

# Little Ray's Reptile Show in Wentworth



Shawn Adderley, Head Zookeeper, displays a large boa python and invites youngsters and adults to touch and stroke him at the zoo program at the Wentworth Recreation Centre. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

By Hope Bridgewater

Little Ray's Reptile Show's appearance at the Wentworth Recreation Centre on June 23, 2018, was a fantastic entertaining, educational, environmental, and cultural event. It was entertaining because it was fun to see various reptiles including: red-footed tortoise, lizard, royal python, poison dart frog, leopard gecko, tarantula, Kenyan sand boa, Caiman crocodile, bearded dragon, and Pomegranete (Reteculated Python).

It was educational to see them up close in reality, environmental as seeing them made an important connection on how important it is to have them as part of nature and to care for them, and cultural as touching and stroking them make them very real and partners of us humans. The Head Zookeeper, Shawn Adderley with his skill in displaying them, talking about them, and having us touch them made all of this astounding experience come true. It was one of the best programs I have seen about the importance of respecting these forms of wildlife and how we humans need to care about them.

Shawn Adderley, 26 years of age, was born in Halifax, and has worked as Head Zookeeper with Little Ray's Reptile Zoo in Halifax for five years. Little Ray's Reptile Zoos are the largest exotic pet and Reptile Rescues in Canada and save up to 400 to 800 animals each year. These zoos are also the largest animal education bodies in Canada, travelling coast to coast, teaching children and adults lessons on conservation, positive and responsible pet ownership and respect for wildlife.

Adderley's assistant, Heather Shay loves working with all animals and her favourite animal are kangaroos, which she did not bring with her. She helped



Shawn holds a Caiman crocodile for display and invites children and adults to touch and stroke him at the zoo program. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

pack up the other animals safely in Halifax in their van heading for Wentworth and this takes a lot of work.

In Wentworth an executive member of the Recreation Centre, Joanne Ferdinand, brought forth the idea of having the Reptile Zoo as a program and all the other volunteer executive and workers agreed.

Joanne gave me added information: "The day was enjoyed by young and all. You could have your face painted, buy a balloon animal, and have lunch at the canteen. Shawn [Adderley] gave a humorous and informative talk to everyone and let anyone who wanted to touch the reptiles. We had about 70 people come out, share the fun, and a great day was had by all."

Joanne's work was

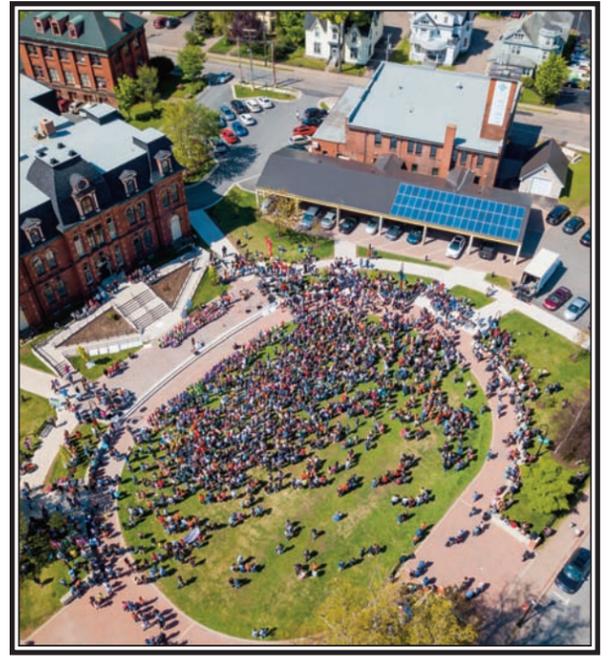
shared by Laurel Adams and these two executive members President Robert MacLean credits for doing a lot of research on program ideas. I hasten to add all of the other executive and friends work hard as well on different tasks. The first hour people looked at all the reptiles (names given).



Oden, the red-footed tortoise, likes to be touched and stroked when located at the Wentworth zoo program. (Hope Bridgewater Photo)

Shawn [Adderley] gave a talk on these reptiles for over an hour and explained about each one. Then we had an interactive period where we got to touch a boa python, leopard lizard and Oden the tortoise. Kalei Kreations made Balloon animals for the kids. Elaine Mazur did face painting for people. Snacks and hot dogs were served at the canteen by Helen Feeley, William Adams (summer student), Joanne Ferdinand, Gary Jollymore, and Laurel Adams. At the entryway, Brenda McLean and President Robert MacLean worked at the door. It was enjoyable and a great time."

I never thought I would touch and stroke a lizard, a tortoise, or a big snake, but I did and this experience made me connect to wildlife and I really appreciated the experience.



Colchester County youth gathered for Rally Against Racism at Truro Civic Square to celebrate. A parade, music, dancing and presentations were all part of the Rally Against Racism this year. (Photo supplied by Nigel Gloade)



## 2018 Wilson Family Scholarship Recipients

Wilson Fuel is proud to support its employees, their children and grandchildren further their post secondary education at university or community college. The Wilson Family Scholarship is awarded yearly to those who have achieved success at school or a trade and are involved with their communities through volunteering, sports or the arts.



**Chloe McManus**  
Enfield ESSO, NS

Actively involved in her school and fundraising activities, Chloe was Vice-President of student council this year. An avid photographer, she works part time at Enfield ESSO & Robin's and volunteers for Feed NS. She's headed to Saint Mary's University this fall with a plan of becoming a teacher.



**Jessica Hennessey**  
Truro Wilsons, NS

Jessica has completed her first year of the Child & Youth Care program at NSCC, with a goal of achieving a Bachelor of Social Work. The dedicated community volunteer was inspired to work with children by her family, who fostered children as she grew up. She wants to make a difference in young peoples lives.



**Kaelah Snow**  
Enfield ESSO, NS

Kaelah has a passion to help others and make a difference in the lives of families and children. That's why she's headed to NSCC this Fall for the social services program. A volunteer firefighter and manager of her high school softball team, Kaelah still finds time to work part time at Enfield ESSO for the past two years.



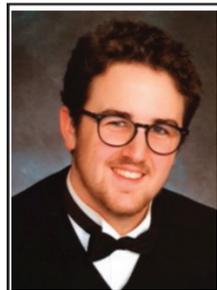
**Karla Maatouk**  
Elmsdale ESSO, NS

An accomplished student, Karla has been accepted into Dalhousie's nursing program with the goal of continuing her education and becoming a physician. She's been working part time at Elmsdale ESSO for two years, while being active in student council, Reach for the Top and Youth Who Care.



**Kathleen Smith**  
Great Village Wilsons, NS

A member of her high school soccer team, Kathleen volunteers at her church and with Timbits soccer. She maintains an honours average while working part time at Great Village Wilsons. Kathleen will be enrolled in a Bachelor of Education program at university in the Fall with a goal of becoming a teacher.



**Mitchell St. Peters**  
Truro Wilsons, NS

A talented musician and singer, Mitchell performs regularly in his community at hockey games and local events. A peer counsellor at his school, he helps teach music appreciation during his spare classes. A strong student, Mitchell will be attending Acadia in the Fall to pursue a teaching degree, focusing on English or Music.



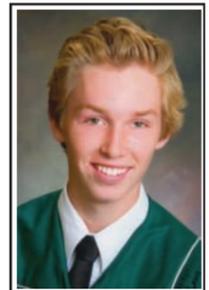
**Thomas (Sam) Laing**  
Wilsons Security, NS

This multi talented student, athlete and musician graduated from high school IB program with honours while doing the French immersion program. A pianist, hockey player, guitarist and tutor, he also took part in Junior Achievement. He will be attending Mount Saint Vincent in the Bachelor of Education program with his sights set on teaching.



**Robbi Gordon**  
Bible Hill ESSO, NS

An All Star volleyball player and member of Team Nova Scotia, Robbi excels on and off the court. She's been accepted into Dalhousie's Bachelor of Arts program majoring in Sociology, with the goal of achieving her masters in social work. A volunteer with United Way Youth, she also works part time at Bible Hill ESSO. Robbi is recipient of the Jonathan McIntyre award



**Spencer Hoar**  
Moncton Propane, NB

Entering his fourth year of Civil Engineering at UNB this Fall, Spencer is interested in design and may want to open his own firm one day. He gained valuable work experience at Moncton propane during high school summers and most recently with the City of Moncton Engineering Department.