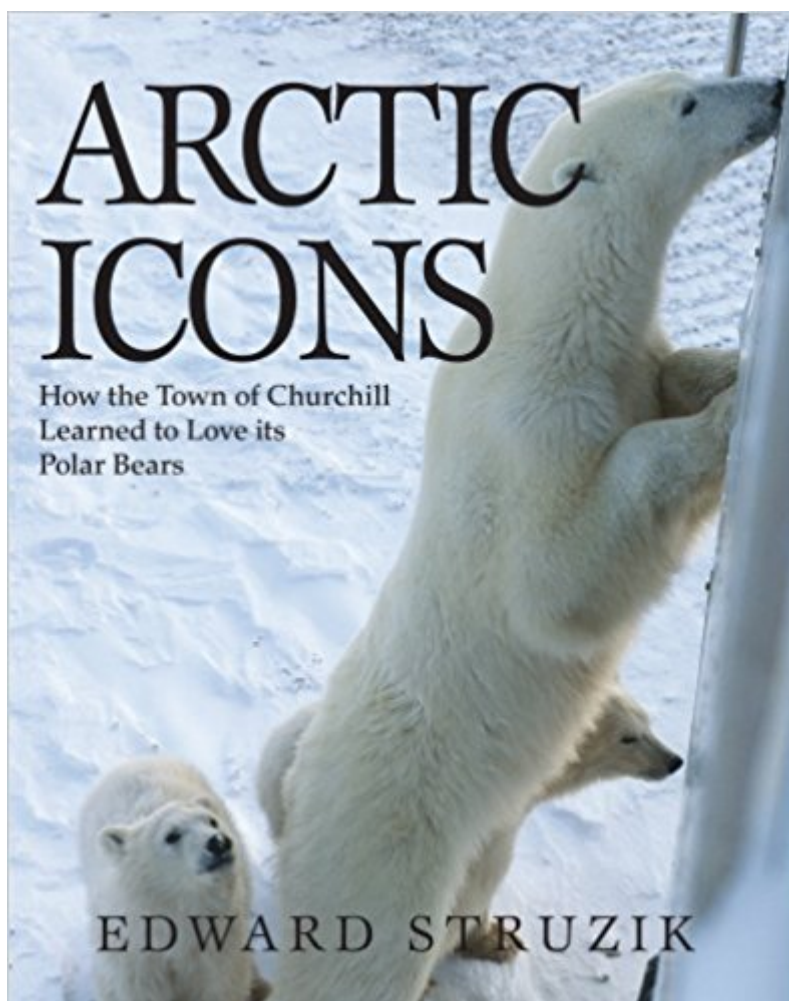


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# Arctic Icons: How The Town Of Churchill Learned To Love Its Polar Bears



## Synopsis

For nearly a quarter century, the polar bears of Churchill were routinely run down and shot by the military, by residents and by conservation officers who were brought in during the late 1960s to protect people. According to one scientist who was there at the time, polar bears were treated more like "great white rats" than the world's largest predator. But then something remarkable happened. During the 1970s the residents of Churchill decided that it was time to find a more peaceful way of living with polar bears. In the years that followed, scientists conducted studies on the polar bear population and in relatively short order the bears of Churchill became the most studied group of large predators in the world.

## Book Information

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## Customer Reviews

"An elegantly written and beautifully illustrated work. . . Struzik is the right person to author this book. On his first visit to Churchill in 1983 he was eyewitness to the town's last fatal mauling. He isn't blinkered about the dangers of these animals to humans. He clearly loves them, but both his text and photographs are sometimes clear about the violence the animals are capable of. Arctic Icons emerges as an environmental book that honestly addresses the tenuous relationship between modern society and the natural world. Faced with a formidable challenge, the citizens of Churchill, working alongside scientists, have done a remarkable job of coexisting with bears. "Flawed and controversial as the management of these animals has sometimes been," Struzik writes, "it is arguably one of the most successful conservation success stories in North American history." "Alaska Dispatch News" Struzik provides a thorough, candid narrative of

the history and management practices surrounding polar bears, including existing challenges and emerging opportunities. Much of the book comprises vignettes that provide context and examples of human/wildlife conflicts and conservation efforts. Ultimately, in a world where the sea ice in western Hudson Bay is projected to disappear before the end of the current century, additional funding and scientific advice may not be sufficient to save polar bears in this part of the world. However, it is still crucial to derive lessons and best practices from previous undertakings so that effective polar bear management strategies can be developed and implemented widely among remaining populations."â " Choice Magazine

Ed Struzik is an award-winning writer who has spent the last 30 years focusing on the Arctic. His articles and photographs have appeared in Canadian Geographic, International Wildlife, Explore Magazine, and Nature Canada. He lives in Edmonton, Alberta.

Beautifully illustrated account of how the people of Churchill are learning to live with the polar bears who pass through town on the way from their snow cave dens to the ice of Hudson Bay. Worth it for the photos alone. The writing is objective and thorough, and provides a brilliant view of modern life in the Arctic.

This book was written by someone who actually lived in Churchill. I recently made a trip there, where I was first introduced to it. I decided to order it when I returned rather than carry it with me. Very factual. Enjoyed it!

Great gift

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