



Greater Vancouver Zoo – PRESS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

RECOGNIZING PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Aldergrove – There are many people around the world that have one form of disability or another. Some people with disabilities occur at birth, while other people acquire them later in their life. We have always embraced people with disabilities, although we made the decision 18 years ago; to host this special annual event called Access Day as our way of giving back to the community.

According to the Canadian Survey on Disability (CSD), conducted by Statistics Canada in 2012; an “estimated 3.8 million adult Canadians reported being limited in their daily activities due to a disability in 2012. This represents 13.7% of the adult population.” People who have disabilities face many challenges on a daily basis, so we feel very strongly about ensuring that this is an enjoyable day just for them, filled with lots of laughter and one that they won’t forget!

Yesterday we welcomed almost 2,000 people of all ages (**almost double from last year**) to this event with groups from many of the same groups that attend each year such as Thompson Community Services, Communitas Supportive Care Society, Joy Fellowship, Argyll Lodge, Langley Association for Community Living, Chilliwack Starfish, various school district resource rooms, etc.



Photo credits: Davina Graham



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One of the organizers from Joy Fellowship commented that “he was very thankful to the Zoo for holding the event every year and that it is something they look forward to, as they enjoy having a day at the Zoo especially for them”.

"Our group had a very wonderful time, despite the rain. We so deeply appreciate your willingness to open the zoo for special kids for one day a year. It makes it attainable for our specific group, who would not otherwise be able to afford the visit! I could also say it is so much easier for us to be at the zoo with other special kids because nobody gets upset when my kids squeal in delight!" said Esther King from Chilliwack Starfish.

We are very proud that we can offer a beautiful outdoor venue for our guests of all ages to connect and learn about some of the world’s most amazing animals. Many thanks to our amazing staff and wonderful volunteers, who always are keen to come out for this most rewarding day for all!



Photo credits: Peter Woo



Photo credits: Davina Graham

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Media Contact:
Jody Henderson
Marketing & Communications Manager
Phone: 604.856.6825 x 33
Email: jhenderson@gvzoo.com

About Greater Vancouver Zoo

Since 1970....dedicated to conservation, preservation and protection of endangered species! Our mission is to inspire appreciation of our ecosystems and support conservation efforts by engaging the community. The Greater Vancouver Zoo is an accredited zoo within the Canada's Accredited Zoos and Aquariums (CAZA), which is a non-profit organization established to promote the welfare of animals and encourage the advancement of education, conservation and science.

To learn more about the good things we do at the Zoo
visit us at: www.gvzoo.com or better yet come visit us in person!

