

# REPTILE NEWS

Volume 3, Issue Summer

We Care About the Environment

## Reptile Zoo Is A Sanctuary The Indian River Reptile Fund Needs Your Support



The Indian River Reptile Zoo is the only reptile zoo in Canada that does not sell reptiles and is not a pet store.

Many people do not realize that reptiles are abandoned just like cats and dogs. Sadly, over 90% of people that purchase reptiles at other reptile "zoos" and pet stores do not keep the reptile. They frequently die due to improper care, are given up because they have grown too large, lived too long or are too difficult to care for. When animals are seized by Wildlife Canada, The Ministry of Natural Resources, OSPCA, Humane Society Officers, the reptiles are brought to Indian River Reptile Zoo. In order to house and care for these animals and others that we rescue, we

have started a non-profit charity called The Indian River Reptile Fund.

This fund will also support the expansion of enclosures for the animals at the zoo and the construction of an enclosure to house the Perentie Monitors gifted to us by the Irwin family and Australia Zoo.

To donate send a cheque or money order to Indian River Reptile Fund, 2206 Hyw 7, RR#3, Indian River, Ontario, K0L 2B0

All Donors will receive recognition for their contribution.

## Photo Contest...Enter to Win... Support the Zoo



**WOW!!!.....PHOTO CONTEST----**ENTER NOW WIN UP TO \$500.00 and help the zoo raise funds It sure looks like this turtle is excited about our photo contest! Please enter early and often. See details inside on page 6. You can win prizes and help save and protect reptiles. Animals photos only ..see inside.



## 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, wildlife officer training course and the founding of the Ontario Antivenin Bank.

Make your summer a little more exciting!!

COME TO THE REPTILE ZOO..... bring your friends or guests and learn about reptiles and their role in our ecosystem. See over 400 reptiles, alligators, crocodiles, lizards, snakes and turtles. Walk our new nature trail and listen to our knowledgeable speakers while attending our daily live animals demonstrations. The kids will love it.



## New at the zoo

...a penny for your thoughts  
Photo here

## Baby Turtles Photo

Born March 9, 2008 at the Indian River Reptile Zoo... not much larger than a penny these Red Bellied short-neck turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*) are captive bred —origin New Guinea offspring of adults donated to Indian River Reptile Zoo by Tennessee Aquarium.

MOM TAKES A PEEK

Our climate controlled indoor pond is home to a healthy breeding pair of adult Red-bellied short neck turtles. Eggs were laid in soft earth and the zoo curator watched over incubation.



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# Snapshots at the Reptile Zoo



Come to the Zoo and take your own pictures of Monty the Python, and Chompsy the Gator and over 400 other charming reptiles.



Wes Mannion, Zoo director Australia Zoo talks to Bry about Perentie Monitors.

PAGE 2 COPY TO COME

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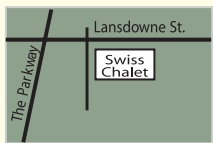
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# Perentie Monitors



## DESCRIPTION

The Perentie (*Varanus giganteus*) is the biggest Australian monitor lizard. They are dark in colour, grey or brown with rows of light coloured spots or stripes. They display a forked tongue, a long slender neck, flattened head, strong tail, powerful legs with 5 clawed toes. They have numerous sharp curved backward pointing teeth and excrete toxic venom with their bite. These lizards can grow to a length in excess of 2.5 meters and weigh up to 15 kg.

## BEHAVIOUR

They are fast sprinters, running using either all four legs or just their hind legs. Perenties inflate their throat and hiss as a defensive or aggressive display and strike at opponents with their muscular tail. They will lunge forward with an open mouth either as a bluff or as an attack.

## HABITAT

In the wild, Perenties are found in arid regions from Western Queensland to coastal Western Australia usually around

rocky hills and outcrops. They can be seen finding shelter in burrows which they dig with their powerful front legs and claws. These shelters can be extensive and have several escape exits.

## DIET

Perenites are very efficient predators. They forage for turtle eggs, insects, birds and other reptiles including juvenile Perenties, mammals and carrion.

## RARE OPPORTUNITY

Indian River Reptile Zoo will be the second zoo in North America to have these amazing animals on display. There is only one other zoo (in Texas) where these giant lizards can be viewed by the public.

## New Walking Nature Trail And Picnic Area

Just opened for your family enjoyment is our 2 km nature trail and enlarged picnic area. Your zoo admission allows you to walk this trail and experience flora and fauna of a unique land formation created 10,000 years ago by the last retreating glacier. Expe-

rience an old growth cedar forest, visit our new turtle territory and be sure to see our new picnic site.

Enjoy a good walk then enjoy our standing stones picnic area surrounded by giant Stonehenge-like monolithic granite arches.

## Calender of Events

July 23

### PAINT A SNAKE

Bring a branch and paint a snake contest  
Family Fun 2-4 pm...Prizes  
*See details page 6*

July 26 - Aug 2

### PHOTO CONTEST

Enter your best photos of animals  
And win up to \$500.00 cash prizes  
*See details page 6*

August 16

### SNAKE WALK FOR CHARITY

A three km walk on the  
New Nature Trail  
*See details on page 6*

August 9-23

### STANDING STONES ART SHOW

This fund raising project invites  
professional and amateur entries of  
art, painting or sculpture  
*See details on page 7*

August 23

### ART AUCTION



Australian Zoo stays connected with Indian River Reptile Zoo since they gifted Canada with a pair of Perentie Monitors. Above is Bindi Irwin, Bry Loyst and Terri Irwin at G'Day Toronto event.

## WHY ARE CROCS SO COMFORTABLE?

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Crocs are so good for your feet that they have been certified by the American Institute of Ergonomics

### THE CROCS CHALLENGE!

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### THE FUTURE OF CROCS

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# Standing Stones -Sculpture Garden



These unique sculptural shapes are solid belmont rose pink granite. Each stone weighs over 2 thousand pounds and is placed to create a stonehenge atmosphere. This sculpture garden is a work in progress; for now it is a picnic area for zoo visitors and monolithic stone lovers. We are looking for corporate sponsors and we will name the gardens in their honour. Call Dianne Loyst to discuss details 416-222-4092.

## Snakes Save Lives

Major advances are made yearly in discovering applications for a wide range of biochemical substances derived from the venom of reptiles. Anticoagulant from snake venom is now used to fight tumors, lower blood pressure, prevent heart attacks and help hemophiliacs lead normal lives.

In 1998, a new drug was approved (Aggrastat) that prevents blood clots. This synthetic protein is based on a natural protein found only in the venom of the Saw Scaled Viper.

Superior to aspirin it could prevent over 40,000 heart attacks annually.

# The Reptile Zoo - History

## PHOTO TO COME PAGE 4

Bry Loyst, The Indian River Reptile Zoo's Curator and owner, has had a passion for reptiles since childhood when he spent his summers at the family cottage in the North Kawarthas.

Catching snakes, turtles, frogs, toads and salamanders for observation was his main interest.

While attending school in Toronto, he kept a collection of exotic reptiles and lectured about reptiles at schools in Toronto. His dream was to spend his life "working with reptiles".

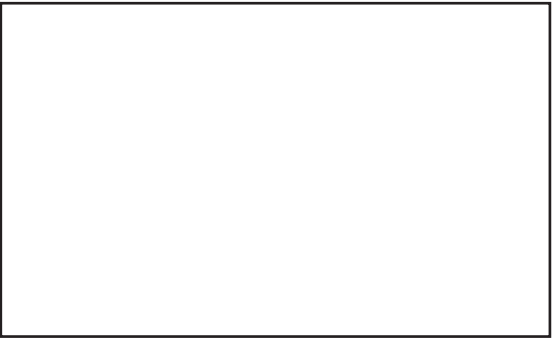
For ten years while finishing school and working, Bry spent every free moment visiting zoos in North America. He became an avid herpetoculturist. No Canadian school offers any course on the care of reptiles in captivity; so, Bry is self taught. He has developed what may be the largest reptile book library in the country. Bry's decade of preparation included hundreds of zoo visits, discussions with curators and reptile keepers as well as dozens of field trips in Canada, U.S.A, Mexico and Puerto Rico.

In 1998, he opened the Indian River Reptile Zoo on a 36 acre former horse farm east of Peterborough. A new building was designed and constructed specifically to house reptiles. State of the art enclosures, in-floor heating and climate controlled ponds were included to make the zoo a leading facility and allow it to qualify for certification.

**CAZA ACCREDITED**

In 2000, just two years after opening the Reptile Zoo received Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquarium accreditation; and, to this day, Indian River Reptile Zoo remains the only accredited reptile zoo in the entire country.

## ADS TO COME PAGE 4



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# Venom Week



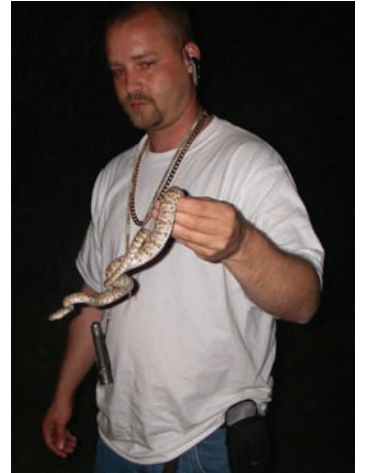
Dr. Sean Bush and Bry Loyst



Dr. Jennifer Smith, MD and Bry at conference



Nigel Marvin, TV/Movie actor and Naturalist



Nigel and Bry compare information on reptiles.

The University of Arizona and the Arizona-Sonora Desert Museum hosted the 2007 International Conference to discuss terrestrial venomous creatures, their venom and the medical effects of venom. The conference drew 150 professionals in the field of emergency medicine, medical toxicology, veterinary medicine, pharmacy, herpetology, archnology, antivenom manufacturing and captive collection management.

Bry Loyst, Curator of the Indian River Reptile Zoo, attended on behalf of the Ontario Antivenin Bank. Bry said "the science is exciting and it is a great venue for meeting an amazing assortment of experts, zoo people, biologists, doctors and paramedics". He added "the conference was a learning experience and I had a chance to do some field work with experienced and knowledgeable guys".

Photos show Bry on a night time photo and release venture that revealed the variety of Arizona wildlife—12 Diamondback rattlesnakes, 2 Coral snakes, 1 Lyre ? snake and one desert tortoise were photographed in a radius of 20 miles of the city of Tucson. Unfortunately at least a dozen or more snakes were noted as road kill on paved roads at night.

Top Left, Bry with Dr. Sean Bush, Dr. Bryan Grieg Fry, and Elda E. Sanchez, PhD, Bottom Left Bry talking shop with Dr. Bryan Fry who heads the Dept. of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology at the University of Melbourne, Australia.



## PAGE 5 COPY & ADS TO COME

## Educational

Snakes are not the aggressive, slimy creatures portrayed by Hollywood. They are very secretive animals that try to avoid human contact. Many are nocturnal and are rarely seen by humans. When you visit us, take the time to see our educational video and read the information signs at various exhibits.

Our Nature Store offers many exciting videos and books about reptiles.

Friendly experts are available at all times to answer questions.

Live presentations take place at posted times

## Reptile Facts Did you know?

- that spitting cobras can eject venom up to 12 feet
- that Ontario has eight native turtles species
- that Saltwater crocodiles from Australia can grow to 25 feet
- that Ontario's longest snake grows to 8 feet (Black Rat Snake)
- that there is only one venomous snake in Ontario, the Massasauga rattlesnake
- that components of pitviper venom are used to control high blood pressure in millions of people

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# "BRING A BRANCH & PAINT A SNAKE" EVENT

**JULY 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2008**  
**2 pm to 4 pm**

Bring a crooked branch • Bring the kids •  
Bring the grandparents • Bring the whole family  
to our **FREE** event at the Reptile Zoo

**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS:** You must bring your own branch. Try and make it a twisted or curved snake-like branch from a dead tree (*no live trees need be harmed*) from the forest or your yard.

We supply the paints and brushes; you supply the branch. Fun for all ages. Paint your branch to look like a snake. Stripes, lines or spots — you be creative during our two hour **PAINT A SNAKE EVENT**. Prizes will be awarded for the most artistic and the most unique painted snake - T-shirts, Surprise bags, etc. You can keep your snake or donate it to the zoo.

There is no cost to participate. It's just old fashioned family fun.



**INDIAN RIVER REPTILE ZOO**  
**HWY #7 & COUNTY RD #38**  
**INDIAN RIVER, ONTARIO**  
**Phone: 705-639-1443**  
**EMAIL: reptilezoo@sympatico.ca**



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# PHOTO CONTEST

**July 26<sup>th</sup> – August 2<sup>nd</sup>**

**JUDGING – August 1<sup>st</sup>**

**FUNDRAISING  
SILENT AUCTION  
OF ART PHOTOS -  
August 2<sup>nd</sup>**



## Contest Rules

The photo contest is open to all ages. There is a \$10.00 donation fee to the Reptile Fund for each entry. You can enter as many photos as you wish at \$10.00 each. All submissions must be received by the Reptile Zoo by 12:00 pm July 26<sup>th</sup>, 2008. Prizes will be awarded as follows:

- |   |                                   |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Best of Show</b>                                     | - Ribbon & Cash Prize of \$500.00 |
| <b>2<sup>nd</sup> &amp; 3<sup>rd</sup> Best of Show</b> | - Cash Prize of \$100.00 each     |
| <b>Best Pet Photo</b>                                   | - \$50.00 merchandise voucher     |
| <b>Best Farm Animal Photo</b>                           | - \$50.00 merchandise voucher     |
| <b>Best Wild Animal Photo</b>                           | - \$50.00 merchandise voucher     |

## Fundraising Silent Auction

All photos will be considered donations to the Indian River Reptile Fund and will be part of a silent auction so that attendees to the zoo may bid on photos prior to and following judging and awards. All monies raised through the silent auction will be used to support animal sanctuary projects (ie. providing husbandry, shelter, care and feeding of abandoned reptiles at the zoo. All entries must be mounted on card stock, or framed, and includes the name, address, phone number and email address of the photographer/entrant.



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# "SNAKE WALK"



**For Charity**  
**AUGUST 16<sup>th</sup>**



The Indian River Reptile Zoo and the Indian River Reptile Fund are holding a charity walk on the zoo property on Saturday, August 16<sup>th</sup>. **START TIME...9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.**

## ENTRY FEE

The entry fee is \$10.00 per participant, which will include free bottled water and admission to the zoo (regular admission is \$12.00 for adults). All funds collected will be contributed to THE PERENTIE MONITOR BUILDING FUND.

## SPONSORSHIPS

We encourage participants to interest supporting sponsors who will contribute additional donations if their participant finishes the course.

## NOT A RACE

Clearly the "Snake Walk" is not a race. It is a family fun walk that covers 3 km over 36 acres of zoo property, including the new Nature Trail that involves some hill climbing. Good exercise up and over the Norwood Esker, created by a retreating glacier over 10,000 years ago.

**Note:** *If you raise over \$100.00 for the zoo, you will be invited to attend (along with another person) a special "Feeding the Animals" event and learn about the behind the scenes care and feeding of our reptiles.*

## ENTRY – REGISTRATION

You may register prior to or on the scheduled date of the event.

## SPONSOR FORMS

Sponsor forms are available at the zoo front desk at anytime or at registration time.

## ATTIRE

Please wear comfortable clothing and good walking or running shoes. Some parts of the trail are steep and could be a bit slippery if weather is damp.



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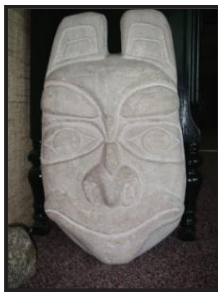
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# Standing Stones

## ART SHOW – August 9<sup>th</sup> to 23<sup>rd</sup>



### FOR THE LOVE OF ART – COME TO THE ZOO!

The Standing Stones Art Show is a fund raising project for the Reptile Fund and the Indian River Reptile Zoo. It is held at the Reptile Zoo on Hwy #7 at Cty Rd. 38.

#### Sculpture & Paintings

This is a selling art show and artists, both professional and amateur, are invited to participate. Sculpture and paintings of any size may be exhibited in the Zoo facilities or on the Zoo grounds. For details, see contact below. Zoo visitors may purchase items as priced and revenue is shared between the artist and the Reptile Fund.

#### Found Objects

“Art is in the eye of the beholder.” This category is for the creative eye – a stone, a piece of driftwood, an old rusty metal tool.



#### Prizes

Cash and merchandise prizes will be awarded up to \$1,000

#### Submission Date

Contact us as soon as possible to enter your art. Final submission date is August 5<sup>th</sup>. The Zoo reserves the right to reject or accept at its discretion. One to six pieces may be entered by each artist. Judging will be by jury on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2008.



INDIAN RIVER REPTILE ZOO  
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# Canada's largest Reptile OutReach Program

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.

### THE ZOO COMES TO YOU

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REPTILE TRADE STORY PAGE 8 TO COME

## Over 400 Exotic Reptiles

- Serpentarium and Alligator Alley
- Canada's largest Rattlesnake Exhibit
- Nature Exhibits
- Educational video
- Canadian species

The Indian River Reptile Zoo is unique in Canada and is one of the most modern and exciting specialized species centres in the world. Extraor-

dinary presentation of exotic reptiles in climate controlled facilities. Snakes, lizards, monitors, alligators, turtles, crocodiles, caiman and more. Yes, we have an anaconda.

There are over 400 reptiles at the zoo but only 200 are on display at any one time. Rotating animals helps avoid stressing the reptiles.



What am I doing at the Reptile Zoo? I was adopted by the zoo and I now have a new home that I share with a pair of boring turtles.

The kids love the snakes and alligators but I just watch.

### Things To See

- Crocodiles and alligators sunning themselves outside
- Educational demonstrations featuring live reptiles, pythons, lizards, turtles.
- Canada's largest rattlesnake collection: tiny pygmy to large diamondback
- Other venomous snakes including cobras, mambas, vipers and more

### Things To Do

- Safe and educational fun for the whole family
- Walk our Nature Trail
- Enjoy our new picnic area
- Visit our outdoor reptile exhibits
- Shop in our gift store
- New outdoor turtle exhibits
- New educational centre

PAGE 8 COPY TO COME

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## How to Find The Reptile Zoo

## Come & Visit

**Indian River Reptile Zoo**

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Peterborough  
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At Cty. Rd. #38

Summer  
Hours Daily  
10 am - 5 pm  
Phone  
705-639-1443

Take A Look At Us  
[www.reptilezoo.org](http://www.reptilezoo.org)