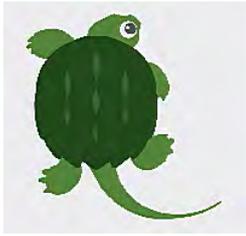


# **Nova Scotia Association of Turtle Patrollers**

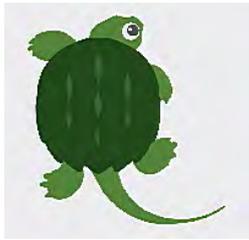
Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee

December 5, 2019



# Agenda

- Who we are
- What we are about
- Historic interactions with HRM
  - Red Bridge Pond
  - Cobequid Road
  - Wyndgate Pond
- Our Ask
- Questions



# Who we are



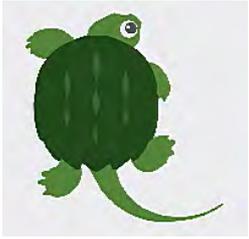
**Nova Scotia Association of**  
**Turtle Patrollers**

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**Saving Tomorrow's Turtles Today!**

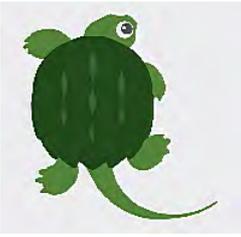
**(902)240-8332**

**TheTurtlePatrol.blogspot.com**  
**TurtlePatrolCanada@gmail.com**



# What we are about

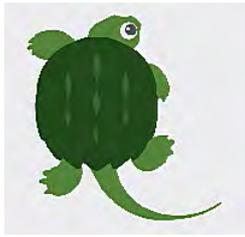
- Nova Scotia Association of Turtle Patrollers is a not-for-profit society that is aimed at assisting Nova Scotia fresh water turtles.
- Snapping turtles are our primary interest, but we will assist any species we are able to.
- We fully support the federal Management Plan for snapping turtles but feel that there is a specific piece missing regarding nests and young.



# Historic interactions with HRM

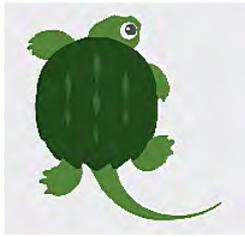
## Red Bridge Pond dry well replacement

- Guardians notified us of the work
- Engaged Lands and Forestry and moved eggs to Hope for Wildlife
- Two other nests were destroyed by the pond side work
- The original plan was to not replace the destroyed nesting site
- Once again working with HRM and L&F, nesting habitat was reconstructed



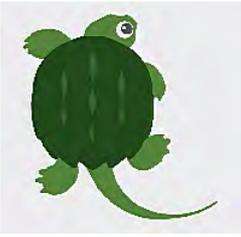
# Renewed hope





# Renewed hope

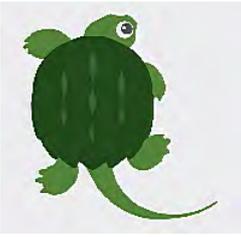




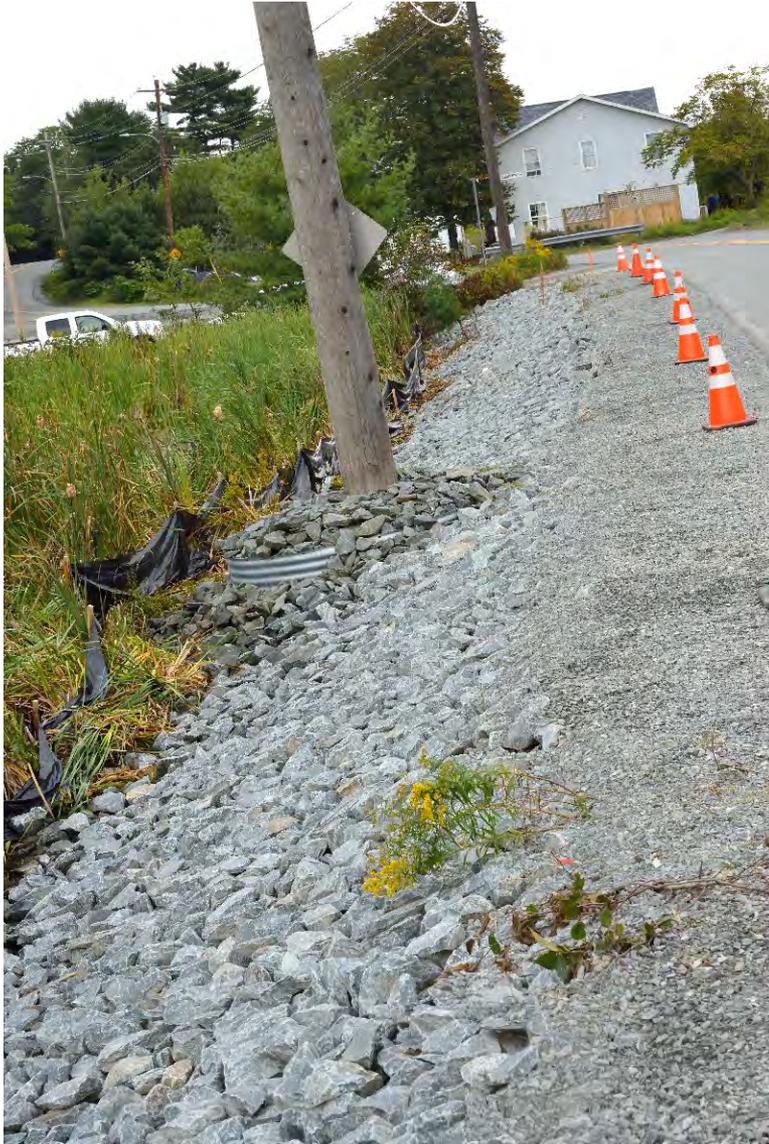
# Historic interactions with HRM

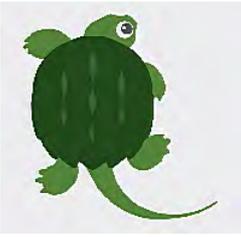
## **Cobequid Road snapping turtle nest destruction and nesting area destruction**

- Once again one of our Guardians notified us of the work
- Engaged Lands and Forestry and they refused us permission to investigate the nests.
- Two other nests were destroyed by the pond-side work
- The original plan was to not replace the destroyed nesting site
- Working with HRM crew we were able to get some improved access to the water created for hatchlings.



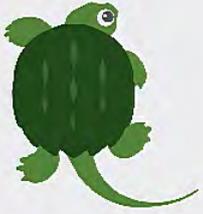
# Bank stabilization work on Cobequid Road





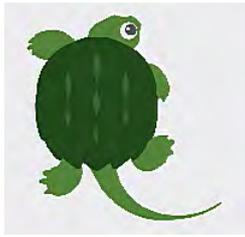
# Bank stabilization work on Cobequid Road





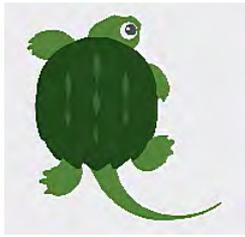
# Upgraded with 1-inch clear





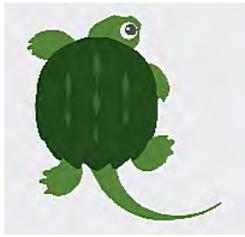
# Cobequid Road

- We had no recorded instances of Snapping Turtles nesting at this site in 2019.



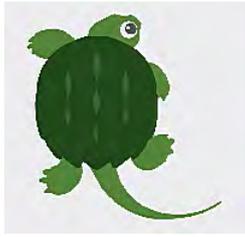
# Windgate Pond

- The shoulders of Windgate Road beside Windgate Pond were paved this summer.
- In 2018, we had 5 successful nest hatch-outs in the newly paved area.
- While this is not “new” pavement – it is re-cycled asphalt – the effect is the same: an impenetrable surface that turtles cannot dig through to lay. If they do actually dig through the material, it is at a significant cost of time, physical effort and exposure to being hit by vehicles.



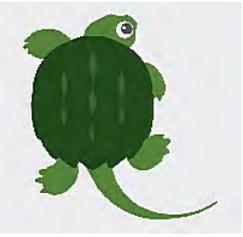
# Windgate Pond

- These nesting females now need to find another place to nest next year.
- Destruction of snapping turtle nesting habitat is in contravention of the Species at Risk Act (SARA).
- We would very much like to see this type of situation ended.



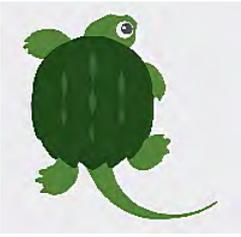
# Windgate Pond





# Our ask

- We would like to consult with the city so that the “Red Book” can be updated to deal with roadways near wetlands.
- We would like all bank stabilization efforts to employ the one-inch clear aggregate, rather than the larger material, to facilitate hatchlings’ ability to get to water.



# Thank You

On behalf of the Nova Scotia Association of Turtle Patrollers, I would like to express our appreciation. Being given an audience to help spread the work regarding the struggles that these magnificent creatures is greatly appreciated.

We hope that the terrific cooperative relationship that we have begun to build continues to move forward.