

Trent-Severn Waterway National Historic Site of Canada
 P.O. Box 567
 2155 Ashburnham Drive
 Peterborough, ON K9J6Z6



Wood Turtle
(Glyptemys insculpta)

Description: This clever species of turtle has a carapace averaging 14-20cm in length with brown to grayish-brown concentric growth rings on each scute (large scale). The plastron (lower shell) is yellow with a large black square on each scute. The Wood turtle's head and upper limbs are dark brown-black, lower limbs and neck are yellow to orange.

Habitat: Wood turtles are the most terrestrial turtle in Ontario. They are commonly associated with soft-bottom areas near moving water such as streams, creeks and rivers.



Spotted Turtle
(Clemmys guttata)

Description: As the name implies the Spotted turtle's carapace is smooth and black with small bright yellow or orange spots. Contrary to its upper shell, the plastron is yellow-orange with large black spots. On average, length ranges from 9-11.5cm.

Habitat: These turtles can be found in the calm waters of bogs, marshes and soft-bottomed lakes.



Turtles in Ontario are in serious trouble. Of the eight species found in the province, six are listed with the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as Species at Risk. This means that they are at risk of becoming extinct in Canada. Five of the turtles found throughout the Trent-Severn Waterway are Species at Risk.

Some of the most valuable wetlands remaining in Ontario are found along the Trent-Severn Waterway. These wetlands provide valuable habitat for many species including Species at Risk. Five of the Species at Risk along the Trent-Severn Waterway are turtles. These turtles are in trouble and at risk of vanishing from Canada, but you can help!

Here's how: simply keep an eye out for these five species while enjoying the waterway this summer. When you see one of these turtles, fill out a reporting card and drop it in the mail. **OR** from June through to the end of August, call the **Turtle Hotline at (705) 875-2240** and report your sightings. It's that easy! It's not only easy, but you will be helping researchers protect these species and ensuring that future generations will be able to enjoy the sight of these turtles.

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Turtle Hotline (705) 875-2240 (June-August only)

For more information visit

www.pc.gc.ca/speciesatrisk
www.trentu.ca/biology/turtlewatch
www.kawarthaturtle.org

Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre

Map Turtle photo courtesy of Gary Allen
 Musk Turtle photos courtesy of Michael Butler
 Spotted & Blandings Turtle photo courtesy of Joe Cebek
 Wood Turtle photo courtesy of Georgian Bay Islands National Park

Turtles on the Trent-Severn Waterway

Need Your Help!

Sighted any turtles on the Trent-Severn Waterway this summer? Tell us about it! Call the Turtle Hotline (705) 875-2240



Parks Canada Parcs Canada

Canada



Five Turtles at Risk

Blanding's Turtle

(Emydoidea blandingii)

Description: This medium sized turtle is 15-27cm long and has a high domed carapace (shell) which can range from grey to black in colour with irregular yellow spots or 'flecks'. When seen from a distance, this turtle is often described as resembling a WWII army helmet. One of the most distinguishable characteristics of this turtle is its bright yellow throat and long yellow neck. The notched upper jaw makes the Blanding's Turtle appear as though it is smiling. Blanding's may live more than 70 years.

Habitat: Blanding's Turtles are commonly observed in shallow, weedy waters such as marshes, bogs, secluded bays and shallow parts of lakes and creeks with soft bottoms.

Common Musk Turtle

(Sternotherus odoratus)

Description: This feisty little turtle averages from 7.6 to 13.7cm in length and has a large head and pointed snout. The skin is dark olive to black in colour and there are two distinctive yellow stripes on both sides of the head that run from the snout to the neck: one under the eye, one above. The shell is unserrated, narrow and highly domed. It is smooth and may be olive-brown to black or grey in colour. This species is highly aquatic and is rarely seen far from water. The nickname Stinkpot comes from a foul smelling yellowish fluid that it secretes from two pairs of musk glands located under the edges of the shell when it is frightened or disturbed.

Habitat: The Common Musk Turtle is commonly associated with any kind of permanent body of water with a slow current and soft bottom. This includes rivers, lakes, marshes and ponds.

Northern Map Turtle

(Graptemys geographica)

Description: This shy, medium sized species gets its name from the irregular yellow or light brown markings along the shell that resemble the markings on a contour map. The lower shell is brown and keeled (raised) along the midline. The back of the shell is serrated, resembling a saw blade. The Map Turtle has olive-brown skin with yellow or greenish-yellow stripes. A distinctive marking on this species is the yellow blotch behind each eye. The females of this species are much larger than the males; 27 cm versus 13cm. The Northern Map Turtle can be seen basking on large rocks or logs in the water, but is people wary and will quickly slip into the water if disturbed.

Habitat: Northern Map Turtles prefer large, soft bottomed bodies of water such as lakes and rivers.

Turtles need your help!

There are 8 species of turtles in Ontario; of these 6 are Species at Risk. Five turtles at risk are found along the Trent-Severn Waterway and you can help protect them. Simply fill out this form if you see any of these five species and return it to:

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of Canada
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Or call the Turtle Hotline at (705) 875-2240
(Hotline available from June to the end of August only).

Species: _____

Number of individuals observed: _____

Location (provide as much detail as you can, include town/township names, landmarks, street name or lock number, if applicable, and any other identifiable features):

Date Observed: month ____ day ____ year ____

Behaviour: basking feeding nesting other (describe)

Name and address of observer(s):

Telephone: () _____

Email: _____

Each submission will be entered into a draw for a copy of The ROM Field Guide to Amphibians and Reptiles of Ontario by Ross D. MacCulloch. Draws will be held in June, July and August.