

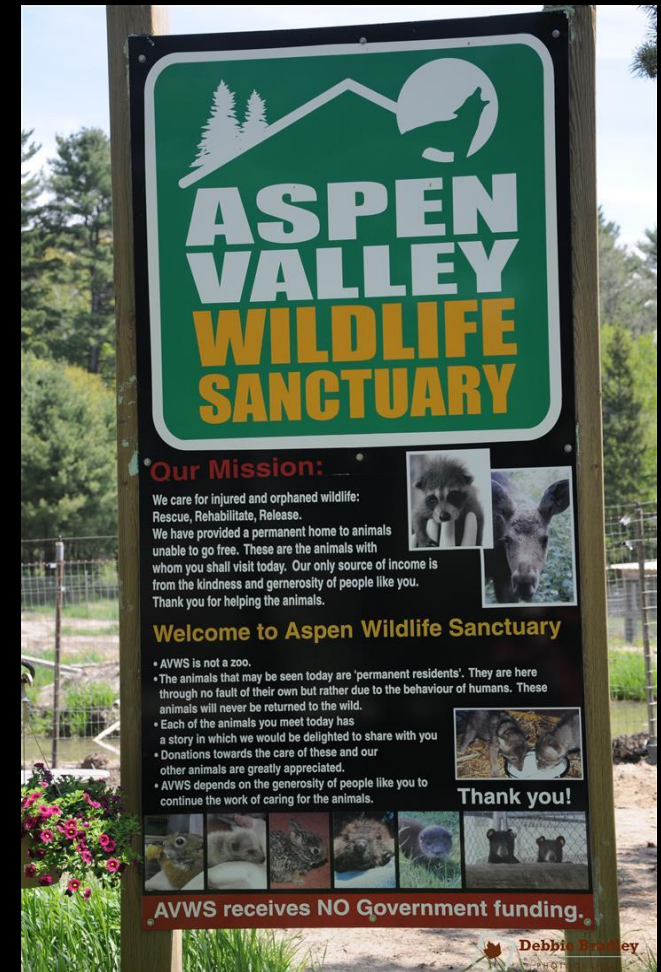


ASPEN VALLEY
WILDLIFE SANCTUARY

Coexisting with wildlife

Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

- Set in Muskoka on 465+ acres of natural habitat
- Rehabilitate only native mammal species
- Rehabilitate and release over 400 mammals/year
- Provide sanctuary to over 15 permanent residents
- Open to the public on long weekend Sundays throughout the summer and by appointment
- Receive no Gov't funding





Aspen Valley Wildlife Sanctuary

Rescue , Rehabilitate, Release

Living With Wildlife



Thank you for coming out today to learn more about coexisting with wildlife and things we can do to avoid conflicts

Raccoons – The Uninvited guests!



- Curious, smart animals that are highly adaptable and opportunistic
- Have amazing dexterity and climbing abilities
- Seek places to raise young away from predators and with food sources readily available
- Sheds, boats , attics make great dens for mother raccoon and her babies

Raccoons: Facts



- Born April to May, and occasional late or second litters
 - Litter size: 2-7
 - Born sparsely furred with eyes closed.
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- Primarily nocturnal, but sometimes out during the day
 - Outdoors, running, climbing and playing at 5-6 weeks
 - Weaned by 12 weeks
 - Remain in family groups until fall or following spring

Conflicts happen



- Raccoons can cause significant damage to roofs, garages, gardens and lawns..
- In their search for food, raccoons can spill garbage and break compost bins.

How to uninvite the raccoon family



- Mom typically has more than one den site and will move her babies if the family is disturbed.
- If her chosen accommodations become unpleasant she will move her family to a more desirable location

How Can I Prevent Conflicts?

- Limit food sources
- Never feed raccoons
- Pick fruit as soon as it ripens
- Regularly pick up fallen birdseed
- Keep barbecues clean and covered when not in use



How Can I Prevent Conflicts?

- Secure garbage in durable plastic containers with locking lids.
- Store garbage indoors until collection day.
- Keep compost in containers that keep raccoons out while allowing for ventilation.



Make your property unwelcoming



- Block off potential access points to your attic, garage and other buildings.
 - Secure the perimeter of decks, sheds and crawl spaces.
 - Keep indoor pet food and any other food away from a pet door. Lock the pet door at night.
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- Install a chimney cap.
 - Trim branches near buildings to prevent easy access.
 - Complete home repairs in the autumn, so mother and young won't be trapped inside.

How Can I Handle a Conflict?



- One-way gates to allow animals to leave while preventing re-entry.
- Make sure all are out before sealing
- Never separate a mother raccoon from her young. Evict raccoons in autumn when young have left the den.

How Can I Handle a Conflict?



- The easiest solution to removing raccoons from a chimney is to wait for them to move on their own. After eight to ten weeks, the female and young will leave and not return.
- If raccoons need to be evicted, do not smoke them out and do not pour anything, including naphtha flakes or mothballs, down the chimney. Adult raccoons can easily climb out of a chimney, but their young can't.

Hazing for relief



Use flashing lights, motion sensors and noise makers to deter raccoons.



Living with Beavers: Facts

- Can cut 216 trees / year some distance from water
- Cut trees up to 40 cm
- Live up to 12 years
- Mate for life and live in family unit colonies
- Mate Jan and Feb
- Build dams and lodges
- In winter feed on bark from food piles of trees and shrubs stored in water
- In summer feed on green plants, roots , fruit



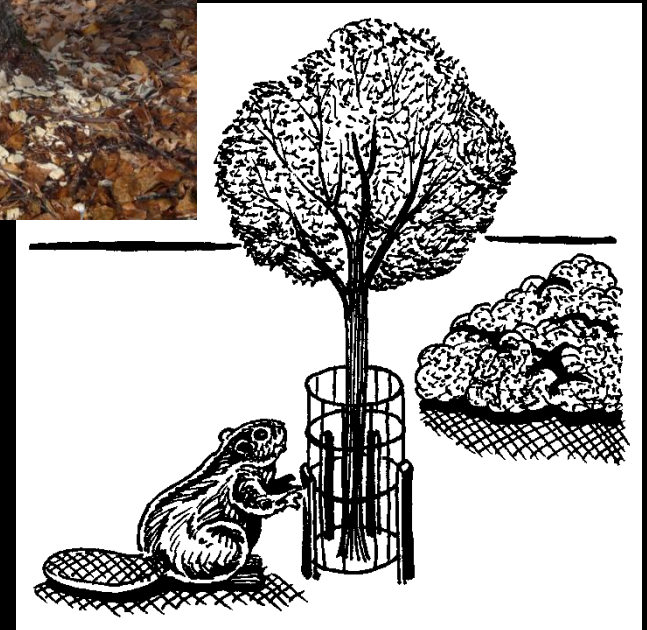
The Benefits of Having Beaver

- Create wetlands and ponds
 - Fish habitat
 - Terrestrial animals
- Keep downstream waters constant
- Improve water quality
- Promote diverse plant communities



Conflicts with Beavers

- Eliminate foods, trees and woody veg where possible
- Choose plants and trees carefully
- Wrap individual trees a metre high
- Paint trunks (sand/paint mix)
- Protect larger areas with fence



Dam removal

- Destruction is temporary
- Extreme caution to preventing downstream flooding, damage of natural habitats and property damage.
- Liable for any property damage that occurs due to your actions



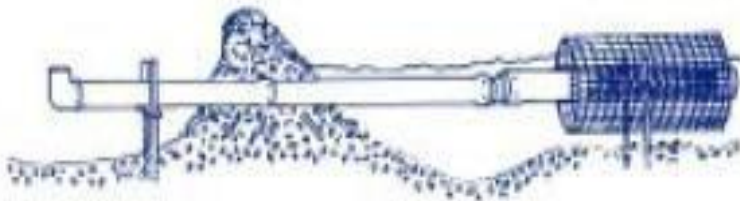
Preventing flooding

- Variety of techniques used
 - Baffles, deceivers, culverts
- Blocked culverts
 - V-shaped, semicircular, trapezoidal fences of woven wire mesh

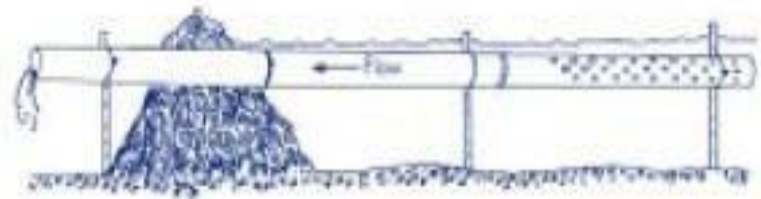


Water Level Control Devices

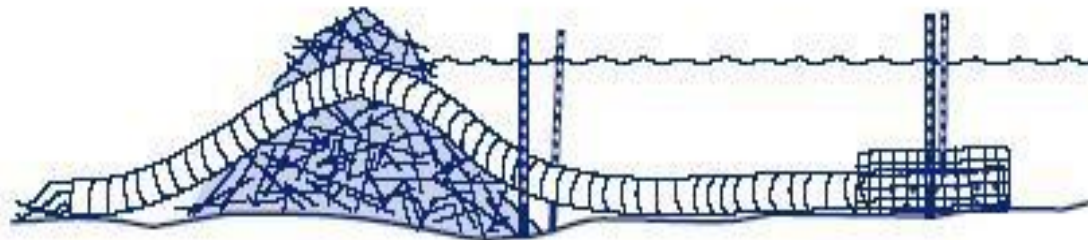
Water Level Control Devices



*Clemson beaver pond leveler**



*PVC beaver drain pipe**



*Massachusetts beaver pond leveler**



Water Control Device

Last resort – trapping

- Trapping is not a long term solution as it leaves a vacancy for other beavers
- In some special cases where they must be removed, only humane live trapping should be used
- Still issues with live trapping



Living with beavers

Beavers have the same basic needs as humans – food, water shelter.

Often, conflicts can be prevented if we're willing to make small changes to how we think and act.



Living with Deer: Facts



- Abundant food makes almost any forested or bushy area suitable for deer, including parks and green spaces created by people.
- In winter, as snow deepens, deer concentrate in areas that provide food and shelter from deep snow

Living with Deer: Facts

- During the spring and summer, deer eat leafy material from woody plants, grasses and herbs. They also eat mushrooms and blueberries.
- In autumn and winter, deer depend largely on the twigs and buds that are within their reach. Acorns are a favourite autumn food for white-tailed deer living in eastern Canada



Conflicts happen



- Vehicle collisions can pose a serious threat to motorists and deer.
- Deer will browse in yards and gardens which can cause damage to property.

How Can I Prevent Conflicts?

- Make your property unwelcoming
- Landscaping with deer-resistant plants will deter deer from damaging property.
- Species include juniper, sumac, birch, dogwood, pine and flowers such as daisy, geranium and iris.
- Never feed deer.
- Deer tend to avoid plants with thorns, fuzzy or velvety leaves or a strong taste.
- The presence of a dog can help keep deer away.

How Can I Handle a Conflict?



- Fences or cattle guards to keep deer out.
- Electric fencing
- Use tree guards to protect young, individual trees on your property.
- Repellents sprayed on plants may keep deer away.
- Build a scarecrow and include bright lights and noisemakers that are on motion sensors.

Living with Squirrels: Facts

- Squirrels play an important role in nature by spreading seeds. Some of the nuts and seeds squirrels hide are never collected and later grow into plants and trees



Living with Squirrels:Facts

- 4 squirrel species in Ontario:
 - Eastern gray,
 - Red
 - Northern Flying
 - Southern Flying



- First litter born between March and May; second litter born July –Sept.
- Commonly 2-4 babies in a litter
- Born hairless, with their eyes closed

Conflicts happen

- Squirrels and people sometimes come into conflict when squirrels nest in attics, buildings, chimneys and eaves troughs.
- A squirrel's search for food may bring it to a bird feeder, back door or a garden containing bulbs.



How Can I Prevent Conflicts?



- Make your property unwelcoming
- Block off potential access.
- Install a chimney cap.
- Trim branches near buildings
- Complete home repairs in the autumn, so mother and young won't be trapped inside.
- Use flashing lights, motion sensors and noise makers to deter squirrels from nesting.
- Do not feed squirrels

How Can I Handle a Conflict?

- One-way gates
- Careful when permanently blocking the entrance
- Evict squirrels in autumn when young have left the nest.
- If a squirrel is trapped down an exhaust fan or chimney, drop a line down from above so the animal can climb out.
- If a squirrel living near wiring – check for gnawing



Please keep in mind

- Wild animals have the same basic needs as humans – food, water and shelter. Sometimes, humans and wild creatures come into conflict when animals are trying to meet their basic needs.
- Often, conflicts can be prevented if we're willing to make small changes to how we think and act.



Please keep in mind...



- People and wild animals live side by side in Ontario.
- We all share responsibility for preventing and handling human-wildlife conflicts.
- If you must take action against wildlife, please consider all your humane options and follow all relevant laws and regulations.

What if I unintentionally orphan an animal?

- Contact a wildlife rehabilitator for advice on appropriate action for species concerned
- Centers listed at - www.ontariowildliferescue.ca





Find us on Facebook
and the internet at

www.AspenValley.ca

Call to set up an
appointment to visit
our sanctuary:

(705) 732-6368

Thanks for Listening!