

Turtle Times

Your Donations At Work

www.kawarthaturtle.org

KAWARTHA TURTLE TRAUMA CENTRE

Summer 2014

Why Did The Turtle Cross The Road?



These snapping turtles-on-the-move were used to promote our Open House in March. Our new Centre was funded by your generosity and support. Your kindness means more turtles are being helped!

Turtles Hit By Cars, Saved By You You Make the Difference

Turtles start moving around in the late spring to look for nesting grounds, new mates, and new territories – and unfortunately, our roads are often in their way. The result, as you know, is often bad news for the turtle.

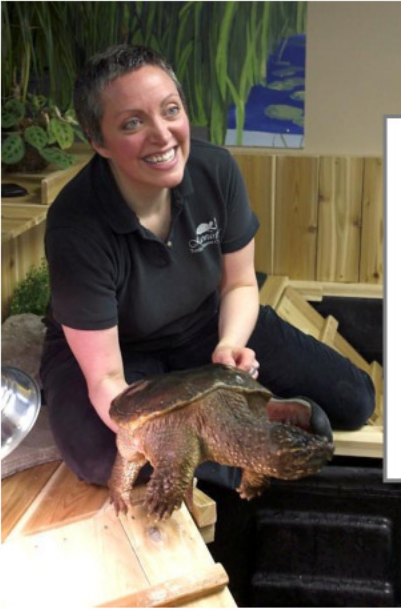
But thanks to you and others like you, our turtles are getting a fighting chance! Your donations and support have helped us move to our new location, which has been actively treating new injured turtles since April.

Since adult turtles are meant to live for decades, it is worth taking the time and energy to save even one. More turtles are recovering and being returned to the wild, thanks to you and other turtle friends!



Concerned citizens like you put up these signs to caution drivers in turtle crossing areas. Thank you for watching out for turtles!

*Thanks to you,
our turtles are getting
a fighting chance!*



Our Education Centre features several turtles which have special licenses to live there permanently as Education animals. Paddy's enclosure was built with the help of George "Paddy" Harrison, the City of Peterborough, and support from you, our donors.

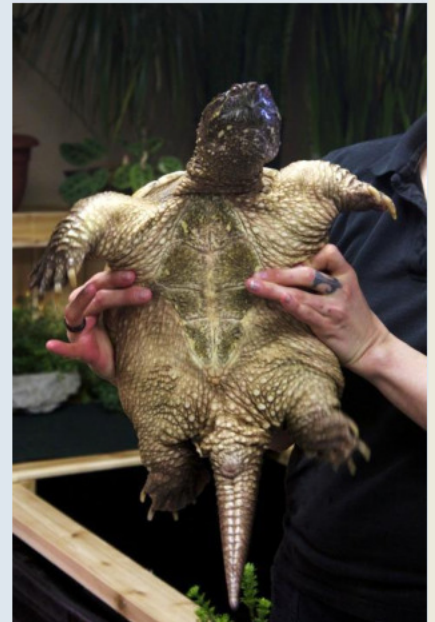
Can Turtles Be Ambassadors? From Rescued Turtle to Educator – Thanks to You

You and other turtle leaders are helping to ensure more turtles aren't removed from the wild. Have you met our Turtle Ambassador Paddy, who already has a large fan following?

Paddy came to us from a family who had raised him lovingly from a baby snapping turtle to the age of 29 years. The family did not know that it is illegal to keep wild animals, or that the pet store which sold him was breaking the law. When they learned this, they approached the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre with their concern.

Under the guidelines of the Ministry of Natural Resources, turtles (and other wild animals) must be returned to their point of origin in the wild. There are many reasons for this, but a main one is to contain the transmission of bacteria, viruses and other organisms which may be harmful in different environments. Because Paddy's pet store had long since closed, there was no way to trace his original wetland, so the Ministry issued a special permit to the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre to be able to keep him as an Education animal.

We are grateful to Paddy's family, and we are fortunate to have such a social snapping turtle to help people learn about turtles! Though Paddy has never bitten anyone, we are very careful in handling him to ensure that never happens!



Kate Siena shows Paddy's plastron (lower shell), demonstrating why snappers feel threatened on land and snap. With your help, we are educating people to respect these awesome animals – thank you!

How Snappers Got Their Name

Do you know why snapping turtles snap? They are not able to pull all the way into their shell like other turtles because their plastron is small, so they developed the self-defense mechanism of snapping. But you don't have to be afraid of the snapping turtle under your dock! Snapping turtles don't have natural predators in the water so they are rarely threatened enough to snap in the water.

Have you ever wondered...?

- How do you pick up a snapping turtle?
- What is a turtle shell made of?
- Which direction do you move a turtle in if you find one crossing the road?
- Do turtles have teeth?

The answer to these and other burning turtle questions can be found at <http://vimeo.com/kawarthaturtle/videos>

Share with your friends!



An Eastern Musk Turtle (or Stinkpot) swims in its home at the Centre. These little guys are hard to see in the wild, as they are almost entirely aquatic and won't grow larger than 4". Thank you Guichon Family for lending your name and your support to the Musk Turtle Aquarium!

Crowd-Funders Buy New Equipment for Hospital

Thanks to your generosity and a *crowd* of supporters, injured turtles are getting the best possible chance at recovery!



Dr. Sue Carstairs, Medical Director and Executive Director, operates on a turtle in the new operating room. Thanks to your generous donations, state-of-the-art turtle surgeries are being done every day during the busy season.

A new EKG machine means patients are monitored during surgery to ensure stability. And a new autoclave can be based at the turtle hospital – thank you! Formerly, our resourceful surgeons went through the laborious process of sterilizing surgical equipment off-site and bringing it in.



Bequests

Turtles Need Your Protection

Without You... vulnerable little ones remain endangered

"Turtles are now the most endangered group of animals on the planet, and endangered species are important to me - I want to protect them. We need to defend them carefully for future generations. It is amazing to think that because turtles are so long lived, a turtle being treated at the Centre today may still be around when our grandchildren are grown!

Emily Giles, Member of the Board of Directors, about why she is leaving a bequest to the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre in her Will



Photo by Stewart Stick. No turtles were harmed in the photographing of this event. Stewart lay on his stomach with a friend watching for traffic for a long time to get this photo!

Please reduce paper impacts on the environment – and promote turtle conservation – by sharing this newsletter.



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We are authorized by the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act to be wildlife custodians and rehabilitate Ontario turtles, as it is illegal to keep a wild animal in captivity without authorization. The Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre is also granted Special Permits for working with Species At Risk. Thank you for sustaining us in this important work.

Why I Support Turtles

“About a dozen years ago, I read a story in a Toronto paper about a veterinarian who was engaged in a quixotic activity to rescue turtles. That appealed to me, because in my childhood I had seen turtles in the Big Head River near Meaford and then in the Sauble River. I thought “What a wonderful thing to do!”... I have been a supporter of KTTC ever since that story in the paper.”

David Knight, long-time donor

Executive and Medical Director:

Dr. Sue Carstairs

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The Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre

The Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre is a non-profit, registered charity that operates a hospital for injured wild turtles; does field studies such as radio tracking, ‘headstarting’ new hatchlings, and population surveys; and outreach programs to promote healthy turtle populations, wetland conservation, and stewardship. We rehabilitate turtles by the generosity of our donors like you. As a charitable organization, we issue tax receipts for all donations.

Our Objectives:

To ensure that Ontario’s turtle species do not disappear from their native habitat; to train and educate students in environmental, ecological, and wildlife studies; to gather and share data in these fields; and to disseminate information to the public about the importance of turtles as part of a healthy ecosystem.

We are located north of Peterborough, Ontario at:

4-1434 Chemong Road
Selwyn, Ontario
K9J 6X2 Canada
Phone 705-741-5000
www.kawarthaturtle.org
info@kawarthaturtle.org



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Turtle Trauma Centre