



WATERSHED
HERO

Shout Out to Watershed Heroes! Bay Roofing Crew

Every person can make a difference in our watershed and be a Watershed Hero!

Brody Leblanc, Dustin Galick (holding turtle), Attila Baricz, and Ryan Fowler of Bay Roofing were on Hwy 654 in Nipissing



Township, headed out to a job site, when they spotted a turtle in the road. They took the time to pull off and move the turtle off the road placing it near the water it was heading towards. Little did they know they were rescuing a Blanding's turtle, a species at risk that's in decline in Ontario and considered "threatened".

Also known as Ontario's smiling turtle, the Blanding's turtle is a semi-aquatic species that inhabits ponds, marshes and other wetland habitats, shorelines of lakes, streams and rivers. Home ranges can be large and include several habitat types.

Turtles are on the move as soon as the weather starts to warm up in the spring. They've been sighted on the move throughout NBMCA's watershed. Usually the males are the first out and about – on their way to find mates, to find their 'hangout' spots for the spring and their favorite wetlands. Road mortality is now a major threat to turtles, second only to habitat loss. Blanding's turtles spend time on land and are at the mercy of drivers when they find themselves on roadways, usually while migrating from one seasonal habitat to another or heading to an area to lay its eggs. The death of even a small number of adult turtles can have a large negative impact on the entire population.

So kudos to Brody, Dustin, Attila and Ryan and all those who rescue turtles from roads and highways! NBMCA is proud to recognize you and your actions, acknowledging each of you as a Watershed Hero!

May 13, 2022