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BE AWED BY BIRDS UP CLOSE AT THE VANCOUVER AQUARIUM

VANCOUVER, B.C. – Explore the unique relationships between seas and sky with Birds Up Close at the Vancouver Aquarium Marine Science Centre this summer. Until September 5, be amazed by the flurry of colour and sound as birds of prey dive and swoop above you in an incredible display of skill and agility.

Happening daily overlooking the Wild Coast area, this unparalleled aerial show will feature charismatic and peculiar birds such as the bald eagle, Harris's hawk, and turkey vulture – each with their own impressive abilities.

“Bald eagles and the many other raptors we see and hear every day remain mysteries for most of us, being high in the sky or perched at the top of the tallest trees,” mentions Dr. John Nightingale, Vancouver Aquarium’s president and CEO. “Birds of prey are an integral part of our urban wildlife and also play an important role in the coastal ecosystem; thus it was important for us to expand the scope of our learning opportunities and offer our visitors a local perspective on this unique connection.”

Both educational and enjoyable, the presentations will help instill a new understanding of raptors and their place alongside humans in the ecosystem. Birds of prey are critical components of the landscapes. Many of these birds are indicators of ecosystem health and are crucial species to observe in the ever-changing environment. As top predators, they are also pivotal to maintaining healthy, fully functional food webs.

This summer programming is a collaboration between the Vancouver Aquarium and Pacific Northwest Raptors Ltd (PNWR). “People who have watched a hawk or eagle soaring on the ridge tops, or witnessed a falcon stooping to the kill, are thrilled by their grace, beauty, and mastery in the air,” says Gillian Radcliffe, founder of PNWR. “This summer, visitors to Vancouver Aquarium will be able to meet birds of prey up close and witness some of them in action as they soar and dive above our heads, or relax and preen right next to us.”

Birds Up Close show schedule is available online at <http://www.visitvanaqua.org/events/birds-up-close>

About the Vancouver Aquarium

The Vancouver Aquarium is a global leader in connecting people to our natural world, and a self-supporting, non-profit association dedicated to effecting the conservation of aquatic life through display and interpretation, research and direct action. Learn more at www.vanaqua.org.

About Pacific Northwest Raptors

Located in the beautiful Cowichan Valley just north of Duncan on Vancouver Island, B.C., is a unique tourist attraction that operates a Bird of Prey and Raptor centre that is dedicated to the conservation of birds of prey. Through education, PNWR strives to raise awareness for birds of prey and wildlife, protect their habitats and inspire awe in visitors.

Note: Footage and stills are available to media.

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