



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Beth McGoldrick

(617) 663-4751

bmcgoldrick@jhancock.com

John Hancock Launches Global Shareholder Yield Fund
Epoch Investment Partners to Sub-Advise New Offering

BOSTON, March 8, 2007 – John Hancock Funds has announced the launch of the John Hancock Global Shareholder Yield Fund, available to investors through their financial advisers effective March 5th. The new fund will be provided with portfolio management services by Epoch Investment Partners, Inc., a New York-based institutional asset manager, through an exclusive sub-advisory agreement.

The primary objective of the John Hancock Global Shareholder Yield Fund is to seek to provide a high level of income with capital appreciation as a secondary objective. The Fund will seek to achieve its objective by investing in a diversified portfolio of companies located throughout the world, including the United States, that have a history of attractive dividend yields and positive growth in free cash flow. The philosophy behind the fund is predicated on the belief that the price-earnings expansion that drove the stock market in the 1980s and 1990s when interest rates were trending lower will not play as significant a role in the future. In the view of the Fund's managers, a focus on investing in companies that look to maximize "Shareholder Yield," broadly defined as dividend payouts, stock buy-backs and debt reduction, may deliver performance that is superior to that of broad-based equity markets.

"We are pleased to introduce our new relationship with Epoch Investment Partners, a firm with outstanding leadership and investment processes, and we are confident that our shareholders will benefit from their expertise," said Keith F. Hartstein, President and CEO of John Hancock Funds. "As we continue to work toward our goal of becoming a top tier mutual fund company, we are committed to helping our financial adviser partners build their businesses by assembling an array of high quality funds under the powerful John Hancock brand and making those funds available to the retail channel."

Andrew Arnott, Vice President and head of product management and development for John Hancock Funds, commented: "The addition of this new fund is another example of our value proposition – to provide financial advisers and their clients access to world class institutional asset managers like Epoch, on an exclusive basis. Moreover, because it is a global portfolio offering a unique combination of tax-advantaged income and capital

appreciation potential, the Global Shareholder Yield Fund represents an important product line diversification for John Hancock Funds.”

Epoch Investment Partners was established in 2004 by William W. Priest, who previously served as Chairman and CEO of Credit Suisse Asset Management Americas and of its predecessor firm BEA Associates, which he co-founded in 1972. His new book, “Free Cash Flow and Shareholder Yield,” was published recently, which he co-authored with Lindsay H. McClelland. Epoch now oversees more than \$4.4 billion in assets under management. Its investment team consists of 14 professionals. William Priest, Eric Sappenfield, Michael Welhoelter, David Pearl, and Daniel Geber will serve as portfolio managers to the John Hancock Global Shareholder Yield Fund.

About John Hancock Funds

The Boston-based mutual fund business unit of John Hancock Financial Services, John Hancock Funds manages more than \$54.4 billion in open-end funds, closed-end funds, private accounts, retirement plans and related party assets for individual and institutional investors at December 31, 2006. For more information, please visit www.jhfunds.com.

John Hancock Financial Services is a unit of Manulife Financial Corporation, a leading Canadian-based financial services group serving millions of customers in 19 countries and territories worldwide. Operating as Manulife Financial in Canada and Asia, and primarily through John Hancock in the United States, the company offers clients a diverse range of financial protection products and wealth management services through its extensive network of employees, agents and distribution partners. Funds under management by Manulife Financial and its subsidiaries were Cdn\$414 billion (US\$355 billion) at December 31, 2006. Manulife Financial Corporation trades as ‘MFC’ on the TSX, NYSE and PSE, and under ‘0945’ on the SEHK. Manulife Financial may be found on the Internet at www.manulife.com.

###