



New CTV/Discovery HD Original Documentary MYSTERY OF THE TOXIC SWANS Explores Alarming Deaths in Trumpeter Swans, January 24

- Documentary reveals mass mortality among swans ingesting lead pellets along British Columbia-Washington state border –
- Mysterious deaths raise environmental and political concerns in both Canada and the United States –
- Encore presentation of CTV/Discovery HD co-production premieres **Sunday, January 25 at 10 p.m. ET** on Discovery HD –

Toronto, ON (January 7, 2009) – Trumpeter swans, one of the most majestic species of birds in Canada, are dying at alarming rates in southern British Columbia and in Washington state as well. A new W-FIVE PRESENTS documentary, **MYSTERY OF THE TOXIC SWANS**, reveals that lead shotgun pellets are the culprit and that they are dangerously impacting the swans' natural habitat. Premiering **Saturday, January 24 at 7 p.m. ET on CTV and CTV HD** (visit CTV.ca to confirm local broadcast times) and **Sunday, January 25 at 10 p.m. ET on Discovery HD**, the compelling one-hour documentary, **MYSTERY OF THE TOXIC SWANS**, follows a team of scientists as they search for toxic hot zones and try to solve a forensic mystery: where are swans ingesting lead in such deadly concentrations? Shot in high definition, **MYSTERY OF THE TOXIC SWANS** is an original CTV/Discovery HD documentary.

****Media Note**** - Download photos from **MYSTERY OF THE TOXIC SWANS** at ctvmedia.ca.

MYSTERY OF THE TOXIC SWANS reveals that the residue of more than 100 years of hunting remains imbedded in the land and waters in British Columbia and Washington state. Forensic investigators confirm that since the mid-1990s more than 2,100 swans have died from inadvertently swallowing lead pellets with grit and food. The shotgun pellets cripple and eventually kill the swans by lead toxicosis: a slow death from muscle paralysis, causing organ failure and starvation.

One of the toxic hot spots under investigation in the documentary is Judson Lake, which straddles the Canada-U.S. border. Despite efforts to prevent swans from foraging on the lake, significant deaths among the swan population continue in Canada and the United States, raising concerns about the effects of lead pellet use for hunting. While lead ammunition has been banned in waterfowl habitat for more than a decade, lead pellets are still legal for hunting upland game birds or for target practice on private land. **MYSTERY OF THE TOXIC SWANS** examines the environmental, political and legal implications of this situation beyond the perplexing mass mortality of the trumpeter swans.

Filmed in and around Abbotsford, B.C., over two years, this fascinating documentary uses a state-of-the-art CineFlex mount on a helicopter with a High Definition camera to capture spectacular aerial migration footage.

MYSTERY OF THE TOXIC SWANS is a co-production of Raincoast Storylines Ltd. and Omni Film Productions Limited in association with CTV and Discovery HD, with the participation of The Canadian Film or Video Production Tax Credit, The Province of British Columbia Film Incentive BC, Rogers Documentary Fund and Rogers Telefund. The documentary is directed by Jerry Thompson and Chris Aikenhead, produced by Bette Thompson and Leigh Badgley, and executive produced by Gabriela Schonbach. Bob Culbert is Vice-President of CTV Documentaries. Robert Hurst is President of CTV News and Current Affairs. Susanne Boyce is President, Content, Creative and Channels, CTV Inc.

About Omni Film Productions

Omni Film Productions has produced more than 200 hours of award-winning programming including drama, factual and lifestyle series, documentaries, and children's programming. Omni programs have been seen in 175 countries, translated into over 20 languages, and have won more than 100 national and international awards.

About Discovery HD

Taking Discovery Channel programming to a bigger and bolder platform, Discovery HD is Canada's first 24-hour specialty service broadcasting exclusively in High Definition. With a fascinating perspective on science and technology, adventure, engineering and natural history, Discovery HD is at the forefront of innovative factual storytelling, fusing critically acclaimed programming from Canada and around the world with the latest in High Definition technology. Discovery HD is wholly owned by Discovery Channel Canada, a joint venture between CTV Specialty Television Inc. and Discovery Communications.

About CTV

CTV, Canada's largest private broadcaster, offers a wide range of quality news, sports, information, and entertainment programming. It has the number-one national newscast, CTV NATIONAL NEWS WITH LLOYD ROBERTSON, and is the number-one choice for prime-time viewing. CTVglobemedia Inc. is Canada's premier multi-media company which owns CTV Inc. and *The Globe and Mail*. CTV Inc. also owns radio stations across the country, and leading national specialty channels. Other CTVglobemedia investments include an interest in Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, and in Dome Productions, a North American leader in the provision of mobile high definition production facilities. More information about CTV may be found on the company website at www.ctv.ca.

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