REPILE NEWS

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Volume 10, Issue Summer

We Care About the Environment



WORLD CLASS REPTILE ZOO

The Indian River Reptile Zoo is gaining world recognition for its high safety standards and protocols as well as its husbandry standards, reptile handling courses and the founding of the Ontario Antivenin Bank.

MAKE YOUR SUM-MER MORE EXCIT-ING!!! COME TO THE REPTILE ZOO!...Bring your friends or guests and learn about reptiles and their role in our ecosystem. Visit our new dinosaur exhibit. See over 400 reptiles: alligators, crocodiles, lizards. snakes and turtles. Walk our nature trail and listen to our knowledgeable speakers while attending our daily live animal demonstrations. The kids will love it!

REGISTERED CHARITY

Our zoo is Canada's only CAZA accredited reptile zoo that is a not for profit registered charity. Your attendance along with support from our sponsors is our only source of revenue to provide animal care, rescue and sanctuary for hundreds of reptiles: turtles, lizards, snakes and crocodilians. Tax receipts available for donations over \$25.00. Write for more info: reptile zoo.dinopark@gmail. com



TYRANNOSAURUS REX

The king of dinosaurs dominates the exhibit standing nearly 20 feet tall with a length of 41 feet. It weighs in at 21,913 lbs.

There are more tyrannosaurids in museums than any other theropod. The T-Rex has the largest brain of any creature ever measured.

It was abundant in North America in the late Cretaceous period (65 million years ago) mostly carnivorous, but also thought to be cannibalistic and a scavenger.



The T-Rex is always an exciting attraction and is returning this year by popular demand. This 42 foot dinosaur moves and roars!

Surprises are for birthdays. Not insurance policies.

Proud supporters of the 'Dinosaurs Roar' exhibit and the Indian River Reptile Zoo.

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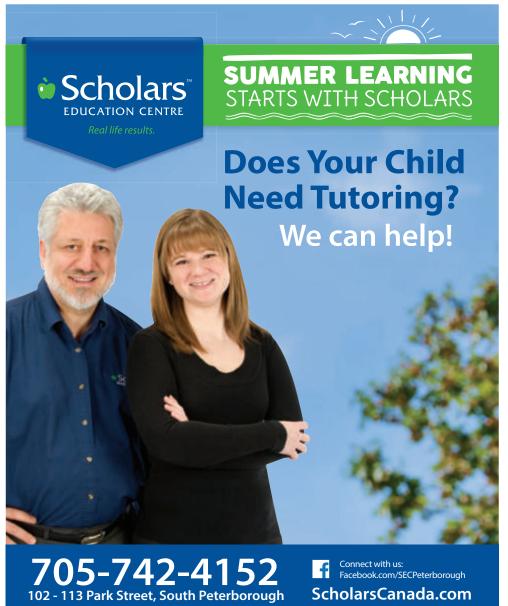
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Mew! GIANT CROCODILE SLIDE

Introduced last year at the zoo, this 45 ft. children's slide is an exciting attraction!

No extra charge for the kids to slide down the belly of the beast, weather permitting of course. Fun! You bet!



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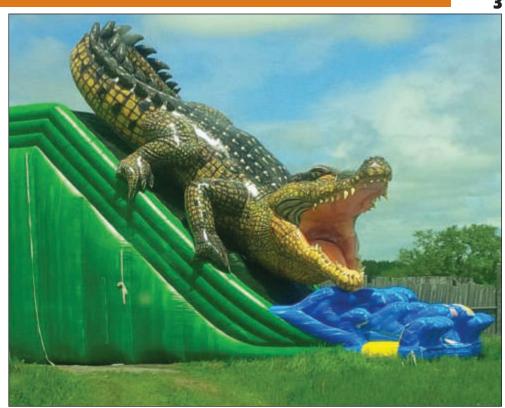
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EDUCATIONAL SHOW



Indian River Reptile Zoo believes that it is important to reach out to the communiuty and provide educational opportunity for schools and community groups to better understand the important role played by reptiles in our eco system. The number of events each year is limited to reduce stress on animals and

safe handeling of all reptiles is par-

The photos show Kyle O'Grady assistance curator controlling the head of a large python while the securtity staff at Lansdowne Mall secure the rest of this giant snake. The reptile event was a major success at Lansdowne Mall during March break.



THE NORWOOD ESKER

The Big Thaw in the the Peterborough area came a mere 12,000 years ago. The last retreating glacier left its mark as a large gravel ridge that extended from Millbrook to Havelock. This esker (an old Irish word meaning ridge or elevation) will soon be gone. Sadly, this historic ridge has disappeared with the development of highways 7, 115 and 401. Numerous gravel pits in the area have reduced most of the esker to holes in the landscape.

On our zoo's acreage, a rare pristine section of the Norwood Esker remains including some old growth cedar forest. Our scenic nature trail passes our new dinosaur exhibit and meanders up and over the esker, a vigorous 1 km walk for the young at heart.



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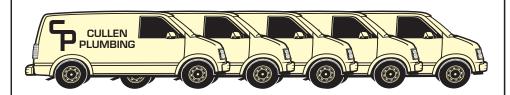
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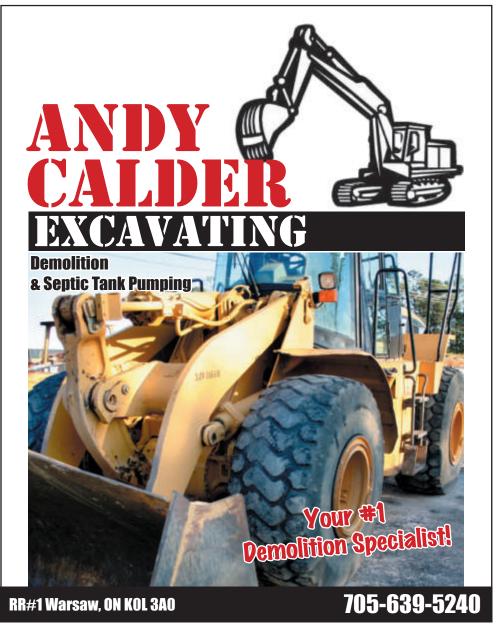


RUGOPS

Northern Africa was a much different place during the Late Cretaceous. Before the massive sand dunes, of what we now call the Sahara Desert, the land was riddled with swamps and rivers. This lush ecosystem provided an environment that allowed many dinosaur species to thrive.

Rugops was one of those dinosaurs. Unearthed in Niger in the year 2000, not much is known about this unique beast. Individuals could measure over 6 meters (20 feet) in length and weigh more than 450 kilograms (1000lbs). Rugops was heavily armored and has been given a name that translates to "wrinkly face." Perhaps the strangest feature of Rugops is its skull, which has two rows of seven holes, possibly there to anchor spikes or some sort of crest. Paleontologists don't believe it had a skull designed to subdue prey, therefore, Rugops was likely a scavenger, feasting on the kills of larger carnivorous dinosaurs.

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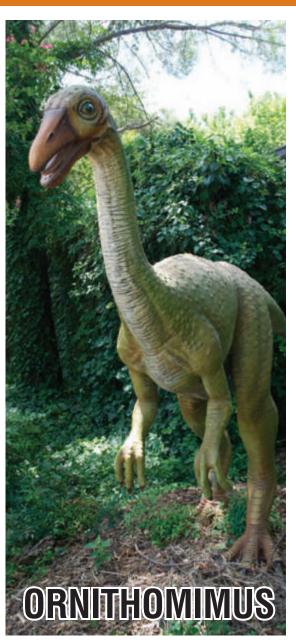


ORNITHOMIMUS:

Ornithomimus, aptly named "bird mimic," lived from about 70-65 million years ago across North America during the Late Cretaceous period.

Growing to over 3.3 meters (11 feet) and weighing over 150 kilograms (300 lbs), Ornithomimus had long legs and hollow bones that were clearly suited for speed. In addition, it had large eyes for a keen sense of sight and could have been nocturnal, coming out to forage at night for insects, crustaceans, fruits, leaves and eggs. It also may have used its small, toothless, beaked head, set on a long neck for swift movement to capture small prey like lizards and other animals.

Not only does Ornithomimus bear resemblance to large ratite birds such as the Ostrich, but we now know it was covered in feathers. While it did not use these feathers to fly, it is possible that males used them to attract a mate by displaying them to females.







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STEGOCERAS:

Stegoceras was a dome headed dinosaur that was widespread across North America during the Late Cretaceous period. Growing up to 2 meters (6.6 feet) in length and weighing 78 kilograms (170lbs) Stegoceras is considered an omnivorous dinosaur, feeding on insects, small animals and plant material.

The most striking feature about this dinosaur is its skull, as its brain was encased in nearly 7.6 centimeters (3 inches) of solid bone. This unique feature has paleontologists confused. Initially, Stegoceras and its cousins were believed to use this mass of bone for combat, with males running headlong at one another to establish dominance for territory or over a mate. Recently, it has come to be known that the dome of bone in the skull was not designed to absorb head on impact, it was more likely used to strike the flanks of a rival to establish dominance.

PHOTO OPPORTUNITY



This pair of dinosaurs is perfect for a family photograph. Great memory shots at the zoo!

ZOO EXPERTS CONSULTED

August 5th, 2013 was a sad day in Campbellton, New Brunswick.

A needless and tragic event took the lives of two brothers, Connor and Noah 3arthe: just 4 years and 6 years old.

The boys were overnight guests at an partment above a pet store when they vere allegedly asphyxiated by a 4 meer (13 ft) long African Rock Python Python sebae).

The snake was kept in a dwelling bove the retail facility as part of a priate reptile collection in a residential eighbourhood. The python escaped from its enclosure in the room where he children slept.

The zoo owner was charged in 2015 vith criminal negligence a trial date as not yet been set.

This tragic event created a media renzy worldwide and all aspects of egulation and the dangers of keeping xotic animals in private residences came under fire.

Experts from Indian River Reptile Zoo, Curator, Bry Loyst and Assistant Curator, Kyle O'Grady were contracted by New Brunswick authorities to attend the scene and identify all of the reptiles in the pet store and the apartment.

All prohibited reptile species were removed and many were relocated to Indian River Reptile Zoo in Ontario.

Indian River Reptile Zoo is a recognized leader in this field and is the only reptile zoo in Canada to be fully accredited and registered as a not for profit organization.

"We rely" Loyst says "on our generous sponsors and summer attendance at our zoo to continue to provide rescue services and sanctuary for abandoned and displaced exotic reptiles."

Please consider making a donation, small or large to help us maintain our high standards. Tax receipts are available.



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TURTLES & BIRDS



Turtles and tortoises are a fascinating group of reptiles, and one we are particularly fond of here at the Indian River Reptile Zoo. Not only are they charming crowd pleasers, but they are unique among reptiles. This is because they rely on a bony or cartilaginous shell developed from their ribs to use as protection when threatened.

Until now however, scientists have been at odds about just how Chelonians (turtles, tortoises and their ancestors) came to be. To truly understand an organism, scientists must first determine how that organism has evolved, in order to properly classify species and their relatives.

Morphological studies once suggested that turtles and tortoises evolved from ancestral reptiles that have since diverged, or from the common ancestor of tuataras (see Reptile News 2011), lizards and snakes. However, a team of researchers at Boston University has challenged that theory. Using advanced molecular studies, the researchers found evidence to show that turtles are actually closer to their other reptilian counterpart, the crocodilians.

Today after careful deliberation, we classify turtles as Archelosaurs along with their relatives the dinosaurs, crocodilians and birds!



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Pronounced [die-LOF-o-SOR-us] and in Greek meaning "two-crested lizard".

This carnivore is thought to have formed packs to ambush large quarry, its speed and agility were utilized to attack smaller prey, or when avoiding predators. Recent evidence suggests it may have been a fish eater as well.

From the Early Jurassic period, first appearing 200 million years ago in North America it weighed in at 1102 lbs and was about 7ft tall and 20ft long.

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Indian River Reptile Zoo is also a sanctuary for abandoned reptiles and government seized smuggled reptiles. Come to the zoo and see over 400 turtles, snakes, lizards, alligators and crocodiles. Walk our nature trail!

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Our exciting new climate controlled crocodilian facility is the largest in Canada and the most modern in the world.

The building, just being completed, contains six individual temperature controlled ponds. All have outside access for the various crocodilian species to enjoy fresh air and sunshine during summer months.

We are "Green" too. Our state of the art geothermal heating system will supply a separate water supply to each pond and allow for different water temperatures for each. Zoo visitors will be able to view over 100 crocodilian-American alligators, caiman, dwarf crocodiles, Cuban crocodiles and the fierce, aggressive Saltwater crocodile.

Our stone enclosed walk around "Gator Pit provides exciting viewing from above.

Tempered bullet proof glass provides viewing windows that will give visitors an inside look at the ponds and the crocodilian sanctuary.

Inside `Gator Walks` over the ponds are for trained zoo staff only. They are designed for servicing, cleaning and feeding the many unique animals who will call Indian River Reptile Zoo home.

All reptiles at the zoo are rescued animals, donated animals, abandoned animals and many endangered species seized by authorities and placed in the care of our zoo.

So, please help us name our new gator facility and you may win a prize or a guided tour inside the new building and a walk across 'Gator Bridge'if you dare.



NEW CROCODILE BUILDING NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION



Thanks to our sponsors, both business and individuals supporters, we are presenting our 4th Annual Dinosaur Exhibit. This unique fund raising event has wide appeal and has enabled our zoo to start construction on a new crocodilian facility. Our crocodilians are growing fast and need more space. As an accredited zoological facility we practice the highest standards of animal care, provide the best

possible environment, stimulation and diet for each species at our facility.

All animals are ethically and humanely treated and cared for by our veterinarians as required. Our zookeepers are trained and qualified, and recognize the importance of safety while providing the public with the most current educational information regarding reptiles and dinosaurs.

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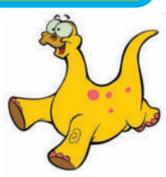
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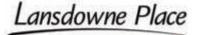










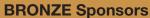
































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Dinosaurs & Alligators

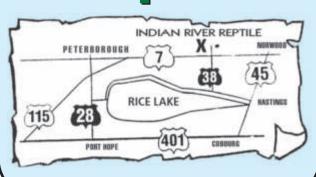
This unique fundraising exhibit will be at Indian River Reptile Zoo all summer long. Open daily 10am to 5pm. Admission is \$20.00 + Tax for Adults; \$15.00 +Tax for Youth and Seniors.: \$10 + Tax for Children (3 and under are free). The above **Discount Ticket** when presented will reduce the admission price for your whole family. Group rates are available on request.

All proceeds are being used to rescue reptiles, maintain operations and to build new crocodile ponds.

The Indian River Reptile Zoo is a registered charity. Your support is really appreciated.

Go to www.reptilezoo.org for more information.

How to Find eptile Zoo



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Summer Hours Open Daily 10am to 5pm

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Take A Look At Us www.reptilezoo.org