

REPTILE NEWS

Pull Out

Volume 6, Issue Summer

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OPEN DAILY

SUNDAY through WEDNESDAY 10am to 5pm
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The reptile zoo is located on Highway #7 just east of Peterborough, Ontario, and the 37 acre facility is nestled along the Norwood Esker, a famous gravel ridge that was left in the area 12,000 years ago when the last glacier retreated north.

The dinosaurs will be displayed in the hills behind the zoo's main buildings in a natural outdoor setting allowing visitors to get up close and personal.

Zoo staff have been trained to provide details about each dinosaur including its habitat, diet and disposition.

Today's living reptiles will be linked to dinosaurs that roamed the area over 65 million years ago.

DINOSAURS LIVE!

As a major fundraising event for July and August 2012, the Indian River Reptile Zoo is presenting for the first time in Eastern Ontario an exciting outdoor exhibit of life size animatronic dinosaurs. They move, they roar, and one even spits water at the crowds.



DINOSAURS TO THE RESCUE!

The Indian River Reptile Zoo, Canada's only CAZA accredited reptile zoo and sanctuary has come up with a very unique fundraising concept to rescue three salt water crocodiles.

The world's largest extinct animals are coming to the rescue of the world's largest living reptiles.

SALT WATER CROCS

Three salt water crocodiles (*Crocodylus porosus*) were imported legally by a well known Canadian institution (who must re-

main nameless). These aggressive crocodilians were just a few inches long when they arrived. Native to India, Australia, and South East Asia, these salt water crocodiles are now over 3 feet (1 metre) long and will grow to over 16 feet (5-6 meters). This species in the wild have been recorded at over 20 feet in length.

The "saltys" are now at the Indian River Reptile Zoo in a quarantine area, but they need a new larger pond of their own to accommodate further growth.



Canada's Only Accredited Reptile Zoo

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BRACHIOSAURUS

This giant Herbivore browsed at 39 feet and may have consumed 440 lbs of food each day. Pillar like legs supported up to 99,208 lbs of body, neck and tail to cover up to 100 ft in length.

This creature survived the Late Jurassic and Early Cretaceous period 155 to 140 million years ago. Skeletons have been found in North America and Africa.



STEGOSAURUS

This sturdy bodied beast supported rows of triangular plates along its spine and had very short massive legs with broad hooves.

Weighing about 11,000 lbs at a length of 40 ft and height of over 20 ft.

This small brained Herbivore lived 156 million years ago in Alberta and was last seen 145 million years ago in the Early Cretaceous period moving at a maximum speed of 4mph.

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CROCS IN COURT

So, What Happened with the Orinoco Crocodiles?

On May 2nd, 2011- reptile enthusiast Karel Fortyn passed away suddenly from a stroke. He left behind over 200 reptiles, most of which were venomous snakes and crocodilians.

The Indian River Reptile Zoo- being Canada's only accredited reptile facility, was called in the days following his death to consult on the care of the collection while it was decided where the animals would go. The animals were initially donated to the Indian River Reptile Zoo by Karel's common law spouse however, his brother gained control and tried to sell the animals to various non accredited pet store/zoos- none of which have antivenom for the venomous species. After the Indian River Reptile Zoo caught wind of the intention to sell the collection, it began a media blitz to stop the illegal sale of two endangered Orinoco Crocodiles, to raise awareness to the plight of these animals so they would not become dollar signs, but instead contribute to an international breeding program to save their species.

The Indian River Reptile Zoo was taken to court on June 21, 2011 to be silenced as the estate worked out where to put the animals. However, pressure from the public to do the right thing was overwhelming and it was decided that the Orinoco crocodiles (*Crocodylus intermedius*) would make a cross country journey to an AZA (American Association of Zoos and Aquariums) accredited facility in the southern United States. After Indian River Rep-

tile Zoo laid the groundwork for contacts, established parameters, wrote a life synopsis of the crocodiles to assess the best way to move them, and spent months of work drawing in the public to the crocodile's plight- arrangements were made for the crocs to make the trip to the Gladys Porter Zoo, in Brownsville, Texas. On Wednesday, October 19, 2011, after being driven from Canada and lifted into their enclosure by special cranes- the Orinoco Crocodiles set foot for the first time in their new enclosure- with sand under their feet and sun on their backs.

The story has a happy ending as the Orinoco crocodile is listed as Critically Endangered by the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) and their arrival marked the beginning of a studbook for this species because previously- there was not enough genetic diversity to breed these animals between accredited zoos. Let's all hope the Orinoco crocodiles- affectionately known as "Blade and Suede" will breed, and have their babies released to the wild for our future generations to enjoy.

Instances like this highlight why it is critical for you to visit only accredited zoos. As the Indian River Reptile Zoo team laid the groundwork for the Gladys Porter Zoo to give these animals the specialized care they are receiving today, from now on.

For a video of the female crocodile's release- please visit <http://vimco.com/30913805>

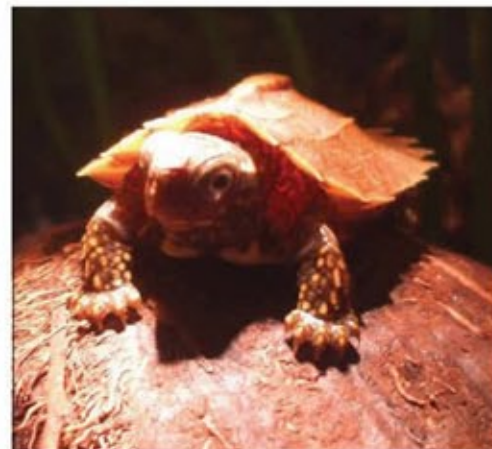
RARE TURTLE HATCHES AT ZOO

Thanks to our ExoTerra sponsorship, including a donated reptile egg incubator (PT2499), the Indian River Reptile Zoo was successful in the captive reproduction of the Black Leaf turtle (*Geococcyx spengleri*). This small charismatic turtle species is in rapid decline and is red listed by the IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) as Endangered.

Kyle O'Grady, Assistant Curator at Indian River Reptile Zoo was group leader on this project and says "We are waiting confirmation that this may be the first time a second generation (F2) Black breasted leaf turtle has been hatched in captivity". The eggs

were laid by a turtle in the zoo's care that is part of the Black breasted leaf turtles Species Survival Plan.

Bry Loyst, the zoo's Curator, says "Thanks to R.C. Hagen for the donation of the ExoTerra incubator".



WORLD CLASS REPTILE ZOO

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

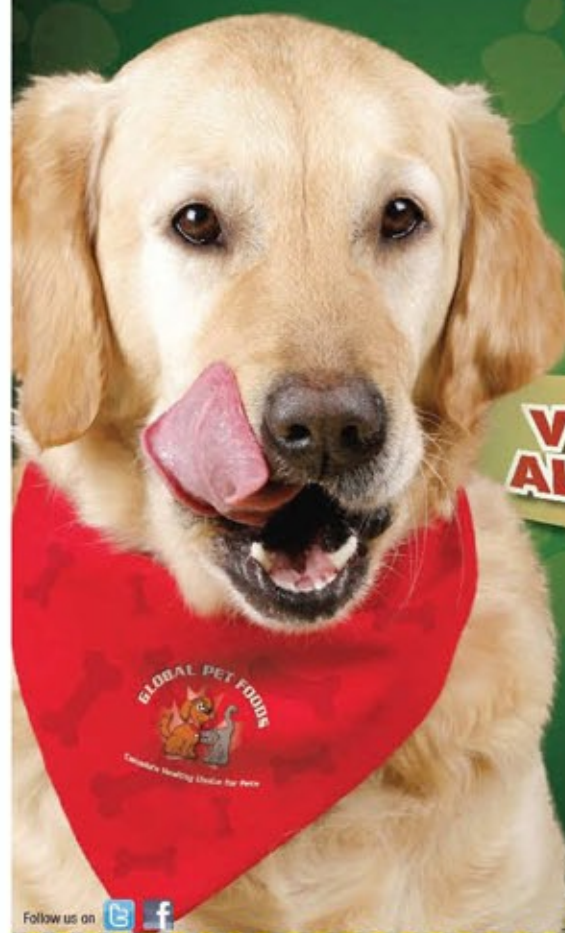
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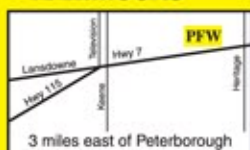


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"Reptiles have the most incredible anatomy and physiology, which makes them a fascinating animal to treat" says Dr. Wendy Korver,

All four of the veterinarians at the clinic have a special interest in reptiles and the experienced support staff at the clinic have advanced training in the handling of reptiles and other exotics.

Bowmanville Veterinary Clinic

provides veterinary services to the accredited Indian River Reptile Zoo and Bowmanville Zoo.

The clinic was voted "Clinic of the Year" in 2010 by Tech News, a Canada-wide publication for veterinary technicians. The team at Bowmanville Veterinary Clinic are strong ambassadors of the human-animal bond, and pride themselves on exemplary patient care, progressive medicine and client education. They also have a dedicated commitment to their community, through programs such as their Junior Vet Program, and their pro bono work with injured and orphaned wildlife. Please go to www.bowmanvilleveterinaryclinic.com to check them out!

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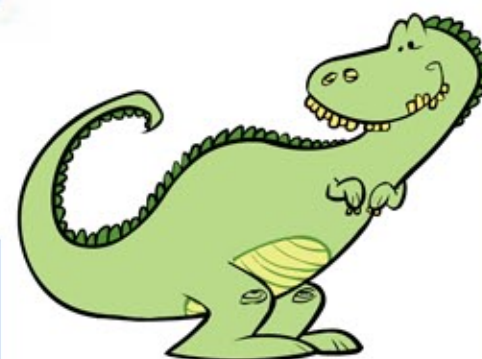


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It was abundant in North America in the late Cretaceous period (65 million years ago) mostly carnivorous, but also thought to be cannibalistic and a scavenger.



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MORE DINOSAURS AND EXHIBITS

Other dinosaurs being presented include the *Sarcosuchus*, an ancient 40 ft ancestor of today's crocodile. A *Chasmosaurus* meaning "wide lizard".

The *Edmontonia*, named for the rock formation in Edmonton where *Edmontonia* was first found after being missing for 74 million years.

NESTING DINOSAURS

One of the exhibit highlights is the *Parasaurolophus* pronounced [Pair-a-sore-o-lo-fuss] nest of hatching eggs with baby dinosaurs that move and make sounds that make you smile and say "oohhh".

Other exhibits include dinosaur bone replicas supplied by the Royal Ontario Museum.

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World's Largest Snake



Prehistoric Snake over 40 ft. Long
Artist, model maker Kevin Hockley, observed large snakes at Indian River Reptile Zoo to build a snake for the Smithsonian.

He built a rather large snake, not your typical garter snake or rattlesnake that Hockley previously sculpted, but a 2,500 pound "titanic boa" (Titanoboa) as long as a school bus.

Hockley's 48 ft. monster replica from 58 million years ago was unveiled in March at Grand Central Station in New York and is featured on the Smithsonian Channel and at the National Museum of Natural History.

Hockley lives near Bancroft, Ontario where he builds bronze sculptures of wolves, caribou and replicas of mastodon and other ice age animals.

Creating Titanoboa wasn't easy. To create the prehistoric creature, a blend of boa and anaconda, Hockley visited live species at Indian River Reptile Zoo, studied and photographed these constrictors. From start to finish took about five months, 12 sheets of 4 x 8 styrofoam, 20 gallons of polyester resin, 400 pounds of epoxy resin and many gallons of paint. Smithsonian Channel producers installed cameras in Hockley's studio to create a time lapse video of the entire process. Neat!

Marty Moos

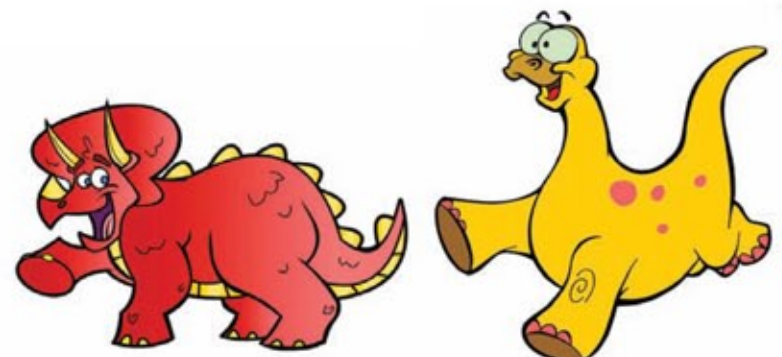
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When Bry Loyst, curator of the Indian River Reptile Zoo first opened the zoo in 1998, he had no idea that the Outreach Program would become a major part of the zoo's annual activities. Indian River Reptile Zoo is the only accredited reptile zoo (CAZA) in Canada and is not subject to the normal bylaws restricting other facilities. This fact enables Indian River Reptile Zoo to display and teach in public areas whereas it is illegal for other zoos/wildlife educators to do so in most municipalities.

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Dinosaurs Live! all summer

This unique fundraising exhibit will be at Indian River Reptile Zoo all summer long. Open daily Sunday through Wednesday 10am to 5pm, Thursday, Friday and Saturday 10am to 9pm. Admission is \$20.00 for adults and \$15.00 for kids, students and seniors. Discount tickets will be available at designated sponsor outlets, or clip the coupon below.

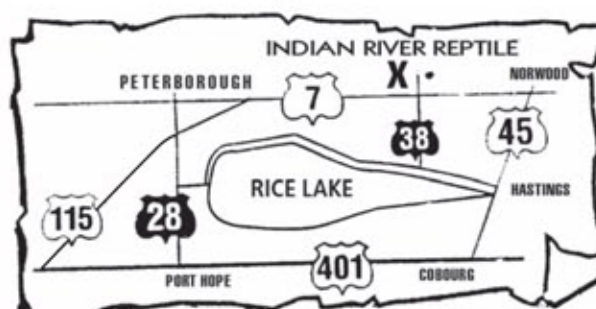
Group rates are also available. "Dinosaurs After Dark" night exhibit dates will be announced later.

All proceeds are being used to rescue two wonderful reptiles and build new crocodile ponds for the zoos newly adopted salt water crocodiles.

Your support is appreciated.

Go to www.reptilezoo.org for more information.

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