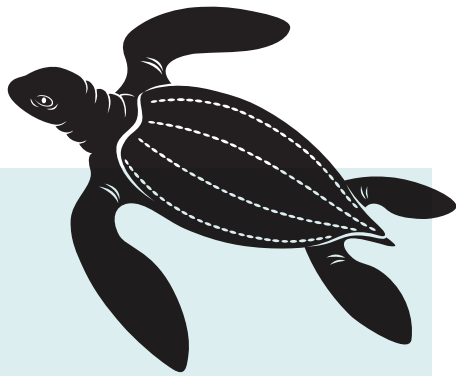


ENGAGE

WITH CWF



We Have a Winner

Meet Agile Abigail, the winner of this year's Great Canadian Turtle Race. Among the four leatherback sea turtles tagged last year, she travelled the farthest along the turtles' migration route between the Nov. 3, 2015, start date and March 3, 2016—a.k.a. World Wildlife Day. On the last day of the race, Abigail was recorded feeding off the coast of Florida, having made a trip of about 5,000 kilometres at an average rate of 47 kilometres a day.

The other contenders in this year's race were Rev It Bev, Cruisin' Christie and Sharon la petite démente.

The Great Canadian Turtle Race is a joint project between CWF and the Canadian Sea Turtle Network to promote awareness about the species, which is endangered internationally. Using tagging technology, members of the public are able to follow the progress of the race online and learn about the leatherbacks' remarkable migration, which is the longest of any sea turtle.

To find out more about the Great Canadian Turtle Race and all the competitors in this year's edition, visit CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca.



WATER CONSERVATION...

5 Ways to Make a Difference

Celebrate Rivers to Oceans Week this year (June 8-14) by making your own commitment to water conservation. Not sure how to get started? Then look no further than your own lifestyle. You'll find loads of opportunities to make a daily difference. Check out the personality profiles below for tips on where to begin. You'll be glad you did—and so will aquatic and marine wildlife.

IF YOU'RE A GARDENER

If you're a fan of growing native plants, you're already helping the conservation cause in your area. Native plant species, after all, already have natural defences against pests. That means you don't need to use chemical pesticides and fertilizers on them. So you're helping to keep harmful substances out of water systems. If you want to do more, you can invest in a rain barrel or plant a tree. Using water collected from your downspout will help keep runoff out of local watersheds. Adding trees and shrubs to your garden reduces runoff, as well. Trees and shrubs also help purify water.

ISTOCK

MONARCH: MARY HINDLE; BEE: STEVE PETERS; FAMILY: ISTOCK

IF YOU'RE A TRAVELLER

Vacations are a great way to forget about the stresses of daily life. But you can still keep good water and wildlife conservation practices in mind. For starters, be careful about the souvenirs you pick up along the way. Jewellery sold in sunshine destinations, for example, is often made from sea life. You can't be sure it was made sustainably. Also, choose your accommodations with care. You want to stay in places that minimize their impact on local wildlife. The same goes for restaurants. If you like seafood, look for meals that feature sustainably harvested ingredients.

IF YOU'RE A COTTAGER

The most popular feature at the cottage is often the dock. But some styles can disturb the bottom of your lake and upset habitat at or near the shoreline. Is yours sustainable? Environmentally friendly choices include pipe docks, floating docks and cantilever docks, which sit entirely out of the water. Other steps you can take to make your cottage life more water friendly include swapping your motorboat for a canoe, growing native vegetation along your shoreline and minimizing the amount of lawn space—a major source of runoff—on your property.

IF YOU'RE AN ANIMAL LOVER

Owning pets comes with its own ecological pawprint. Here are some tips to lower yours. If you have a dog, be sure to stoop and scoop. Dog droppings contain bacteria that will eventually make their way into local watersheds. Instead, gather up the stuff, using biodegradable bags. As for cats, remember not to flush litter box droppings down the toilet. If you keep an aquarium, check the sources of your fish. You want species that are bred commercially, not caught in the wild.

IF YOU'RE A CLEAN FREAK

Heavy-duty cleaners can be a source of harmful chemicals in waterways. You can lighten your impact with a few simple steps. For starters, reduce your use of chemical antibacterial cleaners with a simple 50-50 mixture of water and vinegar. Also, check your dishwashing and laundry soap. If they contain phosphates, you may be contributing to algal blooms and weed growth in lakes. Choose phosphate-free brands. Have a plugged drain? Ditch the heavy chemicals and use a plunger or plumber's snake instead. Lastly, plain old elbow grease is always a better choice than chemicals when it comes to cleaning up.

STAY ACTIVE

JOIN A CWF WILD FAMILY NATURE CLUB

CWF has 10,000 reasons to celebrate. That's how many people joined the Wild Family Nature Club program in 2015. We're hoping to double that number in 2016, so why not participate? Start by downloading our free guide—available in English, French, Punjabi, Spanish, Arabic and Chinese—at CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca. Then sign up for the program at CWFBrighterFutures.ca.

HEY KIDS! BECOME A LI'L GREEN SPROUT

If you have youngsters in your life, sign them up for CWF's new L'il Green Sprout program and help them discover the natural world in gardens, parks and beyond. Join online for free at CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca to get started. Then purchase a sturdy L'il Green Sprouts kit, which includes garden tools, expert-tested activity sheets for all ages and access to more resources at the CWF website.



TAKE ACTION



LOG ON FOR MONARCHS

Mark your calendars for CWF's new online webinars about monarch butterflies for students in Grade 4-6. The presentations, 15-25 minutes long, take place in English on May 11 at 1 p.m. EDT and in French on June 8, also at 1 p.m. Register for the sessions at CanadianWildlifeFederation.ca or catch them later on CWF's webinar YouTube channel, where you'll also find past webinars.



HELP THE POLLINATORS

We depend on pollinators for the production of everything from apples and squash to chocolate. Unfortunately, many pollinators are under threat. But you can help. Pick up a CWF pollinator kit and plant it in your garden to support pollinators in your area. The kits are available at Home Depot stores, with a percent of the proceeds going directly to help wildlife conservation in Canada.



GREAT CANADIAN CAMPOUT

Summer's almost here. That means you'll want to start planning for CWF's Great Canadian Campout. Every trip counts—from a night out in your backyard to a journey to a national park. Just be sure to register your adventure at GreatCanadianCampout.ca. You'll receive a free guide to Canada's best wildlife hikes and be automatically entered to win CWF's Ultimate Camping Gear Prize Pack.