

Kash Kourier

NEWSLETTER

MAY 2026

VOLUME 34



KLA 2026 EVENTS

- **Membership Renewal**

January 2026 \$20

- **KLA AGM**

Saturday July 11th
Lions Hall, Northbrook
9:00 am doors open

- **Annual Fall Dinner & Charity Auction**

Saturday September 19
Fernleigh Lodge
Tickets on sale at AGM

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Join the conversation:



www.kashwakamak.ca

SAVE THE DATE – JULY 11 AGM!

We have another enticing line-up of speakers for this year's AGM. Here are the highlights of our agenda:

- Eric Kohlsmith is the Regulations Inspector for the Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office. He will be giving his Septic Smart presentation which will help us all understand how to take care of our septic systems, as well as understand what's involved in getting our septic systems inspected.
- We are delighted to have two people from the Federation of Ontario Cottagers' Association, to present:
 - Lesley Lavender, the CEO and Donna Cummerford, FOCA's new President. Donna has a cottage on Big Gull Lake, so her position as President will be great given she's from our area. Your KLA membership includes membership in FOCA, and provides numerous benefits. Their presentation will enlighten us all as to the opportunities and information that is available, as well as educate us on FOCA's mandate in the cottage industry.
- Q&A with Mayor Litchy, Deputy Mayor Roy Huetl, and Councillors Mike Hage and Wayne Good as well as our presenters, will follow.
- Draw for the **3** winners of this year's [Natural Edge Shoreline](#) and Planting Kit (**Value \$395**)
- **Free BBQ** to follow in the near future. We will be sending out emails requesting your RSVP by July 4 and food choice for the BBQ.

Support the Food Bank

Please also remember to bring your food and/or cash donations for the Food Bank! We look forward to seeing you all there and meeting new neighbours and people on the lake!

More information on how you can support the Food Bank year-round is on page 10.



Another cottage season is upon us, complete with black flies ... Regardless, I'm excited to get back on the lake, and work on my shoreline improvements which include the native plants we got from both [Watershed Canada's Natural Edge Program](#) as well as the Mississippi Valley's free tree give away a couple of years ago. We're seeing a remarkable improvement in our shoreline after the devastating 2022 derecho. I encourage you all to take a look at the Natural Edge program to see if your property's shoreline can also be improved. If we each do a little, collectively it will make a huge difference for shoreline erosion and water quality, as well as providing a great natural habitat for birds and other creatures. You can also enter the draw for a **free** shoreline assessment and planting kit – three lucky winners will be chosen at our AGM (see below).

2026 focus for Lake Sustainability

The KLA's focus for lake sustainability includes the following:

- ▶ continue to educate owners about the importance of shoreline health to combat erosion, improve water quality, animal life etc.

The KLA continues to invest in supporting healthy shorelines and water quality by giving three lucky KLA members a [Watershed Canada's Natural Edge shoreline assessment and planting kit](#) valued at \$395. Last year's winners are Chris Freel - Don Anna Road, Janice Way - Kashwakamak Lake Road and Stephanie Wills - Reichart Lane. We look forward to seeing their shoreline improvements!

Enter the draw

It's easy to enter the draw. Simply send me an email subject, **Shoreline Draw** to president@kashwakamak.ca along with your name and cottage address by **Friday July 10**. You don't have to be at the AGM to participate, but we'd certainly love to see you.

(Note that pick up of your plants is at Watershed Canada's office in Perth Ontario, or Sharbot Lake.) We request that you agree to take pictures of your plantings so that the KLA can use as appropriate on our website, in our newsletter and our Facebook

Group as an inspiration for others.)

ALTO High-Speed Rail

Over the winter months, the KLA actively informed members about the [ALTO proposal](#), encouraging everyone to get informed, and share their thoughts with ALTO during the feedback process. That process ended late April, and we are monitoring this closely. In addition, we asked Mayor Litchy to write about this in his column, which you will find on page 7.



Lake Kashwakamak
Sue MacGregor · Admin · All-star contributor · April 11 · 45
Great to be back at the lake!! We wintered well.

Save the Date!

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 19** for our annual **Fall Dinner and Charity Auction** at Fernleigh Lodge. You won't be disappointed with the delicious dinner that Melissa Phillips prepares. As always, all funds will be donated to the Land O'Lakes Food Bank in Cloyne. Tickets are limited and go on sale at the AGM.

Make your voices heard! Fall Election!

With a municipal election coming in the fall of 2026 our voice as lake-front property owners and taxpayers will become even more important.

Did you know that Kashwakamak Lake property owners make up the largest percentage of North Frontenac's tax base? As a cottage owner you can vote online for the municipal representatives (Mayor and Ward 1 & 2 Councillors). More information on how to register is on page 9 of this newsletter.

Also, please help us reach non-members, your new neighbours etc. by getting in contact with Don at membership@kashwakamak.ca. The Board also made a decision that current KLA memberships can be passed on to new owners for the balance of the year when a property gets sold, so if you see a neighbouring property for sale, please approach them and contact Don.

(President cont'd p. 6)





So starts another season on Kash. This past winter was epic and reminded me of the winters we used to get when we arrived at the lake 24 years ago.

Water Level

As of April 21st, the lake level had peaked and started to recede. Ice off was April 20th, (the average is April 15). We had 40m³/s inflow from Marble Lake during the peak, plus whatever runoff the lake was experiencing. It's no wonder we had high levels and the lake came up to dock level when the ice was still on it. The ice was pretty soft by that time and we didn't have significant wind, so hopefully there was minimal dock damage. As of May 12, we were only getting .9 cubic metres/second of water flow through the rapids coming into Whitefish Bay, which is average. You can check the water levels at [MVCA water levels](#).



Forestry work

I have been in contact with representatives from Lanark Forest Inc. along with the Ministry of Natural Resources, MNR. They inform me that there is no forestry work scheduled around Kashwakamak Lake's perimeter in 2026.

Water Sampling

This year I will start taking routine spring water samples of the main lake, as well as in Mitchell's Bay. In addition to total phosphorus and calcium, we are now sampling for sulphate. Rising sulphate levels can be a precursor to the [acidification of the lake](#), so I will be monitoring the findings closely for any emerging trends. By monitoring two sites on the lake, I will be able to get a comparison between the two locations. Sample results from last year have not been posted yet, but once they are, I will share the results.

Update – I took the water samples and sechi reading on May 14. Water clarity this year is 4.75 compared to 3.5 last year in May with no pollen in the water. What a difference a year makes.

Hazard Markers

Until I have a chance to do the first inspection of the lake, which should start just before the long weekend (weather dependent), please use extreme caution if boating. Typically, the ice will drag off some markers. In these cases, I deploy temporary ones until I'm able to get into the water to recover the permanent ones. As always, please email me, lakesteward@kashwakamak.ca if you see any are missing, and/or a marker comes to your shore.

Hazard Marker & Low Wake Marker Map

I'm working with Gord Hunter to get the GPS locations of all the yellow hazard markers and the low wake markers. We'll then put them on a map, which we hope to have available for the July 11 AGM.

Have a safe, and amazing summer on our beautiful lake.

Pete Johnson, lakesteward@kashwakamak.ca



Septic Re-Inspection Program - Sign Up Now

The North Frontenac Council has agreed in principle to move toward mandatory septic inspections at the time of property sale. Details are still being finalized, but this marks a great first step to a phased-in in approach toward a fully encompassing mandatory program.

North Frontenac continues to offer free septic system inspections completed by the Mississippi-Rideau Septic System Office (MRSSO). The primary role of the inspection’s re-inspection program is to educate property owners about their onsite waste treatment system and identify any deficiencies with it. The Mississippi Rideau Septic System Office will focus 2026 inspections on Mosque Lake, Mazinaw (Upper & Lower), Mackie Lake, and Big Gull. The attached provides an excellent overview of the program and answers many questions that you may have on the process: [Septic Re-Inspection Program - Township of North Frontenac](#) Make sure to attend our July 11th AGM where Eric Kohlsmith, the MRSSO Regulations Inspector, is presenting his Septic presentation.



Register to Vote

Municipal Elections – October 26 - Time to Register

Municipal elections are coming this fall. Later this summer, NFLAA and in turn the KLA will share candidate positions on key waterfront issues and encourage member participation. Kash Cottagers are an important voice in North Frontenac. Let's make sure our voices are heard on subjects important to us all.

Action Required by You: Please ensure you are registered on the voters list. Check out Mayor Lichty’s article on page 7 for more information, and pages 8 and 99 on how you can confirm that you are on the voter list and/or process to get signed up.

Short-Term Rental Bylaw

Council has approved moving forward with drafting a short-term rental bylaw, based on recommendations presented by the Environmental Task Force at March Council Meeting. [North Frontenac - Document Center](#)

Shoreline Planting — Now is the Time!

Spring is the ideal moment to think about your shoreline. Even though many cottages on Kashwakamak are tucked close to the lake (and may even have a break wall) - *all properties can benefit from thoughtful, naturalized planting right at the water’s edge.*

Beyond ecology, shoreline planting offers very practical benefits:

- Stabilizes banks and reduces erosion
- Improves water clarity by filtering runoff
- Enhances natural beauty while preserving your view

(NFLAA cont’d p. 10)

Some fun photos from our [Facebook Group](#) over the winter and spring months!



(Thanks for the shoutout!)

 **Brock Parker**
May 4 at 6:02 AM · 🌐

It's a great group to be a part of.



 **Bernd Kuschmierz**
May 5 at 9:00 PM · 🌐

Beauty tonight



 **Elise Lewis**
February 14 · 🌐

Happy Valentines day. Gotta love lake life ❤️




 **Elise Lewis**
April 20 · 🌐



 **Alan Miller**
April 18 · 🌐



 **Shelley HarttBond**
April 19 · 🌐



 **Peter Johnson**
May 12 at 8:04 PM · 🌐

Sat down at the dock before dinner and this little fella just dropped in

(President, cont'd from p. 2)

Board Positions Available

We have two open board positions, one for the west end/Brown's Bay/south shore of the lake and one for the east end (Weiss Point). I appreciate the hard work and dedication that Kim Howson and Andrew Johnston gave to the KLA during their time on the board and we wish them well. For those interested, we hold one-hour virtual board meetings (as required during the winter, and monthly from April – October). I'd be more than happy to answer any questions and encourage you to raise your hand. Please email me at president@kashwakamak.ca with any questions or an expression of interest.

Here's to a safe, happy and healthy spring and summer season at the lake. Don't forget to share photos of your precious moments on our [Lake Kashwakamak Facebook Group!](#)

Sue president@kashwakamak.ca

Save the date! Fall Dinner and Charity Auction

Mark your calendars for **Saturday, September 19** for our annual **Fall Dinner and Charity Auction** at Fernleigh Lodge. Happy hour starts on the lawn at 5:00 pm (BYOB) and the doors open at 6:00 pm.

You won't be disappointed with the delicious dinner that Melissa Phillips prepares. As always, all funds raised from the Silent Auction, Live Auction and 50:50 draw, are donated to the Land O'Lakes Food Bank in Cloyne. It's always a fun time and a great way to meet others on the lake.

Tickets are limited and go on sale at the AGM.

Questions? Email directorMary@kashwakamak.ca



Notice: KLA Low Wake and Hazard Markers

Each spring, and throughout the season, on behalf of the Kashwakamak Lake Association (KLA), Low Wake and Hazard Markers are placed, and/or checked around the lake in an effort to mark some of the lake's shoals, rocks, boulders, narrow passages etc. While best efforts are made to mark the most hazardous areas, it is not realistic to be able to mark everything, especially in areas that are close to shore or have little boat traffic.

- It is critical that boaters realize that these **MARKERS** are **NOT** navigational buoys. Instead, the markers are intended to call attention to **SOME** of the lake's hazards.
- **EVERY** individual operation of a watercraft is solely responsible for safe boating, including the **avoidance** of other watercrafts, swimmers and any marked or unmarked water hazards.
- While we try to identify and mark hazards, the KLA is not responsible for ensuring all hazards are marked, or continue to be marked. The markers are the property of the KLA and not be moved by a non-KLA board member and/or their representative.

Please report any missing or damaged markers to LakeSteward@kashwakamak.ca



ALTO – Where will it go or will it go?

2022, the Canadian Government announced the planning of a high frequency rail line for the Quebec City to Windsor corridor. This project was called Via HFR, a crown corporation set up as a subsidiary of Via Rail. HFR was envisioned as 1000 km of passenger-dedicated electrified track with speeds up to 200 km/hr. running in the Windsor to Quebec City corridor.

In February of 2025, Via HFR was renamed as Alto and the business case revised to a high-speed rail line running between Toronto and Quebec City with speeds in the 300 – 320 km range. Through an open bidding process, the federal government selected Cadence, a private consortium, to undertake the design, construction, financing, operation, and maintenance of the Alto network.

Although Alto did not make it onto the initial list of “nation-building” projects, it is expected this will change and construction will begin in the 2029-2030 timeframe. Projections are that the entire network would be completed by 2044.

After some initial prep, Alto launched a public information process intended to solicit feedback from the public. Unfortunately, the information that they provided was minimal and had the tendency to generate false information, unwarranted speculation and in some instances, pitted neighbours against each other. That consultation window has now closed and Alto is consolidating the comments. In the interim, Alto is focusing on the 60-metre wide right of way and tending to ignore damage caused during construction as well as what will happen during the expropriation process.

At this time and considering the lack of information available, we can only speculate. However, it seems reasonable to conclude that whatever route is selected, people may lose land, access roads will be cut or rerouted, emergency vehicle response times extended, recreation areas, campsites and trails moved or eliminated, and our pristine environment will sustain immeasurable loss.

No amount of financial compensation can reverse this! The bottom line is that there is nothing positive about this initiative for North Frontenac. To this end, North Frontenac Council has adopted the position that we do not want it!

The issue of next steps comes before Township Council at their May 21st meeting. Adjacent jurisdictions are taking a wait and see attitude and North Frontenac may do the same. Nevertheless, we need to be prepared for every possibility. If this project proceeds and the north corridor is chosen, it could be devastating, especially for those in the immediate path or close to it. As a result, I encourage you to keep this at the forefront of conversations, to make your opinions known to your elected officials, and to know what is happening.

Municipal Election

In addition to Alto, we have another major priority ahead – a **municipal election**.

North Frontenac's seasonal residents make up approximately 75% of the Township's population and pay a substantial portion of the overall tax levy. Given these metrics, it is so important to make your opinions known, to ask questions, to seek clarification, and to vote.

The Township of North Frontenac consists of 3 wards with two councillors representing each ward. The mayor position is Township wide. So, you get to vote for two councillors in your particular ward as well as the position of mayor. As voting is by electronic means, your couch is your polling station.

You have the right to cast a ballot if you are:

- a Canadian citizen
- at least 18 years of age
- a resident of North Frontenac
- a non-resident of North Frontenac but you or your spouse owns or rent property in our municipality, and
- not prohibited from voting under any other law.

(Mayor cont'd p. 8)

(Mayor, cont'd from p. 7)

Please note that you can **only vote once** in the Township's municipal elections regardless of how many properties you own or rent within the municipality.

You can ensure that you are eligible to vote by checking the voters list at RegisterToVoteOn.ca or by calling **1-866-242-3025**. If in doubt, please call the Township office at 613-479-2231. Remember, we are in this together!

Gerry Lichty

Mayor, Township of North Frontenac, mayorlichtynorthfrontenac@gmail.com

MUNICIPAL ELECTION



**Get on the
voters list today.**

RegisterToVoteON.ca
1.866.242.3025

2026 Municipal and School Board Election

Elections for municipal government are held every four years on the fourth Monday of October. ...

Unofficial Candidates List

Name of Candidate	Position	Email Address	Phone Number
Gerry Lichty	Mayor	gerrylichty@gmail.com	(613) 278-2381/(613) 390-1207
Mike Hage	Councillor - Ward 1	management@myerscaveresort.com	(778) 384-3382/(613) 336-9900
Roy Huetl	Councillor - Ward 2	royfhuetl@gmail.com	(613) 812-9462
Katie Surra	Councillor - Ward 3	katiesurranf@gmail.com	(613) 857-4126

As of May 21, 2026 <https://engagefrontenac.ca/2026-municipal-election>

Are you on the Voter's List?

The 2026 Municipal Election will be held Monday, October 26, 2026. It's important that all North Frontenac residents check to see if they are on the Voters' List.

The Township is using Internet/Telephone Voting in the 2026 Municipal Election. To ensure you receive your Voter Letter visit www.registertovoteon.ca to:

- Confirm you are on the Voters List
- Ensure your mailing address is correct
- Ensure your date of birth is correct

This information is required to ensure you receive your Voter Letter.

Elections Ontario now maintains the list

Beginning January 1, 2024, the Chief Electoral Officer of Ontario (Elections Ontario) became responsible for maintaining the voters' list used in municipal elections and school board elections, a role previously held by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC).

What does this mean for voters?

You must now register or update your voter information through Elections Ontario by visiting www.registertovoteon.ca until August 12, 2026. After that date, please contact the Clerk's Department.

About the Elections Ontario's portal

You can now use Elections Ontario's Voter Registration portal to:

- Confirm your voter information
- Update your name or address
- Add yourself if you're missing
- Remove outdated information
- Register property-based eligibility (important in cottage country municipalities)

[Check the list now](#)

<https://engagefrontenac.ca/2026-municipal-election>

(NFLAA cont'd from p. 4)

Even small spaces make a difference

A common misconception is that you need a deep lot to naturalize a shoreline. In reality, even a narrow band—**just a few feet deep**—can have a meaningful impact. Native grasses, low shrubs, and wildflowers can be layered to maintain sightlines while still protecting the lake.

Programs like Watersheds Canada's *Natural Edge* show how tailored planting plans can transform even tight cottage shorelines into resilient, attractive natural buffers. [Welcome - Natural Edge](#). Send us an email, president@kashwakamak.ca to get your property in the draw for a \$395 Natural Edge Shoreline Evaluation and Planting package. More details are on page 2.

Reminder: Lights Out at the Lake

Please support and preserve our [Dark Sky Designation](#) at the lake by reducing unnecessary exterior lighting at night. Simple actions—such as turning off non-essential lights, using motion sensors, and shielding shoreline fixtures—help protect nocturnal wildlife, reduce light pollution, and preserve the natural night environment that makes our cottage country special. Please leave the city lights behind and enjoy our Dark Skies!

Food Bank Donations are easy!

Anyone can donate directly to the **Land o' Lakes Emergency Food Bank** in Cloyne and receive a tax receipt.

You can send an e-transfer to lolfoodbank@gmail.com

You can mail a cheque to North Frontenac Food Bank, Box 67, Cloyne ON K0H 1K0

You can bring donations to the KLA's July 11th AGM and at the September 19 Fall Dinner & Charity Auction at Fernleigh Lodge.

Questions? Call **613-532-8855** and leave a message.



Lake Kashwakamak

Jerrilyn Dennis · Top contributor · May 17 at 11:29 PM · 🌐

Early morning kayak as the fog burnt off. Welcome back warm sunny days!



Open Hours for Waste Disposal / Recycling Sites / Transfer Station / Hazardous Waste / Re-Use Centre
All sites are closed Christmas Day and New Year's Day

As of May 15, 2025

Summer Hours Commencing May 15th annually	Winter Hours Commencing October 1st annually
Cloyne Transfer Site - 202 Skootamatta Lk. Rd. Sun: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm & 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Mon: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm & 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Wed: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Fri: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Sat: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Holiday Mon: 9:00 am - 1:00pm & 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm	Cloyne Transfer Site - 202 Skootamatta Lk. Rd. Sun: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm & 1:30 pm - 4:00 pm Wed: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Fri: 9:00 am - 12:00 Noon Holiday Mon: Closed
506 Site - 3444 Road 506 Sun: 10:00 am - 3:00 pm Mon: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Tues: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Wed: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm & 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm Fri: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Sat: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Holiday Mon: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm	506 Site - 3444 Road 506 Mon: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Thurs: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Fri: 1:00 pm - 4:00 pm Sat: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Holiday Mon: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm
Kashwakamak Site - 1749 Kashwakamak Lk. Rd. Sun: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm & 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm Thurs: 12:00 Noon - 5:00 pm Sat: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Holiday Mon: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm	Kashwakamak Site - 1749 Kashwakamak Lk. Rd. Sun: 12:00 Noon - 4:00 pm Holiday Mon: Closed
Plevna Site - 6476 Buckshot Lk. Rd Sun: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm & 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Wed: 8:30 am - 1:00 pm & 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Fri: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm & 1:30 pm - 4:30 pm Holiday Mon: Closed	Plevna Site - 6476 Buckshot Lk. Rd Sun: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm & 1:30 pm - 4:00pm Wed: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm & 1:30 pm - 4:00pm Fri: 10:00 am - 1:00 pm & 1:30 pm - 4:00pm Holiday Mon: Closed
Mississippi Site - 1177 Shiner Road Tues: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Sat: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Holiday Mon: Closed	Mississippi Site - 1177 Shiner Road Sat 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Holiday Mon: Closed
Ompah Transfer Station - 10458 Road 509 Sun: 1:00 pm - 5:00 pm Wed: 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Fri: 12:00 Noon - 4:00 pm Holiday Mon: 1:00pm - 5:00 pm	Ompah Transfer Station - 10458 Road 509 Sun: 12:00 Noon - 4:00 pm Holiday Mon: Closed
Municipal Hazardous and Special Waste Depot Hours from May 15 to September 30 Annually Mississippi Site: Tuesday 10:00 am - 2:00 pm Plevna Site: Wednesday 8:30 am - 12:30 pm 506 Site: Wednesdays 1:30 pm - 5:00 pm 2nd Saturday of each month 9:00 am - 2:00pm	
Re-Use Centre Hours - 506 Site – May 15 to September 30 Annually Wednesday: 9:00 am - 1:00 pm Saturday: 9:00 am - 2:00 pm	
Open hours are subject to change. Please refer to the North Frontenac Township Website www.northfrontenac.com for current information or contact the Municipal Office at (613) 479-2231 or 1-800-234-3953, 6648 Road 506, Plevna, Ontario K0H 2M0	

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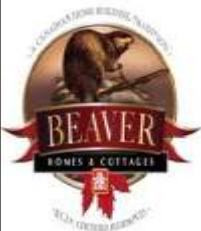
To our friends on Kash...

It is with mixed emotion that Nancy and I have decided to retire this year. We would like to thank the residents, cottagers and visitors of Kashwakamak Lake for your support, encouragement and friendship over the past 13 years.

Although the shop will be closed, we are still here and have a good selection of hoodies and t-shirts, paddling vests, paddles and the such. Just give us a call and we'll let you know what we have.

We wish you all the best this summer and hope to see you out on the lake.

Nancy and Gerard



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Photo: Brock Parker, April 4

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Lake Kashwakamak
Brock Parker · All-star contributor · April 4 · 🌐

Spring is coming! Soon. 🌞🌈🌊
Happy Easter everyone. 🐰



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[Lake Kashwakamak Group](#)



Shelley HarttBond
April 19 · 🌍

Happy to make it to the cottage ... finally. Be careful on the roads. Turtles are out already.

Why Did the Turtle Cross the Road?

Most turtles crossing the road are females headed to dry land to lay eggs. They take the same route year after year, and face many obstacles along the way. Thousands of turtles are hit by cars each year and many are killed.

It takes female turtles about 10 – 20 years to reach breeding age. All eight of Ontario's turtle species are at risk, so saving a turtle makes a difference to the survival of their species.

If you find an uninjured turtle on the road, you can move it across in the direction it is heading. Your safety first though! For more details, and a video for easy-to-follow instructions on helping a snapping turtle across the road, visit <https://www.rideauwildlife.org/turtles/>

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