



New Friend for Hazina the Hippo

Spring 2007

The Greater Vancouver Zoo is thrilled to welcome a friend for Hazina and his name is "Haben" which is an African name meaning "Pride".

Haben was born August 11, 2005 and is now weighing in at approximately 1000 lbs, which is roughly half the weight and size of Hazina (our female hippo). The male hippo arrived at the Greater Vancouver Zoo on April 20, we allowed the two hippos to become familiar with each other through the various stalls in the indoor enclosure of "Hippo Haven" (completed in June 2006) to ensure the safety of both animals.

When Haben arrived at the Zoo he was very calm, but was extremely happy to indulge himself soon after in the indoor heated pool. Hazina and Haben then stayed up most of the first night along with their dedicated Zookeeper, Animal Care Manager and Property Manager. The hippos



Haben (left) & Hazina (right)

communicated by touch through the stalls of the enclosure and with a variety of grunts and growls. Hippos have excellent hearing, sight and smell senses.

"We couldn't have asked for a better introduction of two animals...." Jamie Dorgan, Animal Care Manager stated. Hippopotamus are very social animals and also very territorial, but Hazina just can't seem to get enough of

him and the feeling seems mutual.

Hippopotamus means "water or river horse" in Greek. Hippos spend most of their day wallowing in the water or mud and coming out at night to feed or graze on the land. At the Zoo our hippos eat hay, grain, fruits, vegetables, pellets and graze on the grasses.

Jody Henderson
Marketing & Promotions Manager



Since 1970

5048 - 264th Street,
Aldergrove, B.C. V4W 1N7
604.856.6825

www.gvzoo.com

During the summer season, April 1 - Sept. 30, we are open:

9:00am - 7:00pm daily

Through the summer season, our Lion and Tiger Feeding will be at 1:00 p.m. daily *except Wednesdays when we offer a special Baboon Feeding instead

The Radical Raptors Presentation will also be on throughout the summer 3 times daily, weather permitting.

Meet a Reptile is on at 11:00 daily at the Vivarium.



Haben grazing on grass in his new home "Hippo Haven"

Inside this issue:

Page 2: Call for Volunteers

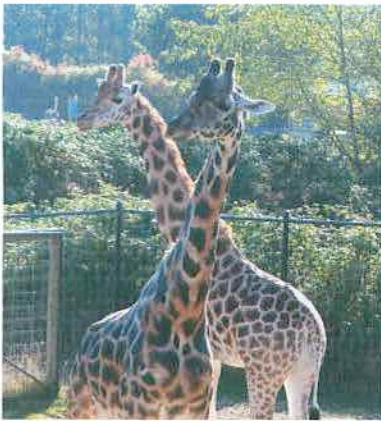
Page 3: Conservation, and Pere David's Deer

Page 4: Geoffroy's Marmosets

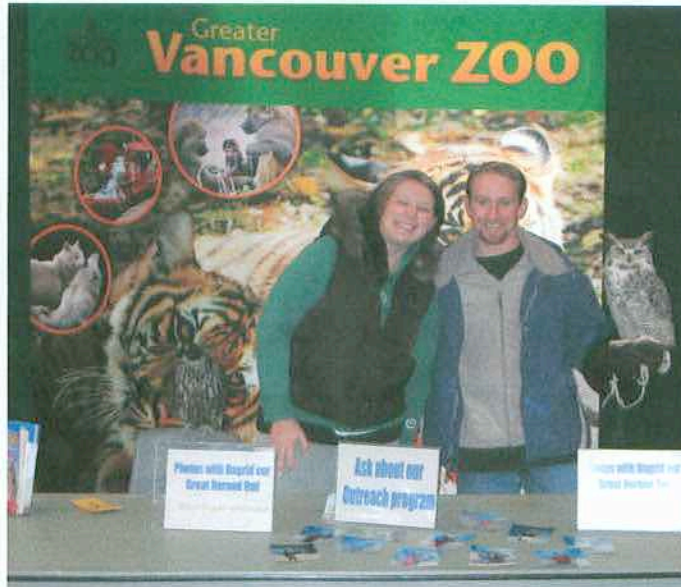
Page 5: Upcoming Events

Page 6: Our 2007 Partners





Call for Volunteers at the Greater Vancouver Zoo



Missy, Jody and Hagrid at the Langley Chiefs hockey game raising funds for the conservation program at the zoo

projects, etc. in the Animalasium, our new Educational Training Centre. Our newly formed Volunteer Committee will help organize our team of volunteers for special events and projects. They will also help train new volunteers for the different roles we play. During the busy summer season there are many special events and activities going on and we always need more volunteers to help out! Volunteer Training Sessions will be held on the last Saturday of the month. For the latest information visit our website, www.gvzoo.com.

Volunteer Requirements:

- Be enthusiastic, energetic, and interested in working with the public and with nature.
- Be at least 16 years old.
- Be willing to commit to a minimum of 8 volunteer hours of service per month

If you would like to be a Greater Vancouver Zoo Volunteer please contact Gary Worley (Volunteer Coordinator) at gworley@gvzoo.com or 604.856.6825.ext 28

Daily admission rates:

- \$18.00 per Adult (16—64 years old)
- \$14.00 per Child (4—15 years old)
- \$14.00 per Senior (65 + years old)
- \$60.00 per family (2 adults, 2 children)

Note: Free admission for Children 3 years old or younger.

Parking = \$3.00 per vehicle

Safari Express Miniature Train reservations = \$5.00 per person

A Zoo favourite! Take a 12-15 minute narrated train tour that goes around the perimeter of the zoo.

Note: Children 3 years old or younger are free of charge, but must sit on an adult's lap for safety reasons.

North American Wilds Bus Tour is FREE and runs throughout the summer season

Season Passes

- \$ 60.00 per adult (16 - 64 years old)
- \$40.00 per child (4 - 15 years old)
- \$ 40.00 per senior (65 + years old)
- \$150.00 per family (2 adults, and 2 children)
- \$8.00 per additional child
- Free Miniature Train rides

****Special group rates are available, check out our website for more details**

One of the best ways to get involved in your community is to volunteer and the Greater Vancouver Zoo is a great place to do that.

We need volunteers to:

- Assist with crowd control, gardening, interpretive tours*, minor emergencies, animal food preparation* and enrichment activities
- Staff the Information Station, Touch Tables, and Animal Decks
- Participate in special

- events and projects
- Assist with the publication of the Wild Times
- Face paint at special events and on weekends
- Be a Good-will Ambassador: meet and greet the public, give directions and answer inquiries

*requires specialized training

We meet once a month to discuss upcoming events,



Conservation at the Greater Vancouver Zoo

The growth of the human population continues to put enormous pressure on the environment. The demands on land for development in almost every country around the world is having devastating effects on wildlife and the habitat it needs to survive. It is of the utmost importance that we continue to educate people especially the young

about the role that we and all animals play within the delicate fabric of life on earth.

It is hoped that we can continue to develop the conservation program here at the zoo. Part of this is the development of a raptor rehabilitation centre. The owners of the zoo have allotted 3 acres of land for the development of the

center, but we will be looking for as much outside sponsorship and help as we can get.

If anyone would like to get involved in this project please contact myself, Gary Worley, the Zoo's conservation manager.

Gary Worley,
Education/Conservation
(and Volunteer) Manager

The Critically Endangered Pere David's Deer

What is Pere David's Deer? These rare deer, *Elaphurus davidianus*, are native to the open plains and marshes in Northeast and Central China. They are considered critically endangered on the IUCN Red List. This means that in the next decade these deer could potentially become extinct. It is thought that for the past 1000 years you could only see these animals in captivity because they are completely extinct in the wild due to over hunting.

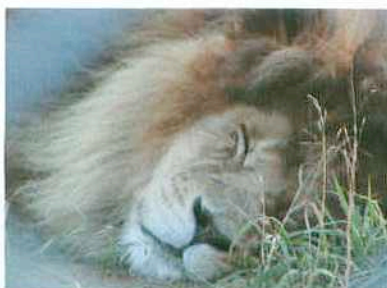
The Emperor of China noticed the decreasing population of these animals so he took a small herd and put them in his Imperial Hunting Park, Nan Hai-tsu Park. The last deer there was shot in 1939. If it was not for the Emperor of China these deer would be completely extinct already. In 1865 a French Missionary, and naturalist, named Pere Armand David discovered these deer at the Park and was determined to

do something for them. The Emperor gave him a small herd to take to Europe but they did not survive the voyage. However, more of the deer were sent to Europe and luckily those thrived at their new homes. In 1895 there were many devastating floods in China and these animals were put at risk once again. The Europeans heard about this catastrophe and brought all the Pere David's deer together totaling 18 animals to start a breeding program. This program was threatened during the World Wars and it was during that time that the Deer were spread out and breeding programs started in their new locations. In the 1980s DaFeng Reserve, was set up in Jiangsu Province, China near the Yellow Sea where the last deer was shot. Starting with a population of only 39 the herd there now numbers over 100 animals. Due to the continued breeding programs around the

world there are now about 3000 Pere David's deer.

Here at the zoo we have the largest herd in Canada: 4 males and 8 females. Hopefully over the next few decades the number of animals will continue to increase and a conservation group could try reintroducing these animals back into the wild.

Missy Butler,
Education & Tours Assistant



Now you can adopt an animal at the Greater Vancouver Zoo!

This new "Adopt an Animal program" makes a fantastic and very unique gift for any animal lover. Proceeds will go towards helping us continue taking good care of our animals, protecting endangered species and assist our conservation efforts. To adopt or learn more please contact Jody Henderson at: jhenderson@gvzoo.com or 604-856-6825 ext. 33

\$40 Adopt An Animal Package includes:

- Certificate of Adoption
- Information Fact Sheet of your adopted animal
- Color picture of your adopted animal
- Name recognition on our donor board

\$60 Adopt An Animal Package includes the above benefits plus a stuffed animal or t-shirt of your animal of choice (Plus postage and handling)

\$100 Adopt An Animal Package includes the above benefits plus a Family day pass

The Radical Raptors demonstration will run daily 3 times a day* during our summer season and features Gary Worley, our Education/Conservation (& Volunteer) Manager, who is one of the world's leading falconers/raptor trainers.

*weather dependent



Gary also offers courses in Falconry under the guidance of the Western Canadian Academy of Falconry. During the course you can experience the thrill of handling and flying trained birds of prey, including Hagrid a gorgeous Great Horned Owl.

July 23-28 & August 20-24
2007 Falconry and Bird of Prey Management Summer Camps
Five full days of hands-on training for beginners.

For more information contact Gary,
gworley@gvzoo.com.

Our Geoffroy's Marmoset Family Doubles in Size

On March 6, 2007, the Geoffroy's marmoset (*Callithrix geoffroyi*) family at the Greater Vancouver Zoo doubled in size. Milan gave birth to triplet boys, all of which were covered in hair, except the tips of their tails. "Triplets! I was hoping for two, but three!" Menita, the main Vivarium keeper, exclaimed to me as she told me the happy news.

Only a year ago I was passing the exhibit and overheard a young girl exclaim, "Awww! Look at the baby monkey! It's so cute! I want one!"

"Actually these little guys aren't babies at all," I said in response. "These are a small species of new world monkey and unfortunately our little Miko was once someone's pet, but they could no longer care for him properly, so he was brought here."

The novelty of having an exotic pet soon wears out to improper care. Owners often dive into it spontaneously

without proper research into husbandry. Providing the proper nutrition is an important factor to a healthy marmoset. Even with proper nutrition marmosets rarely have a lifespan of greater than 15 years in captivity. Marmosets are now included on many cities' prohibited pet lists.

Geoffroy's marmosets are social creatures and groups of three to five in a family unit are not uncommon in their wild home of Brazil. The Geoffroy's marmoset, once classified as a subspecies of the common marmoset, have an extremely vulnerable status due to habitat destruction and the exotic pet trade, the two main culprits of their demise.

In early 2006 the keepers of the Vivarium feared that Miko at such an old age of approximately 16 years would pass away leaving Milan, his younger and healthier mate, alone.

Then one day Menita Prasad told me, "I'm sure she's pregnant and this time I'm ready for it." Menita strategically prepared an incubator just in case the coming birth did not go according to plan. Milan has had several births since her arrival at the Greater Vancouver Zoo. However they were found still born or premature. Marmosets generally give birth twice a year and usually have twins. But even if the babies were born full term and Milan knew what to do, we were concerned whether Miko would be strong enough to carry the tiny infants. Males and other family members are the primary caregivers amongst marmoset families, with the infants only being passed to the mother for nursing. Menita was as prepared as she could be just in case the little family could not do it alone.

Early in the morning on June 11, 2006, Milan gave birth to twins with an astonished Menita there to witness it all. One of the twins was small with very little hair and still, however the larger infant was fully covered in hair and moving about. Menita mentioned that if Milan did not know how to care for the baby we would have to remove it to be hand-reared in the incubator. Menita was on 24 hour watch, and to our delight the little infant lasted the night. Not only was the baby strong enough, but it taught the amateur parents, and ourselves. At first Miko was hesitant to take the infant from its mother, but gradually he carried the little one upon his back, moving about the enclosure and watching for any dangers that could hurt

his precious package.

And so our little "niece" was born, and we called her Bica, which in Portuguese is an espresso because she is also small, dark and full of energy. Miko proudly strutted along the branches exhibiting natural dominant male behaviours and was stronger than ever before because he had someone to live for.

The keepers of the Vivarium were so encouraged with Bica's developing into adolescence at nine months of age, that we hoped she would learn from the birth of her little brothers, as other family members act as babysitters in addition to the male's role of carrier. All three boys survived their first night, with our little Bica separated for their protection.

On the second day, Bica was allowed to interact with her family. She was still unsure about these new additions, especially when they cried. Miko, the now experienced father, dutifully carried all three babies, although sometimes awkwardly with one attached to his hind leg. However, within three days Bica began to mimic her parents' behaviour. When a baby cried after Milan was finished nursing, Bica would run over looking at the baby knowing that she had to do something, but wasn't quite sure what it was. By the fourth day, she would carry a baby on her back and was not as anxious, until the little one started to cry!

Sadly, in the morning of March 11th, as the family emerged from their hide, one of the young lay behind, motionless. Triplets are not uncommon among marmosets. However the most frequent litter size is



**Baby Bica,
Milan & Miko**



Bica carrying her two brothers, with Milan and Miko keeping watch.



(Continued from page 4)
two. Juggling three nursing young is hard for any mother and it is difficult to ensure that all three young receive enough nutrition, given that there are only two mammae on marmosets.

At two and a half weeks old, the two brothers had their little eyes open to the world. "You will have to separate them once they mature right?" a zoo patron questioned recently. "As long as they remain in their natal group, and Miko and Milan remain the dominant pair, reproductive suppression prevents mating amongst other troop members." Menita will be looking into the species survival plan for Geoffroy's marmosets to ensure the integrity of the

genetic diversity of captive individuals.

Serena Counce,
Animal Keeper

Come and see Mambo and Benicio, and the rest of the Marmoset family at the Vivarium the next time you visit!

The Greater Vancouver Zoo's **Vivarium** is currently home to 5 species of Amphibians; 23 reptiles; 2 species of invertebrates; 4 avian species; 6 species of fish; and 3 species of mammals

Upcoming Events

May 13 – who loves their Mom...come celebrate Mothers Day with us! Treat your Mom to a special gift for her big day by "Adopting an Animal" through the Zoo's adoption program - packages start at \$40 but order now, as we need 7 days to prepare. Proceeds go back to support the Zoo's care and services for all our animals by providing food, medical care, equipment, enrichment and continual improvements to their enclosures. Or you can take a family photo with you, your Mom and part of our bird family a "Bird of Prey" (like Hagrid, our Great Horned Owl). For more info on your Mom's big day please visit us in the "Events" section at www.gvzoo.com

June 10 – For the last five years the Greater Vancouver Zoo has been pleased to welcome the walkers to the Zoo "free of charge" for the **Walk to Cure Diabetes**. Registration starts at 12 noon and the official walk inside the Zoo begins at 2 pm. Be a hero for the day...come out and show your support for this worthy cause! www.jdrf.ca/walk

June 17 – Happy Father's Day...details are still being finalized, but stay tuned by going to our "Events" section at www.gvzoo.com

June 26 – Access Day at the Zoo. Back by popular demand, the Zoo is hosting our annual Access Day for groups of 5 people or more with disabilities. Cost is \$5 per person (special needs assistant are free) and \$2 per person train rides (including special needs assistant). Must register for this event, to book your group call Missy at 604.856.6825 x 28.

July 14 & 27, Aug 11 & 24th - Family Night in the Wild. Your evening may include camping under the stars, a one-hour guided interpretive program or a combination of both. For more info go to www.gvzoo.com.

July 5 & 18, Aug 1, 15 & 29 - Junior Zoologist courses from 10 – 4 pm. Enjoy a full day at the Zoo with classroom activities and hands-on participation with a keeper for \$75 per child. Contact Missy at 604.856.6825 x 28.

New

Moms looking to get out, share some laughs and meet new friends while leisurely walking through a wonderful park with your baby close at hand in your stroller. Why not join our "**Mother's Walking Club**", they meet weekly at 10:30 am on **Tuesday's** at the Greater Vancouver's Zoo Map at the front entrance.

The Greater Vancouver Zoo's 2007 Partners

SUPER 8 LANGLEY

Come have some super family-friendly fun while staying at the new **SUPER 8 LANGLEY** located in Langley, BC - just 5 minutes down the road from the Greater Vancouver Zoo! **Super 8 Langley** and the Greater Vancouver Zoo have partnered together to offer you and your family, a deeply discounted super package deal that you don't want to miss out on!

TOTAL "SUPER GREATER VANCOUVER" package includes:

- milk & cookies for the kids upon check-in
- family day pass for 4 people at the Greater Vancouver Zoo
- 1 nights accommodation in a family suite at the **Super 8 Langley** (includes 1 Queen bed along with a set of bunk beds or 2 queen beds in a standard room)
- **Super Start Plus Breakfast** in the morning
- Kids get to dip into the treasure chest for a surprise as well

Family Suite **\$149.00**
2 Queen (Smoking or non) **\$129.00**



To enquire about this special Zoo and Motel package rate go to: <http://www.super8langley.com>



ECO-CELL ENDANGERED ANIMALS

You would never assume that your cell phone could be connected to gorillas in the Congo, but a shocking new report says cell phones could be partly to blame for the deaths of hundreds of gorillas. If you love animals, and can't get enough of the animals at the zoo, this is information you need to know. Our cell phone boom is turning into a gorilla bust.

An ore called Coltan (columbite-tantalite) is a source of the element tantalum which is an essential coating for components of cell phones. This ore is often found in the Congo in the middle of endangered **gorilla** and **elephant** habitats. These animals are being killed by rebel bands of natives mining this ore. The U.N. has reported that in the past five years, the eastern lowland gorilla population in the Congo has declined 90%. **Reducing the demand for Coltan will help save these animals and their habitat.**

Bring in your old used cell phone and accessories, including batteries and you will receive a two for one admission to the Zoo.

RENEWED ZOO MEMBERSHIP PARTNERS

For 2007 we have renewed the following membership partners and you will receive the following benefits if you are a member of the Greater Vancouver Zoo from these great partners:

Seattle Woodland Park Zoo - free admission
www.zoo.org

BC Wildlife Park in Kamloops - free admission*
(*must present proof of residency outside of the lower mainland)
www.bczoo.org

Edmonton Valley Zoo - free admission
www.buildingthevalley.com

Science World - 10% off daily admission
www.scienceworld.ca

In addition to the above benefits for being a member of the Zoo you also receive:

- free daily admission to the Zoo, 365 days a year (special events excluded)
- free parking passes
- free Safari Express Miniature Train Tours (special events excluded)
- 10% off of all Greater Vancouver Zoo Gift Shop regular priced merchandise



The **WILD TIMES** newsletter is a publication produced by the Greater Vancouver Zoo
Editors: Jennifer Skowronek and Gary Worley
Anyone wishing to contribute should contact Gary Worley:
gworley@gvzoo.com

If you would like to place an add in the **WILD TIMES** please contact Gary for rates