



NEWS RELEASE

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For more information please contact:

Diana Morrison/Joanne O’Heron
Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre
info@ontarioturtle.ca
www.ontarioturtle.ca

Selwyn, ON - The Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre (OTCC) is pleased to announce the admission of Dr. Sue Carstairs, Executive Director and Chief Medical Officer of the OTCC into the Order of Ontario. The Order is the province’s highest honour. It is reserved for Ontarians from all fields of endeavour and backgrounds, whose excellence has left a lasting legacy in the province, Canada and beyond. Members of the Order are a collective of Ontario’s finest citizens, whose contributions have shaped – and continue to shape the province’s history and place in Canada.

Dr. Carstairs’ visionary leadership has been vital to the work the OTCC has done to protect Ontario’s seven at-risk species of turtles. Since 2008, Dr. Carstairs has lead the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre from a small grassroots organization into the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre, an internationally recognized research and treatment centre. She has pioneered new treatment techniques for injured turtles. She’s trained a generation of veterinarian professionals in how to treat injured turtles. The OTCC has created a network of more than 600 volunteers to drive and fly injured turtles and their eggs to their hospital facility for treatment. She’s written a children’s book on turtles. She’s given countless talks in schools, seniors’ homes, community centres and backyards. Annually over 10,000 people attend OTCC presentations. CBC showed Canada the importance of her work, screening the award-winning film [Fix and Release](#). She continues to research the causes and effects of viruses and illnesses impacting wild turtles. She has partnered with countless government agencies, and private and public corporations to access financial support and resource sharing opportunities. One person can make a difference. Dr. Carstairs’ tireless efforts have given Ontarians an opportunity to have a direct impact on saving our at-risk turtle species.

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