



SPOTTED SALAMANDER

Ambystoma maculatum

The spotted salamander is found in PEI. One location it lives is Dead Man's Pond in Victoria Park. It is one of several species of native amphibians that call this pond home.

ADULT LIFE CYCLE

The adult salamander is about 9 inches long, has a bluish-black body with two rows of yellow spots. It lives in the woods near the pond under logs, leaf litter or rocks. They feed on invertebrates such as insects, slugs, worms, millipedes and spiders. The adult salamanders sleep all winter in a burrow in the woods and emerge during early spring rains to break.



EARLY LIFE CYCLE



In early spring, the spotted salamander lays its eggs (contain 100 to 200 eggs).



They soon hatch (4-8 weeks) and by mid-summer, salamander larvea feed on small creatures and insects in the pond.

They are brownish in colour and are distinguished from frog tadpoles by external gills that make them look a bit like small lions.



Soon front and then back legs appear and the salamander develops lungs. It then leaves the pond but remains near the pond edge under rocks and leaves for a period of time.

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SALAMANDER POPULATIONS ARE DECLINING!

Salamanders are sensitive to changes in their environment such as pollution, habitat loss, disease, ultraviolet light and the introduction of non-native predators. Salamander populations are affected by people collecting them and the pet trade.

HOW CAN WE HELP SALAMANDERS ?

-  Protect their habitat by staying on trails and not trampling pond edges.
-  Reduce pollution - don't throw garbage in ponds or natural areas.
-  Don't touch a salamander unless it is absolutely necessary. Their skin absorbs whatever is on our hands. This can make them sick or kill them.
-  Don't collect salamander eggs or tadpoles. Enjoy watching them in their natural habitat.
-  Keep dogs out of ponds.

For more information visit:
www.charlottetown.ca

INTERESTING FACTS

Salamander have **no ears**. They can't hear anything but they can sense vibrations in the ground. This lets them know when there is movement nearby.

Salamanders are **nocturnal**. They are busy at night, hunting and eating while most humans are sleeping.

If a salamander loses a body part such as a leg or its' tail it will re-grow. This is called **regeneration**.

The salamander's moist, thin **skin absorbs oxygen** and helps it breathe.

Salamanders take the **same route** to and from their breeding pond every year.

Bright spots on the salamander's body warn other animals not to eat it because it tastes awful.

The spotted salamander can **live up to 20 years**.

