

## "NEVER GIVE UP" ON THE ROAD!



Jan Everett, author and illustrator of her book called **"Never Give Up"** reads the story to mesmerized students at Lynndale Heights PS, Simcoe. The book chronicles, little Johnny's attempts to save turtles in peril crossing the busy Causeway Road, Long, Point, ON. Then, the 300 children at the school practice carrying a turtle across the road when it is safe to do so. Jan and Johnny intertwine their program with information about the local citizen driven Long Point Causeway Improvement Project where \$2.5million was raised to build 12 tunnels under the Causeway so turtles can save themselves. As well, the students are told of the benefits of the Causeway being in the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve. Jan and John crisscross South Western Ontario doing book readings to local schools, cub/girl guide groups & even Tillsonburg's Turtlefest. Thousands of children and parents have heard the story and saved a turtle over the last 6 years. To contact Jan she can be reached at [jan.everett4@gmail.com](mailto:jan.everett4@gmail.com)

Long Pointer Jan Everett's book is about saving turtles on the Causeway Road. Johnny's work of carrying turtles in peril across the road has been greatly reduced with the installation of 12 turtle tunnels and requisite fencing to direct the turtles.

However, spreading the message of the worthiness of the Long Point Causeway Improvement Project (LPCIP) has taken off along with the popularity of **Never Give Up**.

Jan continues to do book signings and readings to various groups along with Johnny proactively demonstrating how to safely carry a turtle across the road. The LPCIP has also created a very informative handout chronicling its success that they distribute to children and parents alike.

**Never Give Up** was recently translated into French as **"N'Abandonne Jamais"** selling 50 copies almost immediately.

## 2.

This beautiful road with its canopy of cottonwood trees is the main thoroughfare for turtles, snakes and frogs moving between Long Point Bay and Big Creek Marsh. On an average day, there are 2,400 vehicle trips across this road. On summer weekends, that number rises to over 8,000 per day. The Causeway Rd was once rated the 4 deadliest road for animal mortality in North America.

To keep turtles and the occasional frog out of harm's way, Jan and John put a shovel in each of their cars. They save 15-30 turtles each year by stopping and carrying them across the busy road when it is safe to do so. Some are as small as the palm of your hand; yet one measured well over one meter long.

Turtles move to and from the marsh to lay eggs in the spring, search out their summer habitat and eventually their winter hibernation spots. Many of the turtle species found in Long Point (Blanding's, Spotted, Northern Map and Snapping) are at risk, threatened or even endangered.

As a tribute to their hard work (and as a surprise birthday present for John, Jan wrote and illustrated a children's book called "**Never Give Up**" chronicling little Johnny's labours to assist these reptiles to cross the Causeway road safely. The surprising ending to the book coincidentally ties in to the Long Point Causeway Improvement Project (LPCIP) and their efforts to do the same.

The LPCIP Committee has for the past seven years raised funds, built over 4km of environmentally-friendly fencing to keep animals off the road and guide them to specially-designed culverts that allow them to pass safely under the road. Working with the Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation, these dedicated citizens have been instrumental in saving turtles, snakes and frogs from injury or worse. The Biosphere adopted the book and now proceeds from its sale go towards maintaining the tunnels.

Another theme emerges from this book. In the face of continued obstacles in life, "**Never Give Up**" encourages us to always keep trying new things. Through the book, Jan also tries to increase awareness that we can all do our part, even through simple acts. A healthy turtle population is a litmus test for a thriving eco-system. Saving these animals is a building block to preserving our natural environment.



## Never Give Up - A book for children of all ages - Presentation

Jan Everett illustrated and authored a children's book about saving turtles on the Causeway Road, Long Point, ON. The book chronicles little Johnny's attempts to save turtles in peril crossing the busy road and reinforces the idea to Never Give Up in life. The surprising ending parallels the efforts of the Long Point Causeway Improvement Project.

The Long Point World Biosphere Reserve Foundation adopted Jan's book to promote the message that saving these reptiles from harm promotes a healthy turtle population as a litmus test for a thriving eco-system. Saving these animals is a building block to preserve our natural environment.

Jan and "Johnny" crisscross Ontario doing our presentation as follows:

- John starts off the presentation explaining where Long Point is located and why the Causeway is critical in seeing turtles in peril (Once rated the 4<sup>th</sup> deadliest road in North America for harming species at risk);
- Shows actual photographs of people saving turtles when it is safe to do so;
- Jan reads her book to mesmerized attendees;
- John reviews the Causeway panels showing the success of the Project;
- Attendees line up to carry a turtle across the road when it is safe to do so; and
- Jan and John culminate their program with poster handouts and a question period

