

A Tale of Two Toads



Canadian Toad
Anaxyrus hemiophrys

This medium-sized toad is active from May until early September with breeding season occurring during May to early July. Their breeding grounds consists in shallow aquatic habitats outside of forested areas, and during the summer they disperse into terrestrials habitats such as prairie, grassland, and aspen parkland. The Canadian toad is less tolerant of dry conditions than other toads. Because of this climate change poses a significant threat to the species due to the increase in frequency and severity of droughts.



Western Toad
Anaxyrus boreas

This large toad (up to 12.5 cm) has been a species of special concern since 2012. They are active between March to October with their breeding season occurring during April and early July. During breeding season you can find them in shallow, sandy margins of waterbodies. Outside of breeding season they can be found in various aquatic and upland habitats. The Western Toad has been split into two sub-populations: calling (where males possess vocal sacs), and non-calling (where males do not possess a vocal sac).

How do you tell the two species apart ?

You can distinguish between these two toads by looking for "cranial crests" which are bony structures found on the back of the head. The Canadian toad has cranial crests that connect at the back of the head creating a "boss" bump, whereas the Western toad lacks cranial crests altogether.

Images: "Canadian Toad" by tombenson76 (left) and "Adult Western Toad" by Forest Service – Northern Region (right)

Useful Resources

Learn more about the Blindman River sub-watershed and the restoration activities going on with the Friends of the Blindman River Stewardship Committee!



[Friends of the Blindman Stewardship Committee](#)



[The Blindman River Restoration Project](#)



References

http://canadianherpetology.ca/species/species_page.html?cname=Canadian%20Toad

http://canadianherpetology.ca/species/species_page.html?cname=Western%20Toad

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/species-risk-public-registry/cosewic-assessments-status-reports/western-toad-2012.html>

"Canadian Toad" by tombenson76 is marked with [CC BY-NC-ND 2.0](#).

"Adult Western Toad" by Forest Service - Northern Region is marked with [CC BY 2.0](#).

We are proud to acknowledge support from the Watershed Resiliency and Restoration Program which made this project possible.

