

Animal care graduate referees rhino-elephant duels

The elephants drank defiantly at the waterhole against the lashing autumn wind. In the distance a herd of white rhinos foraged through tufts of grass and dwarfed scrub, always conscious of the human intrusion.

"Very few visitors realize that the animals on this reserve are not tame," noted Gord Bayley, an employee of the African Lion Safari and Game Farm Ltd. in Rockton, Ont.

Gord graduated last spring from the one-year Animal Care program at the Brampton Campus of Sheridan College and began working at the African Lion Safari in mid-June.

"The rhinos in particular are easily provoked," said Gord. "We have posted notices all over the park alerting visitors to the fact that most of these animals are neither domesticated nor even trained."

Gord works in the elephant, zebra, rhino, eland and ostrich reserve which is one of six sections in the 600-acre park. Each section has a gravel thoroughfare for motorists who can observe the wildlife from the comfort and safety of their own vehicle.

"When I first started working here in the peak of the tourist season, I was assigned to the North American reserve, Gord says. "I spent most of my day in one of the zebra-striped park vehicles attempting to enforce park rules. This mainly involved keeping the traffic moving through the park and preventing people from getting out of their cars to photograph and feed the animals."

"Many visitors come here with the preconceived notion that this is simply another zoo. Whereas it is customary to feed and expect limited contact with some zoo animals, these practices are strictly forbidden here. All of our game have been transferred from one natural habitat to another. Their instincts are intact and they can be intimidated easily," Gord says.

"I saw an opportunity to transfer to this section which entailed more direct contact with the animals. I think this is where much of my training at Sheridan has proven to be beneficial."

"At Sheridan we were instructed in basic biology, physiology and pathology as it pertains to animals. This knowledge is fundamental to working with any animal whether they are domesticated housepets, livestock or wildlife."

Since elephants and rhinos are accustomed to foraging an average of 16 hours a day, Gord must spend several hours each day observing and training the elephants in basic obedience out in the field, regardless of the weather.

He is constantly preventing clashes between the overly curious elephants and the hot-tempered rhinos. While being interviewed at the park, Gord had to cautiously break up a duel between one of the young elephants and the dominant male rhino, who was acting instinctively when he felt the females were being threatened.

"When I'm not observing the animals and keeping them from grouping in one spot, I am expected to clean their night barn, mend fences which are constantly punctured by the rhinos, spotting and treating cuts and bruises in the skin of animals, preventing elephants from trampling young trees and shrubs and preparing shelters for winter," said Gord.

The animals are acclimatized without any difficulty, providing they are introduced to the compound in late spring, so that they have summer and fall to adapt to gradual colder temperatures. "Shelters are provided for sick animals or exceptionally inclement winter conditions," added Gord.

Despite the satisfaction derived from his work, Gord's real interest exists in ornithology. "There are only a few strictly ornithological compounds in North America, which could defer my entering the field for quite some time."



Sheridan Animal Care program graduate Gord Bayley works for African Lion Safari and Game Farm Ltd. in Rockton, Ont.



Students in the one-year Animal Care program attend to injured household pets brought to the centre from the community. The animal centre is currently housed in a portable located at the back of the campus on Church St.

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Sheridan
Style

It's a whole new game for Business and Secretarial division

The area of Business and Secretarial Studies at the Brampton Campus has been expanded to include more



Director Tony Holland sees program grouping.

programs under one division.

Under the guidance of Tony Holland, director of the new Applied Arts, Business and Secretarial Division, the Hotel and Restaurant Administration, Garden Centre Merchandising, Retail Management Arts and Travel Counsellor have been added to the regular program offerings in Business and Secretarial Studies.

Within the Business Administration program, Holland eventually hopes to include a major in Hotel and Restaurant Administration whereby students would choose finance and marketing courses to supplement regular core business subjects.

He is also looking at the possibility of including an antique management option and a bookstore management option in the two-year Retail Management Arts program at Brampton.

In future, students in the Business Administration program will be able to take the full three years at the Brampton Campus. Previously the final year had to be taken at the Oakville Campus.

Secretarial Studies remains the same with the following programs available—one-year Intensive Secretarial, two-year Executive, Medical, Legal Secretarial and Word Processing.

Consideration is also being given to implementing bilingual courses in the division's programs both business and secretarial.

For further information write or call Tony Holland at the Brampton Campus of Sheridan College, 98 Church St. E., Brampton at 459-7533.



Students in first and second year of the Hotel and Restaurant Administration program receive valuable practical training in "The Sheridan Room", the on campus restaurant. Here they are responsible for menu selection, purchasing, food preparation, service and bar management. Now part of the business division at Brampton, the hotel program will take over new facilities when the Brampton Campus opens next year.