

Polar Bear Habitat keeping very busy

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Karen Cummings, Manager of the Polar Bear Habitat was on hand to file her monthly report to Town of Cochrane Council at the recent Council meeting.

Her extensive report covered the progress of the bears. The report indicates that Henry and Ganuk have been placed closer together in the anticipation of being introduced to each other. Cummings stated that it looks good so far.

The bears are currently being trained to come back from the lake enclosure by use of a cowbell and sardine reward. Both bears are reportedly responding well.

Both bears are also growing with Ganuk now weighing over 900 lbs while Henry is about 650 lbs.

The Habitat is currently developing a new climate change program in partnership with CreeGeo utilizing information gathered from Elders and First Nation's schools on the James Bay coast to measure and observe geographical changes due to climate change.

As well the Habitat is working with a school in New Brunswick in an Enrichment Program and planning a polar bear/interaction workshop for Ontario communities on the James Bay coast.

The Polar Bear Habitat has received international coverage with Henry's painting and swimming with the bears.

Fundraising continues for the Habitat with their Gala on May 7. They also were the recipients of an estate donation with estimates to be around \$70,000. Many of Henry's paintings have also been sold.

Trans Canada pipeline has donated a used truck to the Habitat to replace the one that was not functioning.

The additional bear enclosure around Hector Lake has been completed and cameras have been installed to provide uploaded data to the [Earthcam](#) server. On the Habitat's viewing page there has been a 'donation' button added which Cummings is hopeful will generate more revenue for the Habitat.

