



October 6, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIRDS OF PREY ON DISPLAY AT THE RIMROCK RESORT HOTEL

BANFF, AB, CANADA – Live owls and a majestic Golden Eagle will be on display at the Rimrock Resort Hotel (Rimrock) from Friday October 10 until Sunday October 12*, to coincide with Canadian Thanksgiving. Now in their fifth consecutive year at the Rimrock, the Birds of Prey Foundation will introduce a Great Horned Owl (Mr. Bogle), Golden Eagle (Spirit), Short Eared Owl (Hoover), American Kestrel (Kes), and Burrowing Owl (Alex Jr.). Free to Rimrock guests and the public, the primary objective of the exhibition from the Foundation, is to promote public environmental awareness and appreciation of nature. The birds on display represent species that can be seen between Banff and Calgary and serve as ambassadors for the organization's volunteer wildlife rescue and release program that has been active for 25 years.

"Photography and up close encounters with the birds is the main feature of the display. Your (Rimrock) guests will be able to put on a glove and have a Great Horned Owl or Burrowing Owl perch on their arm for a photograph as well as hear about all the stories behind each of the birds. The informal display will be informative, educational and, for most people, a unique and memorable experience. The best part is this all supports wildlife rescue and conservation here in Alberta, something guests expect and want to learn about," comments Colin Weir, Birds of Prey facility founder.

As Alberta's first privately licensed raptor rescue and conservation organization since 1982, and recently a registered charity, the Foundation has become a valuable environmental ambassador for both Alberta and Canada. The Foundation's environmental mission to conserve nature - involving such initiatives as the rehabilitation and release of injured birds of prey back into the wild, captive breeding and releasing programs, studying and monitoring programs - has earned the Foundation, and the Town of Coaldale (AB), the 2008 Canadian Environment Award in the category of "Restoration and Rehabilitation" from Canadian Geographic. Contributions of the Foundation extend far beyond the province of Alberta; offspring from the Foundation's Burrowing Owl breeding program have been released in all four western provinces. Injured birds needing long-term care are brought in from a range of locations from Ontario to British Columbia, and even Canada's Arctic. For more information regarding the Birds of Prey Foundation, including sponsorship, please visit www.burrowingowl.com.

** Viewing sessions will be scheduled throughout the weekend.*

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