

FAIRFAX *News Release*

Stock Symbol: FFH (TSX and NYSE)

TORONTO, April 2, 2004

FAIRFAX FINANCIAL HOLDINGS ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENTS

TORONTO, ONTARIO – April 2 -- Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited is pleased to announce that Brandon Sweitzer and Sam Mitchell have joined the company.

Brandon Sweitzer has agreed to stand for nomination to Fairfax's Board of Directors at the upcoming annual meeting. Brandon is a director of the Chamber of Commerce of the United States and is Senior Advisor to the President and CEO of that organization. Brandon became Chief Financial Officer of Marsh Inc. in 1981 and was President from 1999 through early 2001. Brandon also served as President and CEO of Guy Carpenter & Company from 1996 to 1999. He currently serves on the boards of Save the Children, U.S.A. and the Cordell Hull Institute.

Sam Mitchell, one of the founding partners of the investment-counselling firm Marshfield Associates, will join Fairfax as a principal in its investment counselling operations. Sam has an outstanding track record for the past 18 years managing common stock portfolios using a disciplined long-term value oriented investment philosophy. Sam is regularly featured in the Outstanding Investor Digest.

Fairfax Financial Holdings Limited is a financial services holding company which, through its subsidiaries, is engaged in property, casualty and life insurance and reinsurance, investment management and insurance claims management.

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