

# KINGSTON AREA TURTLES

KINGSTON IS HOME TO 5 OF THE 8  
ONTARIO NATIVE TURTLES

## EASTERN MUSK



The Eastern Musk Turtle (*Sternotherus odoratus*) is the smallest Ontario turtle measuring a maximum of 10 cm long. Identifying features include the **domed carapace (top shell)**, **long neck**, **skin tags** under the chin, and **yellow line** by the eye. These turtles are shy and love water so are rarely seen on land. You may find them aqua basking just under the water surface or beneath a lily pad.

**TURTLES ARE SPECIES AT RISK**

## MIDLAND PAINTED



The Midland Painted Turtle (*Chrysemys picta*) is commonly seen basking on logs. Adults are 12-29 cm long and identifying features include **red and yellow stripes** on head/neck, **red along edges** of shell (can be hard to see or not even visible), and **flatter carapace curve (top shell)**.

The Blanding's Turtle (*Emydoidea blandingii*) spends a lot of time on land making it more vulnerable to road mortality. Adults are 12-27 cm long and identifying features include highly **domed carapace (top shell)**, bright **yellow chin**, and **light spots** on the carapace (may or may not be visible).

## BLANDING'S



**TURTLES CAN BE FOUND IN ANY BODY OF WATER**

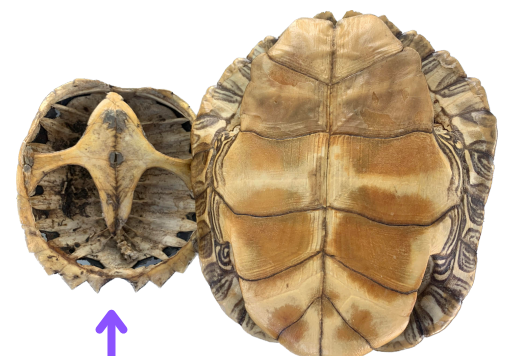
The Northern Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*) is commonly mistaken for a painted or even a snapping turtle. Adults are 18-27 cm long and identifying features include **'contoured' yellow lines** on the carapace (top shell) and skin, **ridge along carapace**, **serrated back scutes**, **short tail** compared to a snapper.

## NORTHERN MAP



The Common Snapping Turtle (*Chelydra serpentina*) is Ontario's largest turtle. Adults are 20-50 cm in length and identifying features include **long 'dinosaur' like tail**, **large head**, **flatter carapace** (top shell), often algae covered, and **small plastron** (bottom shell). Their small plastron prevents them from retracting into their shell and is the reason they snap when threatened.

## COMMON SNAPPING



Snapping turtle (left) vs Map turtle (right)

Learn more at [www.turtleskingston.com](http://www.turtleskingston.com)

