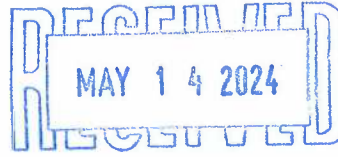

Turtles

Kelly Major <kelly.major@tulloch.ca>
To: Ben Wiesner <benwiesner1014@gmail.com>



Tue, Apr 9, 3:39 PM

Hi Ben,

Thank you for the photo. This turtle's colourations are a little faded, but this does indeed appear to be a female Midland Painted Turtle, which is the most common turtle species in Northern Ontario.

Please note though that the presence on one species does not discount the possibility of others (it only confirms habitat suitability). Turtle nesting typically occurs throughout late May and June, and nesting events can occur at night. To confirm turtle nesting presence / species we'd set up wildlife cameras to take timelapse images 24-hours a day for several weeks. We'd also search the area for evidence of nesting like excavations and predated turtle eggshells. In general, where habitat is suitable for a threatened species (like Blanding's Turtle, in this case), we advise our clients to either survey the habitat to confirm species presence / absence, or avoid the habitat, to ensure Endangered Species Act compliance. This advice would be the same for both industry and municipalities, and I'd expect similar from provincial regulators.

Midland Painted Turtle is not protected under Ontario's Endangered Species Act. Its nesting sites can qualify as a form a *Significant Wildlife Habitat* under Ontario's *Provincial Policy Statement*. This means that the Official Plans of municipalities and planning boards must still consider this type of habitat for planning purposes.

In case you're interested. I've attached a diagram on how to construct a turtle nest protector. This covers a nest site to protect against predators (like racoons and foxes) while also including small notches to allow turtles hatchlings to escape upon emergence. It's a fun conservation project should you find any nesting in your yard.

All the best,



Kelly Major, M.Sc., EP
Project Manager – Senior Terrestrial
Ecologist

Phone: 705-522-6303 ext 625
Sudbury Office | www.TULLOCH.ca

[Quoted text hidden]

IMG_3051.jpg, Turtle_Nest_Protection.jpg

Turtles

Ben Wiesner <benwiesner1014@gmail.com>

Wed, Apr 10, 5:39 PM

To: Kelly Major <kelly.major@tulloch.ca>

Hi Kelly,

I have attached a sketch of the playground area as well as couple other photos.

Could we relocate the equipment a bit (A and B) and install some turtle exclusion fencing so it would be a win win for both kids and turtles?

Thanks much Kelly,

Best regards

[Quoted text hidden]

IMG_2278.jpg, IMG_2275.jpg, IMG_2283.jpg, IMG_2281.jpg



Ben Wiesner <benwiesner1014@gmail.com>

Shirvon park Blind River

Kelly Major <kelly.major@tulloch.ca>
To: Ben Wiesner <benwiesner1014@gmail.com>

18 April 2024 at 09:38

Thanks for the update, Ben.

Without knowing confidently what species of turtle are present / nesting, we don't know the options available. Excluding protected turtles from accessing used habitat is treated the same under the Endangered Species Act as destroying the habitat.

*NOT DESTROYING HABITAT
OR EXCLUDING ACCESS.*

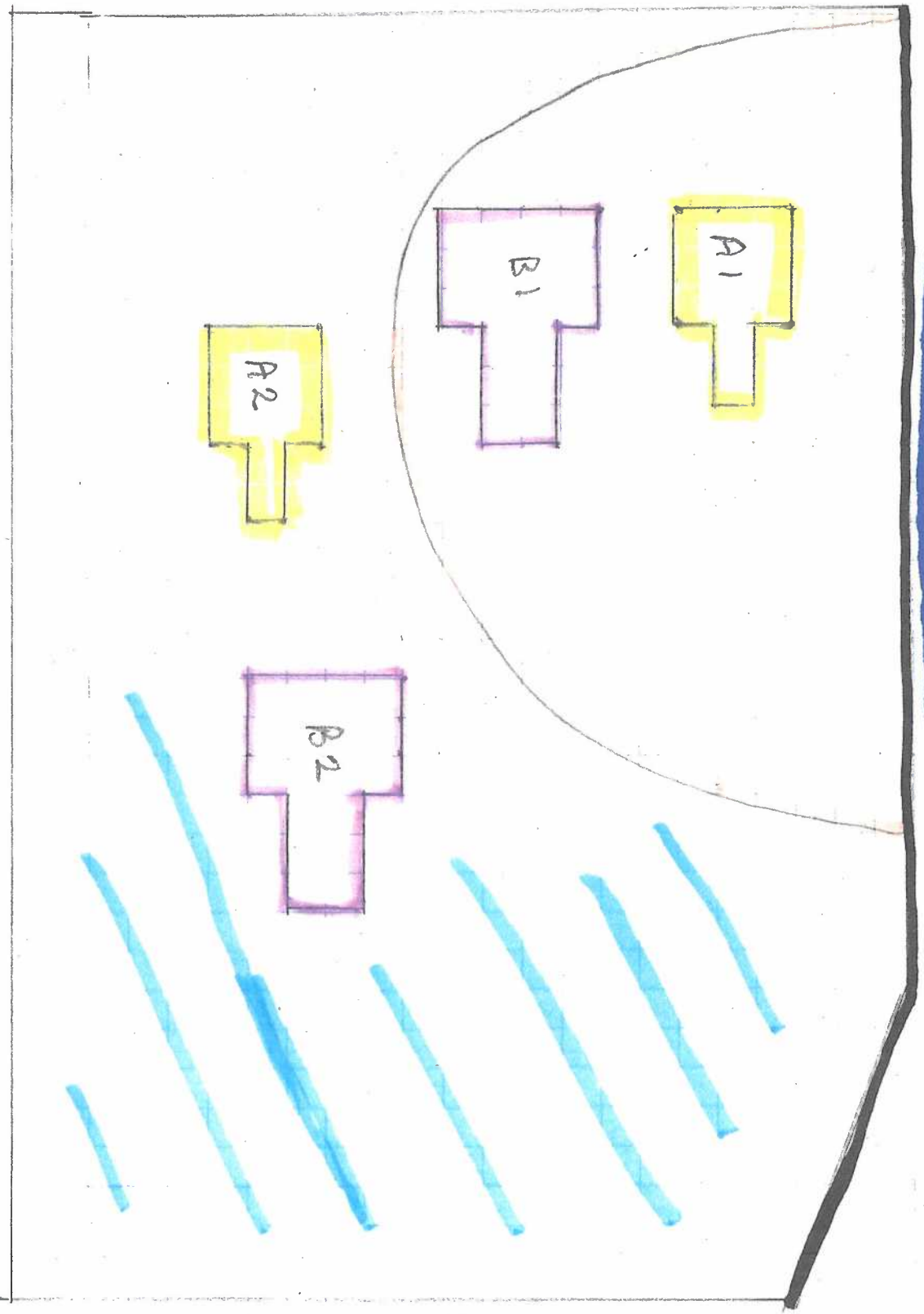


Kelly Major, M.Sc., EP
Project Manager – Senior Terrestrial
Ecologist

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MUNICIPAL INSTALLED FENCING

PROPOSED TURTLE EXCLUSION FENCING

B1 PRESENT LOCATION
B2 FUTURE "

SPACE FOR
FUTURE EQUIPMENT

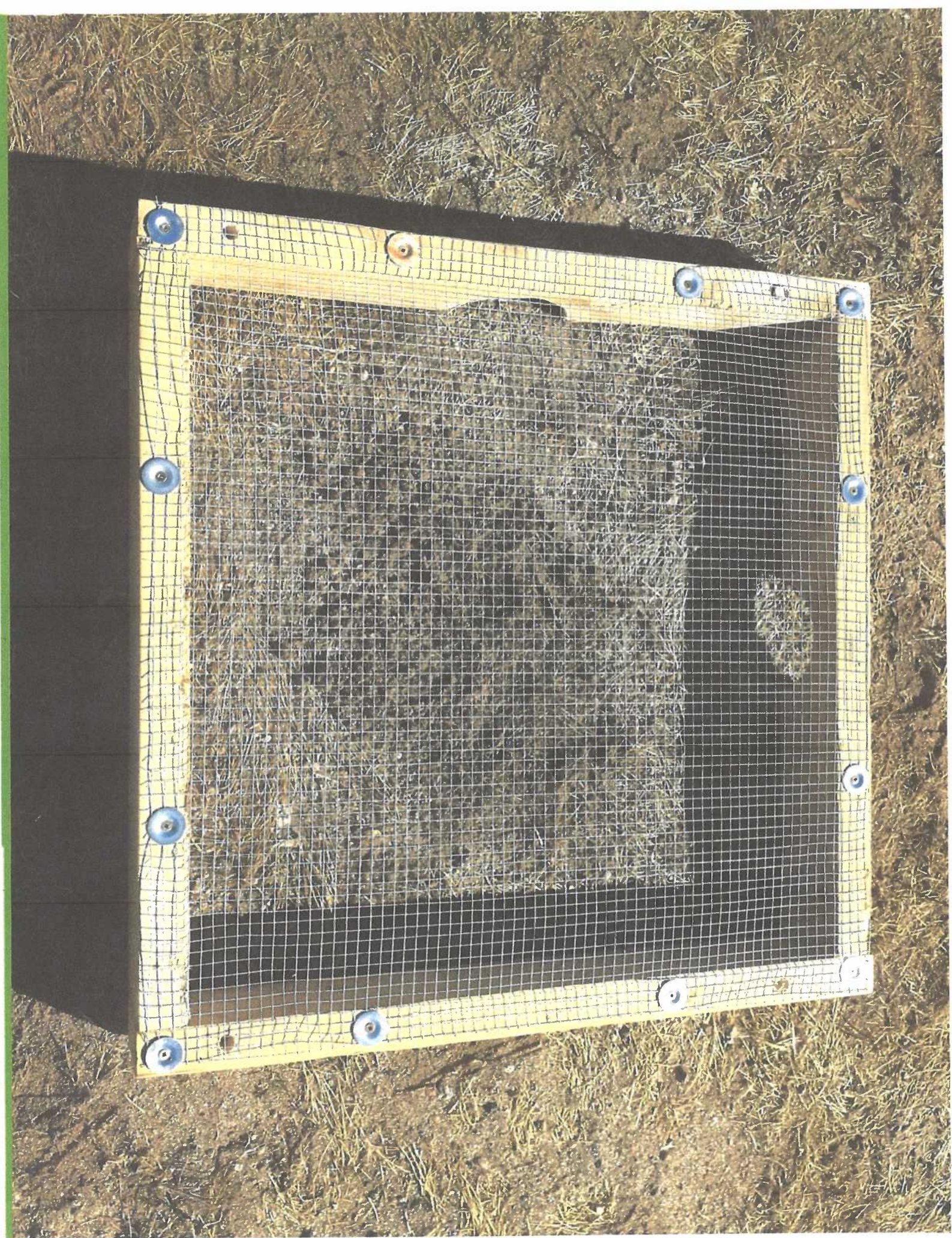
A1 PRESENT LOCATION
A2 FUTURE "



29 KONQVIEW





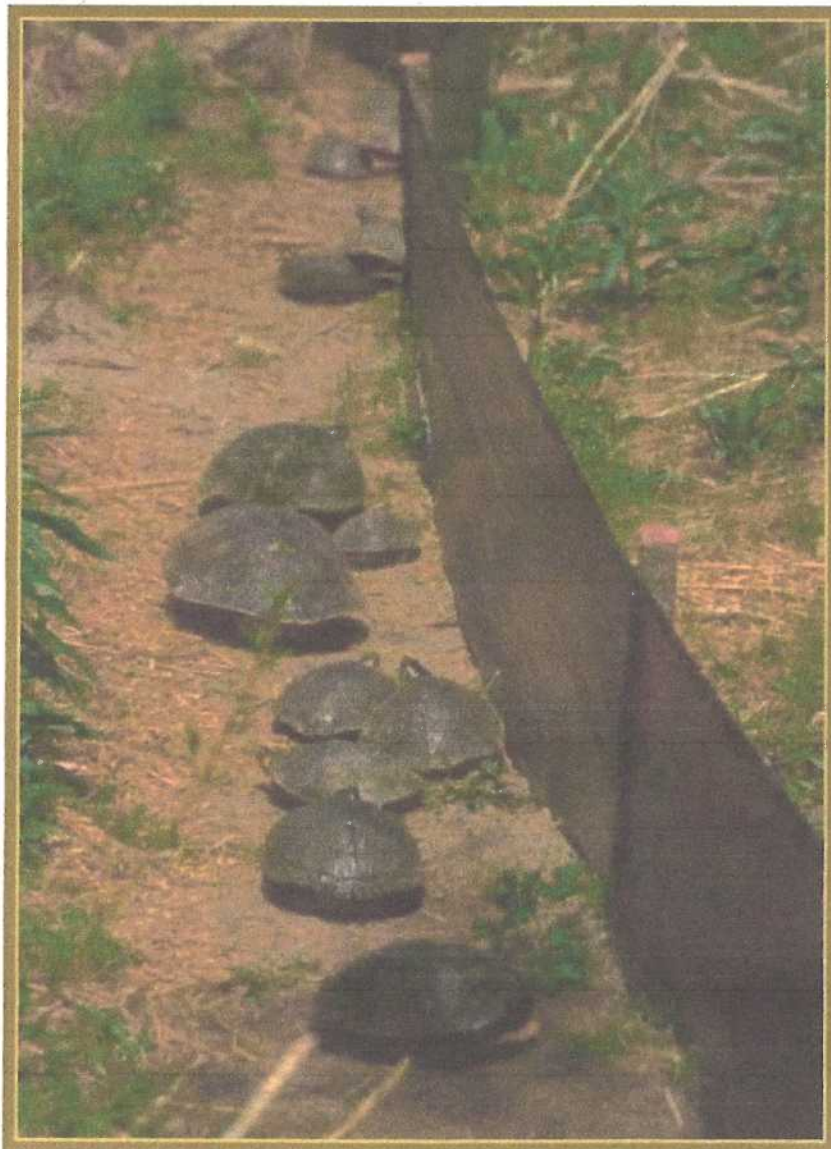


SPECIES AT RISK BRANCH BEST PRACTICES TECHNICAL NOTE

REPTILE AND AMPHIBIAN EXCLUSION FENCING

Version 1.1

July 2013





Ben Wiesner <benwiesner1014@gmail.com>

Draft letter

Ben Wiesner <benwiesner1014@gmail.com>
To: Lindy Chiblow <lindychiblow@hotmail.com>

16 April 2024 at 15:41

Hi Lindy,
Let me know your thoughts.
Short and to the point is best..

Hi Dr. Chiblow

Regarding the turtle and Shirvon Park..

A few thoughts.

*We can cut the fence along the bottom at the beach area allowing at least 6-8" height room for turtles to navigate up from the river.

*the two existing play structures be moved away from the nesting area and closer to the road.

*A turtle restrictive fence be installed approximately 50ft from the waters edge allowing sufficient room for future turtle habitat in the Sandy area.

*there is a large area of hard packed ground away from the nesting site where any new equipment would be installed.

We realize the importance of habitat conservation and protecting our animal friends. After all, they were here first.

Would appreciate your thoughts

Best regards
Ben

Mr. Ben Wiesner
23 Longview Ave
Blind River, On
P0R 1B0

April 12, 2024

Attention: Ben Wiesner

Re: Shirvon Park/Turtle Nesting

Dear Mr. Wiesner:

I support the preservation of the Shirvon Park. As you are aware, protecting turtle habitat is critical to their existence. There are several ways to protect habitat while preserving Shirvon Park for residents.

Protecting the turtle habitat and preserving Shirvon Park can provide numerous educational opportunities for local schools and residents. For example, Toronto Zoo's Turtle Island Conservation programme (TIC) provides free educational materials that can easily be incorporated into the current Park and distributed to the schools. This will enhance Blind River's commitment to recognize a healthy natural environment attributing to the community.

I understand local residents have provided several options to coexist with the turtles. The options they have researched, and list are adequate for the turtle nesting areas and for the continuance of Shirvon Park.

Please feel free to reach out to me at schiblow@uoguelph.ca with questions.

Sincerely,

Susan Chiblow

Susan (Sue) Chiblow, Phd
Assistant Professor
School of Environmental Sciences
University of Guelph
Alexander Hall, Room 334
50 Stone Rd E
Guelph, ON,
N1G 2W1



Dr. Susan Chiblow



Dr. Susan (Sue) Bell Chiblow is Anishinaabe kwe, born and raised in Garden River First Nation, Ontario. She has worked extensively with First Nation communities for the last 30 years in environmental related fields. Sue has a B.Sc. in Biology, M.Sc. in Environment and Management, and has her PhD in Environmental Science with a focus on N'bi Kendaaswin (Water Knowledge).

She has worked with the Chiefs of Ontario as the Environmental Coordinator of the Environment Unit. Through her company, Ogamauh annag, Sue continues to work with First Nation communities and Elders as an Anishinaabe Advisor on environmental projects and policy analysis (i.e., watershed planning, source water protection, Anishinabek law

development, policy development, facilitation, strategic planning, report writing, environmental assessments, documenting Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and environmental management planning).

Dr. Chiblow is also a Vanier Scholar and Assistant Professor at the School of Environmental Sciences at the University of Guelph.

Subscribe to the Shared Waters newsletter

Covering activities in the Canada-United States transboundary region, including the Great Lakes, as they relate to the IJC's mission.

Sign up

About

Biography

Susan (Sue) Bell Chiblow is Anishinaabe, born and raised in Garden River First Nation, Ontario. She has worked extensively with First Nation communities for the last 30 years in environmental related fields. Sue has a B.Sc. in Biology, M.Sc. in Environment and Management, and a PhD in Environmental Science with a focus on N'bi Kendaaswin (Water Knowledge).

She has worked with the Chiefs of Ontario as the Environmental Coordinator of the Environment Unit. Through her company, Ogamauh annag, Sue worked with First Nation communities and Elders as an Anishinaabe Advisor on environmental projects and policy analysis (i.e., watershed planning, source water protection, Anishinabek law development, policy development, facilitation, strategic planning, report writing, environmental assessments, documenting Traditional Ecological Knowledge, and environmental management planning).

She was awarded the prestigious Vanier Canadian Graduate Scholarship in 2018. Sue has assisted in drafting international documents for the United Nations and the Special Rapporteurs on First Nation issues.

Sue is an assistant professor at the University of Guelph.

Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre

4-1434 Chemong Road, Selwyn, ON K9J 6X2

Phone: 705-741-5000 www.ontarioturtle.ca info@ontarioturtle.ca

"Ontario Turtle Conservation Centre" is the operating name of Kawartha Turtle Trauma Centre

From: Ben Wiesner <benwiesner1014@gmail.com>

Message Body:

Name : Ben Wiesner

Email : benwiesner1014@gmail.com

Message : Hi there.

Short version of a long story from Blind River On.

A nesting turtle was discovered in our small playground in our subdivision.

The playground borders on a river. The municipality wanted to turn the area into a green space 2 years ago but the residents protested and the town relented and agreed to leave things as is.

Last August a turtle was observed nesting next to a play structure. The municipality jumped on this opportunity and said they will now close the park, removing the play structures and turning the area into field for turtle habitat.

They did not even try to identify the turtle.

We (our small group of area residents) have had a Ecologist identify the species as a Midland Painted turtle.

My question...could we relocate the playground equipment further away from the river and install some turtle restrictive fencing to ensure the habitat is safe and the kids playground can remain.

We are all much in favour of protecting our wildlife habitats.

I am writing you as I don't know where to turn for help, if one of your experts could get back to me that would be great.

Warm regards

Ben Wiesner

23 Longview Ave.,

Blind River, Ont.

P0R 1B0

705-849-9814

[Quoted text hidden]

Fwd: Re: Fwd: General inquiry - Need some help

suecarstairs suecarstairs <suecarstairs@sympatico.ca>

Mon, Apr 22, 3:17 PM

To: <benwiesner1014@gmail.com>

Cc: <info@ontarioturtle.ca>

Hi there,

Joanne forwarded me your email-

I'm not sure I can accurately answer without knowing all the factors -but I'll put together some points that may be helpful...

-Adult turtles will often return to exactly the same location to lay their eggs, each year.

-Turtles have quite a large home range, that often extends over many kilometers. They need this area to find mates, find nesting areas, find hibernation sites, and find the best places to be at particular times of the year (eg one wetland may become dry during the summer, so they need to move around)

-Habitat loss and habitat fragmentation (eg fences/roads breaking up habitat) are one of the main causes for population declines and all 8 species of Ontario turtle are considered 'at-risk' federally.

Often there are ways for turtles and humans to cohabitate, with careful planning, so hopefully your community can find a solution that suits all. Without knowing the home range of this particular turtle, or the surrounding habitat details, it's hard to comment on where the playground would best be moved to.

Sorry - not much help, I know!

Let me know if you have more details to add, and I'm happy to offer opinions-

All the best,

Sue

Sue Carstairs

Executive and Medical Director

Fwd: Re: Fwd: General inquiry - Need some help

Ben Wiesner <benwiesner1014@gmail.com>

Mon, Apr 22, 4:04 PM

To: suecarstairs suecarstairs <suecarstairs@sympatico.ca>

Hi Sue,

Thanks you so much for your time and relevant information.

Really appreciate your time and getting back to me.

We are in the process of gathering relevant data that we can present to our town council at their next meeting on May 21st.

Prior to the turtle discovery the municipality has put up a fence along the shoreline to make the playground compliant as per government specifications. It may now need to be removed or at least cut up perhaps 8" or so along the bottom in order for turtles to get to their nesting sites.

I have attached a photo of the playground.

The turtle was discovered between the 2 small play structures.

If we moved the structures inland (there is quite ample space) where the ground is hardpacked and placed some turtle exclusion fencing as per sketch, would that work to ensure the safety of their habitat area?

The playground has been there for at least 65 years. I played there when I was young. Hopefully we can find a solution for a win win outcome.

Happy thoughts

[Quoted text hidden]

Fwd: Re: Fwd: General inquiry - Need some help

suecarstairs suecarstairs <suecarstairs@sympatico.ca>
To: Ben Wiesner <benwiesner1014@gmail.com>

Tue, Apr 23 at 10:24 AM

...the other approach would be to get community engagement, and make this a great conservation education project by putting a nest protector on the nest where it is, while possibly moving the bulk of the playground to where the land is less desirable. Fencing is tricky, but I'll leave that up to you and town -

The downside to this, is that it is a very visible area, and some sites have experienced vandalism/poaching of eggs.

There are a lot of citizen science groups springing up all over the province, where the public of all ages get involved in nest protection, as well as ensuring females get safely to their nesting sites, cleaning up habitat, running events etc. (See Heart Lake Turtle Troopers as one of the largest). It's a great community-builder where the township and community can get to know one another - working together is often the best way to get a good compromise!

May be a win:win way for all, plus conservation education is so key to protecting these species!

...just my thoughts,

Sue

[Quoted text hidden]

Turtles hold a special place in First Nations legends and emphasize the importance of the turtle to Indigenous beliefs

Turtle Island

Indigenous people call North America "turtle island" because legend describes this land as being situated on the back of a turtle. The creation story describes a flood where the turtle gives his shell for the land to grow on until all can inhabit it. This turtle is believed to be a snapping turtle, as they are the largest, and are often found with algae and other plant material growing on their shells. Like the photo below, they sometimes look like a moving island.

In Southern Ontario, archaeological studies have unearthed turtle shells, turtle shakers and other artifacts depicting turtles. The cultural importance of the turtle cannot be understated in the current day as well.



Photo: Timothy C. Roth, Task Force Turtle

Turtle Clan

First Nations clan systems and teachings encompass

13 Moons on the Turtle's Back

Although we usually count 12 months in a year, technically the moon travels around the earth 13 times within that year. This allows for 13 lunar months, each approximately 28 days long. Many First Nations people believe that these 13 lunar cycles are depicted on turtles' shells.

The centre of the upper shell (carapace) has a pattern of 13 larger scutes which represent the 13 moons of the lunar calendar. The circle of smaller scutes that surround the edge of the shell add up to 28, depicting the number of days in a lunar cycle.

Each cycle or moon has a name that has a cultural teaching which explains the cycle of life and nature. In this respect the turtle is viewed as a timekeeper.

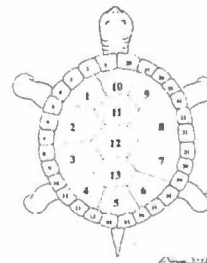


Photo: Joe Crowley

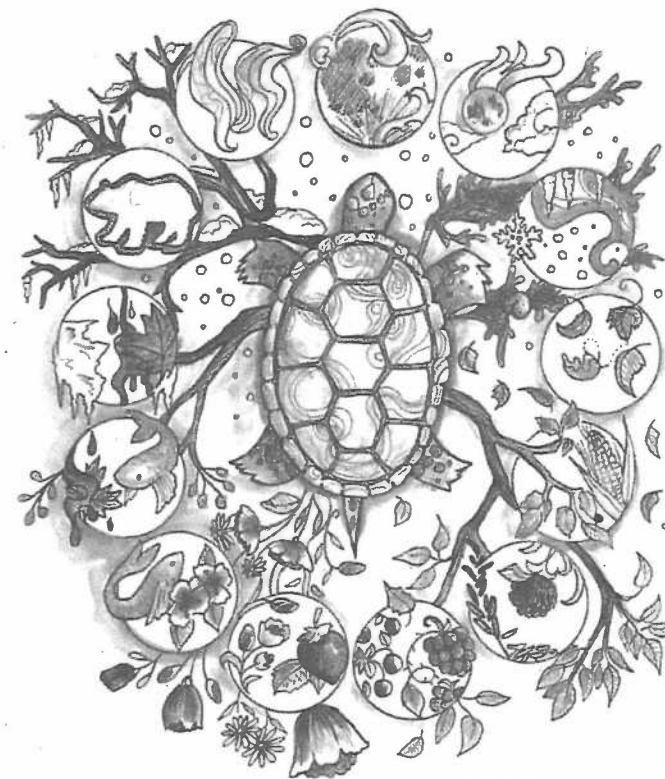


Image courtesy of Toronto Zoo



The Turtle with the Sun Under its Chin

Some Indigenous people call the Blanding's turtle "the