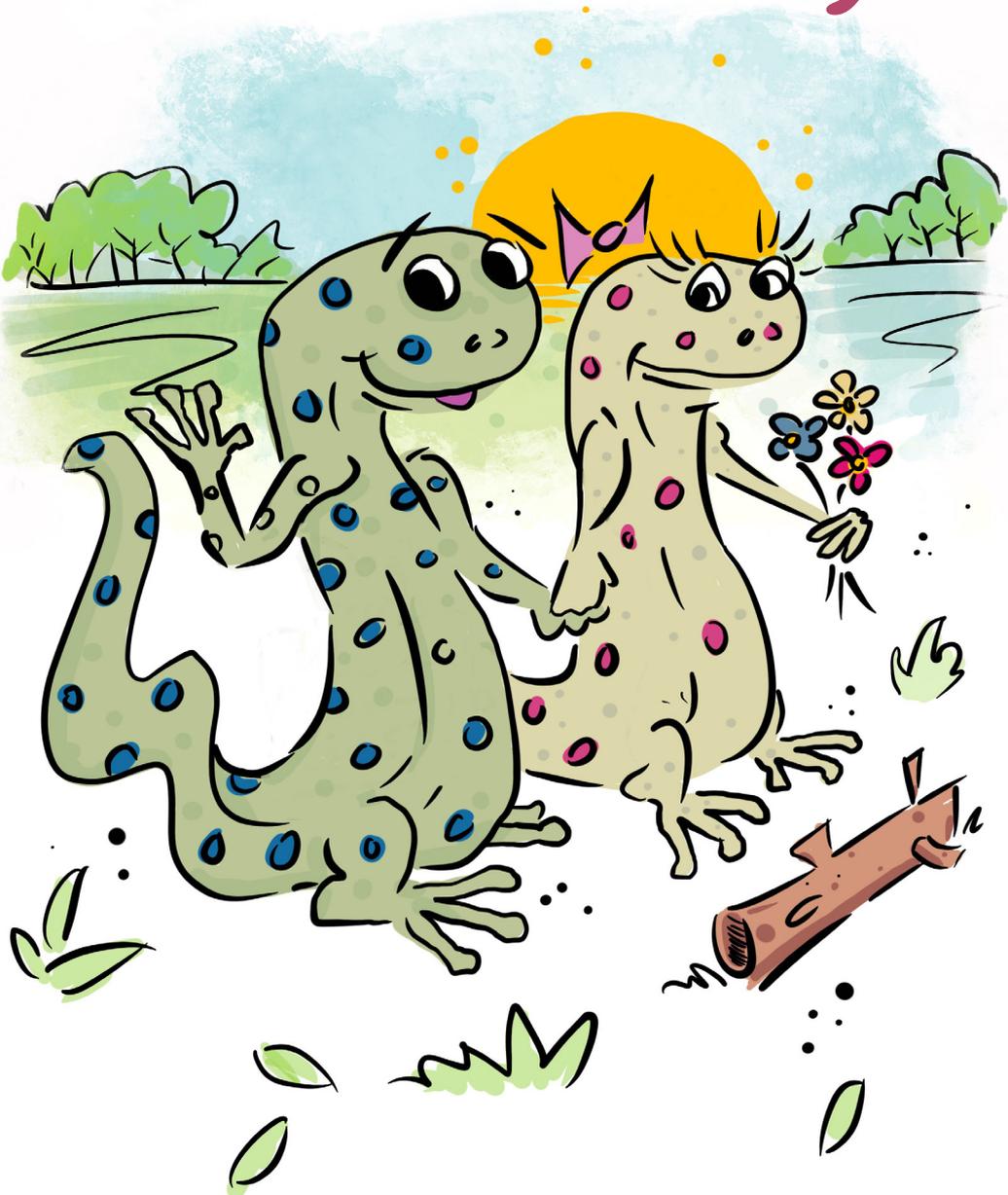


The Adventures of
Jeff & Sally



Written by CreativeMe Stories. Illustrated by Charles James

Meet Jeff & Sally

Ssh! They're sleeping. It's winter time
so that's what they do. They sleep.



What are they called?

Well, they look a bit like a lizard.
A bit like a gecko.
A bit like a frog.
Maybe even... a bit like a dragon.

So, what are they called?

Liz...ecko... ribbit... gons?
Nope, I don't think so.

Ge..zard... fra...gons
Nope, still no.

Oh oh maybe it's...
Drag...liz...ogs?
No that's not it either.

Then what are they called?!!

Ok, ok. Jeff and Sally are

Jefferson Salamanders.

They are cute and they are mighty and they are mighty cute.
Especially while they are sleeping. Their sleep through the winter is called hibernation. But winter is almost over so they won't be hibernating for much longer.



Today is a **special day** for Jeff and Sally. Jeff and Sally woke up!

It is a chilly, rainy, beautiful spring evening in March. They will leave their winter home and start on their journey to their summer home. This is **The Big Night!**

Jeff and Sally love their winter home in the winter but in the summer, they need a swim, where they also lay their eggs. So they must leave to the wetlands...the ponds.

It's kind of like our homes. We sleep in our bedrooms but to eat, we have to go to the kitchen. We can't find food or water in our bedroom. It's the same for Jeff and Sally and all of the other Jefferson Salamanders.

“Let’s go Jeff.”

Said Sally happily.

“Ok. I’m ready, let’s go!”

Jeff said as he picked up their suitcase.



As Jeff and Sally started on their adventure to the ponds,
Jeff had a great idea.

“Sally, do you want to play hide ‘n seek?”

Jeff shouted with a smile.

“OH YES! What a great idea, Jeff.”



Sally found the perfect hiding spot behind a **butternut tree**.

“Saaaaaaally! Are you behind this bush?
This is where you hid last year.”

Shouted Jeff.

Just then, **Freddie the Frog** found Sally.

“OH hi Sally! What are you doing?”

Asked Freddie.

**“Ssh! Hi Freddie. I’m hiding from Jeff.
We are playing hide ‘n seek.”**

Whispered Sally.

Whispering back now, Freddie said

**“OH have fun. See you next year
as you make your way through here
again. Oh and have fun at the ponds.
I’ll be off, then. I have to get the
kids to soccer practice.”**

“Bye Freddie!”

“A-HA I found you!”

Shouted Jeff as he came around the butternut tree.

“Ha Ha Ha. OK your turn!”

Sally said, laughing.

Sally and Jeff took turns hiding and seeking for a while longer.

And then they decided they should make their way to the ponds. Afterall, once they lay their eggs, there will be more of them to play hide ‘n seek with next year.

Jeff and Sally's journey includes crawling under logs, walking around bushes and passing many shrubs. All of these are fun but they also have to cross a street which is scary for tiny little Jefferson Salamanders.

“Look at all these cars and trucks, Sally!”

“I’m scared, Jeff.”

“Me too, Sally.”

“But we have to get there. That’s where we have to lay our eggs.”



Jeff and Sally watched for hours and hours as the traffic continued to grow. As they waited, the dust coming off the trucks made Sally and Jeff cough. It was hard to breathe. They waited and waited for the traffic to stop so that they could cross.

The cars and trucks just kept coming.

“Jeff, we’ve been waiting a long time. I’m tired.”

“Let’s have a nap here and try again later.”

Poor Jeff and Sally. They and their friends just want a safe winter home full of big old trees, logs and leaves. And a summer stay in the ponds where they can lay their eggs.

They have to find a way to cross the street. But...HOW?



After a nap and some snacks, Sally and Jeff are off on their adventure again. Scared but hopeful, they made their way back to the side of the road.

“Sally, look! The humans closed the road.”

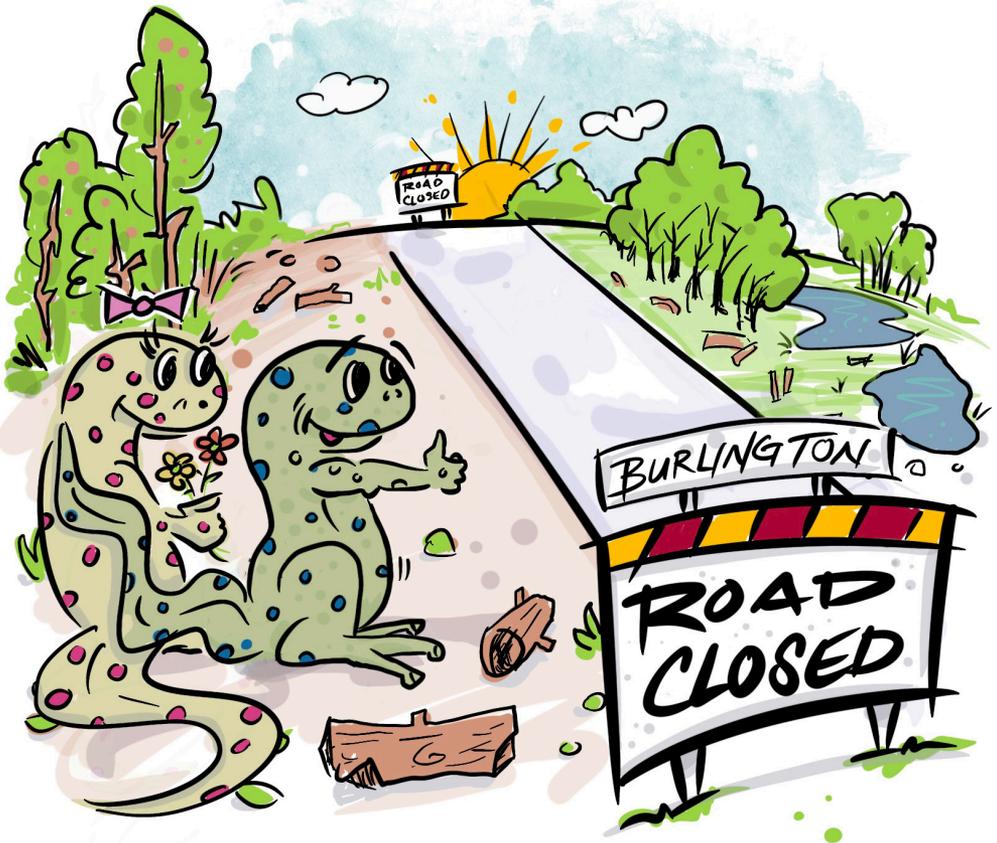
“No more cars or trucks. We can cross the street safely!”

Sally was excited.

“I wonder if everyone else is already there. I can’t wait to see all of our friends.”

“Party at the ponds!”

Shouted Sally happily.



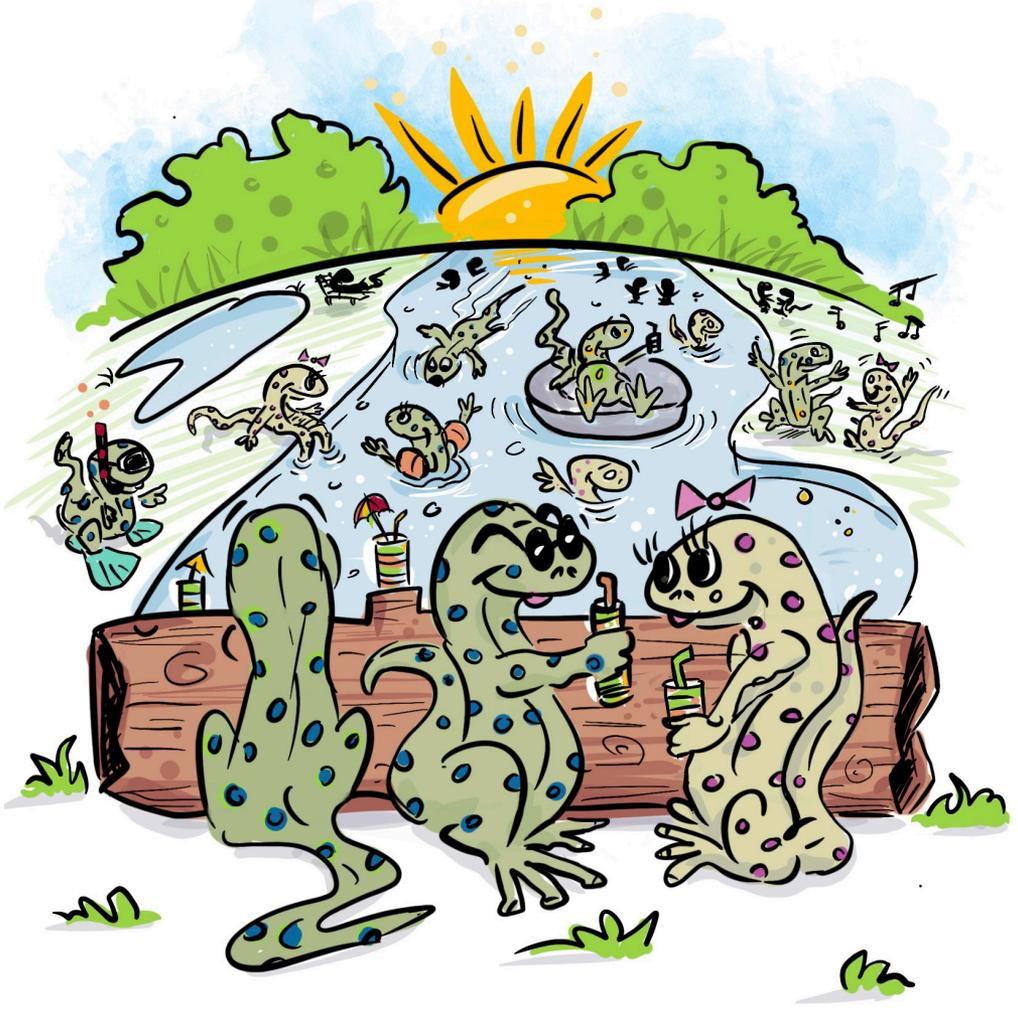


As they crossed the road they sang a song.

*“Let’s go to the ponds.
Let’s play at the ponds.
We can swim... we can play.
Smiling, smiling the
whole day.”*

Jeff and Sally started making their way across the field towards the ponds. They could see it.

They were SOOOOO HAPPY.



“Our friends! They are here!”

Jeff shouted with joy.

“Hi everybody! We made it!”

Said Sally.

Jeff and Sally, along with all of the other salamanders **swam and played** together at the ponds.

They laid their eggs safely as they played.

The beautiful ponds are full of happy little salamanders. Those tiny little frog-like, lizard-like, dragon-like animals that make us smile when we see them. **It's not often we see one** because they don't want us to see them, but they are there.

In the winter, they are deep **under the snow, below the ground, beneath our feet** when we walk through the woods.

And **in the summer**, they are **beneath the logs and leaves**. And **swimming in the ponds**.

This has been a good year for Sally, Jeff and all of their friends. So there is nothing left to do...
...but keep partying.

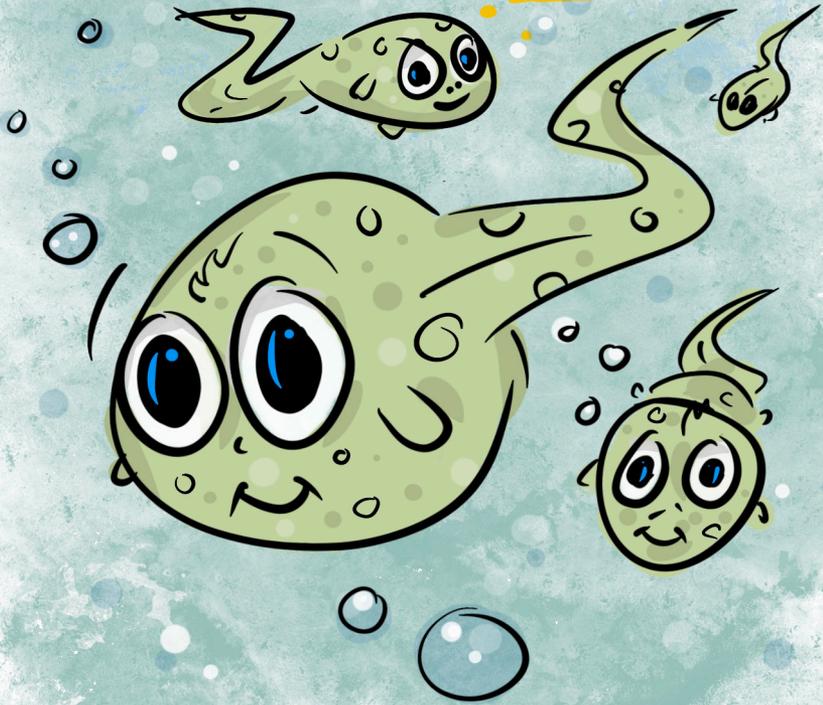
Meet Jeff & Sally's Babies.

They're called *tadpoles*.

The ponds will be their home while they grow their arms and legs. When they are grown, they will leave the ponds and travel to the forest to meet their parents and all of their friends.

They are cute and they are mighty and
they are mighty cute.

Best of all, they are safe and happy in the
pond that will help them to grow.



Did You Know?

Did you know **Jeff & Sally** are based off **REAL Jefferson salamanders** who live right here, **in Burlington?** We're so lucky to have these rare endangered species calling our backyard home!

Conserving Our Rural Ecosystems of Burlington (CORE Burlington) is a group of neighbours who work together to protect the ecological integrity of our slice of the **Niagara Escarpment**. There's only a few places Jefferson salamanders live, so it's important that we protect their critical habitat.

We're doing everything we can, but we would love your help, too! **It's everyone's job to help to protect the plants and animals that call Burlington and the Niagara Escarpment home.** Some of these species are really sensitive to disruptions in their habitat, and the **Jefferson salamander** is particularly vulnerable to changes in their environment.

We would love if you learned more about the **Jefferson salamander** and how you can help protect its home in Burlington!

VISIT OUR WEBSITE:

www.saveoursalamanders.com

