

Turtle Watch

Some turtle populations in Ontario are rapidly declining. One of the major causes is road mortality. Experts predict that unless efforts are undertaken to protect the native turtle, some species will cease to exist in Ontario. A committee comprised of area environmentalists, veterinarians, and zoo staff have opened a trauma and rehabilitation centre at the Riverview Park and Zoo in Peterborough. Injured native turtles will be treated, in order to eventually release them back into the wild.

Suggestions from the Centre:

- do not handle turtles as they can carry harmful bacteria such as salmonella
- large snapping turtles can inflict a nasty bite. Use a shovel or board to place the turtle into a box or open plastic tub,
- it is essential to record the exact location where the turtle was found,
- the chance of survival will decrease if a turtle cannot be returned to its own territory.

Drop Off Locations:

- Riverview Park and Zoo, Water St., Peterborough
- Peterborough Pet Hospital, 379 Lansdowne Street
- Champlain Animal Hospital, County Rd. 29, Lakefield
- Indian River Reptile Zoo, County Road 38

Drop Off Times:

- Monday to Friday 8am - 4pm
- Saturday & Sunday 8am - 4pm (Riverview Park & Zoo Only)