

Turtle Times

Your Donations At Work



www.ontarioturtle.ca

Winter 2018

- Our new hours: Monday to Saturday, 9:00 am – 5:00 pm -

From the Director

I would like to thank everyone who made 2017 so successful. While it was a challenging year, it was also very rewarding, and we are heartened to know we are making an impact on turtle conservation. Our multi-pronged approach continues to address all threats to Ontario's turtles.

Again, thank you to our amazing staff, volunteers, and all those who donated; you all allow us to continue our vital conservation work.

Dr. Sue Carstairs Executive and Medical Director

OTCC in the News

2018 – The Environmental Excellence Stewardship Award

The Otonabee Regional Conservation Authority presented the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre with an award for Environmental Excellence in the area of Stewardship. OTCC's extensive education program promotes stewardship practices to a wide audience, in interactive presentations both on-site and as outreach. We also practice what we preach, and even recently planted a pollinator garden in our outdoor education facility!



Andy Mitchell, Chair of the Board and Sherry Senis, Vice-Chair of the Board of Otonabee Conservation, presenting award to Dr. Sue Carstairs

Fix and Release



By now you may have seen the award-winning short documentary by Scott Dobson entitled "Fix and Release". This film featuring the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre has played at film festivals all over the world and has won 10 awards at various festivals including Best Canadian Short at Planet In Focus, Best in Festival at Yorkton Film Festival, and Best Documentary at Scinema Australia.

The festival premiere was at the prestigious Environmental Film Festival in Washington DC and has screened at the largest Documentary festival in the United States; Doc NYC. It has also played

numerous smaller festivals as outreach for those living near turtles and had events in Muskoka, Milton, North Bay, Sudbury, Durham Region.

We feel very fortunate to be internationally showcased in such a beautiful film. It documents the heart and soul of our mission and the people who work and volunteer here.

CBC purchased the film and first ran it in December for their Short Docs series. It is now available for viewing via their website or Facebook page. Watch Fix & Release:

<http://www.cbc.ca/shortdocs/shorts/fix-and-release>.

A very special thank you to Scott Dobson and his hard working team for sharing the work of the OTCC across the world, and congratulations on the numerous awards this film has achieved!

Paddy's End-of-Year Fundraising Campaign



Paddy, our 34-year-old resident snapping turtle, did an amazing job with our 2017 end-of-year fundraising campaign. After a lot of deliberation, he decided to forgo Giving Tuesday and run a continuous campaign to the end of the year, featuring none other than...himself. We have to admit though, that he did a fantastic job. He wants to publicly thank Bronwyn Fairchild of *Bronwyn Fairchild Graphic Design for Artists and Small Businesses*, for her excellent work and volunteerism for this project. She not only captured his best side, but also put him into some amazing graphics that required her excellent skills.

How did Paddy do? Great question! He is overwhelmed with the generosity of so very many people. Thanks to you and our many contributors, we met our goal of \$20,000.00. Your contributions mean that we can continue to provide excellent care for the turtles in our facility.



***A very special thank you to everyone who donated to the OTCC.
Without you, we would not exist.***

Education and Community Outreach

Wendy Baggs, our Education Coordinator, has been gearing up for a busy season! She is already booking events and OTCC educational visits well into the summer. It's not too late to book your event – we do school visits, social club visits, community events, birthday parties, and more. Of course, many of these events are held right here at the OTCC. We have education brochures for distribution to anyone interested in exploring our programs, all of which can be fine-tuned to suit specific age groups and your requirements.



Wendy is on the cover of our new brochures!

During our busy holiday season in December, Wendy started working Saturdays at the Centre in order to accommodate the many requests for tours and visits.

Saturday openings will go on indefinitely as they continue to be a very busy day. Our nominal winter fees are \$3/child, \$5/adult, or \$10/family. The tour rate of \$25 for up to 8 people should be booked ahead by calling the centre or by email.



We hosted our first birthday party here at the Centre, and what a special day it was! Sophie celebrated her 6th birthday with her family and friends.

If you're interested in booking an event, tour, or want a copy of the education brochure, please contact Wendy at 705-741-5000 or email her at education@ontarioturtle.ca.



Volunteer Spotlight

About six years ago, Wendy Fucile started volunteering with us and since then, hasn't looked back! She persevered when the Centre was located in a two-storey building, and cleaned turtles by lugging pails of water up and down the stairs. Now, Wendy can be found feeding in our snapping turtle and hospital areas. The turtles recognize her voice and know that they'll soon be getting a meal! She was a great help this summer during the frenzied hatching season, checking each bin for newly emerged turtles, weighing, measuring and getting them into new habitats.

Wendy is "mostly retired" from a nursing career in community and mental health, where she held a variety of leadership positions. She was the first Dean of Trent Fleming School of Nursing and still teaches part-time. Wendy and her husband are long-time residents of Peterborough and her children live in British Columbia and Switzerland.



Wendy Fucile feeding an injured turtle

Wendy says that the neat thing about working with turtles is that her friends get enthusiastic too and therefore the OTCC community is enlarged. People who know that she volunteers here often ask for advice on how to protect turtles. Her entire family help spread the news by wearing OTCC T-shirts! She finds great satisfaction in her volunteer work and says that the staff is very accommodating when life takes you away from your position – volunteers are very supported.

We wouldn't survive without volunteers like Wendy, and we have 750+ turtles who think so too!

Hospital

In 2017 we released a total of 1,382 adult turtles and hatchlings!

While the busy 2017 season is over, our hospital still houses about 150 injured adult turtles that are in various stages of recovery, as well as over 600 hatchlings. These turtles still require daily care to get them ready for release. We will be releasing almost all of these as soon as the weather is warm.



Getting over and around these tanks was not fun!



Amanda giving a turtle fluids in our hospital lobby

As a result of the high numbers of turtles brought to the centre last year and the overcrowding, a decision was made to increase our floor space to accommodate injured turtles in 2018. This will become an addition to our ICU.

Anticipating the number of intakes for 2018 is impossible, but as we become more widely known across the entire province and even into Quebec, Dr. Carstairs and the Board of Directors felt this to be a very necessary addition. The overcrowding last season made the tasks of feeding and cleaning a very challenging indeed! Thanks to our amazing staff and volunteers, however, everyone stayed in good humour throughout, and we were successful in never turning away a turtle!

Presentations and Publications

The data that OTCC is generating is helping in the conservation world. To get this information out, we are working on publishing the results:

Published:

"A question of Scale – Replication & the Effective Evaluation of Conservation Interventions"

- Bennett, Steiner, Carstairs, Gielens, and Davy

Accepted and in review:

"Revisiting the Hypothesis of Sex-biased Turtle Road Mortality"

- Carstairs, Dupuis-Désormeaux & Davy

In Progress:

Six years of Post-Release Monitoring in Headstarted Blanding's Turtles (*Emydoidea blandingii*)

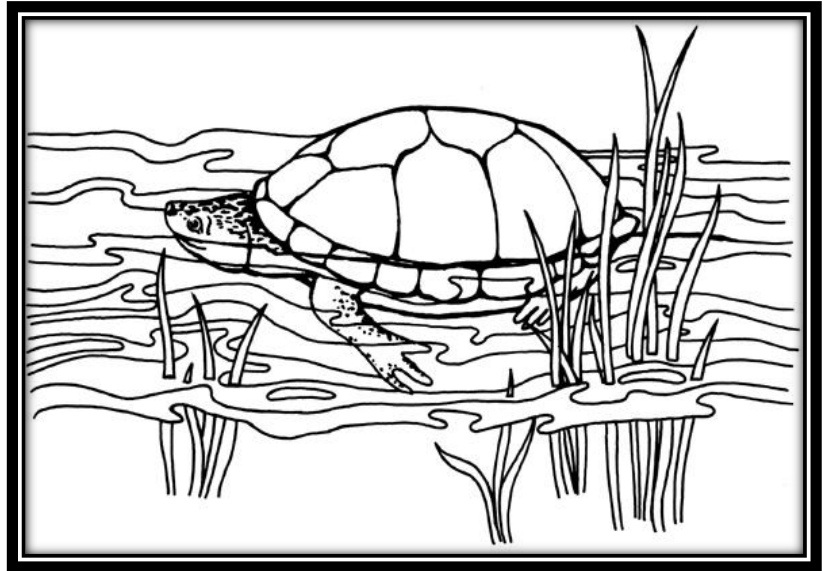
- Carstairs, Paterson, Muir, Gasbarrini, Jager, and Davy

We also present our results at global conferences on conservation, and veterinary medicine, across North America.

Hatchling Hub

Can you find 13 turtle awesome words in this puzzle?
(answers at the bottom of this page)

S E C A P A R A C G
P G N I K S A B E N
L O N C W D S T G I
A S N I G R A M G L
S P L D D N A M S H
T D H Y R N S M K C
R O W E T L A N D T
O J B O M P Q L R A
N I S C A L E S B H
H F I E L D W O R K



Colour this picture and send it to us! We'll decorate our centre with your artwork!

Shellarious Jokes!



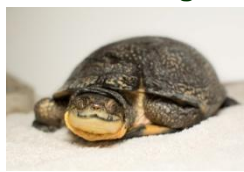
1. What kind of photos does a turtle take?
 2. What do turtles use to communicate?
 3. What did the cow say to the turtle?
 4. Why can't a turtle eat at McDonald's?
 5. What do you call a famous turtle?
- (Answers at the bottom of this page)

Did you know??? Nobody knows how long a snapping turtle lives, but we believe they can live to be well over 100 years old! Some of them might have been alive when Canada became a country!

Events

March 15: March Break Family Event – Hastings

Held downstairs at the Hastings Civic Centre, from 10am-12pm. Meet ambassador turtles, participate in activities and learn about turtles & environments!



March 21: Paint Night! Let your inner Picasso come out for this fun event. Held at the Peterborough Legion. For more information and to register: <https://goo.gl/a2Rk5z>



March 23: Turtle Trauma Workshop for wildlife caregivers, Vet Techs and Veterinarians. Register here:

<https://ontarioturtle.ca/shop/>



April 12: Fundraising Event in the Atrium at Toronto Zoo. Cost is \$45 p/p, includes food and drink. Watch our Facebook page and website for more details



April 28 & 29: Field Methods Workshop: held at the Toronto Zoo, presented by Adopt-a-Pond and the OTCC. Register as a student or professional: <https://ontarioturtle.ca/shop/>



Golf Tournament May 26: with a shotgun start at 9:00 am sharp, at Keystone Links. Register here: <https://ontarioturtle.ca/shop/>



Answers to word search: Basking, Blandings Carapace, Eggs, Fieldwork, Hatchling, Hibernate, Marginals, Plastron, Pond, Scales, Wetland, Wild
Answers to jokes: 1. Shellfies 2. A shellphone 3. Get a mooove on! 4. Because it's too slow for fast food! 5. A shellebrety!

Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre 2018 Wish List

Need extra details? Don't hesitate to call us! 705-741-5000

Foot stools - we need 4

Scrub brushes (with handles)

AA and AAA batteries

Coloured electrical tape (so we can write on it- not black)

White waterproof medical tape

5 heads of Lettuce/week (not iceberg)

Cutting boards. Plastic, medium sized (2)

Dollar Tree gift cards

Canadian Tire Gift Cards

Metro or Sobey's Gift Cards

Hand sanitizers (small size, to take to events)

Rubber-backed entry mats

Exacto knives

Tools, i.e. Hammer, screwdriver assortment, pliers, etc.

Canoe, for field work

Extension cords CSA approved (not from dollar stores)

2 Shade sails approx. 18', for our outdoor education area

Binoculars (2 pairs)

We also have an Amazon Wishlist: https://www.amazon.ca/gp/registry/wishlist/ref=nav_wishlist_btn



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Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre is the operating name of Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre

