

# PRESS RELEASE

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## 10 Year Old Donates Funds to Polar Bear Habitat

**Cochrane, Ontario - August 28, 2012:** – Ethan Harrison is already a veteran fund raiser at the grand old age of 10. The Caledonia, Ontario native (near Hamilton, Ontario) has already been raising money through garage sales, bottle drives and candy sales since he was 5 for endangered species.

Ethan and his family will be visiting the Polar Bear Habitat on Saturday, September 1<sup>st</sup> at 11:00 a.m. to hand over \$400.00 towards the facility and polar bear conservation.

According to Ethan's mother, Shelley, Ethan's teachers request he complete a project on an animal every year, and this year, he picked polar bears.

"Ethan is really concerned about global warming and the impact it has on polar bears ... he's interested in everything about them – their habits, their fur, their behaviour," said Shelley. "We loved the idea that we could actually travel to the habitat and visit Ganuk, instead of just sending money to some P.O. Box. That way, he can really see the affect he's having."

Recently, Ethan gained media attention for his efforts to raise funds for the South Carolina Aquarium's Sea Turtle rescue program, and their family travelled there to donate \$2,000 personally. To date, Ethan has raised over \$8,000 for sea turtles alone. Ethan's efforts have become so well known, neighbours and friends now donate items to him to sell.

A budding Marine Biologist, Ethan is extremely excited about visiting Cochrane and the habitat. He reportedly told Shelley that the trip is to potentially become "an every year thing".

The Polar Bear Habitat will be giving Ethan and his family the VIP treatment with a behind the scenes tour hosted by a Zookeeper.

"We're so pleased to get to meet Ethan and his family," said new Polar Bear Habitat Manager, Karen Cummings. "It shows that today's youth aren't just concerned about endangered species and the environment, but are willing to do something about it."

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