

## CRITTER FENCES

27 September 2011



Our road projects in Ottawa and Windsor are on the cutting edge of a new field called "road ecology," which strives to reduce wildlife road kills and protect vulnerable Species at Risk in Canada. On Terry Fox Drive in Ottawa, **Shawn Taylor**, **Harry Alvey** and **Dave Restivo** designed a complete wildlife guide system, integrating all culverts with overhanging stone walls and barrier fencing designed to route

wildlife through the culverts rather than over the road. Large animals can cross quickly. This system is focused on the smaller, slower animals like turtles, frogs and porcupines, even going so far as to shove logs in the dry culverts as shelter for the frogs. On the Windsor-Essex Parkway project, AMEC biologists (subconsultants) will install a permanent snake fence which will also extend underground to thwart incursions by the burrowing fox snake.

**Caleb Hasler** and **Kevin Robinson** in Ottawa have just finished installing high definition infrared trail-cams in all 10 culverts along Terry Fox Drive, to see if the system actually works. In just the first night they photographed a raccoon, a porcupine, a bat and a frog.



A frog (*Rana*)



A raccoon (*Procyon lotor*)



Wildlife fencing is angled backwards because turtles can climb fences