



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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VOLUNTEER SPIRIT GIVES ACCREDITED ZOOS AND AQUARIUMS A BOOST

Toronto, Ontario – Whether educating school children about the wonders of the animal world, or assisting visitors at special events, zoo volunteers have fun working hard to support wildlife and conservation. In recognition of National Volunteer Week, April 10-16, we are celebrating the more than 3,000 volunteers across the country who invest more than 160,000 hours of their time at accredited zoos and aquariums each year.

Zoo and aquarium volunteers come from all walks of life and span every generation but whatever their background, they share a common love for animals and nature.

“Our zoo simply couldn’t operate in the same way without the time, talent and energy of our dedicated volunteers,” says John Tracogna, Chief Executive Officer, Toronto Zoo. “They are a key part of our organization and we value the direct connection they provide to our community.”

Meet a Toronto Zoo volunteer

Every Monday, throughout the school year, you will find Lynn Wylie, Toronto Zoo Volunteer, in front of a group of elementary or secondary students at the Zoo. For the past 35 years, Wylie has been sharing her enthusiasm about the animals with Zoo visitors. Armed with biofacts, such as animal teeth and hair, plant leaves, and feathers, Wylie teaches visitors about nature and shares stories about the Zoo’s animals. Her passion for animals always shines through.

“Lynn is a knowledgeable and enthusiastic member of our Volunteer team,” says Kelly Bentley, Supervisor of Volunteer Services & Programs, Toronto Zoo. “We call on her many times to train new Volunteers and she is a valuable member of the Zoo family!”

Why volunteer? Wylie says it’s all about lifelong learning and having fun. “Every day is like a mini adventure! The Zoo is so dynamic, even after 35 years, I see and do new things on every Volunteer shift.” Wylie fondly remembers a tour participant telling her that her tour revolutionized his life. “I know I’m making a lasting impact and contributing to the work of the Toronto Zoo.”

About Toronto Zoo

Toronto Zoo is Canada's premier zoo with over 5,000 animals representing +460 species. Don't miss award winning exhibits such as the Gorilla Rainforest, African Savanna, the Great Barrier Reef and the 10-acre Tundra Trek. The Tundra Trek is home to our three young polar bears, Arctic wolves, Arctic fox, snowy owls and reindeer.

New for Spring 2011, What's white and black and coming back? See the ocean birds that are built to swim, dive and fly through the sea – the endangered African penguins!

About CAZA

The Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums is a not for profit national organization that represents Canada's 25 accredited zoos and aquariums. It sets standards through its accreditation program, leads and coordinates work in the fields of research, conservation and education, and represents its members' interests with governments at all levels.

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