

# Wonderful Watershed Moments!



**LOCATION:**  
Heart Lake Road, Etobicoke Creek Watershed

**DATE:**  
Tuesday September 12, 2017

**REGION/MUNICIPALITY:**  
Region of Peel, City of Brampton

**PARTNERS:**  
Toronto and Region Conservation (TRCA), Region of Peel, City of Brampton, Toronto Wildlife Centre, Brampton Guardian, Local Residents



## Heart Lake Road Ecology, Rehabilitated Snapping Turtle Release

TRCA staff met with Toronto Wildlife Centre staff, a reporter from the Brampton Guardian and a local resident to release a female snapping turtle that had been injured by a vehicle along Heart Lake Road.

TRCA in partnership with the City of Brampton, Ontario Road Ecology Group and York University, have been conducting the Heart Lake Road Ecology Volunteer Monitoring Project since 2011. This is a citizen science based study whereby volunteers collect data on wildlife vehicle collisions (WVCs) at the designated Provincially Significant Wetlands along Heart Lake Road. Each year large numbers of reptiles, amphibians and other wildlife are struck by vehicles at this sensitive ecosystem. In 2016 a designated wildlife passage and wildlife directional fencing were installed on Heart Lake Rd., south of Countryside Drive to help direct the species under the road to access wetlands.

Earlier this year a local resident happened to come across an injured female snapping turtle at the south wetland off of Heart Lake Rd near Sandalwood Pkwy. The turtle was taken to Toronto Wildlife Centre where it was treated to repair an injury to the top of its carapace (upper shell). Wildlife staff determined the turtle was a female and was gravid, meaning; it was ready to lay eggs.

Female turtles are highly susceptible WVCs as they use the gravel shoulders of roads to lay eggs.

To learn more about Heart Lake Road Ecology Volunteer Monitoring project, please click on the Etobicoke and Mimico Creek Watershed Resources link below and scroll down to "Reports and Studies"

<https://trca.ca/conservation/watershed-management/etobicoke-mimico-creek/resources/>

## Positive Environmental Impacts

**Wildlife Rehabilitated**

1 Female Snapping Turtle

