (please also refer to the attached Pro and Qualification Draw sheets)**

16 Player Pro-Qualification Event (1 <sup>st</sup> round, 8 matches)	Thursday April 6 <sup>th</sup>	12.30pm – 2.00pm
8 Player Pro-Qualification Event (2 <sup>nd</sup> round, 4 matches)	Thursday April 6 <sup>th</sup>	6.00pm – 9.00pm.
Pro Event - 1 <sup>st</sup> Round (8 matches)	Friday April 7 <sup>th</sup>	4.00pm – 10.00pm
Pro Event – Quarter Finals (4 matches)	Saturday April 8 <sup>th</sup>	9.50am – 1.00pm
Pro Event – Semi Finals (2 matches)	Saturday April 8 <sup>th</sup>	4.30pm – 6.30pm
Pro Event – Final	Sunday April 9 <sup>th</sup>	2.00pm – 3.30 pm

Spectators are welcome to visit the La Sporthèque Club to watch the action at any time during the weekend, at no charge.

Additionally, the Pro-Am will host a flight of both Women's and Men's amateur graded events from A to D, which will boost participation to over 110 players.

**Local sponsorship has been instrumental in forming the event.**

**Supporting Sponsors:**

- Banque Nationale de Canada**
- La Sporthèque**
- Karakal Racquets**
- Doctor Deli Distribution**
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- Relizon Canada**

Squash in Quebec has for many years been a sport that is feverishly competing for its promotion and development alongside tennis, badminton, and racquetball. It has come along way. As a testament to its progress, over the past 3 years Quebec's Men and Women's Provincial Teams have collected the gold medal at almost every "Canadian Inter-Provincial Teams Championship". The Province of Quebec now hosts more world ranked Canadian squash players than any other Province in Canada, plus Montreal is the home and training base of recently retired Canada # 1, current World # 1, and 2002 Commonwealth Gold Medallist, Jonathon Power.

**Daily progress of this year's event can be followed by logging on to:**

<http://www.squashsite.co.uk/>



If you wish to discuss further details about the "2006 La Championnat de Squash Pro-Am de la Banque Nationale du Canada", please contact any of the undersigned below, at any time.

On behalf of the management at the Sporthèque Club, thank you.

**Steve Wren**

**Larry Greene**

**Catalin Tudorache**

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