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866 – Canadian Gaming Awards

On the last day of this, the 15th Annual Canadian Gaming Summit, the Industry gathered together for a Gala Evening Event to recognize the work and contribution of industry leaders. For the first time this was combined with the First Nation Canadian Gaming awards, which is encouraging as we bring together all the branches of gaming in this country.

Through this shared experience we can all learn and acknowledge the *excellence* that is displayed in this industry. The award winners are as follows:

- **Industry Leadership** - Mr. Michael Lipton of Dickinson Wright LLP
- **Outstanding Contribution** - Mr. Rick Josephson of Manitoba Gaming Control Commission
- **Volunteerism & Community Service** - Mr. Howard Blank of Great Canadian Gaming

Full details of the awards are covered in this month's edition of the Canadian Gaming Business Magazine (Spring 2011).

Congratulations to all the recipients of the 2011 Canadian Gaming Awards.

867 – Great Canadian Gaming Corporation

It was announced on the 25th April 2011 that the Great Canadian Gaming Corporation has agreed to purchase the assets and undertaking of *Chilliwack Bingo Centre* in the town of Chilliwack, British Columbia.

The Chilliwack Bingo Centre has been a very successful Bingo Centre in the province. In the 2009/2010 fiscal year, it generated the greatest bingo revenues of any facility in the province, which is a remarkable achievement and in my view down to the Management Team of *Fran & Rondra* who have operated the day-to-day activities of this facility for numerous years.

This acquisition further enhances Great Canadian Gaming presence in the Charitable Gaming market and in the province.

868 – General Meeting – 17th May 2011

A reminder that we will host our General Meeting in Toronto on the 17th May 2011. This meeting is open to all members and invited guests. Would members please confirm their attendance to our Administrator *Ms. Sandi Nesbitt* via e-mail nesbitt.s@sympatio.ca.

Location:	Holiday Inn, 600 Dixon Road (Toronto Airport East)
Date:	Tuesday, 17 th May 2011
Time:	10:00am
Room:	Centennial B

We will have two external presentations from invited presenters - *Ms. Kathy Klas (AGCO)* and *Mr. Ron Ko (OLG)*. It is the first time in numerous years we have asked these individuals to join with us.

869 – Rank Group PLC

In early April the Rank Group released a trading update for the Group related to the first 15 weeks of trading in 2011.

It was announced in this period a 2% growth in revenue which has largely been driven by an increase in customers and customer visits. The strong growth has been contributed to *Rank Interactive and the Bingo Division*. The Casino's division performance was constrained by an unusually low win margin in its London venues at the start of the year. Top Rank (Bingo) Espana was negatively affected by the introduction of a full smoking ban on the 2nd January 2011. This has impacted customer visits by -9%.

Bingo's revenue rose by +4% in the 15 week period as a result of growth in spend-per-visit. The business achieved particularly strong growth of *food & drink*, reflecting service improvements and increased management focus on this area. The Division also announced the sale of the Bingo Centre in Southampton for £600k. The (Southampton) business will close at the end of May 2011.

Rank also operates two (2) casinos in Belgium and the Government of Belgium has announced a full ban on smoking from 1st July 2011. The Group is in the process of implementing a plan to mitigate the impacts in the tow casinos.

The company continues with re-alignment in its two core businesses - Bingo and Casino, with their new concepts (bingo) *Full House* and (casino) *G Format*, both progressing within the Group.

870 – Gametime – Big Win Bingo

Its 'Game On'! The 7th May 2011 will see our next \$C100k game. As stated earlier, this is the first time we will be measuring the game against our own performance and it is going to be exciting to see the results. Clearly, I am not projecting the increases we have seen to date but a 1% to 5% will be a marked success in my book.

It is remarkable that the members of the OBDF have managed to work co-operatively to bring and maintain this game to market. This is one example of the value the OBDF can bring to the sector. We need to acknowledge the leaders who stuck with this and have benefited

by it. The OBDF remains open to any Bingo Centre in the province and in my capacity as the President of the OBDF, we wish to ensure an open door to anyone who wishes to re-join this VERY successful industry led fund.

871 – Responsible Gaming Materials

A reminder to all Bingo Centre Operators of the need to keep *Responsible Gaming Materials* available to customers in case they feel the need to seek any type of counselling for their gaming activities.

It is important that we keep a very positive attitude to this area and I know the majority of Commercial Operators are leading the initiatives in their Centres. Having the information clearly visible and available is a very positive step for our sector.

Should you need any material, please contact our Administrator *Ms. Sandi Nesbitt* at (416) 245-6365 or nesbitt.s@sympatico.ca.

On-Line @ www.cgao.ca
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