



**Press Release  
For Immediate Release  
Date: Wednesday, June 23, 2010**

**For More Information  
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## **THE ZOO UNVEILS NEWEST COLLECTION OF EXOTIC ANIMALS ON THE CONSERVATION CAROUSEL**

**Wednesday, June 23, 2010, Toronto, Ontario:** Today, Councillor Raymond Cho, Chair, Toronto Zoo Board of Management, and Toronto Zoo CEO John Tracogna officially opened the new one-of-a-kind Conservation Carousel, featuring over 30 colourful, one of a kind, hand-carved and painted wooden animals, each representing an exotic animal species. Visitors of all ages can choose to ride on a jaguar, a toucan, a capuchin monkey and many more. The exquisite animal forms were created out of American bass wood by the fine craftsmen of the Wood Design Group, a company established in 1988 with a long history of manufacturing, designing and restoring these nostalgic rides. Master wood-carvers complete the process, hand carving and decorating everything, including the scenery panels. The carousel components were shipped from the Netherlands, where the company is located, and then assembled at the Zoo.

Carousels are timeless, with links back to the 12th century, the Crusades, and the pageantry of the Medieval times. Their golden age was reached in America in the early 1900's. Now you can again experience this nostalgic link to other times and places at the Toronto Zoo. What's truly unique and memorable about the Toronto Zoo's carousel is that education and conservation messages about endangered species will inspire you as you whirl around on this magical ride.

There is an opportunity for the public to purchase one of the benches around the Carousel, which is a lovely way to honour a loved one in a truly timeless way, but they will have to hurry - the number of benches available is limited! For more information email [lnadeau@torontozoo.ca](mailto:lnadeau@torontozoo.ca).

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Current Zoo Hours to Sept. 6: 9:00am to 7:30pm. Last admission one hour before closing. General Admission 13-64 incl. is \$21.00 (\$23 as of July 1), Children 3 and under are free, Children 4-12 are \$13.00 and Seniors 65+ are \$15.00 (\$17 as of July 1). Parking is \$10. Prices include applicable taxes and are subject to change without notice. Events are subject to change without notice. The Zoo is located at Meadowvale Road and Hwy. 401, Exit 389 east and west bound. For general information, call (416) 392-5929. The Toronto Zoo is open year round (except December 25<sup>th</sup>).

**[torontozoo.com](http://torontozoo.com)**