



**Grey Sauble**  
CONSERVATION

## IT'S TURTLE SEASON

These Species-At-Risk Need Our Help!

**May-July:** Nesting Season (females are searching for suitable nesting habitat to lay eggs).

**August-September:** Hatchling Season (hatchling turtles begin to emerge from nests and protective boxes).

### What's with the wooden box?

Turtle populations are declining due to roadways and other threats. Predators like raccoons and skunks often eat turtle eggs. Installing protective boxes over nests can improve hatchling survival and direct their emergence away from roads and hazards.

**If you see a turtle nest in a dangerous spot (i.e. the side of a road or a heavily trafficked area), please contact Chelsea Vieira: [c.vieira@greysauble.on.ca](mailto:c.vieira@greysauble.on.ca)**

**If you find a deceased or injured turtle, please contact the Ontario Turtle Conservation Center (OTCC): 705-741-5000.**

### Want to learn more?

Visit our website for more information or to join our passionate team of volunteers!

[www.greysauble.on.ca/turtle-stewardship-program/](http://www.greysauble.on.ca/turtle-stewardship-program/)



Erik VanDenKieboom



Kate Ledger



Daniel Stewart





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## HERE'S HOW YOU CAN HELP!

### Helping Turtles Cross the Road

If you see a turtle on the road, safely help it across in the direction it was headed. Painted turtles can be picked up like a sandwich. Snapping turtles, with necks reaching  $\frac{3}{4}$  of their shell length, are tricky to move; use a shovel, paddle, or car mat. You can also lift a snapper by the back or underside of its shell, but never by the tail.

### Spotting a Nesting Turtle

If you see a turtle in an area with sand and/or gravel (such as a roadside), it may be making a nest. Nesting turtles are easily disturbed. Please give them space.

### Hatchling Emergence

In late August and throughout September, hatchling turtles begin to emerge. Turtles emerging from protective boxes will be able to escape through small slots in the frame. Keep an eye out for hatchlings on the road and trails near wetlands. You can help them to the nearest water source, but remember - hatchlings are not pets and cannot be removed from their home area.







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## FACT SHEET

### Midland Painted Turtles

- Peak activity occurs in June and early July and females are most commonly found nesting at dusk.
- Females typically lay 3-14 eggs per clutch.
- Some hatchlings will overwinter in the nest, so do not be alarmed if you don't see hatchlings emerge in the fall. Do not dig up the nest to see what's going on! Hopefully, the hatchlings will emerge in the spring.
- Incubation period typically lasts 65-80 days before emergence.

### Snapping Turtles

- Nesting typically begins in late May.
- Snappers may nest at dusk, but more commonly in the early morning.
- Females typically lay 20-60 eggs per clutch.
- Incubation period typically last ~75-95 days, though warmer weather may shorten this duration.

### Finding a Deceased Turtle

A turtle's value extends beyond its life. If it's a female, the OTCC can incubate its eggs until they hatch. They can also collect data and tissue samples, which are used by various organizations for research on Ontario's turtles.

Visit the OTCC's website for more information:  
[www.ontarioturtle.ca/ourmission/drop-off/](http://www.ontarioturtle.ca/ourmission/drop-off/)

