

News Release

For immediate release –07/11/2006

Legendary Phil Bennett to address Niagara Thunder’s “Legends of Rugby Banquet”

Burlington, Ontario: *Phil Bennett*, world-renowned rugby star of the 70’s will be the primary speaker at the 2007 edition of Niagara Thunder Rugby’s Banquet. Mr. Bennett, now a radio and TV broadcaster and professional speaker, thrilled audiences around the world with his dazzling displays of rugby skills 1969 through 1978. It was Phil Bennett’s jinxing run that started “*That try*” in 1973 for the Barbarians when they went on to beat the All Blacks. He played in 8 tests for the Lions, (now called the British and Irish Lions), and is one of only two Welshmen to Captain the team, on the 1977 visit to New Zealand. First capped at 20 years of age against France in Paris, Phil went on to be capped 29 times for Wales (8 as captain), won 3 Grand Slams and 4 Triple Crowns and played in 20 Barbarians teams.

“We are honoured and very excited to have such a prominent **Legend of Rugby** grace our shores and support the Niagara Thunder fundraising effort”, said team President Dave Burnett. “This is a great opportunity for those of us who enjoyed watching Phil on the field to now meet the man himself and listen to his stories and anecdotes among friends, on what promises to be an outstanding evening”

This will also be an opportunity to meet and wish well the local players selected to represent Canada against Wales, Phil’s old team, both this November 10th in Cardiff and again on September 9th in Nantes at the World Cup of Rugby 2007 as well as Thunders own players and supporters to exchange thoughts and opinions on rugby today and yesterday.

The evening will include an auction with a minimum target of raising \$5,000 with all proceeds being donated to the **Sean Corner Benefit Fund**. Sean was a promising young player who received a very unfortunate spine injury while playing this fall and has since been diagnosed a paraplegic. We are saddened to lose his playing ability on the field and wish him well. Sean is a Hamilton Hornet member and more information can be found at www.hamiltonrugby.com

The banquet will be held at the “up-scale” **Oakville Conference Centre**. Dress is formal and proceeding will begin at 6:30 pm. **Friday April 27th 2007**. Tickets are **\$135.00** and a tax receipt can be obtained. **A promotional offer of a table of 8 for \$1,000.00 is available providing the order is placed before February 1st 2007**

For further information contact Dai at legends@cogeco.ca or call (905) 336-9545 Ext 1 for further details or any Niagara Thunder Executive. See also www.niagarathunderrugby.com for more details

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