



Zoocheck News & Views

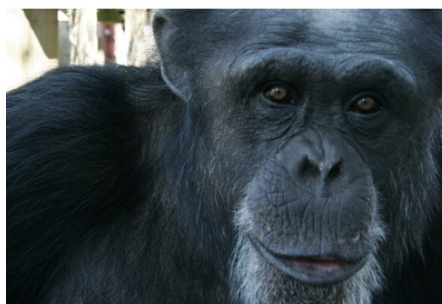
September 2023

Welcome to the September 2023 Zoocheck News & Views!

Zoocheck's monthly communication that features current news about campaigns and projects, opinion pieces, interesting information, upcoming events and more.

Update on Bill S-241 - Action on Roadside Zoos and Wildlife in Captivity Still Needed in Ontario and Other Parts of Canada

The need to pass Bill S-241 *An Act to amend the Criminal Code and the Wild Animal and Plant Protection and Regulation of International and Interprovincial Trade Act (great apes, elephants and certain other animals)* and complementary legislation at the provincial level remains, especially in Ontario.



Bill S-241, known as the *Jane Goodall Act*, passed 2nd reading on June 8th of this year but has yet to be scheduled for Committee hearings.

Zoocheck, along with our colleague animal protection organizations, has continued to advocate for passage of Senate Bill S-241 as it was originally proposed. If it becomes law the Bill would phase out the keeping of elephant captivity in Canada, create stringent controls on the keeping of great apes, ban the new captivity of approximately 800 additional animal species and more.

This summer Zoocheck surveyed a number of Ontario zoos and found that, while a few zoos had improved from past years, a number of still unregulated roadside zoos and private wildlife menageries exist and provide rudimentary, often poor, conditions for animals. There are also dozens and dozens of unregulated mobile zoos and hundreds of individuals who keep various exotic animal species, such as venomous snakes, as pets for personal amusement.

There is still a pressing need for Bill S-241 federally and other legislation at the

provincial level to protect wild animals in captivity. More information about this issue will be forthcoming in subsequent e-newsletters.



Legal Action launched by City of London against Reptilia to be heard in court on March 18, 2024

On three separate occasions (2018, 2022 & 2023) London City Council refused to change its bylaws to accommodate the Reptilia business in their city. Prior to that, in 2011, London City Council voted to remove the "private zoo use" zoning definition from their zoning bylaw expressly so that new private zoos would not be able set up in the city.

It is also worth noting that in 2013, London also decided to phase out its own aging 1950s-style children's zoo in Storybook Gardens and Zoocheck helped find suitable placements for many of the animals.

Despite this history of progressive actions by London City Council, that are in line with changing societal attitudes about the keeping of wildlife in captivity, Reptilia constructed and opened their shopping mall zoo in late April 2023. Zoocheck attended the location shortly after opening and found it populated with animals that are restricted or prohibited in the City and that are therefore not allowed.

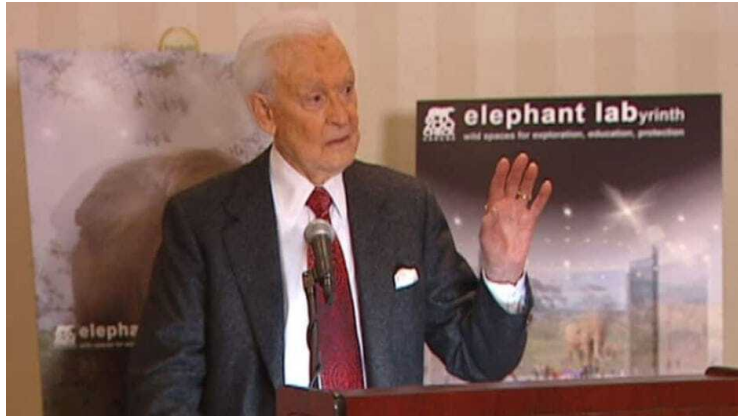
We are pleased to see the City of London launching a legal action. We do not believe any businesses should be allowed to just ignore Council decisions they don't like as that sets a bad precedent that may encourage others to do the same.

[Read the Article](#)

RIP Bob Barker

Bob Barker was an amazing animal advocate and a friend of Zoocheck who helped with a number of campaigns, not the least of which was

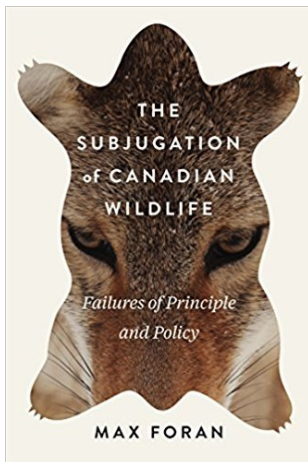
providing critical assistance when Zoocheck moved Toka, Thika and Iringa, the last three surviving elephants at the Toronto Zoo, to the excellent PAWS sanctuary in central California.



Zoocheck campaigns

director Julie Woodyer knew Barker for years and collaborated on both successful and failed efforts to free animals from captivity at Canada's zoos. She says Barker brought a unique generosity that was unmatched by other celebrities, often opening up his cheque book to support the cause and willingly making appearances at events to raise awareness.

While Bob was best known for supporting animal causes, he also supported military charities that help veterans. We need more people in the world like Bob Barker. We will miss him.



The Subjugation of Canadian Wildlife - A talk by renowned historian/author Max Foran

This talk by world renowned historian / author Max Foran argues that the root cause of wildlife depletions and habitat loss in Canada are the culturally ingrained beliefs that underpin modern wildlife management practices and policies. He challenges established concepts, including the flawed belief that wildlife is a renewable resource and compels us to recognize animals as sentient beings

with personal, community and ecological purpose and value. This was the keynote address at Zoocheck's Saving Alberta's Wild Horses Symposium in Cochrane, Alberta on June 1, 2018.

Read Max Foran's book *The Subjugation of Canadian Wildlife, Failures of Principle and Policy*.

Note: The first 60 seconds of this video has poor sound.

Watch the Video



Attention Aspiring & Established Writers

Writing about Animals Workshop

with Nadja Lubiw-Hazard

Author / veterinarian / Zoocheck board member

October 4, 2023, Toronto, Ontario

Writing Animals is a facilitated creative writing workshop designed for both young people and adults who are curious, passionate, or excited about animals and want to discover how to write about them in authentic and powerful ways.

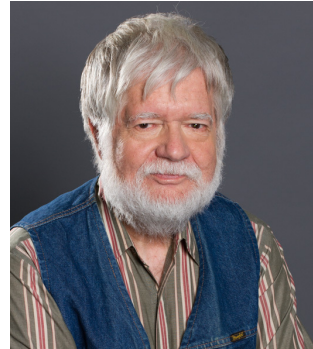
“Let my words be bright with animals,” says poet and storyteller Joseph Bruchac. Yes, let our words be bright with animals, with their radiant scales and iridescent feathers, their glittering eyes shining in the darkness, their cleverness and consciousness. To capture other species and our encounters with them in our writing requires authenticity. Often our knowledge about an animal species comes from story, not direct experience. Can we dive deeper into what the lives of animals are really like? Can we put aside the assumptions, myths and misconceptions about animals and write about them with faithfulness to their true nature?

More Information & How to Register

Outstanding wildlife art by Barry Kent MacKay - A unique holiday season gift!

A portion of the proceeds in support of Zoocheck's wildlife protection work!

Barry Kent MacKay, renowned Canadian bird and wildlife artist, writer, naturalist, conservationist and Zoocheck board member has painted birds and other wildlife from around the world for decades. His works can be found in homes, offices, institutions and a multitude of other venues across the country.



Check out Barry's website to see what paintings, reproductions and other items are currently available. If you'd like to purchase original artwork (also at the link below), please email zoocheck@zoocheck.com and we'll put you in touch with Barry directly as original works are not sold through the website.

View the Artwork

Support Wildlife Protection - Make a Donation Today!

Help us as we work to improve wildlife protection, and end the abuse, neglect and exploitation of wild animals in Canada and around the world!

Donate



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