

## The Levels of Risk

As Designated by the Committee on the Status of Endangered  
Wildlife (COSEWIC)

## Did you know?

4 out of 6 types of turtles  
along the Rideau have been  
classified by COSEWIC  
(please see back for details).

### Why?

- Drained wetlands take away habitats (Stinkpot, Spotted, Blanding's)
  - Road Kill
- The Pet Trade (Spotted Turtle)
- Eggs eaten by overabundant predators
- Water Pollution (Stinkpot)
- Shoreline Development (removes habitat and impairs water quality)

<b>1 - Not at Risk</b> A species that has been evaluated and found not to be at risk.
<b>2- Special Concern</b> Species that are essentially sensitive to human activity or natural events but are not endangered or threatened species.
<b>3 - Threatened</b> Species that are likely to become endangered if limiting factors (ex. Habitat) are not reversed.
<b>4 - Endangered</b> A species facing future extirpation or extinction
<b>5 - Extirpated</b> A species that no longer exists in Canada, but does elsewhere in the world
<b>6 - Extinct</b> A Species that no longer exists.

## Turtles along the Rideau Waterway



A Guide to the  
Turtles of the  
Rideau Waterway  
World Heritage  
Site

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# The Turtles

## Stinkpot Turtle ~ Tortue Musquée

Threatened ~ Espèce Menacée

Also known as a Musk Turtle, these are the smallest turtles in the area growing to be about 9-13 cm. They can be found in many bodies of water, where the depth is around 60-90 cm with lots of aquatic plant growth.



## Common Map Turtle ~ Tortue Géographique

Special Concern ~ Espèce Préoccupante

The most distinguishing feature of the Map Turtle is their yellow-orange lines that are found throughout the skin and shell. They prefer large lakes and river systems with fairly open and weedy areas.



## Blanding's Turtle ~ Tortue Mouchetee

Threatened ~ Espèce Menacée

With a "War Helmet" type shell, the Blanding's bright yellow chin, throat and underside is easy to distinguish. They can be found mostly in wetlands or in quiet areas along rivers and lakes.



## Spotted Turtle ~ Tortue Ponctuee

Endangered ~ Espèce Menacée

A small turtle with bright yellow spots on its shell, head and legs. They like boggy areas that are silt-bottomed with an abundance of aquatic plants.



## Common Snapping Turtle ~ Chélydre Serpentine



Not Assessed ~ Espèce à l'étude

This is the largest turtle of the area weighing in at around 10 kg. It prefers slow-moving water areas with muddy bottoms and lots of aquatic vegetation.

## Midland Painted Turtle ~ Tortue Peinte du Centre

Not Assessed ~ Espèce non évaluée

This turtle is easily recognizable with bright red splotches along the edge of the flat, smooth shell. They prefer quiet, slow moving waters that are rich with nutrients such as ponds, wetlands and the shallows of lakes and rivers.



Photos by: Simon Lunn

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