

The Wild Times

RELEASE of Critically Endangered Species To The Wild

Winter 2007

Oregon Spotted Frogs are quite possibly the most critically endangered amphibian in Canada and were once abundant in the Pacific Northwest and historically to the northeast corner of California. Unfortunately, more than 90% have disappeared from its former range.

In November 1999 these frogs became the first species to receive an emergency listing by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), which declared them to be "Endangered". The BC Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks recognized this emergency listing and created the Oregon Spotted Frog Recovery Team in early 2000. The Greater Vancouver Zoo has been actively involved in the recovery program since its inception 7 years ago and most recently built a new facility at the Zoo to assist with this program.

So why is it so important to help save these particular frogs and other amphibians? Amphibians are severely

affected by habitat loss, climate change, pollution & pesticides, introduced species, and over-collection for food



Adult Oregon Spotted Frog

and pets. They are very sensitive and absorb oxygen and toxins through their skin. If there is a problem in the environment then typically there are no frogs existing in that area.

The major reason why the Oregon Spotted Frogs have become endangered is due to the habitat loss or reconfiguration (i.e. drainage of wetlands, converting habitat into agricultural lands), introduction of non-native species such as bullfrogs and canary reed grasses. The frog's entire wild population only exists in 3 locations in British Columbia: 2 in Agassiz (Seabird Island First

Nations Band) and one in Aldergrove (Naval Base).

In early October the Greater Vancouver Zoo, the balance of the Oregon Spotted Recovery Team, and a few of the Zoo's volunteers got together to see what results we had achieved over the last 6 months. The frogs were removed from the tubs, tagged for tracking purposes (injected

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

During the winter season,
Oct. 1 to March 30, we are
open: **9:00am - 4:00pm** daily

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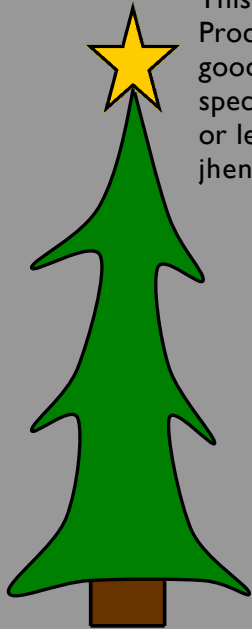
Celebrate a Community Christmas at the Zoo
December 9-22
please visit
<http://gvzoo.com/Special-Events#December>
for more details!

Give a special holiday gift to your loved ones...

Adopt An Animal

See page 2 for details!

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 in our newsletter

\$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

Adopt an Animal Sponsors

\$100 Level

Tris Andrews	IPSCO
Scott Dawson	Linda McIntyre
Dwayne & Jana Deschaine	Kaite McKay
Helen Duggan	Nicol Family
Tony Kruger	Saylor Family
Kim Glickman	Frank Yurechko
Moyra Harvey	

\$60 Level

Megan Bernardin
Annabelle Clarke
Brandon Gibson
Deb Gibson
Chris & Michael Harris
Jessica Kuan
Jennifer Locquido
Jacob Lui
David Oliver (twice)
Keven Renso
Jodie Willets

\$40 Level

Jacob & Makayla Edwards
Michelle McGrath
Julie Simmons
Will Sutherland
Kiara Strijack
Elsie Webb (twice)

\$50 Level

Teresa LaBossiere

(Continued from page 1)

with a tag just under the skin), measured, weighed and finally released the frogs that had been hand-reared from egg masses back into the wild. It was our most successful year yet with over a thousand tadpoles raised!

The Oregon Spotted Frog is a medium-sized frog with light-centered black spots on the head and back. Adult frogs are green, brown or reddish brown, while juveniles are brown or olive green. Adults can grow to a length of 5 to 10 centimeters from the snout

to the rump. The lifespan of the Oregon Spotted Frog is unknown, but is probably not more than four or five years.

Both the Seabird Island First Nations Band and the Aldergrove Department of National Defense Naval Base are huge supporters of the recovery program. Seabird Island First Nations Band has one dedicated conservation technician, Keena McNeil, who has been funded by the recovery team and in addition to learning about habitat conservation; Keena educates the school children on the

reserve about conservation and preservation of the frogs.

You can help as well by learning more about these frogs, the wetlands they live in, how to protect the wetlands (programs such as Naturescape, Wetlandkeepers and Wild BC) and tell others! The Greater Vancouver Zoo looks forward to continuing our commitment and involvement with this critical program.

Jody Henderson,
Marketing & Promotions Manager



Christine Bishop from Wildlife Services injects frog with dye



Volunteers help with the tubs



Cindy Sloan & Jody Henderson release frogs at Seabird Island

Winter at the Zoo

Winter is typically considered the off-season at the zoo, but in fact it is anything but! There are many changes in animal behavior during the colder months, and many of these changes can be very interesting for the visitor. With over one hundred and thirty species from all over the world, there are many different reactions to this time of year. Most North American species and many of

our Asian and European species would naturally occur in areas with similar weather patterns. Many of these animals prefer the colder weather. In fact, if you want to see more active elk, bison, moose and many species of deer, now is the time to visit the zoo. Our Siberian tigers are much more active at this time of year. If you wait for a snowy day, you will likely be able to catch the tigers

would be very surprised to see how well these species do during the colder months.



outside running around and playing (unlike on a hot summer day when they sleep in the shade).

Many people worry about some of our African, South American and Australian animals at this time of year. Most people

Keep in mind that many of these animals do come from areas where they may live at higher elevations, or with nightly temperature drops that exceed any cold temperatures we reach here in Aldergrove. As well, animals are incredibly adaptive. The lions for example often prefer to sit out in the cold rather than in their heated barn. And in situations where animals are not able to cope with the cold weather, they are always provided with a heated area to retreat to. (Just visit the toasty warm Vivarium to see for yourself).

There are also animals that follow their regular natural patterns to cope for the

winter. Come and visit on a cold snowy day and look for Shadow the grizzly bear... you probably will not find her since she will go down for her winter sleep. All of our bears go into a dormant period for different amounts of time during the winter and will also go for long stretches without eating or drinking, just like their wild counterparts.

Overall the zoo is a great place to visit in the winter. There are different sights and sounds that you do not get to experience in the summer. And maybe my favorite part of walking around the zoo at this time of year – no crowds!

Jamie Dorgan,
Animal Care Manager



Caribou/Reindeer *Rangifer tarandus*

Reindeer and Caribou are the same species but Reindeer are found across northern Europe and Asia, while Caribou are found across Canada and the northern United States. Reindeer were first domesticated over 2,000 years ago and continue to be herded by the Sami and Nenet peoples. The Caribou of North America were never domesticated.

Both males & females have antlers, though the male's antlers will grow significantly larger and are used to combat other males during the rutting season. Females keep their antlers longer than the males and use them to defend their calves after they give birth in the spring.

The word "Caribou" may be derived from a Mi'kmaq word "xalibu", meaning "the one who paws" or "shoveller". The caribou's large crescent shaped toes helps them to distribute their weight evenly when walking on packed snow like a snowshoe. Their foot pads also shrink and

harden in the winter creating sharp edges that easily dig through the snow. Their wide hooves also make them strong swimmers.

Caribou can run up to speeds of 80 km/hr. Some larger herds of the barren-ground caribou cover up to 500, 000 square kilometers in their annual migration.

Caribou's primary winter food is lichen, which they can locate under the snow with their keen sense of smell. A caribou needs to eat approximately 2 garbage bags full of lichen each day.



The Arctic Fox (*Alopex lagopus*)

When you hear the words skulk, leash, vixen or reynard, what do you think of? Certainly not the arctic fox, but these are all words used to describe these fascinating creatures. The arctic fox has been gifted with many adaptations in order to survive its environment. This small animal is about the size of a large domestic cat, weighing on average 6 to 10 pounds. An arctic fox is about 110 cm (43 inches) in length including their 38 cm tail. This long, thick bushy tail (or "brush") can be used to help insulate them from the frigid weather, not to mention their dense winter fur. They can withstand temperatures as low as -50° Celsius. Other adaptations include furry-soled feet, short ears and a short muzzle which all help reduce

heat loss.

There are two distinct colourings of the arctic fox, the blue phase and the white phase. Both phases of the arctic fox change with the seasons, the blue to a lighter blue/grey phase and the white to a brown phase for the summer months. The fur of the belly and lower sides of the brown phase of the arctic fox are a yellowish-white. Arctic foxes have an amazing sense of smell and hearing. They can hear and smell their prey underneath the snow and can be seen jumping/pouncing on the snow and then digging rapidly to reach their prey.

Arctic foxes are omnivores. They eat small mammals such as lemmings and voles, eggs, birds, berries, fish, and carrion such as scraps from kills by polar bears. The arctic fox

population is tied closely with that of the lemmings. When the lemming population decreases consequently the arctic fox population decreases.

The arctic fox is found in the arctic regions of Europe, Asia and North America. They reside in both coastal and inland treeless terrain. Arctic foxes live in dens or burrows which have many entrances and tunnels. Some dens have been used for hundreds of years.

The average lifespan of the arctic fox is around 7 years in the wild and averaging 15 years in captivity. Arctic foxes are monogamous and reach sexual maturity by 10 months. Mating occurs in March and April. The gestation period is about 52 days and litters average from 7 to 9 kits. Kits

are born blind, deaf and toothless. Both parents care for the young. The kits begin to emerge from the den at 3 weeks and are weaned by 6 weeks. By the winter the parents and young separate. Many young foxes do not make it to their first birthday. Their major predators are wolves, polar bears and humans.

We received 2 Arctic Foxes from the Assiniboine Park Zoo in Winnipeg. The male is four years old and the female is one year old. A new enclosure is in the process of being constructed and should be completed in the new year.

Pia Rasmussen,
Volunteer

ENRICHMENT WISH LIST

We are always looking for ways to enhance the lives of our animals here at the Greater Vancouver Zoo and by donating any of the following items, you will definitely help treat our treasured members of our family:

- blankets (good condition)
- large appliance boxes
- large cardboard tubes (i.e. carpet tubes)
- large cardboard boxes (i.e. appliance boxes)
- perfume
- parrot toys, including small mirrors
- sheets
- push brooms
- towels (hand & bath size)
- ice maker machine
- burlap material or bags
- spices & extracts for scent enrichment
- heavy chains
- wood blocks for making toys
- Bamboo, live or cut trees

Contact Jody Henderson, jhenderson@gvzoo.com, if you would like more information!



Arctic Fox Trivia Game:

1. Match the words to the descriptions below.

Vixen	Group of foxes
Skulk	New born fox
Kit	Group of foxes
Reynard	Female arctic fox
Leash	Male arctic fox

2. What is the longest distance an arctic fox has been know to travel?

- a) 500 km b) 1,000 km c) 2,000 km d) 3,000 km

3. What does the arctic fox's latin name, *Alopex lagopus*, translate to?

- a) rabbit ears fox b) hare-footed fox c) thumper d) snow bunny



Answers: 1. Vixen = Female arctic fox; Skulk = Group of foxes; Kit = New born fox; Reynard = Male arctic fox; Leash = Group of foxe 2. (c) 2,000 km
3. b) hare-footed fox

Volunteer Appreciation BBQ

Saturday August 25th, 2007 was the annual Volunteer Appreciation BBQ – volunteers and guests enjoyed games, burgers and hot dogs, compliments of the Greater Vancouver Zoo, for their hard work and dedication over the past year. The Volunteer of the Year award for 2006 was presented to Rudy Faessler. During the year, Rudy could be found either painting, building, repairing, helping the keepers, assisting with special events, talking with guests or any other job that needed to be done to provide a safe and happy place for the animals to live. He contributes to the betterment of the zoo so the people that visit can enjoy it as much as he does. The management and staff, as well as his fellow volunteers would like to thank Rudy for his countless hours as a dedicated volunteer.



If you love animals, enjoy working with people and are dedicated to wildlife conservation, why not volunteer at the Greater Vancouver Zoo? Volunteers do not handle the animals directly but are involved in educating zoo visitors and assisting with the many activities that make our zoo fun to visit. Some of the volunteer activities include:

- Deck talks at the Grizzly or Giraffe deck
- Face Painting and special events
- Provide information and directions to visitors
- Write articles for the Wildtimes

All volunteers must complete a training session and are expected to commit at least 8 hours per month.

Make new friends, try new experiences, be a part of the community and experience the satisfaction of helping others. Volunteer – it enriches your life! Contact Gary at gworley@gvzoo.com for more information!

The Greater Vancouver Zoo would like to extend its sincere thanks, to several partners that have been extremely supportive and generous to us this year and some for many years.

- **Costco** (Abbotsford & Langley locations) – food donations
- **EV Logistics** – food donations
- **Save-On Foods** (Abbotsford) – food donations
- **FarmFed** – food donations
- **Impark** – enclosure sponsor
- **White Spot** (Aldergrove) – print partner

- **Super 8 Langley** – advertising & promotion partner
- **Country Lumber** – lumber donation used in the new giraffe deck
- **Langley Animal Protection Society** – food donation
- **Township of Langley Fire Department** (Aldergrove) – used fire hoses that we use for enrichment with many of our animals

Our 2nd Annual Festive Tree Lights began on December 1st, it was a mighty cold day and we thank the companies who managed to make it out, decorate a tree and survive the snowy day!

The following companies are to be congratulations for their time and dedication:

- **Aldergrove Star**
- **Avenue Machinery**
- **Impark**
- **Super 8 Langley**
- **Wilway Lumber Sales**

These companies also made a very generous donation and again this year we have chosen the **Langley Animal Protection Society (LAPS)** as our community charity of choice to provide the proceeds to!

The Greater Vancouver Zoo's 2007/08 Partners



New Partnership for 2008:

The Greater Vancouver Zoo is pleased to announce our new partnership with the **Jewish Museum and Archives of BC** for the duration of the "Rabbi Among The Lions" exhibit at the museum. This photographic exhibition captures, Rabbi Nathan Asmoucha, serving the small and aging Bulawayo Jewish community in Zimbabwe. It runs from January 17 to June 12, 2008 at the Jewish Museum and Archives of BC.

During this time, Jewish Historical Society of BC members will receive 2 for 1 admission at the Zoo.

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.bczo.org

Edmonton Valley Zoo - free admission
www.buildingthevalley.com

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

- In addition to these *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. Editor: Jennifer Skowronek
If you would like to place an ad in the **Wild Times** please contact Jody Henderson for rates: 604.856.6825 x 33 or jhenderson@gvzoo.com

<p>Daily admission rates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$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) <p>Note: Free admission for Children 3 years old or younger.</p>	<p>Parking = \$3.00 per vehicle</p> <p>Safari Express Miniature Train reservations = \$5.00 per person</p> <p>Note: Children 3 years old or younger are free of charge, but must sit on an adult's lap for safety reasons.</p>	<p>Season Passes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$ 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
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