

# Ends of the Earth: From Polar Bears to Penguins



Franco Mariotti  
*Staff Scientist*  
Science North

Franco Mariotti was a key participant in the development of *Ends of the Earth: From Polar Bears to Penguins*. He has been involved with Science North since its inception in 1981, having led the development of the Live Creatures area of Science North and its unique approach to hands-on education. His main interests are in animal biology, paleontology and ecology. Being a pioneer of breakthrough visitor experiences, Franco was instrumental in evolving Science North into a 4<sup>th</sup> Generation Science Center. He is passionate about communicating environment-based science.

Franco is an avid naturalist and world traveler; he has traveled extensively in North and South America, from the High Arctic to Tierra del Fuego, in addition to Africa, Iceland, Japan and Europe. During his 25 years in the science center business, Franco has led the development of, and contributed to many science galleries, exhibits, large-scale traveling exhibits, events, programs and shows.

## **Education**

Honours Bachelor of Science in Biology from Laurentian University, Sudbury, ON, Canada

## **Selected Projects**

- Key member of the development team for *Creatures of the Abyss*, a 6,00 sq. ft. traveling exhibit.
- *WaterWorks: Soak up the Science* – a 600 m<sup>2</sup> (6000 sq. ft.) traveling exhibit that explores the physical science of water, freshwater ecosystems and the current science related to water—both as a resource and a key part of the Earth’s ecosystems, Science North, Sudbury, ON, Canada, 2008.
- Coordinator of Science North’s public Science Speaker Series from 1996 to present.
- Coordinator of Science North’s and Jane Goodall Institute’s Roots&Shoots conference since 2000 to present.
- Involved in filming on-location for the Science North produced and directed IMAX® Film *Jane Goodall’s Wild Chimpanzees*, Tanzania, Africa, 2002.
- Key member of the team that developed *Discovering Chimpanzees: The Remarkable World of Jane Goodall*, a 600 m<sup>2</sup> (6000 sq. ft) traveling exhibit focusing on Dr. Jane Goodall’s research on the chimpanzees of Tanzania, Science North, Sudbury, ON, Canada, 2002.
- Key member of the team that developed *Ends of the Earth: From Polar Bears to Penguins*, a 600 m<sup>2</sup> (6000 sq. ft) traveling exhibit focusing on polar science of the Arctic and Antarctic, Science North, Sudbury, ON, Canada, 2007.

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- Researched, developed and delivered numerous live animal presentations to schools and general public, Science North, Sudbury, ON, Canada, from 1984 to present.
- Has led and guided whale watching tours in the Gulf of St. Lawrence in conjunction with whale researchers.

## **Other Activities and Achievements**

- Recipient of the 2007 Community Builders Excellence Award-Environment
- Recipient of the 2004 Provincial Award for life achievement in environmental education from the Federation of Ontario Naturalists.
- Founding member and Co-chair of the Junction Creek Stewardship Committee.
- Board member, Environment Review Tribunal from 1989 to 2007.