



Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Papa Bear Inukshuk Arrives at the Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat

Cochrane, Ontario – October 1st, 2012: – Early this morning following an approximately 10 hr trip by truck from the Toronto Zoo, current bear Ganuk's genetic father, Inukshuk settled into the Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat's holding building.

"The transfer of Inukshuk to the Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat was successful, and Toronto Zoo staff are on hand to ensure he is settling in comfortably," said Dr. William Rapley, Executive Director - Conservation, Education & Wildlife, Toronto Zoo. "Toronto Zoo is proud to continue our strong relationship with the Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat."

Inukshuk ate marshmallows and grapes almost immediately after entering the holding area and took a very long drink of water.

"Well, I was already calling Ganuk, 'Baby Bear', and even though it's unlikely they'll ever be in the same enclosure, it seemed fitting that his father, Inukshuk would be welcomed to the family," said Habitat Manager, Karen Cummings. "We are truly honoured to have him."

Inukshuk, on loan from the Toronto Zoo, will stay in quarantine for about the first month so staff can monitor his health and how he is acclimatizing to the facility. "Quarantine is a necessary precaution for both Inukshuk and Ganuk – and is almost as important for another reason – so Inukshuk and the Zookeepers can bond," said Cochrane Zookeeper, Shannon Hannan. "As soon as he's ready for his public debut, we'll let everyone know."

Someone very crucial to Inukshuk's survival will also be very excited to hear when Inukshuk is ready to venture out on a regular basis – his rescuer, OPP Officer, Wayne Menard. "I'm so proud to know that Inukshuk not only survived, but that he's also a father," said Menard.

After responding to a call about hunters shooting Inukshuk's mother and sibling near Fort Severn, Ontario in 2003, Menard physically removed the 10 week old cub from his captors and called the Toronto Zoo. "It was just an amazing experience. I put him in a jail cell because that's the safest place I could think of, but he just kept crying – so I had to go in there with him. He put his head in my lap and finally went to sleep. I couldn't move for hours – I was actually getting really sore." Menard said locals helped out by providing caribou and fish for the little cub, which he fed to him by hand. "He had such big paws, even as a cub. I was trying to touch them without waking him up, and they were bigger than my hand even then."

The Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat has invited Menard to reunite with Inukshuk, as soon as the bear's ready. "I don't think I'd be able to cuddle him now, though," laughed Menard.

Probably not. To say Inukshuk has grown is an understatement. Now standing 9' (2.74 m) tall on his hind legs, 52" (132 cm) at the shoulder, and weighing in at 1073 lbs (486.7 Kilograms), Inukshuk is a big boy. To



add to the picture – when you consider both of Cochrane’s Zookeepers are barely 5’ (152 cm) tall – Inukshuk will definitely add some excitement to the Cochrane Community.

“It will be double the fun, and double the pleasure,” admitted Cummings. “There will be more opportunities for both the public to view bears, and for us to do research and gain knowledge.”

Inukshuk Facts:

- Size: 1073 lbs (486.7 kilograms), 9’ (2.74 m) tall when standing on his hind legs – but can reach higher if he wants to. 52” (132 cm) tall at his hips (the highest point along his back). Carries his head at approximately 55” (140 cm)
- Date of Birth: Estimated December, 2002, making him close to 10 years old.
- Rescued near Fort Severn, by police officer, Wayne Menard.
- Offspring: Inukshuk (aka Papa Bear) has 3 cubs; Ganuk who is in our facility, female Taiga who is currently at the Quebec Aquarium and Hudson who still resides at the Toronto Zoo.
- Diet: Meat, fish, vegetables and fruit.
- Favourite Foods: Fish, rabbit, watermelon, pumpkin and cantaloupe
- Favourite Things to Do: Playing with large barrels in the pool – specifically trying to wrestle, sink and destroy them. Loves to swim through the water. *Note: Coincidentally – those are exactly the things Ganuk likes to do too!*



Then: Inukshuk with his rescuer, Wayne Menard in 2003



Now: Inukshuk recently

Contact:

Karen Cummings – Polar Bear Habitat Manager – 705 272-2327 x 26 Peter Politis, Cochrane Mayor – 705-272-4361 / 705-471-9564

JP Ouellette, Cochrane C.A.O. – 272-2623