



Saskatoon Zoo Society

ZOONEWS

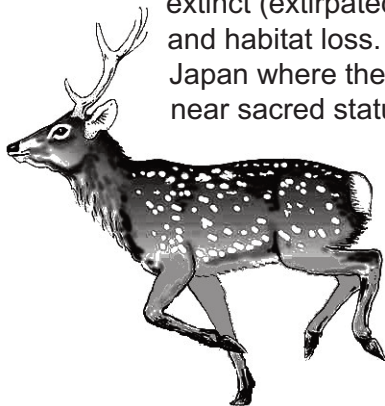
March 2011

Saskatoon Zoo Society 1903 Forestry Farm Park Drive, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. S7S 1G9 www.saskatoonzoosociety.ca

Animal Profile: The Sika Deer by Claire Bullaro

There is a species of deer housed at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo very closely related to the North American Wapiti and the European Red Deer. It is often called the Spotted Deer, the Japanese Deer or the Sika Deer. Sika is the Japanese word for deer -- shika. As with all animals that have many common names, the scientific, binomial (two-names) designation is the easiest way to know which animal species one is referring to. This species is properly known as *Cervus nippon*, with *Cervus* being Latin for deer and *nippon* indicating Japan. These deer are found from the Russian far east to northern Vietnam. They are highly threatened in all areas and

extinct (extirpated) in some due to hunting and habitat loss. The only exception is Japan where they are thriving due to their near sacred status and the elimination of most wolves on the islands. In some areas of Japan they have become so numerous that they are damaging crops and forests. They are culled periodically. There are also many Sika



introduced in other parts of the world, sometimes to the detriment of the local habitat.

The Sika deer are one of the few deer species that have a spotted coat as adults, with various subspecies having more or less than others. Their habitat is generally temperate and subtropical woodlands with a dense understory. The spotted coat helps to camouflage them in the dappled sunlight of the forest. Their winter coat generally loses most of the spotting as the coat becomes darker and shaggier. Similar to our Pronghorn and White-tailed deer, the Sika have a lighter coloured patch of fur on the rump that can be erected as a warning signal flash to others in the herd. When threatened, particularly by hunters, or frightened they tend to conceal themselves instead of bounding away as other species of deer are known to do. They will even crouch down or lie flat out to stay hidden, making them very hard to find in the undergrowth.

... continued on page 2

New on the web

The design gurus at WilliamJoseph Communications have put together a spiffy new website for the Saskatoon Zoo Society. Check it out at

www.saskatoonzoosociety.ca

A really big thank you to WilliamJoseph Communications for their expertise and patience in putting this project together for the Zoo Society



Find us on Facebook

The Saskatoon Zoo Society is now on Facebook. Become a friend of the Saskatoon Zoo Society on Facebook and check out our updates on special events, programs, and new arrivals, and other news from the Zoo Society

Upcoming Zoo Society Events

- Young Naturalists Great Horned Owl Ecology March 12
- Wolverine Documentary Presentation March 20
- Saskatoon Zoo Society Annual General Meeting March 20
- Young Naturalists' Birdhouse Workshop April 8
- Young Naturalists' Crocus Hike April 14
- Zoo Run April 17
- Earth Day Trail April 16 - May 1
- Young Naturalists' Pike Lake Field Trip May 7
- Mother's Day Keeping Up With The Keepers May 8
- Young Naturalists Great Horned Owl Field Trip May
- Young Naturalists Bluebird Trail June
- Father's Day Keeping Up With the Keepers June 24
- Kinsmen Day at the Zoo June 24
- Family Day at the Zoo July 17

The Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo
www.saskatoon.ca

Zoo Hours

January 1 - April 30: 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
May 1 - Labour Day: 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Like other species of deer, Sika stags have upright, tined antlers that are shed and renewed yearly. Sika have been domesticated in China for centuries so that their antlers and velvet can be harvested for traditional folk medicine. Stags range in weight from 40 to 70 kg and may be 70 to 95 cm at the shoulder. The hinds are lighter at 30 to 45 kg and slightly shorter at 50 to 90 cm at the shoulder. They are usually found in small family groups although a buck may have a harem of up to 12 does depending on the available habitat. They are highly vocal animals with up to 10 sounds from soft whistles to loud screams. During the mating season, or rut, the stags will scrape shallow pits and urinate in them leading to a musky odour which establishes territory. This is very similar behaviour to the Wapiti and Red Deer. There are often fierce fights with other stags at this time, occasionally leading to death.



age. The life span, barring predation, accidents, illness, or hunting is well over 10 years with animals in captive situations generally living longer.

A personal note: I have never heard a sound from our Sika in all the time I have been involved here. Perhaps there is no necessity for noise where they are safe from predators and challengers. I'm sure the hinds make soft noises to the fawns but the public is too far away to hear. Or, perhaps the stag's calling is just drowned out by noise from the Wapiti next door!

Lobsterfest Thank You

Thank you to the following for supporting our Lobsterfest fundraiser:	Home Hardware-Sutherland Jerry's Food Emporium Kia of Saskatoon Marketing Den Marians Gymnastics Natural Connections Paws Inn Gift Shop Peavy Mart Purchasing Managers Association of Canada Saskatchewan Weekly Newspapers Association Sasktel Solar Gardens TransGas
Cameron Seafoods Beauty Control Products Canadian Tire Curves Dawgs Footwear Ens Toyota Erindale Animal Hospital Fabutan Fifth Avenue Jewelery Giant Tiger Good Life Fitness	

The gestation period is 217 days after which one fawn is born. It is rare for a hind to have twins. Births usually occur in May and June. Often, here at the Zoo, the Sika fawns have been among the earliest born in mid to early May. Just like other members of the deer family, the fawns stay hidden to stay safe while the mother is away foraging. She returns periodically to feed and groom the fawn. The young are sexually mature at about 2 years of

Claire Bullaro Honoured

To most of you, Claire is the author of our animal feature in this newsletter. But Claire is also the long-serving president of the Saskatoon Zoo Society. This is a position Claire takes very seriously to ensure that Saskatoon retains a high quality zoo, complete with education programs. But that is only one side of Claire Bullaro.

Claire was recently inducted into the Saskatoon Council of Women's Hall of Fame. Claire volunteers with many local organizations including the Saskatoon Zoo Society, the Saskatoon Heritage Society, Friends of the Forestry Farm House, the Saskatoon Nature Society, and many others. For those of us that know Claire we know she goes above and beyond regular volunteering. She is a powerhouse that provides the strength and drive for many organizations. The induction into the Hall of Fame recognizes her work to "empower all women to work towards improving the quality of life for women, families, and society".

Congratulations Claire on this well-deserved honour.

Forestry Farm Zoo Recieves Accreditation

The Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo was recently re-accredited by the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums. The accreditation means that the Forestry Farm meets or exceeds the current standards established by the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA). Accreditation gives the Forestry Farm access to animal exchange with other CAZA accredited facilities and access to CAZA information resources. Successful accreditation also recognizes that the zookeepers and other staff at the Forestry Farm are among the very best in Canada at their jobs. The Zoo Society passes on its congratulations to everyone at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo for a job well done.

Earth Hour March 26

Don't forget Earth Hour 2011

Saturday, March 26 at 8:30 p.m.

Shut off your lights for one hour and become part of the largest environmental movement in history.

For more information and to sign up check out

<http://wwf.ca/earthhour/>

Paws Inn Concession and Gift Shop by Lesley Avant

**Paws Inn will be open for the season
on Friday, April 1st**
(weather permitting)

Renew your membership and take in the gift shop's

SEASON KICK-OFF SALE

**Selected items, including shirts will be marked down.
We have a great assortment of styles and sizes.**

Drop by and say hello to our staff (both old and new), have a coffee and a muffin, and help us make room for the new 2011 stock. (Your 15% member's discount still applies to sale items!)

Help Wanted

Work for the Saskatoon Zoo Society this spring and summer. Work in a beautiful setting and have fun as part of a great team. Part-time and full-time shifts are available 7 days a week beginning in late April.

Paws Inn Concession and Gift Shop - includes Zoo Admission Window
Front Gate Vehicle Admissions Booth (Toll Booth)
Kinsmen Express Zoo Train (Peoplemover)
(must have a valid driver's licence for at least 2 years).
Ice Cream Sales (weekends only. 14 -15 years old welcome).

Drop off your resume and fill out an application form in Paws Inn Concession and Gift Shop (Stop by the Administration Building if Paws Inn is closed).

For more information call Lesley at 934-1107

Affinity Learning Centre Update

The Affinity Learning Centre has transformed the way teachers think about the Zoo as a source of quality environmental education. The Learning Centre allows us to conduct year-round, all-weather programming. Despite this last winter's cold weather, classrooms were still coming out to the Forestry Farm for environmental education programs.

Building on the success of our programs the Zoo Society is moving into its final year of the Zoo School pilot program. This week-long program for grade 4 students is designed to meet curriculum requirements. The Zoo School is an unforgettable learning experience that combines real science and nature with hands-on learning.

In October 2010 the Zoo School was recognized by the Canadian Association of Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA) with the Eleanore Oakes Award. The award, which is for significant achievement by a zoo or aquarium for smaller projects, was presented to the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo at the annual CAZA conference in Montreal.

IMPORTANT: In order to have a pleasant and efficient experience at the admissions window please remember to bring your current SASKATOON ZOO SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP CARD with you. We do not have access to the membership database at the window so you must present your current card in order to get free admission to the zoo. Please help us to help you.

Paws Inn hours of operation

April 1 - April 30 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
May 1 - September 5 9:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.
September 6 - Oct 31 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

- * Drinks and snacks
- * Zoo souvenirs and gifts
- * Stroller and Wagon Rentals
- * Firewood
- * ATM

Did you know you can renew your membership by mail or by telephone (975-3395)?

Membership renewals at the admission window will only be accepted on weekdays. Your co-operation will reduce the congestion at the admission window on weekends. Thank you for your co-operation.

Discovery Centre Update

The Discovery Centre is now home to phase one of a new interpretive display that celebrates the history of the Forestry Farm and the achievements of the people who worked here for the past century. Have you ever wondered why the park is called the Forestry Farm? The Forestry Farm is a National Historic Site because it was a federal government tree nursery station from 1913 to 1966. Known as the Sutherland Forest Nursery Station, it supplied over three million trees a year to Saskatchewan farmers for use in shelterbelts and other plantings around the province. Be sure to check out the new display on your next visit to the Zoo. More installments of the display are planned in the near future.

The Discovery Centre is located in the Affinity Learning Centre. The entrance on the Zoo side of the Affinity Learning Centre leads to the Discovery Centre. This is an exciting all-weather area that is open to the public. Besides the informative and interactive history display, many exotic animals are on display. The Discovery Centre also has state-of-the-art wheelchair accessible washrooms.

Zoo Camps and Pre-school Programs

Camp & Pre-school Registration Procedure:

Please have the following ready when you phone to register your child(ren):

- 1) Your Visa or Mastercard number and expiry date.
- 2) Your child's hospitalization number
- 3) An emergency contact and phone number
- 4) Any allergies your child may have.
- 5) Your Saskatoon Zoo Society membership number if you are a member.

Call 975-3395 to register.

Cancellations are subject to a \$25.00 administration fee.

Warning: Nut Allergy Alert

Please be aware that if your child has a severe nut allergy that some of the animals are fed nuts and peanut butter. **Our Zoo Camps are not a safe environment for children with severe contact allergies to nuts.** This affects all our camp programs as we go behind the scenes to various zoo keeper only locations. Please inform the Zoo Society of any allergies your child may have.

Besides cash or cheque,
the Saskatoon Zoo Society
accepts Visa and Mastercard.

Spring Animal Antics

**A morning program for kids ages 4 and 5
Wednesday OR Thursday mornings
May 4 to June 23, 2011 (8 weeks) 9:30 - 11:30 a.m.**

Join us for fun nature adventures as we experience animals up close. Make cool crafts, play fun games, listen to stories and much more. Enrolment is limited to 12 children. Call 975-3395 to register.

Cost: \$100/child for members
\$120/child for non-members.

Summer Camps at the Zoo

Watch our web site for updates. Registration for summer camps will not be accepted until 9:00 a.m. on May 3rd, 2011.

Members of the Saskatoon Zoo Society can register starting 9:00 a.m. on May 2nd, 2011.

Camps must be paid for at the time of registration. A \$25.00 administration fee is non-refundable. Camp cancellations must be made prior to June 24, 2011 to receive a full refund (less the administration fee).

Bio-Bits 2011 Our five-day camp for ages 7 - 10 years.

July 4 - 8

July 11 - 14 (4 days)

July 18 - 22

July 25 - 29

August 2 - 5 (4 days)

August 15 - 19

August 22 - 26 (tentative)

Spend a week at the Zoo! We'll get to know our animal friends with help from the Zoo Society interpreters and the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo zookeepers. Lots of hands-on experiences, crafts, and games all designed to have fun at the Zoo. Camp includes a campfire lunch on Friday. Bag lunch and snacks are required Monday-Thursday. Lunch and snacks provided on Friday. Call 975-3395 to register.

Visit our website
saskatoonzoosociety.ca
for updates on prices.

Bio-Explorers Our five-day camp for ages 11-14

August 8 -12, 2010

It's a wild week with the Zoo Society. We'll get to know our animal friends with help from the Zoo Society interpreters and the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo zookeepers. In this camp we will also explore local conservation areas like Pike Lake, the Saskatoon Natural Grasslands, and Beaver Creek. Grab your sleeping bag: this exciting camp includes a sleepover at the Zoo on Thursday. Bag lunch and snacks are required Monday-Thursday. Supper is provided on Thursday. Breakfast is provided on Friday. Call 975-3395 to register.

Thank you to our education program sponsors



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Adopt - A - Critter

Donating to support the Saskatoon Zoo Society's education programs has never been easier and more fun, thanks to our Adopt-a-Critter program. Everyone is welcome to adopt-a-critter, from individuals and families to school groups, clubs, associations and businesses. Call today, (975-3395) pick up a brochure, or visit our web site.

Adopt-a-Critter makes a wild and unusual gift that shows you care.

Contact the Saskatoon Zoo Society to make your adoption arrangements. Funds raised through the Adopt-a-Critter program are used to fund the education programs of the Saskatoon Zoo Society and to enhance the living conditions of the animals at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo.

There are two great adoption options to choose from:

\$25.00 Package includes:

- * Picture of the animal you have adopted.
- * Species fact sheet.
- * Tax receipt
- * all in an attractive folder.
- * adopter's name on our "Building a Better Zoo" donor display

\$40.00 Package includes:

- * Personalized photo card of your adopted animal.
- * species fact sheet
- * tax receipt
- * Plus a plush animal (Add \$5.00 for postage)
- * all in an attractive folder
- * adopter's name on our "Building a Better Zoo" donor display

New Adopt-a-Critter Parents

Jospeh Angel
 Carolyn Angel
 Emerson Bode
 Eleanor Bode
 Bruno School Grade 3/4 Class
 Neil Buechler
 Verna Buechler
 Brianna de Vrie
 Makenna Dobrowolsky
 Owen Dobrowolsky
 Dayne Falk
 Michael Feldkamp
 Tom & Jacqy Fenty
 Ed Finch Sr.
 Mykah Gerstmar
 Magnus Gerstmar
 Janet Glow
 Ryan & Cathy Hainworth
 Jim & Vivian Hainworth
 Aidan Horseman
 Thiessen Horseman
 Tarek Horseman
 Niklos Irwin
 Geraldine G. Krysak
 Kathy F. Krysak
 Allan & Mary Lutzko
 Rita Lutzko
 Mitchell Lutzko
 Darrell Lutzko

In memory of Andrea Lutzko

Mlle. Bischoff
 Mme. Harpham & Mme. Rouleau
 Mrs. Gerein's Kindergarten class
 Silverspring School
 Mrs. Stirling's Kindergarten classes
 Silverspring School
 Anna Murphy Wiebe
 Ella Murphy Wiebe
 Sonja Poth
 Wyatt Poth
 Clark Poth
 Amanda Puhl
 S.P.C.A. Auxiliary
 N. Yanke Social Committee
 Grayson Sorley
 Nora Steffenhagen
 Maia Stempien
 Eli Stempien
 Emily Swab
 Cara Swab
 Cassidy Whelan

Adopt-a-Critter Supporters

Jill Newstead Angel
 Niklos Irwin
 Geoff Bode
 Lianne Borstmayer
 Tracy Buechler
 Joan Falk
 Dorothea Feldkamp
 Ed Finch
 Heather Gerstmar
 Linda Brickner
 Joan Bunce
 Leisjea Horseman
 Sara Horseman
 Robert Cormier
 Shannon Puhl
 Nicole Yerxa
 Frances Radford
 James Stempien
 Bruna Swab
 Irene Wilkins

Donations

Cynthia Fey
 Carla Hedman
 Don Johnston
 Bill & Audrey MacKenzie
 Ruth Speiser
 WilliamJoseph Communications



Thank you to all our supporters & donors.

Join us for a special pre-AGM showing of

Wolverine: Chasing the Phantom

Sunday March 20 at 12:30 p.m.

Affinity Learning Centre at the Forestry Farm

Cost: free

This special *Nature* documentary by wildlife filmmaker Steve Kroschel who has spent 25 years with these elusive creatures. Everyone is welcome.

Saskatoon Zoo Society Annual General Meeting

Sunday, March 20

Affinity Learning Centre

12:30 p.m. Wolverine: Chasing the Phantom

1:30 p.m. Annual General Meeting

Join us for hors d'oeuvres and refreshments as you check out the new Affinity Learning Centre and all the wonderful programs and events conducted by the Saskatoon Zoo Society. Our AGM is never long and we would love to have more members come out and support our organization.

Call 975-3395 for more information

Paws Inn Grand Opening

Friday, April 1

10:00 a.m.

Kick off the new season with a stop at Paws Inn. Drop by for a special treat and check out the new line of T-shirts and souvenirs for 2011. Say hi to the new staff and don't forget to renew your membership!

Zoo Run

Sunday, April 17

9:00 a.m.

Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo.

Our annual 5 km fun run or 2.5 km walk raises funds for our education programs such as Zoo Club. The event features a souvenir T-shirt for participants, cinnamon buns and refreshments, and a chance for some cool draw prizes. Watch for entry forms on our web site, at the zoo, or at Brainsport (our sponsor) at 704 Broadway Avenue.

Call 975-3042 for more information.

Earth Day Trail

April 16 - May 1

Celebrate Earth Week by testing your knowledge of the Earth and how to conserve resources and wildlife with our special question cards found throughout the zoo. The Earth Day Trail is free with your regular zoo admission.

Keeping Up With The Keepers

Mother's Day: Sunday, May 8 at 8:30 a.m.

Father's Day: Sunday, June 19 at 8:30 a.m.

Grandparents' Day: Sunday, September 11 at 8:30

Affinity Learning Centre at the Forestry Farm

Feast with the Beasts! Follow the zookeepers on their morning rounds and finish off the morning with a continental breakfast for brunch.

Space is limited. Advanced registration is required.

Adults \$20.00, Children \$10.00

Members: Adults \$16.00, Children \$8.00

Visa and Mastercard accepted.

Call 975-3395 to register.

Join the Zoo Society at

Kinsmen Day at the Zoo

Friday, June 24

9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

It's a free day at the Zoo sponsored by the Kinsmen Club of Saskatoon. The day features free admission to the Zoo. In the afternoon (12:00-4:00) there is entertainment, face painting, and games & activities for the kids. Of course the Zoo Society will be on hand with our Investigation Stations and animal ambassadors.

Please note that vehicle entrance fees, fishing pond fees, and stroller rental charges are still in effect.

Call the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo at 975-3382 for more information.

Family Day at the Zoo

Sunday, July 17

Our annual fundraiser is always a popular day at the Zoo. The event features entertainment, games, and activities. All funds raised support the Zoo Society's environmental education programs.

Note to members: on this special fundraising day, your membership card acts as a discount card rather than your regular free admission.



Earth Day[®]
C A N A D A

Young Naturalists' Program

www.saskatoonzoosociety.ca/programs/young-naturalists/

Young Naturalists' programs are open to all ages and offer nature-based activities designed for families. Content is geared towards the 5 to 11 year old range. We operate on the belief that children's (and parents') learning is enhanced when the parents/guardians are present. Parent/Guardian supervision is required on all Young Naturalists' programs.

Young Naturalists is a joint program with the Saskatoon Nature Society (www.saskatoonnaturesociety.sk.ca) and the Saskatoon Zoo Society (www.saskatoonzoosociety.ca). Thanks to funding from the Saskatoon Nature Society most programs are free of charge unless otherwise noted.

To register or for more information call 975-3042 (This is an answering machine which is checked frequently throughout the day) or send an e-mail to saskatoonnaturekids@gmail.com. Space is limited on most programs so advanced registration is required. Registration is taken on a first-come basis. You can register at any time.



Saskatoon
Nature Society

Young Naturalists' Great Horned Owl Ecology

Date: Saturday, March 12

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Meet: Affinity Learning Centre (Forestry Farm Park & Zoo)

Cost: Free (donations accepted)

Meet "Spirt" (Spirit) the one-eyed Great Horned Owl and discover how this Saskatchewan bird of prey survives our cold winters. What do owls eat? It is easy to find out, just check out their pellets! What's an owl pellet? Better attend this program and dissect your own owl pellet to find out! Space is limited.

Call 975-3042 to register or for more information.

Young Naturalists' Great Horned Owl Field Trip

Date: To Be Announced (mid-May) -depends on the owls !

Time: TBA (weekday evening: 2 hours)

Meet: TBA

Cost: Free (Donations always accepted).

Registration is required.

We will join naturalists' Martin Stoffel as he collects scientific information from wild Great Horned Owls.

Space is limited.

Call 975-3042 to register or for more information.

Young Naturalists' Bird House Workshop

Date: Friday, April 8

Time: 1:00 p.m.

Meet: Affinity Learning Centre (Forestry Farm Park & Zoo)

Cost: \$7.00 per child. Members \$5.00

(registration required).

Spring is just around the corner so it is time to prepare for the bluebirds and Tree swallows return from their winter migration. These cavity-nesting birds will be looking for suitable nesting sites. We can help them out by building a birdhouse. Bring a hammer and make your own birdhouse.

Space is limited in this workshop so registration is required.

Call 975-3042 to register or for more information.

Young Naturalists' Pike Lake Field Trip

Date: Saturday, May 7

Time: 12:00 noon

Meet: Pike Lake Provincial Park (main parking lot).

Cost: Free (registration is required).

Join the Young Naturalists for lunch around the campfire followed by nature activities including our search for wild dragons, damsels, fairies, and frogs*.

Call 975-3042 for more details or to register. (*Dragonflies, damselflies, fairy shrimp, and frogs).

Young Naturalists' Bluebird Trail

Date: starts early June

Dates to be determined. Visit the web site for updates.

The banding will take place on various days throughout the month of June and into mid-July.

Join naturalist Greg Fenty as he works with bluebirds and Tree swallows along the Bluebird Trail.

Watch our web site for Bluebird Trail updates:

www.saskatoonzoosociety.ca/programs/young-naturalists/

Call 975-3042 to register or for more information.

Young Naturalists' Crocus Field Trip

Date: Thursday, April 14

Time: 6:00 p.m.

Meet: Peturrson's Ravine parking lot. (On Central Avenue approximately 100m north of Somers Road).

Cost: Free (please call 975-3042 to register).

Celebrate Earth Day with a walk on the native prairie by Peturrson's Ravine. We'll be looking for the Prairie Crocus. The flowers are only here for a short time, so come out and observe these beautiful flowers.

Call 975-3042 for more information or to register.

Tentative Upcoming Young Naturalists' Programs:

-An introduction to Butterflies.

-An Introduction to Botany.

Visit our web site for updates on these and other

Young Naturalists' Programs:

www.saskatoonzoosociety.ca/programs/young-naturalists/

**2011 Marks the 35th Anniversary of the Zoo Society.
Our biggest and best year yet....but we can't do it without your support**

Call for board members:

If you have participated in some of our programs and would like to learn how we do things, please consider joining our board.

The time commitment for a board member is about 3 to 4 hours per month. Please consider giving back to the Saskatoon Zoo Society by giving us a few hours of your time. We are a congenial group and would welcome some input from other Society members.

Please contact Claire Bullaro at 373-1787 or by e-mail at c.bear@sasktel.net



Learn more about your Zoo Society

Annual General Meeting

Sunday, March 20 at 1:30 p.m.

**Affinity Learning Centre,
Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park and Zoo.**

Join us for hors d'oeuvres and refreshments as you check out the new Affinity Learning Centre and all the wonderful programs and events conducted by the Saskatoon Zoo Society. Our AGM is never long and we would love to have more members come out and support our organization. Call 975-3395 for more information. *Join us early at 12:30 for a showing of the Wolverine documentary.*

Volunteer Opportunities:

The Zoo Society is re-vamping its volunteer program. Because we are not the zoo, we do not have volunteer positions that work directly with the animals at the Saskatoon Forestry Farm Park & Zoo, but we still require volunteers to meet and greet the public and help work at our Investigation Stations. Watch our web site for volunteer program updates.

Call 975-3395 for more information.

Sponsorship Opportunities

The Saskatoon Zoo Society runs over 400 education programs each year with a very small staff. Most are run below or at-cost, so that organizations and individuals can afford to participate in our programs. In operation since 1976, the Saskatoon Zoo Society continues to be a leader in environmental education throughout Saskatchewan. Ongoing efforts are in place to continue to improve the quality and integrity of our education programs. The success of these efforts has been proven by the amount of support we receive for our programs, the continued demand for our programs and the partnerships we have formed with our local school boards and nature organizations.

The need for environmental education is validated by the long-term value participants receive in these programs. Trained interpreters both paid and volunteer provide the mentorship that young children need to become informed citizens about their planet. We strive to ensure that these children do not become disconnected from all that they can learn away from the computer. The incorporation of environmental education here at Saskatchewan's only accredited zoo has heightened children's awareness of their natural world. It is vital that our message of promoting a healthy environment through education and conservation projects is not lost on these young children. It is only through these messages that we can promote a healthy environment for future generations.

However, in order to keep our successful programs running with reasonable fees, the Society requires financial assistance. We have initiated a very successful Zoo School pilot project that is supported by our local school systems, but we cannot continue without financial support. We need your help!

Thanks to a grant from WilliamJoseph Communications, the Saskatoon Zoo Society has prepared a sponsorship package for local businesses, individuals and corporations. We invite you to look at all the programs we offer and see if there is a particular area you would like to support or whether you would like to make a general donation. All donations of \$10 or more will be issued a charitable tax receipt. The Saskatoon Zoo Society is a charitable organization that relies on the generosity of all its donors. Please consider making a donation today! For more information please visit <http://www.saskatoon-zoosociety.ca/support/donate.html> for a PDF of our sponsorship package or e-mail us directly at zoosociety@sasktel.net and we will send out the PDF of our sponsorship package. We would also be happy to mail you a copy of our sponsorship package for more information on the programs that need your support. We appreciate your support and look forward to providing you with high-quality environmental education programs. Thank you in advance for considering a donation to the Saskatoon Zoo Society.
(Charitable registration #11914 1216 RR0001)