

**MEDIA RELEASE****Algonquin College Alumnus Jason Blaine Establishes Charitable Fund . . . Plan Announced for Major Fundraiser in 2014**

**PEMBROKE, ON** – August 21, 2013 - Jason Blaine has arguably become the most successful country music artist to come from the Upper Ottawa Valley, and now the rising Canadian Recording Artist wants to give back to the people who have supported his career advancement.

At a special 'nine-and-dine' invitational golf tournament at the Pembroke Shores Golf Club, Blaine announced that he has established the *Jason Blaine Charitable Fund*, a fund that will support local charities and community organizations, and that will be administered by the Pembroke and Petawawa District Community Foundation.



The first major fundraising event for the new *Jason Blaine Charitable Fund* will be a combined concert and golf tournament on June 17 and 18th, 2014. All money raised from this initial event will support the Pembroke and Area Boys and Girls Club and the Algonquin College Capital Building Campaign.

For several years Blaine has participated in a similar event hosted by another Canadian country music star, Gord Bamford, in his home town in Alberta. "That's what got me interested in setting up my own charitable fund as a means of giving back to the community that I care so much about. We are planning a great first event for next year, and hope a lot of people will want to get involved because ultimately, this new charitable fund will benefit the people who live here in the Valley," says Blaine.

Blaine envisions having a number of country music stars in Pembroke next June where they will perform at a gala on the Friday evening, June 17th, and then be auctioned off to a team which will play in the next day's golf tournament. There will also be a silent auction, great prizes, and of course some terrific musical entertainment. "This will be a unique and fun event where country music fans will be able to get really close to some great artists while also supporting wonderful community causes--I'm really looking forward to bringing it to the Ottawa Valley," says Blaine.

Both the Pembroke and Area Boys and Girls Club and Algonquin College have decided to collapse their own annual golf tournaments next year in favour of working collaboratively to help plan the *Jason Blaine Charitable Fund* Tournament.

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Karen Davies, Dean of Algonquin College in the Ottawa Valley, says Blaine has been nominated for an Ontario College Premier's Award this year, mainly for his support of the College and greater community, coupled with his musical talent. "Jason Blaine continues to give back to his hometown, and our campus is thrilled to be one of the beneficiaries of what will be an incredible event next June," adds Davies.

Blaine grew up in Laurentian Valley and attended Fellowes High School before graduating from the Business program at Algonquin College's Pembroke Campus. He and his wife Amy and their three children now live in Nashville, Tennessee, the epicentre of country music in North America.

After a series of top ten hits, Blaine hit pay dirt when his number one single, "*They Don't Make 'Em Like That Anymore*" was named top single of the year at the 2012 Canadian Country Music Awards. Earlier this year, Blaine released a new album entitled "*Everything I Love*," his fifth album.

The Pembroke-Petawawa District Community Foundation was established in 2008. This public community foundation has a mandate to invest and manage charitable funds for projects, causes, and other community organizations. The proceeds are then distributed to meet the community's greatest needs.

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