

Toronto summer show dates set

MISSISSAUGA, Ontario - The 2009 edition of the Toronto Summer Furniture Show will be held on 09 and 10 August, the Canadian Home Furnishings Alliance has announced. For the first time, it will be immediately followed by its annual All Industry Golf Tournament.

The tournament will be held on 11 August at the Glen Eagle Golf Club in nearby Bolton, Ontario.

"By holding our always popular golf tournament in conjunction with the summer show, we are creating an outstanding networking opportunity for both suppliers and retailers," CHFA chairman Laine Reynolds said.

Last year, some 39 companies with permanent showrooms in and around the International Centre here took part in the mid-year event. For the past several years, the TSFS has been the only trade event staged specifically for Canadian furniture retailers mid-year. The product categories covered by these showrooms covers the gambit from upholstery and case goods to accessories, area rugs, lamps and mattresses.

"Independent retailers in particular need an opportunity to freshen their floors for the vital fall selling season and the summer show provides them with an excellent opportunity to do just that," Reynolds said.

He also noted that many TSFS participants are smaller manufacturers, importers and distributors who do not exhibit in the major U.S. markets - High Point and Las Vegas. They, too, often need to launch new product and don't want to wait until the Canadian Home Furnishings Market in January.

As in previous years, the Toronto Summer Furniture Show will overlap the summer edition of the Canadian Gift & Tableware Association's trade event, which will be held at both the International Centre and the Toronto Congress Centre from 09 to 13 August.

A list of participating showrooms will be published over the coming weeks, Reynolds said, adding the association expects about the same number of participating showrooms for the 2009 event. The show is organized by a committee chaired by John Power, vice president of sales for Serta Toronto.

Mike James, vice president of Kingsdown Canada and chairman of the golf tournament, said the tournament can host as many as 144 golfers and dinner-only tickets will be available. The tournament will begin with a shotgun start at 1 p.m.

The CHFA will also host its annual general meeting on 11 August at 10 a.m. (the morning prior to the golf tournament) at the Glen Eagle.

The cost to participate in the golf tournament has yet to be finalized and should be announced shortly.

For more information about the Toronto Summer Furniture Show or about the annual general meeting and golf tournament, contact CHFA president Murray Vaughan at 905.655.6761 or by e-mail at murray@chfaweb.ca.

Written by Michael J. Knell. This story was first published on www.HomeGoodsOnline.ca on 20 January 2009. Copyright 2009 Windsor Bay Communications Inc. All rights reserved. Used with permission.