



# Press Release

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

*The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, to attend Cochrane Polar Bear Habitat Event on August 9<sup>th</sup>, 2013.*

**Cochrane, Ontario – July 22, 2013**

"We are truly humbled, honoured and excited," said Polar Bear Habitat Manager, Karen Cummings. "Not only will we have Celebrity Chef Jonathan Collins that has cooked for President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Harper and Queen Elizabeth – but the fact the Queen's representative in Ontario will be attending our event just puts the icing on our celebratory cake!"

Cummings is quick to point out that definition-wise, besides "the act of celebrating" and "the festivities engaged in to celebrate something" a "celebration" is also a "gathering of polar bears". "One of the reasons the Lieutenant Governor is visiting our facility on his Northern Ontario tour is because 2013 is designated the year of the polar bear."

The Lieutenant Governor's visit also signifies his interest and commitment to Northern Ontario and its' communities.

"Ruth Ann and I are delighted to visit the Polar Bear Habitat in Cochrane. The 2013 Year of the Polar Bear is the perfect opportunity to highlight the incredible efforts undertaken by the Habitat to ensure the future well-being of Canada's majestic Polar Bears and the fragile environment in which they live."

The VIP event at the Polar Bear Habitat will feature cocktails in the Viewing Building, with background animation provided by Ganuk, a sensational dinner featuring arctic char - and then a keynote address by Dr. Martyn Obbard who has been studying polar bears in the Hudson Bay region, where Inukshuk was originally rescued. "Where else could you have a glass of wine and watch a polar bear swim? This event will truly be unique."

As well, the event will be the opening function of the venue's newly renovated restaurant/event room. "The site will be ready for our new Polar Playground, however the playground itself won't be delivered until August 12<sup>th</sup> and construction will begin then," said Cummings.

As the Lieutenant Governor's overarching theme of his mandate is accessibility, the Polar Bear Habitat is proud of its access to all, including those not just with physical challenges but mental disabilities as well. "The point of this event is to excite and give access to information, and, as the Lieutenant Governor has been quoted as saying, 'Accessibility is that which enables people to achieve their full potential', we believe this event is perfect to showcase the unlimited potential of both this facility – and the North."

Tickets for the exclusive event are available at the Polar Bear Habitat.

For more information on the Lieutenant Governor and his summer tour schedule, please visit <http://www.lgontario.ca/en/biographies/pages/his-honour.aspx>

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