

WE NEED YOUR HELP

Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre is largely funded by private donations. Your financial support will help ensure future generations can enjoy the sight of basking turtles.

Registered Charity # 85752 4409 RR0001  
Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre is the operating name of Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre.



**Yes!** *I want to support the Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre*

Name: .....

Phone: .....

Address: .....

City: .....

Province: ..... Postal Code: .....

Email: .....

I would like to donate:

☐ \$500 ☐ \$300 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$100 ☐ Other .....

I would like to make this donation: ☐ Once ☐ Monthly

☐ Enclosed is my cheque (payable to Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre)

☐ Charge my credit card

Card number: .....

Expiry: .....

Name on Card: .....

Signature: .....

You can also donate on our website  
[www.ontarioturtle.ca](http://www.ontarioturtle.ca)



Our mission is to protect and conserve Ontario’s native turtles and their habitat

Turtles are vital to our healthy wetlands, and our wetlands are vital to our health too! Wetlands act as the natural filters to our drinking water. Turtles are a critical part of the biodiversity of our wetlands. Canada actually contains a large part of the world’s wetlands.

Every turtle saved is critical to their population. Turtles live a long, long time, and very few eggs laid will make it to adulthood. Turtles also take a long time to mature so each turtle lost is very difficult to replace in the population.

Road mortality is a major threat to wild turtles in Ontario, and second only to habitat loss as a cause for population declines. Other threats include consumption, illegal collection for the pet trade, boating mortality and fishing by-catch.

Our multi-pronged approach to conservation addresses all causes of turtle population declines, to help ensure that we do not lose any of our species to extinction.

*Please slow down and watch for turtles, especially while driving through wetland areas. If it is safe for you to do so, an uninjured turtle may be moved across the road in the direction they were heading.*



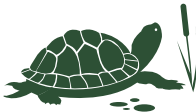
If you find an injured turtle,  
call us immediately!  
**705-741-5000**

Helping an injured turtle

- Most turtles can be picked up carefully by their shell with two hands. When handling snapping turtles keep a safe distance from their head as they will snap at you if they feel threatened. You may want to use a shovel, board or car mat to lift the turtle. Never pick up a turtle by its tail.
- Place the injured animal in a well-ventilated plastic container with a secure lid (turtles can climb).
- Do not transport turtles in water or offer the turtle anything to eat.
- Note the location where the turtle was found to ensure it can be released according to regulations.
- Wash your hands after handling the animal.

Watch the video on our website for more tips for handling turtles.

We provide immediate medical assistance and a comprehensive rehabilitation program, giving turtles expert care until their eventual release.

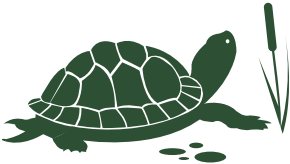


**ONTARIO TURTLE**  
CONSERVATION CENTRE

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Selwyn, ON K9J 6X2

[www.ontarioturtle.ca](http://www.ontarioturtle.ca)

info@ontarioturtle.ca  
705-741-5000



**ONTARIO TURTLE**  
CONSERVATION CENTRE



The only dedicated turtle rehabilitation  
and conservation centre in Canada

Home of the Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre



HOSPITAL

OTCC operates a referral and teaching hospital that provides ground-breaking medical treatment for Ontario’s native turtles. OTCC receives turtles from across Ontario, from members of the public, and from other veterinarians and wildlife centres. We have a large number of First Response Centres across the province to help turtles get acute care quickly.



HATCHLING “HEADSTART” PROGRAM

At OTCC, we incubate and hatch eggs collected from injured females admitted to our hospital. After a two- to three-month incubation period, the thousands of eggs start to hatch. The babies are returned to the wetland that their mothers came from, to help to replenish these populations.



CONSERVATION FIELD STUDIES

OTCC is conducting a long-term study to follow a group of our ‘headstarted’ Blanding’s turtles, alongside a group of wild-hatched juveniles, to determine best practices for headstarting, and ensure survival of the juveniles. We also conduct population surveys, road mortality surveys, and help with ecopassage implementation to avoid road mortality.



EDUCATION

OTCC has an outreach and education program which plays a vital role in engaging people in conservation and in supporting our work. We have three comprehensive packages tailored to meet the requirements of groups: on location at OTCC, offsite, and we also Skype! Get in touch to find out more.



All Eight Species of Ontario Turtles are At Risk

PROVINCIAL  
& FEDERAL



Northern Map Turtle  
*Graptemys geographica*



Eastern Musk Turtle (Stinkpot)  
*Sternotherus odoratus*



Snapping Turtle  
*Chelydra serpentina*

PROVINCIAL  
& FEDERAL



Spiny Softshell Turtle  
*Apalone spinifera*



Spotted Turtle  
*Clemmys guttata*

PROVINCIAL  
FEDERAL



Wood Turtle  
*Glyptemys insculpta*



Blanding’s Turtle  
*Emydoidea blandingii*



Midland Painted Turtle  
*Chrysemys picta*