



# Press Release

## HiBEARnation: An Evening of Bears

**Port Coquitlam, BC – SEPTEMBER 15, 2009** ... On September 16, Port Coquitlam's Bear Aware program hosts HiBEARnation: An Evening of Bears, featuring hand-on displays, a silent auction, and a presentation by wildlife veterinarian and bear expert, Dr. Ken Macquisten.

### Did you know?

- Port Coquitlam has recorded almost 300 bear sightings to date in 2009?
- September is when bears go into hyperphagia -- a period of excessive eating prior to hibernation; during this period each bear will eat 15,000 to 20,000 kcal per day!
- The HiBEARnation silent auction includes over \$7,500 worth of great prizes!

Join us at Hyde Creek Recreation Centre on Wednesday, September 16<sup>th</sup> from 6 to 8 pm for this great **FREE family event**, which will include hands-on displays where you can touch real bear fur, compare black bear teeth to grizzly bear teeth, and see how big your foot is compared to a bear paw.

HiBEARnation: An Evening of Bears also includes an informative presentation by wildlife veterinarian and bear expert, Dr. Ken Macquisten, who will be speaking on "Orphan Black Bears – Preventing and Rehabilitating Them." Dr. Macquisten has been a wildlife and private practice veterinarian in the Fraser Valley for 29 years. He is the Founder of two Canadian wildlife refuges, the Kicking Horse Grizzly Bear Refuge in Golden, B.C., and the Grouse Mountain Refuge for Endangered Wildlife in North Vancouver, B.C. Currently Dr. Macquisten is the Managing Director and Veterinarian for the Grouse Mountain Refuge for Endangered Wildlife, and is working hard to open a multi-acre forested refuge for orphan bears on Fromme Mountain.

Those attending HiBEARnation will also be able to bid on a number of silent auction prizes such as a Suzuki DRZ-70 motorbike, valued at \$2,400, and a framed Robert Bateman print entitled "Crossing Rapids", valued at \$800. Other prizes include sporting equipment, Grouse Mountain zipline passes, a stay at the PoCo Inn & Suites theme room, dining certificates, gifts for children and more!

Also available for auction are the Port Coquitlam Business Bears, generously donated by local businesses and currently on display at City Hall and on the City website at [www.portcoquitlam.ca/bears](http://www.portcoquitlam.ca/bears). Some of the Business Bears come with special features, such as the 3-hour Firefighter experience sponsored by Port Coquitlam's Fire & Emergency Services.

All proceeds raised at this event will go to the Port Coquitlam Bear Aware program and their efforts to make our community safer for our residents and our community's bears.

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