

MONTREAL ECOMUSEUM ZOO WINS TOP NATIONAL AWARD

CAZA Institutional Members

British Columbia

British Columbia Wildlife Park
 Greater Vancouver Zoo
 Kicking Horse Grizzly Bear Refuge.
 Vancouver Aquarium
 Marine Science Centre

Alberta

Calgary Zoo, Botanical Garden & Prehistoric Park
 Marine Life Department, West Edmonton Mall
 Valley Zoo & John Janzen Nature Centre

Saskatchewan

Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo

Manitoba

Assiniboine Park Zoo

Ontario

African Lion Safari
 Bowmanville Zoological Park
 Indian River Reptile Zoo
 Jungle Cat World Inc.
 Marine Land of Canada Inc.
 Riverview Park and Zoo
 Safari Niagara
 Toronto Zoo

Québec

Aquarium du Québec
 Biodôme de Montréal
 Ecomuseum Zoo
 Parc Safari (2002) Inc.
 Société Zoologique de Granby Inc.
 Zoo Sauvage de St. Felicien

New Brunswick

Cherry Brook Zoo Inc.
 Magnetic Hill Zoo

OTTAWA October 1, 2011: Montreal's Ecomuseum Zoo has been awarded the top prize for outstanding achievement among Canada's accredited zoos and aquariums for its long-term research and conservation program for the protection of reptiles and amphibians in the province of Quebec.

"The Ecomuseum Zoo has set an example for all of our accredited members in continuing its long-standing commitment to research aimed at the conservation of species and habitat" said Robin Hale, President of the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA), in announcing the award at the conclusion of the CAZA annual conference in Kicking Horse, British Columbia. "This relatively small institution has dedicated its resources to a province-wide program of research and habitat preservation that has made a huge contribution to the long-term survival of rare and endangered species".

The Ecomuseum Zoo has developed considerable expertise through its program of applied field and on-site research, initiated since its opening in 1988. Its conservation initiatives include monitoring programs, characterization of habitats as well as the acquisition and stewardship of land. It has involved significant partnerships with other organizations, government agencies and universities in order to maximize results.

The Thomas R. Baines Award was accepted by Ecomuseum Zoo Executive Director, David Rodrigue.

Other awards presented at the CAZA annual conference included:

ELEANORE OAKES AWARD

Presented annually for significant achievement in animal husbandry, exhibit design or education, this award was granted to the Magnetic Hill Zoo in Moncton, New Brunswick for its remarkable education program and was accepted by zoo general manager Bruce Dougan.

Magnetic Hill Zoo was lauded for its impressive array of educational offerings which has demonstrated significant growth and impact in recent years. By establishing standardized staff training and policies, the education program has been successfully delivered with limited resources and integrated in all functions throughout the zoo. Education is the core of

the mandate for Canada's accredited zoos and aquariums and the Magnetic Hill Zoo's Education Department is an inspiring model.

PETER KARSTEN CONSERVATION AWARD

Recognizing individual or institutional achievement in conservation education, green operations, habitat preservation, species restoration or support for biodiversity, the Vancouver Aquarium was rewarded for its work in the propagation of the endangered Oregon spotted frog. The award was accepted by the Aquarium's Director of Arctic Programs, Eric Solomon.

Vancouver Aquarium has established an assurance population of the frogs through development of successful breeding techniques in captivity, ensuring the long-term survival of this threatened amphibian. In 2011, 3,000 tadpoles were produced for release and research purposes. The Vancouver Aquarium's capability of producing large numbers of young greatly enhances the Oregon Spotted Frog Recovery Team's ability to reintroduce and establish additional populations, potentially leading to the endangered status being downgraded. In addition, the breeding techniques will be passed on to other zoos helping more OSF populations or amphibian species.

COL. G.D. DAILLEY AWARD

Recognizing institutional achievement in propagation and management programs that lead to the long-term survival of at-risk animal species or populations, the 2011 award was presented to Magnetic Hill Zoo for its work with the endangered piping plover. It was accepted by zoo general manager Bruce Dougan.

The piping plover recovery program is a cooperative effort with Parks Canada to retrieve abandoned eggs, rear hatchlings and ultimately release the birds back into the wild. This is the first time that a captive rearing program for piping plovers has been implemented in a marine environment

The award citation describes the plover program as an excellent example of the unique role zoos can play in helping to preserve endangered species. It has the potential to aid significantly in reducing the annual decline in the piping plover population. This is a great conservation program but also a remarkable public awareness opportunity, and has been featured in the Magnetic Hill Zoo education program.

ANIMAL ENRICHMENT AWARD

Presented to the Aquarium du Quebec and accepted by aquarium Director Christophe Zamuner, this award recognizes creativity in projects and implementation of initiatives that create a positive environment that complements the physical, mental and social needs of the institution's animal collection

The Aquarium du Quebec has been enriching octopi regularly since housing the species but has developed and implemented a complete, unique and structured enrichment program in 2011. It utilizes a wide range of tactile, visual, auditory and taste stimuli in order to benefit the training, health and safety of the animals. This highly creative

initiative was successfully integrated into the Aquarium's education and interpretation programs, resulting in benefits for the animals but also for both staff and visitors.

ANIMAL CARE PROFESSIONAL AWARD

The prize rewards innovation and contribution to a zookeeper or aquarist employed at a CAZA-accredited institution and was presented to Jamie Carson of Magnetic Hill Zoo.

Mr. Carson has an enviable record of 17 years of dedicated work at Magnetic Hill Zoo, with significant contributions to its breeding programs, conservation projects and education department, where he has played a dynamic role in the interpretation programs. His role extends well beyond the zoo to active involvement in a wide range of community programs, both in Canada and the U.S.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

Annette Simms of Toronto Zoo was awarded the CAZA prize as the association's Volunteer of the Year.

Ms. Simms has dedicated 35 years to the zoo as a volunteer and is widely recognized as a leader within the zoo's volunteer team. She is especially acknowledged for her outstanding work in redeveloping the zoo's animal fact sheets, an important educational resource for volunteers, staff and the public. In fact, Ms. Simms has contributed over 1000 hours to her volunteer duties just within the past 18 months. She was cited for generously sharing her knowledge and vast experience with enthusiasm making her a mentor and ambassador for the Toronto Zoo Volunteer program.

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. For further information, contact:

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