

Babar still reigns in Toronto

The king of the elephants, visited the Royal Ontario Museum yesterday.

Babar was in Toronto to celebrate his 75th birthday and meet his many beloved friends.

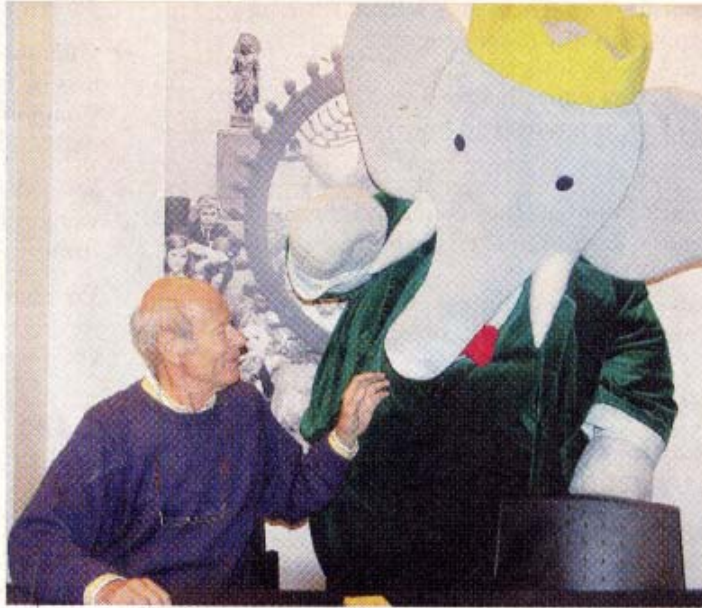
Babar, the hero of a series of much-read children's storybooks, and his author, Laurent de Brunhoff, signed autographs, posed for pictures and remembered some of his well-loved stories.

The event featured readings of Babar's adventures including his most recent, Babar's World Tour.

"I can't believe it's been so long. It's just a pleasure having my friend Babar alive again," said Brunhoff, who continued his father's legacy in 1946.

Brunhoff's father Jean created the series in 1931 and completed seven books before his death in 1937.

"It was after the war that I wanted my friend to live



- Patricia Rodriguez, for 24 hours

Babar, king of elephants, and author Laurent de Brunhoff celebrated Babar's 75th birthday at the Royal Ontario Museum yesterday.

again," said Brunhoff, adding that, "sketching elephants was not easy — but it was fun."

Brunhoff's 33 books have since been translated to numerous languages and have been exported to

all continents.

"After 50 years, it was a pleasure to keep creating more books," said Brunhoff, as the king of elephants loomed behind him.

- Patricia Rodriguez, for 24 hours