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Brian Keating retires from the Calgary Zoo & becomes Honourary Conservation Advisor

After nearly 30 years at the Calgary Zoo, Brian Keating today announced his retirement as Head of Conservation Outreach. While his responsibilities will be assumed by his long-time colleague, Kevin Strange, Brian will maintain close links with the Zoo in the capacity of Honourary Conservation Advisor and through his support of the Zoo's Conservation Fund.

"Brian's contribution to the Zoo and to worldwide conservation has been immeasurable," said Dr. Clément Lanthier, President and CEO, Calgary Zoo.

"He will continue to captivate people with his extensive travels which have taken him to all seven continents and to the world's best wildlife watching spots in 50 countries. I am delighted to have had the opportunity to work closely with Brian and look forward to his ongoing contribution as Honourary Conservation Advisor".

Brian intends to pursue some of his other interests including leading international trips, giving public presentations and continuing to entertain audiences with his regular radio and TV appearances. He will also devote much of his time to the development of a nature-based TV travel program, called '*Going Wild*.' Brian and a film crew spent a month in Madagascar in 2010 filming the travel show which should be airing on The Discovery Channel later this year. See: <http://www.goingwild.org/> for more information.

"I am very proud of the Calgary Zoo and the contribution we have made to conservation causes all around the world", Brian said. He added: "I've been fortunate to meet many of my childhood heroes, like Dr. Jane Goodall, but I think my most satisfying moments have been during my visits to The Calgary Zoo's flagship conservation project in Ghana - the Wechiau Community Hippo Sanctuary, which we helped to create".

The feeling was obviously mutual, as both Brian and Zoo President and CEO Dr. Lanthier were made Honourary Chiefs of one of the villages within the Hippo Sanctuary, during what Brian describes as a powerful West African ceremony. "It's been very satisfying to be able to make a difference over the years, working with the Zoo to help secure funds to help make the world a greener place", Brian added.

For the first half of his Zoo career, Brian was head of the Education Department before he moved over to his lifetime passion, Conservation Outreach. He was the first person

to hold the position of Head of Conservation Outreach and to raise funds for conservation projects.

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