



April 7th, 2015

Yukon Wildlife Preserve unveils new red fox habitat for “Definitely a Fox” mystery puppy

Whitehorse, Yukon – The Yukon Wildlife Preserve is thrilled to announce the unveiling of our new red fox habitat – a new species for the Preserve. On Saturday April 11th, 2015, join the Yukon Wildlife Preserve for the long awaited, mystery fox/puppy’s introduction to his permanent home. The new habitat is the product of the “Definitely a Fox” fundraising campaign and was made possible by the generous support of the Preserve’s community.

When Ralph Shopland found an abandoned animal in April 2014, he “just defaulted to thinking it was a dog.” White tipped tail and small size suggested a fox, but many domestic dogs share these same traits. Conservation Officers brought the mystery puppy to the Yukon Wildlife Preserve. Over the next weeks it became clear that this puppy was definitely a fox. During this time, Shopland’s story went viral, appearing in international new casts, websites and more.

This hand-raised fox couldn’t be released into the wild. Foxes are common and a suitable home at another facility was not to be found. The best alternative? Build a home here at the Yukon Wildlife Preserve for this Yukon Fox. Staff fund-raised for this unexpected project in the summer of 2014. Community response was overwhelming and by summers end the fundraising goal of \$10,000 had been exceeded. The result is a brand new, purpose built habitat for Red Foxes!

“We are delighted and somewhat overwhelmed with the huge amount of community support this fund-raising campaign has generated,” said society president Jim Boyde. Visitors to the Yukon Wildlife Preserve will now be able to see this Red Fox when they visit. Foxes are often at the centre of human-wildlife conflicts and this new habitat will be a source of inspiration and education for generations to come!

Festivities begin at 12 noon at the new habitat, located across from the Arctic Fox habitat on the back loop. A ribbon cutting ceremony to unveil the new habitat and panels will be followed by a bonfire with treats and hot cocoa. Arrive 45 minutes early to enjoy a walk to the habitat or 15 minutes early to grab a complimentary shuttle. Entry will be by donation before noon.

For media planning on attending the event, please call 867-456-7400 to make arrangements ahead of time.

Yukon Wildlife Preserve

- Opened to the public in June 2004.
- The Yukon Wildlife Preserve Operating Society is a not-for-profit society, led by an annually elected, volunteer, Board of Directors.
- Features 12 species of Yukon wildlife in large, natural habitats, which can be experienced by visitors through guided bus tours, walking, skiing and biking.

- Located at the YWP, the Wildlife Rehabilitation and Research Centre works in partnership with Environment Yukon's Animal Health Unit and Conservation Services to rehabilitate injured and orphaned wildlife.
- The Society funds its programs and services through memberships, visitor admissions, fees from commercial photographers, as well as donations, corporate partnerships, grants and a multi-year contribution agreement with Environment Yukon.
- In 2014-2015, Yukon Wildlife Preserve saw more than 20,000 visitors.
- For more from the Yukon Wildlife Preserve, please contact:

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7 Photos Attached

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