

## **Getting to know Chilliwack's Species at Risk**

**Species at risk profile:** Western Toad, *Anaxyrus boreas*

### **What it looks like:**

A large-sized amphibian (up to 12.5 cm) with dry warts and a light-coloured line down its back. Its skin colour can range from light brown to grey or greenish. [Click here for more identification details.](#)

### **Where it lives:**

In the Fraser Valley, this toad lives in forests and migrates yearly to breed in areas of shallow open water such as wetlands.

### **What it eats:**

On land toads are opportunistic predators that feed on a range of worms, insects and spiders. Tadpoles are herbivores that feed on plants and algae.

### **What are its main threats in the Fraser Valley?**

Loss of breeding habitat.

### **Did you know?**

- Adults tend to return to the same breeding location each year.
- Females lay up to 12,000 eggs at once. They breed in groups. Once old enough, tens of thousands of juveniles (or 'toadlets') leave the breeding site en masse.
- Toads overwinter by burrowing into leaf litter and rotting wood.
- Click [here for more facts.](#)

### **How you can help:**

Toads migrate in the spring from forests to waterbodies for breeding. In mid-summer, the 'toadlets' emerge. Avoid disturbing wetlands during these times of year.

Learn about the program to protect the [toads in Chilliwack at Ryder Lake.](#)

Check out this [guide](#) for specific Western Toad land management recommendations.

Join the [Nature Stewards](#) program for personalized property advice.

Spot a Western Toad? – take a photo, record the location, and send it to [outreach@fraservalleyconservancy.ca](mailto:outreach@fraservalleyconservancy.ca).

For any questions about this or other species at risk, contact the [Fraser Valley Conservancy.](#)