



Fall 2022

Dear Friends and Supporters,

We are coming to you for help with a solution to what is actually a very fortunate “problem”

...a turtle traffic jam.

With over 1600 turtles already admitted to our hospital this year, as well as about 8,000 eggs incubating and now hatching - **we have a LOT of turtles to release** all season long! And these turtles need to go back to their home wetland, which can be anywhere in Ontario!

We expect to release over 3,000 turtles this year!

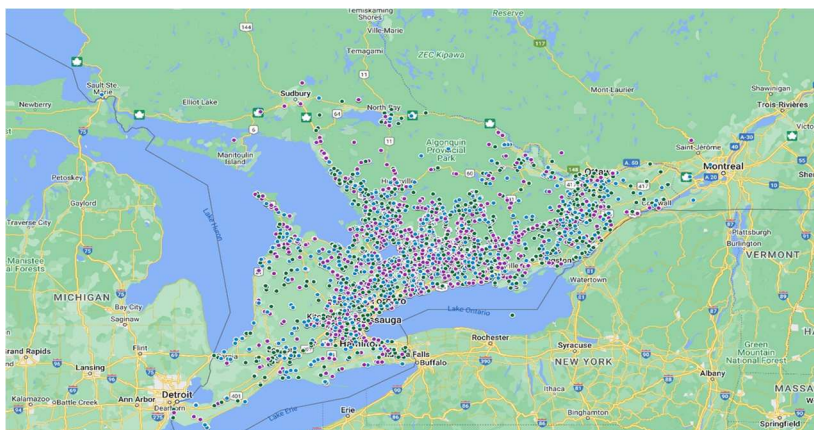
Because these turtles need as much time as possible once released to find their ‘neighbourhood’ and where they want to spend the winter, time is critical in getting them out as quickly as possible, especially when it’s later in the season. If it’s too cool, the turtles slow down and can no longer travel. This puts them at risk. *The quicker we can get them home, the more successful they will be.* Hatchlings especially need time after release- after all, it is all new to them!

Currently, our staff and volunteers carry out these releases using their own vehicles, but we can’t keep up! Our staff is juggling this alongside their regular hectic schedule. **Our volunteers are AMAZING**, but they just can’t keep up with the volume. While we will *always* need our team of volunteers to help us, we need more resources to get these turtles ‘home’. **...here’s where YOU come in!**

OTCC needs its own dedicated RESCUE AND RELEASE VEHICLE!

Having our own vehicle, as well as a staff position to be on the road daily, would let us augment our current procedures, and get those turtles out quicker. **And quicker is better for the turtles.**

Not only would this aid in releases, but it would also greatly help getting the injured turtles to us. We are proud of the fact that through our volunteer **Turtle Taxi Program**, and our veterinary **First Responder Program**, turtles from across the province can get access to medical care quickly. However, with ever increasing admission numbers, a dedicated vehicle and staff member to help with transport is needed.



Left: Map of admission locations from just one year! Turtles need to be released back to their home wetlands. Why? Because turtles do best when taken back home! Turtles live a long time, and get to know their homeland extremely well; this sets them up for greater success in knowing where the resources they need are located. Also, there are many different genetic populations across the province, and they need to stay in their own area. In addition, some populations may have a particular endemic infection that they are dealing with well, but which could be devastating to another population.

Donate now using the form below, on our website at ontarioturtle.ca/donate, or by calling us at 705-741-5000

Yes, I want to support the OTCC!

\$500 \$250 \$150 \$100 \$50 Surprise us _____

Please find enclosed my **cheque**, or Please charge my **credit card**:

Card # _____ Expiry ____/____/____ CVV _____

Name: _____ Signature: _____

Complete if your contact information has changed:

Name: _____ Street: _____

City: _____ Province: _____ Postal Code: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____



Ontario Turtle
Conservation Centre

4-1434 Chemong Rd
Selwyn ON K9J 6X2
705-741-5000
info@ontarioturtle.ca



Above: Two car loads of turtles ready to go home! Our volunteers and staff work tirelessly to make sure that every turtle gets home safely. We scout out the location where the turtle was found, then choose the nearest appropriate body of water for the life stage.



Above: Just a few of the thousands of turtles released each year! **Far left:** A clutch of hatchlings is carefully released. **Middle:** A painted turtle is happy to get back home. **Far right:** A very large snapping turtle prepares to be taxied home!

OTCC admission numbers have risen astronomically over recent years, from only 140 in 2010 (and 102 hatchlings) to already over 1600 in 2022, with thousands of hatchlings expected. **This is because there is an increased awareness among the public, which means that more turtles are getting the help they need.**

With the purchase or ongoing lease of a vehicle, OTCC can continue to increase admissions, and ensure that we can keep up with these increased numbers! **...and get rid of the turtle traffic jam!**

Turtles are waiting to get home – but you can change that with a gift towards our new Rescue and Release vehicle!

We thank you for your ongoing support of our vital conservation work! We couldn't do it without you!

Sincerely,

Dr. Sue Carstairs
Executive and Medical Director, Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre

Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre is the operating name of [Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre](#); Charity Number 857524409

Looking for another way to help? Consider one of the options below:

GIFT SHOP	PLANNED GIVING
<p>Our gift shop features many items that are both useful and fun to own – and 100% of sale proceeds support the mission of the OTCC! Shop online at www.ontarioturtle.ca/shop or come visit us in person to check out some one-of-a kind items. Get all decked out for summer!</p>	<p>A legacy gift can have a tremendous conservation impact for years to come. It can assist in reducing taxes owed by your estate, while supporting your values and beliefs. Professional financial advice is strongly advised! For more information, email us at info@ontarioturtle.ca.</p>
SAVE TURTLES & TAXES – DONATE SECURITIES	DONATE EQUIPMENT, SUPPLIES, OR SKILLS
<p>Donating publicly traded securities (stocks, bonds, mutual funds, segregated funds) may provide you with significant tax benefits. Transferring securities listed on a public stock exchange directly to OTCC means you may not pay tax on capital gains. This could be a tax savings of up to 50% and may be greater savings than donating the cash proceeds from the sale of the securities. Plus, you'll get a tax receipt based on fair market value. Contact us for details at info@ontarioturtle.ca</p>	<p>Our website "Wish List" covers it all! https://ontarioturtle.ca/donating-non-monetary/ We also have an Amazon wish list: https://amzn.to/2VVYBMb We LOVE and value our volunteers. Please email us at volunteer@ontarioturtle.ca if you have time and/or specific skills to donate!</p>