

Turtles in Trouble



As herbivores, carnivores, and scavengers, all turtles play a significant role in aquatic ecosystems. Turtles live in lakes, ponds, marshes and streams. In winter, all Ontario turtles hibernate underwater. The loss of these important wetland habitats, or a rapid change in the environment, threatens all our turtles and many other wetland species.

You can help preserve their habitat



Turtle nesting season in Ontario is about 2- 3 weeks, from the end of May to the end of June. Female turtles dig their nests and lay their eggs in sandy, well drained soil.



Many female turtles need to cross highways or roads to reach their nesting sites. Often, the female turtles will lay their eggs in the gravel shoulders of highways and cottage roads. Crossing busy roads is very dangerous for the female turtles and many get injured or killed while crossing the road or laying their eggs on the side of the road.



This female turtle was hit by a car and her eggs are visible through her fractured shell. Deaths and injuries of reproducing females and the subsequent loss of eggs threaten the future of Ontario turtles.

If you find a turtle wandering over land in late May or June, it is most likely a female about to lay her eggs. Please do not disturb this turtle or remove her from her habitat.

Help to Identify and protect turtle nesting areas.

Turtles in Ontario are protected under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act.

If you find a turtle... watch it, love it, but leave it.

We all have a role to play in protecting wetland habitat and turtle nesting areas. Six of the eight Ontario turtles are at risk. Observations help identify important turtle habitats.

Learn more and submit your sightings to Adopt A Pond Ontario Turtle Tally at

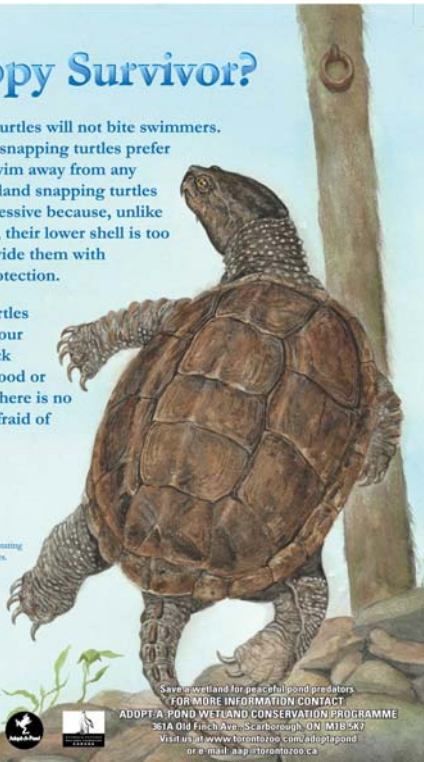

www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/turtletally.asp

To download the SnappySurvivor poster go to: [Link to page 3](#)
 Link: To download in Black and White
 Link: To download in colour


Snappy Survivor?

Snapping turtles will not bite swimmers. In the water snapping turtles prefer to quickly swim away from any danger. On land snapping turtles may be aggressive because, unlike other turtles, their lower shell is too small to provide them with complete protection.

Snapping turtles may patrol your beach or dock looking for food or shelter, but there is no need to be afraid of them.

Snapping turtles are fascinating primitive looking creatures.



Reduced lower shell unique to snapping turtle.

Save our wetland for peaceful pond predators.
 FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
 ADOPTER-POND WETLAND CONSERVATION PROGRAMME
 351A Old Finch Ave. S. Scarborough, ON M1S 5K7
 Visit us at www.torontozoo.com/adoptpond
 or e-mail: asp@torontozoo.ca

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TURTLES IN TROUBLE

What You Need to Know To Help Ontario Turtles.

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You Can Help Preserve Their Habitat.



Why Did the Turtle Cross the Road?



In early June, female turtles in Ontario lay eggs in sandy, well-drained soil. The gravel shoulders of highways and cottage roads are often used as egg-laying sites. If you find a turtle wandering over land in late May or June, it is most likely a female about to lay her eggs. Please do not disturb this turtle or remove it from its habitat. Help to identify and protect turtle nesting areas.

KIDS CORNER

How are turtles born?

All turtles lay eggs. Many eggs are eaten by raccoons, foxes, or skunks. The young turtles hatch after 90 days. The temperature of the nest can determine the sex of the hatching turtles.

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