The Scoop
FALL 2017

Toby
May 1, 1977 – October 16, 2017

Toby © NJ Wight
Present & Past
CHIMPS’ ARRIVAL DATES

Annie 1997

Spock 2007

Billy Jo 1997

Donna Rae 1997

Jeannie 1997

Pablo 1997

Pepper 1997

Sophie 2007

Spock 2007

Toby 2002

Tom 1997

Yoko 1997
20 Years of Caring

Our 20th anniversary of the chimpanzees’ arrival at Fauna is upon us this fall. On September 12, 1997 the first group of chimpanzees arrived from LEMSIP. These were the young ones, Petra, Binky, Rachel, Regis, Jethro, Chance, and Annie. All except Annie are still at Fauna. Weeks later, on October 21, 1997 the second group arrived, Pablo, Sue Ellen, Donna Rae, Billy Jo, and Pepper. These were the older chimpanzees who had been used more heavily in research. Then in November, 1997 the last three came, Tom, Yoko, and Jeannie. From these last groups of older chimpanzees only Sue Ellen is still with us. Five years later, in 2002 Toby arrived. Then in 2007 Spock, Maya, and Sophie arrived from the Quebec City Zoo. Tatu and Loulis arrived in 2013 and Blackie and Dolly in 2016.

Gloria’s Reflections on 20 Years of Caring for our Chimpanzee Residents.

Although so much has changed over the past 20 years of caring for the chimps and there are always so many memories and stories to share, I thought I would focus on the feeling that remains the same for me. The part that warms my heart and fills my soul, knowing there is nothing I would rather do in my life than try to bring joy and happiness into the lives of our residents. We have been rescuing many different animals from so many different situations for most of our adult lives. The feeling is always the same when I see someone light up, make new friends, become healthier physically and emotionally or have a nice day in their new life, it’s wonderful and there is not much else that feels that way in my life.

Seeing changes in the chimps as the days and years pass is just a miracle to witness. Having the opportunity to care for them and be part of their journey is indescribable. Good times and bad, highs and lows, they are all special and part of life. Without the sad times we might forget how great things really are although there is nothing we can do to stop the inevitable for all beings, death. There is so much we can do to make that time very special.

I look forward to being with our residents in the last years of their lives and growing old with each and every one. I wouldn’t change a thing. It has been a journey and a life with purpose I am very aware of the abundance of blessings in my life.

I want to say how wonderful it has been getting to know so many compassionate and caring people along the way. We feel so blessed to have been given the magnificent opportunity to care for our residents and are deeply touched to know we have so many friends and supporters who want the same for our lovely residents.

We couldn’t do it without you. Thank you for caring in the way you do and please remember we need you as much as ever.

With gratitude,

Gloria

Our Dear Spock

As we are about to go to press with this edition of The Scoop we have suffered yet another loss. Dear Spock had congestive heart failure. He passed quickly surrounded by his dearest human friends. We know many of you loved gregarious Spock. Of course there are many memories to share which we will do in our next edition.

Anniversary Event

We hosted a 20th anniversary event with Rob Laidlaw, Director of Zoocheck as our speaker. We had 120 attendees. It was the launch of the barn in the conservation area as an events venue. By generator and candlelight Rob talked about zoos, their roles, and myths about them.

We have lots of new merchandise to commemorate our 20 years of work. Please check the insert and our website to see what is available.

“I slept and dreamt that life was joy. I awoke and saw that life was service. I acted and behold, service was joy.”

—Rabindranath Tugore
The Early Days

BY MARY LEE JENSVOLD

I first met Gloria when she was an Earthwatch volunteer at the Chimpanzee & Human Communication Institute in Ellensburg, Washington. It was during that trip that Gloria met her first chimpanzees and decided to start her own sanctuary. Deborah and Roger Fouts and I met and corresponded with Gloria over the short time that she designed the building and learned of the chimpanzees at LEMSIP in New York who were soon to retire from the lab. I have a file of notes from conversations with Gloria from those days leading up to and after the chimpanzees arrived. Much of our correspondences were with faxes!

Weeks after the first group arrived I came to Fauna and spent a week getting to know the rambunctious lot. Binky, just 8 years old, reminded me of Loulis at the same age (and for much of his life). Both were full of spit and vinegar, teaching us humans a lesson in humility in an in-your-face kind of way and having a great time while at it. Petra was as thin as a runway model. Regis and I became friends during that week and he remembered me over 15 years later. Gloria and I started routines like the ones at CHCI, serving breakfast smoothies, and cooked meals in bowls with spoons for lunch and dinner; hanging out grooming or playing chase; and cleaning. Reflections of the chimpanzees’ previous lives came through in these activities. Rachel, a pet in her early life, knew exactly what to do with the spoon (at LEMSIP meals arrived through a box on the enclosure—not in bowls with spoons) while Petra, lab reared, had no idea at the time. I saw Rachel have episodes of extreme dysregulation—she shook her hand and screamed in terror—she was hallucinating that something was on her hand and she couldn’t get it off! It was heartbreaking to see.

From a Fax from Gloria to Mary Lee dated October 27, 1997

Gloria’s description of the arrival of the second group of chimpanzees.

They [Jim Mahoney and staff from LEMSIP] first let the three older ladies out, Donna Rae 32, Sue Ellen 29, and Pepper 27, that went so well. Pepper and Donna Rae headed immediately for the beds we had made in the tunnels. It was so wonderful to see them fiddle with the sheets, and hide themselves, then stretch right out and get comfortable…. Then they let Billy Joe and Pablo go into one of the rooms… they ran and played it was so wonderful. The two girls didn’t even come out of their new beds, and Sue Ellen made herself a little bed in the straw and found some blankets. It was wonderful!... I’m sure you are wondering what your new friends were doing while all this was going on! Well initially they were darlings—they were curious, but excited, they stood up on the platform and all seven of them clung to the grill and tried to see everything that was going on. The looked like a street gang looking through the prison fencing. It was pretty cute—until the next day when they turned into the New York Hoodlums. They banged on the grill, they screamed, displayed, thumped, spit, anything you could think of. Pablo was responding to the silliness but the girls and Billy just sat in a little group in the sun grooming one another.

Some things have changed over the years and others have not. Now Petra can easily use a spoon but Rachel still has extreme episodes of dysregulation. One thing has remained the same, the chimpanzees came to a home, and it is still a home. Home is a place of safety. Everyone at Fauna for the last 20 years has contributed to making this the chimpanzees’ home.
Remembering Theo

Theo was born in the wild in Kenya, a place where Olive Baboons are meant to live, and captured as an infant. He was imported to Canada and destined to be used in research at University of Western Ontario. Due to his strength, and the fact that he would not keep the restraining jacket on, he could not be used for the studies. After all he had been through, his capture and his losses, Theo was to be terminated. His job was to be a blood donor for other baboons who had undergone kidney transplants. This required that he wear a type of restraining jacket, without it the necessary access to his body was impossible. It seems Theo would not wear the jacket and was able to get it off. Lucky for him, he would not wear the restraining devices, but it is horrifying to think his life would have to end because of that. This vibrant, amazing, social young fellow would be on a list of candidates who would be killed unless someone provided a home for him which Fauna did in 2003.

He was kind, gentle, beautiful, and good to his caregivers. He was a remarkable fellow with a sweet nature. He lived on his own but with neighbors whom he adored. His dear friend for many years was a little Long Tailed Crab Eating Macaque, Pougi, as well as a lovely Capuchin couple, Sophie and Little Man. Pougi, Little Man and Sophie are gone now. His neighbors in his last years were two Rhesus Macaques, Newton and Darla. Newton provided companionship with grooming. Eugene, a Japanese Macaque, too was Theo’s neighbor.

Theo’s last month was a slow health decline and was described in our blog. He died shortly after that post. Despite our best efforts, he became unable to move and feed himself and there was no signs or prognosis of improvement from the neurologist. Theo was a truly magnificent Baboon and not just because of his male beauty but because of his patience, kind personality, loyalty and compassion. Theo was just 20 years old and had been living at Fauna since he was 4 years old. It is hard to see anyone struggle with an illness, but it is especially difficult when the individual appears as healthy and vibrant as Theo did. It was unreal to see the dramatic change in him the last few weeks. I know that if this is shocking for us then it certainly is a shock for you to hear.

Theo had been having a difficult time moving around for awhile before his death. It started a few months earlier with one foot dragging. He seemed to overcome the weakness from the foot but then the problem seemed to be more in his leg which also appeared to be weaker, then an arm, then both legs. It almost looked like he may have suffered a stroke. Some of Theo’s caregivers even noticed him touching his head more often and swelling over his eye...so many of the symptoms could have been a stroke except for the fact that there was no consistency with the side...it changed from week to week.

The week we decided to go ahead and proceed with Theo’s blood test and physical Theo was getting much worse and could barely get down the caging in his room. Theo’s blood tests on Friday August 18th, did not reveal anything that could justify his deterioration these past weeks and months. After
his physical he seemed to have a difficult time getting up. He was awake but not able to pull himself up. For three days he stayed in the same spot with help from some of us to move him. He was cared for in the protected area he was in and although he seemed content and had a good appetite, he simply could not move himself except to sit up and turn around after much effort. Respecting that this was an ordeal for Theo we were very hopeful he would regain his strength…however by Monday August 21st there was very little change.

Lindsay compiled and created a file from the information our caregiving staff had collected each day in the monkey house detailing changes they saw in Theo over the past few months. The list documented daily changes and behaviour, how much he ate, and how much he moved each day. This list was given to the same neurologist who diagnosed and treated our resident chimpanzee Yoko years ago when he lost the use of his legs.

Dr. Kent felt Theo was experiencing a form of epilepsy called “Todds paralysis.” After a seizure the patient may lose the use of an arm, leg or both for up to two days or longer. Repeated seizures result in more paralysis. Seizures can happen multiple times in a day or during the night. Some of our caregiving staff witnessed Theo having seizures followed by general weakness. Sometimes it was described as “Theo climbed down from his night platform but seemed exhausted afterward.”

By Monday afternoon Theo came back into the building for a short while, the first time in 3 days. It was an effort for him and it took hours for him to get down a ramp onto the floor. He seemed discouraged that he could not go into the room he usually slept in because we were working on installing new ramps for him to get to the high spot that we knew he would have great difficulty reaching and if he did in fact get up there he most likely would not be able to get down. Up until that moment we had never entered an enclosure with Theo for safety sake. He was a wonderful fellow but still a wild soul who would not be safe to go in with.

Later that night he went back outside. We have no idea how long that took, he seemed to make all his moves when we were not there which wasn’t very often. Theo made it out to the new “space ship area” and that was where he stayed for the next four days. The first night was a horrible one for him, he called out all night long. He was scared and confused just as he had been all day long that day. He seemed unable to get settled. By morning he was sleeping soundly and he seemed relaxed and comfortable for the following days. It was a challenge for us to get to him but we did and it was obvious he was not himself. Theo could have experienced some brain damage during these frequent episodes which could be the reason for his complete personality change.

On Thursday morning Lindsay called when she saw Theo moving a little, it was obvious he was having problems walking. Lindsay offered Theo some of his favourite wild plants, grasses and banana leaves all from the garden close by. This seemed to encourage Theo to move a little which we were thrilled to see, however he just seemed to go back and forth in his outdoor walkways, very slowly and seemingly confused. We were discouraged by the end of the day and prayed that he went back to the building because on Friday we were expecting rain.

By Friday he did it, he had made his way back into the building and up the ramps we had installed for him. It took him most of the day to do it but we were relieved somewhat to have him back inside. Then the reality seemed upon us. He wasn’t going to come back down.

He never did come back down…he moved across his platform twice. He went up Friday, one week after his physical and was up there until his death on Tuesday.

Theo was a remarkable patient and he had the best care his last week while in his fragile state from Laurence, Tanya, Lindsay and Catherine. He also had visits from Karen, Dale, Derek, Nancie and some other friends whose visits Theo appeared to appreciate.

On Monday August 21st, Lindsay noticed sores on Theo’s butt pads, upon closer observation we saw that there was extensive damage to the area. Theo had moved only once in three days, often unable to even stay sitting for very long. On Tuesday morning Tanya saw even more sores and reddening on his upper thighs and around his hip. We did everything we could to get him on dry towels and mats. It was very hard to see him dripping in urine and having feces stuck to his hair. We also had to go into the enclosure with Theo to serve him because he could barely lift his hand to his mouth. A measuring cup had been taped to the end of a backscratcher, this was the device staff designed to serve Theo from a safe distance.

I went in to move Theo and change the mats and blankets under his body…the healthy strong Theo would not ever have tolerated this…it was deeply sad to see our beautiful wild soul so vulnerable and weak. All his life Theo had been immaculate and if he had been aware of his hair being all wet and dirty he would have been miserable. It seemed as if he didn’t realize his state. He also could not groom himself anymore because of the
extreme weakness in his arms and hands. It was effort enough for him to hold his food or touch himself.

As hard as we tried to keep him dry and comfortable he did spend some time in wetness which left him covered in bed sores. Theo’s belly had distended and his face was swelling a great deal. Theo had lost a significant amount of weight in the past 10 days and his legs and feet had very little to no feeling. He was declining rapidly.

Dr. Allan had the opportunity to examine Theo closely on Tuesday night. It was clear there would be no turning back and that the chances of recovery with any quality of life were nonexistent. Theo’s passing was very fast and with no stress or pain. He was scared for a brief moment when he realized someone was there but the drugs took effect very quickly and within minutes Theo was snoring and resting comfortably on the giant pillow Tanya had given him the week before. A pillow I was sure he would hate but in the end he used most nights to prop up his head. I am sure it relieved the pressure for him as he filled with fluids in his belly and chest. I was able to groom Theo until the very last moments. He never moved and never really knew what had happened, he simply fell into a very deep sleep. He seemed so comfortable and at peace.

There was a tremendous amount of blood that came out of his nose and mouth upon death, and it was more obvious his belly was grossly distended. The decision was not an easy one but it was also not one moment too soon. He certainly would have died on his own in the coming days. There is nothing more difficult than to see an otherwise healthy vibrant being lose all strength and capabilities...this was one of the most difficult situations of my life.

I can only imagine what the others were feeling, Darla, Newton and Eugene, all there those weeks seeing Theo decline. Dear little Newton always in a window or in the enclosure next to Theo watching and waiting to see what his friend would do. One day when Theo made it to his walkway near Newton they both greeted each other and Newton seemed reassured for a moment that Theo was okay. Newton was always up when I went in late at night and always the first one outside in the mornings when I would lift the blankets off Theo’s outdoor area, Theo who never slept outside. Eugene would wake to see what was happening and sit ever so quietly watching, his locations more difficult for seeing what was going on. Darla was always off in the background, knowing but not wanting to see. Dear little Darla who has witnessed so much suffering needed to step away from it all and I respect her for that.

I remind myself and all of us who work here at Fauna that this part of their journey is just as important as the life they live with us. It is the hardest part of our work because of the sorrow and grief but to be given the opportunity to care for those we love in the last days of their lives is a special gift. We can make the last days and weeks comfortable, we can fill their hearts with the love we have for them, we can know we are doing something truly meaningful by holding their hands and hearts as they leave this world and enter the next, as they return to the places they know and love and into the arms of those who are waiting on the other side.

On the day of Theo’s passing the weather in our area was surreal. There were tornado type activities in some areas and a great deal of damage with winds that came out of nowhere. As I walked back to my house after leaving Theo for the last time I would see him alert and aware (he had been given some medications to help him sleep) I watched the sky’s over Fauna open up, the wind came up, trees and branches fell all around us, rains suddenly beat down on our heads and I could not stop crying. But they were mixed tears of sadness and tears of joy for it was clear to me that all the angels must be crying too and rejoicing for the return of their beloved Theo, they opened the skies for him on Tuesday to prepare for his return...this special boy who had been stolen from his own mother in Kenya some 20 years ago. I was relieved to know they were so anxious to have him come home and knew in that moment he would be okay.

I thank you all for your support, for your love of Theo and his family, and for all you did. Every one of you to help make this part of Theo’s journey in life a good experience for him and his family. I appreciate the efforts made by my loving staff to change the schedule so Theo could have his special friends—long time caregivers there for him during his difficult time. I appreciate the respect all of you have shown him over the years and months.

He will be missed, he was a truly remarkable fellow.

Gloria xo
Staff memories of Theo

TANYA BARR
I loved the way Theo would toss straw out of his way so he could lie directly on the heated floor. Or the way he would lunge at his hanging tire with such ferociousness. I miss grooming him until he would fall asleep and the grunts he would make when getting his favourite meals. I miss watching him get mad at me for putting peanut butter on his favourite ball with his eyes all wide... only to be pleasantly surprised when I gave it back. Seeing those sharp teeth, him chase birds, and run outside when it started to rain so he could feel the rain on his skin and hair was priceless. There’s something about the little things that always remind me of the bigger picture. Theo was my reminder of the wild. And although he was stripped of it I know that in some way he felt free in those moments with us.

LINDSAY TOWNS
I loved the quiet time Theo and I spent together grooming. I loved his happy food grunts when he saw the fresh cut Eleusine sp. that I was about to give him. It’s like he knew this grass was what he and his troop would’ve eaten in the wild... like it was familiar to him and maybe it was before he was ripped away from his mother. I loved planting some of his native plant species and watching him smell, rip out, dig up, nibble and taste them all. I loved the way he so daintily took food with his fingers when I passed it to him. I loved how gentle he could be and yet show extreme strength when he wanted to. I loved how he didn’t care about the rain and would sit outside, perched on his rock watching the birds and squirrels. Theo was one handsome, magnificent, intelligent, and kind being. I loved him so very much and will miss him dearly.

KAREN COLWELL
I knew Theo for 14 years; longer than I’ve known many people in my life. He was a very dignified, regal, easygoing and handsome Olive Baboon. He enjoyed eating, sleeping, sunshine and being groomed. He was incredibly fastidious. As much as he loved honey, he would get so frustrated if it got stuck in his hair. One of my very favorite Monkey House activities was sitting beside Theo’s cage and grooming him. He would often fall asleep. What an honor to have been trusted this much by a guy who had no reason to trust humans after lab life. The Monkey House feels empty, but his magnificent presence can still be felt.

LAURENCE LEVESQUE
Theo was the sweetest, most beautiful baboon on Earth. The very first time I saw him, I was immediately impressed and touched by his greatness of soul! I was in the gardens. He loved watching us as we worked and I loved watching him standing in the middle of the tropical plants, like the king of the jungle. When I started taking care of him, I got to know him and saw the amazing gentleness under his strong and serious looks! He was the softest, kindest and most loyal being I have ever met! I miss him dearly... but I know that he is now ready to watch over his beloved friends, Darla, Newton and Eugene! I love you Theo!

CATHERINE BRODEUR
My encounter with Theo was a very significant moment of my first months working at Fauna. His beauty and majesty impressed me. I quickly discovered the softness and sensitivity within him, and his appreciation of human contacts. Soft-hearted Theo. While I was in training in the Chimphouse, an important extension to Theo’s external quarters was completed. I had the privilege of witnessing his first incursion inside the long catwalk leading to the massive meshed pavilion that almost looked like a giant aviary, standing twenty feet over the goats Mary and Sam’s pasture.

Theo shyly climbed the catwalk all the way to the entrance of the pavilion, under the encouragements of Gloria, Dawna, Tanya and myself. He stopped for long seconds to stare at the wide open space in front of him. Then, he turned around, and gradually accelerated. By the time he reached the tunnel’s slope, he was running. His fluffy fur bouncing with each of his movements, his relaxed body and his enthusiasm made me believe that, while tears were running down my cheeks, Theo was probably living a moment of pure bliss!

CAMILLE LECOCQ
Theo, enjoy the long naps in the sun among banana trees, in the heat of summer with your family. I did not know you very long but thank you for having accepted me and inviting me to groom your beautiful fur. Your friends Darla, Newton and Eugene take great care of your personal spaces. You leave a big void in the Monkey House.

PAM LAREAU
Most of the best times with Theo were while I worked with the gardeners. Every week we would work in the tropical garden. When we would arrive I would call out to Theo and he would always come out to see what we were doing. One day I was planting a bush by the end of his cage, I was digging a hole and I heard dirt moving behind me. Guess who?

XAVIER MARTINEZ
“Hello, you Handsome little man.”
“Theo climbs down from his platform and sits on the floor in front me.
“Here you go buddy, your morning nuts!”
“I grab my walkie-talkie to call out to Theo and he would always come out to see what we were doing. One day I was planting a bush by the end of his cage, I was digging a hole and I heard dirt moving behind me. Guess who?”

“Theo waits patiently while I get a back scratcher.

I make grooming sounds and slowly start grooming him. Theo then curls his back and slowly closes his eyes while I groom his back. It’s peaceful and beautiful. I take a deep breath, I enter the monkeyhouse; I hear Eugene, and I see Darla and Newton. I pass by Theo’s memorial picture: “Hey you handsome little man.” I grab my walkie-talkie “Everything is good in the monkey house.”

Everything is good in the monkey house.”
Toby’s Life

Toby was also lovingly referred to as “Toby Tremblay” (the common last name in the Lac St. Jean area of Quebec). Toby could have been born in Quebec at Parc Safari in Hemmingford, Quebec. Over the years many baby chimps were born and sold from that zoo and Toby’s age and resemblance to another male chimpanzee born at Parc Safari lean strongly towards this possibility.

Toby recently celebrated his 40th birthday on May 1st, 2017. For male chimpanzees in captivity this is quite remarkable. The life span of a chimpanzee in captivity is 25 – 35 years of age. Heart attacks is the major cause of death. We were blessed to have Toby with us for the past 15 years, and it reflects the wonderful care and great diet he was on in our sanctuary.

Toby arrived at Fauna on July 23rd, 2002. He was 25 years old. For the first 24 years of his life he lived at the St. Felicien Zoo, in the Lac St. Jean region of Quebec. Blueberry heaven! Toby was purchased by the zoo to be the companion of Benji. Benji was born at St. Felicien Zoo. They say he had been rejected by his mother Samba, however we also know that often baby chimpanzees are taken from the mother’s in zoos. This way the visitors can touch or pay for play with the infants. We don’t know for sure what happened, but we do know that once Toby arrived he and Benji were raised together and grew up as brothers. Caregivers took them home on weekends, dressed in clothes and raised them like human children for some part of their lives until one day Samba apparently broke into the area where her son Benji and Toby were living. After that all three then lived together for 24 years at the zoo.

In 1999 we were approached by the zoo, asking us if we would be able provide a retirement home for Samba, Benji, and Toby at our sanctuary. We were excited and hoped this move would be possible for the three who had lived in a substandard zoo for so many years. Sanctuary life would have been wonderful for this little family and certainly would have been a great addition to our family at Fauna. Sadly the government would not allow the move. In the winter of 2000 Samba passed away, she was in her early 30’s. She died of pneumonia leaving behind Benji and Toby. In the summer of 2001 we were approached again by the zoo to retire Benji and Toby, this time they asked us to come and meet the chimps. which we did. We also tried one more time to ask the government if they would allow these two fellows to retire to our sanctuary. Again they said no.

In July 2002 there were record breaking heat waves that hit Quebec. That summer while Toby and Benji’s regular zoo keeper was on vacation the usual routine of serving drinks to the two chimps while they were locked in their outdoor exhibit all day long was not followed by the substitute zoo keeper. Benji did not receive enough liquids and they say he died during the night of heart failure due to severe dehydration at the age of 25.

On the morning of July 16th (within a day or two of this date) zoo staff found Toby holding and rocking the limp dead body of his adopted brother, Benji. Toby was screaming and completely...
devastated and inconsolable. From what I remember it took them two days or so to separate him from his brother. Very soon after a small group of influential people, Dr. Roger and Deborah Fouts, Rob Laidlaw, Dr. Shirley McGreal and Dr. Jane Goodall wrote letters asking the government to make an exception and let Toby come to Fauna where he would have friends and family. By July 23rd 2002 Toby had moved to Fauna and yet another chapter in his life had begun.

Toby’s life in sanctuary was very different from the zoo. At that zoo the indoor enclosure was horrific, it was a huge barn that housed many of the zoo animals in the winter, all different species with very different needs. The area was dark, and humid with water constantly dripping down the walls. The inside enclosure was quite large but with much unusable space. There were high steel bars to sit or sleep on or the floor, but there was nothing else. There were few lights and dark tunnels for the chimps to pass through to go outside. The chimps never had both indoor and outdoor access at the same time. If you were out you stayed out on a piece of grass 20ft x 20ft with a water moat surrounding and one wooden structure to sit on or hide behind.

In the zoo Toby was locked out each day from early in the morning until the end of the day to be on exhibit for the visitors to see when the zoo was open. Each day he was observed, teased and tormented by visitors to the zoo. Three of us went to the zoo and saw for ourselves the pop cans, cigarette butts, candy wrappers and other trash that had been tossed to the chimps in their bleak and barren outdoor exhibit. Visitors are not always respectful and find it amusing to see chimps with cigarettes, and other things not always good for them and they don’t always know when they have crossed the line and have upset a captive animal. We saw mounds of grass and feces that the chimps had flung at the visitors.

Knowing how Toby was about strangers approaching and his preference for people to keep a distance until invited over, I can well imagine how upset and angry he felt most of his days while he had to endure people in close vicinity.

In sanctuary Toby had choices, if he wanted to sleep in he could. If he wanted to go outside for a few moments then turn around and come back in for an afternoon nap or cup of tea, he could. He had more choices in sanctuary with a wide variety of food and water available at all times, something he never had at the zoo. In sanctuary he could be alone or with others. In the zoo people felt they paid and deserved to see a chimp. They do not always understand or respect the needs of the chimps they are there to see. In sanctuary many chimps don’t spend the whole day outdoors, they like to nap in quiet places and not be seen inside or outside. They also spend a great deal of time grooming one another and they often prefer doing that in private if they have the choice. Often we would have to look for Toby and Rachel because they would be off on an Island hidden behind the trees on in a high spot resting alone and out of sight.

Chimps at Fauna are treated as individuals with special needs and preferences. Meals are served with options for those who don’t want a particular meal. If you prefer a red apple instead of a green apple you will get it. If you like romaine lettuce and not iceberg, all efforts will be made to serve romaine.

Enrichment is a huge detail about sanctuary life. In many zoos the philosophy is to have a more “naturalistic” environment, which would eliminate things like hairbrushes, mirrors, paints, tambourines or blankets. Of course this is ridiculous to all of us in the sanctuary community. Chimps in captivity have nothing, except what we provide for them. Chimps love to brush their hair, they love to look at themselves in mirrors, they may like to paint or color, they love things that make noise, or nesting materials. Many chimps in zoos are often not given these items so people see them as wild...sadly they suffer greatly because of this lack of respect for their needs. Toby never had any of these things in the zoo; it was unheard of.

Toby had many special friends, both chimpanzee, who I’ve told you about, and human. His human friends would send special gifts to him for his birthday and other special holidays. Many people love Toby. We were so blessed to have him in our lives and thank you for keeping him in yours.

Xo
Gloria

“By ethical conduct toward all creatures, we enter into a spiritual relationship with the universe.”
—Albert Schweitzer
Toby’s Last Day

There is something in indescribable that happens when you hear on the walkie talkie, “Hurry, come right now, get here fast... he’s having a heart attack!!” Just like we see on television and in the commercials showing real life moments, the stress and frantic feeling that we have no control over what happens in that moment, we just have to live through it.

At my home when I heard my sister, Dawna, call out on the walkie-talkie to Trina our veterinary technician I knew that there was a serious problem. Within seconds Dawna called my name too, but she was cutting out when she said who was in distress. Then I heard the name, it was Toby...my heart stopped for a moment I’m sure.

It seems the first inside the chimphouse to notice and alarm the chimpanzee family were Dolly and Blackie of all people... gosh they have only been at Fauna for 10 months...but they have seen it before... they have seen it before and they knew right away they needed to sound the alarm as they witnessed Toby in crisis and saw him slump over. Their screams indicated something was wrong... terribly wrong. Once that alarm call was shouted out, every chimp in the building knew something was wrong and ran to see what was happening. Then each joined in with the calls.

It was Monday October 16, one of the cleaning days when the big spaces in the building are completely emptied and cleaned from top to bottom...a full team of caregiving staff were in the chimphouse. Everyone ran to see what the problem was. Toby had lost consciousness, he was sitting with his head and arms draped over the safety railing. Rachel and Petra were right beside him trying their best to help him.

What I saw from my position was Rachel and Petra doing all they could to wake him, lifting his arms, opening his eyes and mouth, putting their faces to his mouth and nose to feel his breath, pushing him gently and then with more force to make him move. They would lift his foot then let it fall, then a hand, then a nudge, a tickle, a push...anything they could do to see if he would respond.

I could see from where I was standing he wasn’t breathing. It was in that same moment Rachel and Petra realized he wasn’t okay and in that same moment they looked up at one another and let out heart wrenching screams. They then turned to one another and hugged. In that moment we all knew he was gone. I am sure all of us felt as though we were included in Rachel and Petra’s hug of shock and despair. It was so fast. The others had been looking on so quietly until that final scream from the girls. For a few moments everyone felt out of control as caregivers were working hard to ask Rachel, Chance and Petra to leave the area Toby was in. I know they were thinking there was something that could be done for him, some medical intervention that might save his life. Rachel, Chance and Petra cooperated and within minutes they left the area Toby was in, perhaps they too were hoping we could help him.

The door was open and we could go in now, but there was nothing to be done, he was gone. We went in, but there was nothing to do but cry and hold our dear friend. It seems to me Toby went very quickly and peacefully. We could not have asked for a more peaceful ending to life on Earth for our beautiful friend.

Since then there has been an emptiness. Every single chimpanzee in the building has had some sort of reaction, from Chance hiding and not wanting to see, to Binky screaming and running outside banging on the wooden structures, angry and confused. It has been very difficult indeed for the adopted family Toby left behind. Rachel adored Toby, he was her very best friend and I think she may have been his too. They were inseparable and at times it was quite difficult for Toby, but he was a patient and very kind guy who seemed to know Rachel was a severely damaged soul and could not always contain or have any control over her emotions. Rachel will miss Toby.

Petra, Chance and Maya will miss Toby. These ladies were his companions every day for the past 15 years. In different combinations at different times but the constant friend was Rachel. Although the only fellow Toby ever lived with was Jethro, a frequent visitor to Toby and his entourage of lovely ladies, Toby maintained a visual and protected contact relationship with all of Fauna’s residents. Toby was kind, considerate, supportive, loyal, loving and loved. He always seemed to know how to deal with any situation and never created any drama for anyone.

Toby often was one of the first chimpanzees most new caregivers could learn safe interactions with. He loved the one on one time he would spend with special caregivers. The most fun was to see him give up his toe and finger nails for manic and pedies...including having polish applied. I would often see him freshly painted and he seemed to truly enjoy the attention. I say he was a gentleman for accepting this.

Toby loved simple things, tossing a wet washcloth in the air and catching it, over and over again. Wearing watches and watching them tick seemed to amuse him so much. Coloring or drawing with his human friends helped pass the long days. He loved to paint and was quite an expressive artist, always mixing his paints with water and always choosing blues and purples if they were offered. His work was lovely. In the early years he loved to wear bright scarves and necklaces probably a Polish applied. I would often see him freshly painted and he seemed to truly enjoy the attention. I say he was a gentleman for accepting this.

Toby, I pray you are with your family and friends from your life before, I can imagine their faces when they saw him arrive. Oh how joyous they must have been to see you, just as we will be if we ever have the chance to meet again dear sweet boy.

You are loved. I was blessed to have you in my life. We all were.
Be well, be free.
Xo
Gloria
Staff memories of Toby

TANYA BARR

When Toby passed away so many people gave me their deepest sympathies followed with “I didn’t know him as well as you, but he was such a nice/friendly/goofy guy.” But here’s the thing— they did know him. Toby was that easy going, always happy chimp, who could sit with you for hours, head bobbing, grooming, or getting his nails done. Even those who never even met Toby would be enchanted when they saw his picture. He had an ability to get anyone to fall in love with him. We all did, and still do, love him. It’s surreal writing this blurb about him because I don’t really know what to say other than I miss him. When I first met Toby his nails were painted pink and I remember mistaking “him” for a “her” for that very reason. Thankfully I’ve learnt a lot since then and I accredit much of what I’ve learnt as a caregiver to Toby. He reminded me to slow down and enjoy the little things in life. He would often get my attention while I was bustling around by resting his chin on the enclosure wanting a scratch. That cute face was quite literally irresistible. I would sit with him and we would play with Kleenex, face cloths, lotion, nothing complicated. Toby wasn’t a complicated guy. He would sleep in every morning, the last to have breakfast. When others ignore veggie time (because they would rather wait for muffin time), Toby was always ready to polish of a bowl (or two) of any cooked veggie we would make. He was always patient with his friends Rachel and Chance, always letting them get meals first. He was more than patient with Petra and Maya, who he would let get away with anything, and eat everything that he was offered because he was so in love with them. Toby was a gentleman, and a great friend who will be missed by everyone regardless of whether you’ve spent years or minutes with him, because he’s just that kind of guy!

LAURENCE LEVESQUE

Toby ... how to describe this unique and gentle being who left us so suddenly ... I remember his powerful and sincere eyes watching me in the gardens when I was working around the chimp house. It was the beginning of a great friendship between us two! Toby was a being so strong and tender at once ... He was the best friend, always ready to support and love, without any trial, the others around him! He was always the first ready to laugh and play! This is a great heart and a beautiful and gentle soul who left ... it leaves a huge void in our lives! But he joined the jungle, nature and peace ...

I’ll miss you forever ... Say hello to the others there! And watch over all your fellows here, who loved you and will love you forever ...

RIP Toby. I love you with all my heart

KAELEY SULLINS

Toby was a gentle giant. Patient with his friends, both chimpanzee and human alike. He loved to sleep in in the morning and was usually the last wake up...and it usually required a little incentive to get him to finally open his sleepy eyes and come for breakfast. He loved eggplants and cherry tomatoes and especially cooked beets! Toby also loved to draw! He wasn’t too fond of painting but if you gave him a box of crayons, they always managed to get his creative juices flowing. He would take his paper and crayons to his own secluded corner and draw away. He is greatly missed by everyone who knew that happy, bouncy, sweet guy.

XAVIER MARTINEZ

Toby came from a zoo, where he had to endure people watching him all day, everyday. Strangers in his house, making noise, ignoring basic chimp body language. At Fauna, Toby seemed to enjoy the things that were denied to him, a quiet and simple life; taking naps, enjoying time with his best gals Rachel and Chance, spending time outside unbothered, choosing what he wants to eat. Toby was laid-back and playful, kind and considerate. He was a chimp who was given the chance to heal, to have new friends, to be respected as an individual.

CAMILLE LECOCQ

Toby we started to get to know each other, you left suddenly, to return faster to your family in your native jungle. Your deep gaze conveyed the sensitivity you bore in your heart. Your imposing and reassuring presence exuded a softness in the atmosphere. I am honored to have met you, delighted to have known your warm and inviting face, your friendly greetings. I feel privileged to have shared my first interaction with you. Your [passing] upset me, I was very moved in my heart, I could feel you looking at me. Discovering you more closely was very impressive. It was an incredible moment for me. Rest in peace, my dear, let your soul enjoy its freedom.

PAM LAREAU

My favorite time with Toby was when he was happy, he loved to color and would sometimes hold three crayons in the same hand to make beautiful pictures for us. He had a smile that could make the worst day great, and when he would laugh, everyone around would have to laugh along with him. He was a gentle giant with the most beautiful kind eyes. This fellow was loved by all. Run free big guy and get all the bananas you can find.

MARY LEE JENSVOLD

Toby with your eyes so deep and watery, your giant gnarled fingers, hands, and wrists, and your beautiful black skin were a wonderful person. Your eyes have seen the depths of
despair as you lost your family and found yourself alone in
the St. Felician Zoo. Suddenly whisked off to Fauna to learn of
other fears, aggression, and finally friendship. You had many
of those and you reached out to so many and taught us about
suffering and resilience. Your slow head nod was a welcome
sight that will leave an empty space at Fauna. But that space
fills us with the understanding that now you are free from the
bars that contained you. May all beings be free... Toby you now
are and while your distance tugs on our hearts, it serves to
remind us of that freedom.

NANCIE WIGHT

One of the most memorable photo opportunities I had with Toby was a very unusual one! There was a cherry-picker truck
on the farm doing some maintenance and when the work was
done, I went up in the basket to take some aerial shots of the
property. As we moved around the Chimphouse photographing
the islands and the pastures behind, Toby climbed up the
highest structure on island there to watch us. We stopped the
vehicle and I was able to photograph Toby at eye-level, way
up in the treehouse! He seemed very curious about what I was
doing and was quite accommodating facing me for some very
lovely moments. So often when I have visited Fauna early
in the morning, Toby would be up in the treehouse, but on that
day I was up there with him.

JEFF BANDY

It was a lazy Saturday afternoon in the chimphouse and I was
assisting in serving the cooked veggies. I was sitting with
Rachel at back 2 while she groomed me and leisurely ate her
geggies. Toby slowly walked up to us and sat down next to
Rachel. He looked me up and down, carefully examining my
tattoos, especially ones with animals. I turned my arms so he
could get a better look and he moved as close to the caging as
he could to gaze at my tattoos. After he inspected the artist’s
work, he looked at the extra bowl of veggies I had (cooked
beets and onions). Rachel began to groom Toby and while I
served Toby directly with a spoon. He chewed slowly to savor
every bite. After the veggies he started to my groom wrist
where I have a panther tattoo and it almost seemed as he was
petting the cat. He was such a gentle and soft soul, he will be
greatly missed by his chimpanzee and human family.

MATTHEW DE VRIES

I only knew Toby for a few months, but I always felt drawn
to his presence. He had a kind and warm disposition that was
infectious. Any glance that we exchanged left me feeling
happier and more energized. His quirkiness always made me
smile too - from his pouty face he would make by pressing his
lips against the caging, to wearing sunglasses on the back of
his head...

KATHY MAURO

You look down as I look up
A voyeur to your kingdom in the sky.
Beyond your grace
Cold metal is a constant as your years go by.

How can you even look at me......
So many of us, just no good.
Sorry, sorry it’s come down to
Living in our neighborhood.

I’m trying to atone for things
I’d like to think I’d never do
But truth be told, my smaller crimes
No doubt have left their mark on you.

Meanwhile, you touch whomever you can reach
And drink down what a few of us can pour
And does it help to know
(I hope it does)
That they can’t do that to you anymore?

Eugene’s Health Needs

We are seeking emergency funds for a dire situation with Eugene our Japanese Macaque. He
is a diabetic and must receive operant training to cooperate with insulin injections. A medical
exam revealed sediment in his urine from the diabetes, which is causing him some blockage and
considerable pain in urination. The condition will worsen if he doesn’t begin insulin injections.
We are bringing to Fauna a consultant to train Eugene to receive injections and to train our staff
in proper positive reinforcement training procedures to use with all of our residents for medical
interventions. We have an aging population and medical issues will become more prevalent. We
would greatly appreciate any donations to help us with this important and immediate project.
Blackie & Dolly Update

It’s been nearly a year since Blackie and Dolly arrived at Fauna. They have adjusted very well. They met Sue Ellen and the three of them are inseparable. They are always within eye-shot of each other. They all have the same pace of a relatively quiet life. But at the same time, Blackie can be quite vocal if she’s watching any chimp drama with her neighbors. They really enjoy the choices from the trolley and the new foods. They first went onto the islands this summer. They foraged for grasses, lounged in the sun and shade, climb to the top of the structures, and enjoy this space. One thing they really love is the option of going in and out rather than being restricted to only the inside or the outside as their life was at Parc Safari.

This year we learned by doing simple investigative work in the Chimpanzee Studbook of the many babies that were born at Parc Safari. We learned that Dolly has a son, Donnie II who lives at Ball State Zoo in Michigan. We have no record of Blackie having any babies. But we know that most of the female chimpanzees at Parc Safari were used for breeding and some of the babies were not recorded in the studbook. For example Daisy lived at Parc Safari. Her mother was Rene. In the year before Blackie and Dolly arrived at Fauna, Rene died and then Daisy within months. We had met Daisy, but she does not appear in the studbook. It was Daisy and Rene’s death that precipitated Parc Safari’s decision to retire Blackie and Dolly.
Sanctuary Symposiums

Sanctuary Symposiums were filled with eager learners this summer. We offered two in French and four in English. Following the symposium visitors also toured the Turtle Conservation Area. This summer we hosted our first day-long workshop, Our Place in Nature: Chimpanzees, Art, and Trees. It included talks about our tree program and chimpanzee art. Chimpanzees draw and paint. Analysis of their painting shows many aspects of aesthetics that appear in human artwork. For example, chimpanzees show respect for boundaries by coloring within the lines much like a coloring book. Balance appears in much artwork, with the page or canvas balanced with marks evenly placed throughout the space. This appears in chimpanzee artwork as well. Tatu’s picture that she titled TREE BERRY shows nice evidence of balance.

Turtle Conservation Area

This summer we launched the Turtle Conservation Area across the road from the sanctuary property. A historic barn is on the property which is currently being restored with a second floor, windows, and electricity. There are walking trails to the L’Acadie River and through the area. The recently installed prairie grasses and birdhouses already attract native birds, insects, and wildlife. In this edition of The Scoop we have a survey of species there. This is the space that we held the anniversary event and plan to hold events in the future. The space has been used by other organizations. The mayor of Carignan presented the local council candidates for the elections in this space.

Nothing Gold Can Stay

“Nature’s first green is gold,
Her hardest hue to hold.
Her early leaf’s a flower;
But only so an hour.
Then leaf subsides to leaf.
So Eden sank to grief,
So dawn goes down to day.
Nothing gold can stay.”
—Robert Frost
Biological Survey of the Turtle Conservation Area

JUSTIN TAUS, B. ED. & CLAUDE DESROCHERS, BIOLOGIST, B. SC.

Biologist Claude Desrochers and environmental journalist Justin Taus have been busy conducting an inventory of the wildlife that occurs at the Ruisseau Robert Nature Conservancy. The survey was started in late July and is planned to last a full year in order to account for migratory changes in species distribution. They spotted 66 species of birds so far, including herons, swallows, ducks, sparrows, warblers, vireos, finches, flycatchers and birds of prey. They observed bird nests, juvenile individuals, and species known to summer in the Arctic which demonstrates the reserve’s importance as a nesting site and migratory stopover. The reserve’s geography is attractive to grassland birds like the bobolink. The numbers of this species has dropped by 88% over the past 40 years according to the North American Breeding Bird Survey. Aerial insectivores, like tree swallows and flycatchers, are the most severely in decline according to this same survey (70% overall population decline over 40 years) and appear in interesting numbers at the reserve. In addition to birds, they have catalogued several reptiles, amphibians, mammals, and insects, including the snapping turtle, gray tree frog, white-tailed deer and the praying mantis. The duo is confident the species count will grow considerably over the winter months and into spring migration. Stay tuned for updates!

Sources:


Vegetarian Workplace

Fauna adopted a vegetarian workplace policy, which encourages staff to bring vegetarian meals. All Fauna events are vegan. We received a grant through Food for Thought in support of this endeavor and Fauna.

DOUBLE-LAYER CHOCOLATE FUDGE CAKE

INGREDIENTS

CAKE
› 2 cups (500 mL) non-dairy milk
› 2 tbsp (60 mL) apple cider vinegar or white vinegar
› 1½ cups (375 mL) natural cane sugar
› 2/3 cup (150 mL) melted coconut oil or grapeseed oil
› 2 tbsp (30 mL) pure vanilla extract (yes, that's correct!)
› 1 cup (250 mL) whole wheat pastry flour
› 2 cups (500 mL) all-purpose flour
› 2/3 cup (150 mL) cocoa powder, sifted
› 2 tsp (10 mL) baking soda
› 1¼ tsp (6 mL) fine-grain sea salt
› 1 recipe Chocolate Buttercream Frosting
› Shaved dark chocolate (optional)

CHOCOLATE BUTTERCREAM FROSTING

Makes 2 cups (500 mL)
› 2½ cups (625 mL) confectioners’ sugar, sifted
› 3/4 cup (175 mL) cocoa powder, sifted
› 1/2 cup (125 mL) vegan butter (such as Earth Balance)
› Pinch of fine-grain sea salt
› 2 tsp (10 mL) pure vanilla extract
› ½ to 4 tbsp (45 to 60 mL) non-dairy milk, as needed

INSTRUCTIONS

CAKE
1. Preheat the oven to 350 F (180C). Lightly grease two 8- or 9-inch (1 L) cake pans and line the base with a circle of parchment paper. If making cupcakes, line a cupcake tin with paper liners.
2. In a medium bowl, stir together the milk and vinegar. Set it aside for a minute or two. This combination makes vegan buttermilk.
3. Add the sugar, oil, and vanilla to the bowl with the milk. Whisk to combine.
4. In a large bowl, whisk together the pastry flour, all-purpose flour, cocoa powder, baking soda, and salt until combined.
5. Pour the milk mixture over the flour mixture and beat with a hand mixer until smooth.
6. Divide the batter evenly between the prepared cake pans and smooth out the tops.
7. Bake the cakes for 30 to 35 minutes, rotating the pans halfway through the baking time. The cake is ready when it slowly springs back when touched and a toothpick inserted in the center comes out clean. Place the pans on a cooling rack to cool for 20 to 25 minutes. Now slide a butter knife around the cake to loosen the edge. Gently and carefully invert the cakes onto a cooling rack. Let cool for 30 to 45 minute more.
8. Once the cakes are completely cool, place a piece of parchment paper on top of a cake stand. Place one layer of the cake in the center of the parchment paper. With a serrated knife, trim the bottom layer until it’s flat and level, if desired. Spread a layer of frosting on top, using about 2/3 cup (150 mL) frosting. Place the second layer on top and gently push down to adhere.
9. Continue frosting the rest of the cake, starting at the top and then moving around to the sides. Garnish the frosted cake with shaved chocolate, if desired. Remove parchment from underneath the cake. Leftover cake will stay fresh wrapped in plastic wrap or tin foil at room temperature for 3 to 4 days.

CHOCOLATE BUTTERCREAM FROSTING
1. With a hand mixer, beat all the ingredients except the milk together in a large bowl. Add the milk gradually. You want the texture to be thick, but not so thick that it won’t spread, and not runny. You may need to use more or less milk than stated, but 3 ½ tablespoons (45 mL) should be good.
A lot of pant hoots when the chimps saw this come out of the oven. Toby savoured it slowly, Dolly and Blackie finished it in two bites, and you wouldn’t even know Jeffy, Spock and Petra even got one because it was gone in a flash.

To include Fauna Foundation in your estate planning use the following language:
I give, devise and bequeath ___________ (insert dollar amount or item of property to be donated, or other specifics) to the Fauna Foundation Quebec, a nonprofit charity (886077239 RR 0001) located at 3802 ch Bellerive, Carignan, QC J3L 3P9.