

Anne Innis Dagg - Pioneer Award

Anne Innis Dagg was born in Toronto, Ontario on January 25, 1933. In the 1950s, she attended the University of Toronto for her B.A. in Biology and M.A. in Genetics. She then traveled solo to South Africa to study giraffes, a species that had fascinated her since, as a small child, she first saw them in a zoo. Against the odds, she located a wild population and began her pioneering studies of giraffe social behaviour—a pursuit that became her life's work. In 1974, she completed her PhD in Animal Behaviour at the University of Waterloo on the topic of comparing the gaits of giraffe and other large mammals. With this, she is recognized as the first person to study animal behaviour in the wild in Africa. However, the University of Waterloo did not hire women in the biology department. She was hired in a program that became known as Independent Studies where students did the hiring and she continues in that program today. Anne Dagg has over 60 refereed scientific papers to her credit on such topics as homosexuality, behaviour of mammals, sociobiology, feminism, sexism at universities and the rights of animals. She has also written 20 books and over 100 articles on these topics. She published the book *Giraffe: behaviour, and conservation* in 2014. *Anne continues well into retirement time with her work. She received her own Anne Dagg Pioneer Award from the International Association of Giraffe Care Professionals in 2010. On a lighter note, she received the Distinguished Old Girl Award from her Bishop Strachan high school in 2011.*