

## Greater Vancouver Zoo – PRESS RELEASE

Date: April 4<sup>th</sup> 2016  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### CONSERVATION EFFORTS FOR THE TAYLOR'S CHECKERSPOT BUTTERFLIES

Aldergrove – Spring is definitely in the air and what do you think of when spring arrives? Well most people think of warmer weather, trees and flowers blooming, birds are chirping more and yes butterflies too! Unfortunately not all butterflies are as common as they used to be. Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly (TCB) used to be quite common in Garry Oak, Comox Valley and Hornby Island in British Columbia; to the Willamette Valley in Oregon.

Taylor's Checkerspot butterfly (TCB) is an **Endangered Species** in Canada. "These eye-catching little orange and black butterflies have disappeared from all but 15 locations in the world. Currently, the only known breeding sites for TCBs in Canada are on Denman Island near Comox, and even that population has dwindled in recent years."



Taylor's Checkerspot Caterpillar



Taylor's Checkerspot (*Euphydryas editha taylori*) on Denman Island. Photo: A. Fyson



Photo credits: Jennifer Heron, BC Ministry of Environment

The Greater Vancouver Zoo is thrilled to be part of the Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Project and has agreed to take over the captive breeding operations, previously run by Peter Karsten at his private facility on Denman. Since the fall we have established some food and plant gardens, and are currently getting the conservation area ready for the arrival of the butterfly larvae in early April. A conservation intern has also been hired to assist with the conservation project and will be focused on the butterflies all throughout the summer.

The Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Project has been ongoing for more than ten years and more recently the captive rearing component has started with help from local volunteers, seasonal staff and funding provided by Wildlife Preservation Canada.

Are you interested in learning more about the great conservation efforts from the Taylor's Checkerspot Butterfly Recovery Project and all the collaborators working together on its continued success, please visit <http://www.goert.ca/activities/taylors-checkerspot/>.

- 30 -

Media Contact:  
Jody Henderson  
Marketing & Communications Manager  
Phone: 604.856.6825 x 33  
Email: [jhenderson@gvzoo.com](mailto:jhenderson@gvzoo.com)

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

Since 1970...dedicated to conservation, preservation & protection of endangered species! 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.

