The Toronto International Scrabble Open &
2nd Human vs. Computer Showdown
Thursday September 22 – Sunday September 25, 2011
The Bond Place Hotel in downtown Toronto

The Toronto International Scrabble Open:
26 game tournament rated by NASPA and WESPA. One open division. First prize $3000 minimum.
6 rounds Thursday starting at 1 pm; 8 rounds Friday and Saturday starting at 9 am; 4 rounds Sunday
starting at 9 am. Players will be scheduled to play computer opponents in the Human vs. Computer
Showdown. Dictionary – Collins Scrabble Words (SOWPODS), 5 points per word penalty for incorrect
challenges, NASPA rules. Registration limited to 100. Director John Chew, pairings tsh.

Entry Fee
$250 (US or CAD)

Early bird bonus – deduct $20 if paid or
postmarked by May 1, 2011
Late registration fee – add $20 if paid after
September 15, 2011

Prizes
First Place: $3000 minimum.
Other place and category prizes, including class
prizes for groups of lower-rated players.

Estimated prizes based on registration

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Entries</th>
<th>First Place</th>
<th>Total Prize Pool</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>60</td>
<td>$4000</td>
<td>$10,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>80</td>
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<tr>
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Human vs. Computer Scrabble Showdown - some details

Computers have challenged humans at chess and checkers – and even Jeopardy. Can computers
beat humans at Scrabble? The first Human vs. Computer Scrabble Showdown came down to the
wire, with Quackle edging Dave Boys in the fifth game. Time for a rematch!

Over the course of the 26-round Toronto Scrabble Open each entrant will be paired with computer
programs during two rounds. The leading Scrabble-playing computer programs, Maven and Quackle,
are being invited to compete.
Computer players will have human assistants to draw tiles, place plays on the board, and operate the clock. If you are playing a game against one of the computer players it will seem to you just like playing another person. The only difference is that the computer program is designating its plays.

After 26 rounds, one computer player and one human player will be left standing: the human winner of the TISO, and the computer player with the best record against humans. They will play a best-of-four finals. If they tie at two wins apiece, spread will determine the victor. We will relay the moves of each game to an observation room for everyone to watch, as well as providing live internet coverage.

The human winner of the TISO will win the first prize money as detailed above. There will be an additional cash prize for the winner of the Human vs. Computer Showdown, that will go either to the human or the owner(s) of the computer program.

**Hotel**

The TISO is being held at the Bond Place Hotel in downtown Toronto. The Bond Place is beside the Eaton Centre shopping mall, steps from Toronto’s theatre district, and accessible to all downtown Toronto sites by public transit. We have secured very attractive rates: standard room with two twin beds for $79 a night; deluxe room with one queen bed and one double, or one queen and two twins for $99 a night (for two people, additional persons are $20 per night) plus local taxes. These rates are available for three days before and three days after the event as well. The cut-off date for our hotel block is August 22, 2011. Call the hotel direct at 1-800-268-9390 and specify Toronto International Scrabble to get the group rates.

**Registration**

Registrations for the Toronto International Scrabble Open are being accepted now:

Tony Leah  
33 Mill Street  
Ajax, ON L1S 6J9  
CANADA.  
PayPal to tonyleah@rogers.com will be accepted from cash or bank acct.  
If paying by PayPal please do not include the word Scrabble in your message.

You must be a member of NASPA to play. NASPA membership is available for $30 for one year. If you have never had a North American rating, you can get a trial NASPA membership for $15 for 6 months. If you wish you can add payment for NASPA membership to your entry fee. If you would like confirmation of your registration, please also include your email address.  
Registration deadline Tuesday, September 21, 2011

More info: Tony Leah: 416-274-1875, tonyleah@rogers.com

Name _______________________________ NASPA/WESPA Rating ________________

Address _______________________________________________________________________

State/Prov. _______________ Postal/Zip Code _____________ Country _________________

Phone No. _____________________ Email _____________________ Fee enclosed _________