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Living with Beavers On Private Land in Parry Sound-Muskoka

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Living with Beavers

On Private Land in Parry Sound-Muskoka

- **Beavers 101**
- **The Benefits of Having Beavers**
- **The Impacts of Not Having Beavers**
- **Conflicts with Beavers**
 - *How to Prevent Conflicts*
 - *How to Handle a Conflict*
- **Removing Beavers**
 - *Lethal Action*
 - *Live Trapping*

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Google earth

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- 216 trees per yr/beaver
- Fall up to 40 cm dia
- Live up to 12 yrs
- Prey to wolves, coyotes, bears, and lynx
- One mate for life, family unit, colony
- Mating Jan & Feb
- Feeding
 - Winter: bark
 - Spring: shift to new growth, plants
 - Summer: grass, herbs, leaves, fruits, aquatic plants
- Deciduous Trees: P_t , B_w
- 50 m from shore to tree

Beavers 101



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Beavers 101

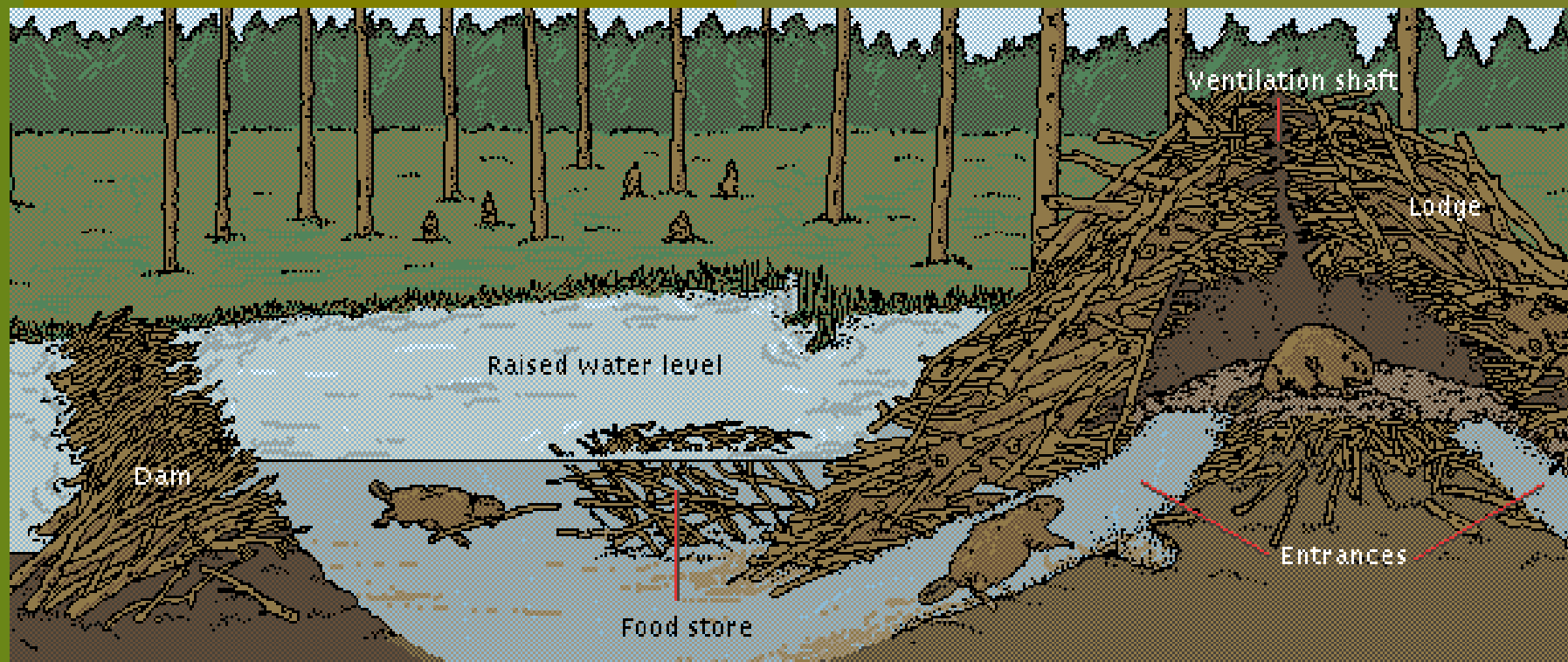
- Habitat = watercourses bordered by deciduous trees and shrubs
- 3 Criteria for choosing a dam site:
 - Trees: food/lodge/dam
 - Source of running water
 - Topography to create a pond
- Most active dusk-dawn
- Food supply exhausted raise pond or move



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The Benefits of Having Beavers

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



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- 10% of orig popⁿ in North America remains
- Greatly affected the continents hydrology
- Changes in water storage
- From ponds, wetlands and large riparian to simple, deep, single channel systems

The Impacts of Not Having Beavers



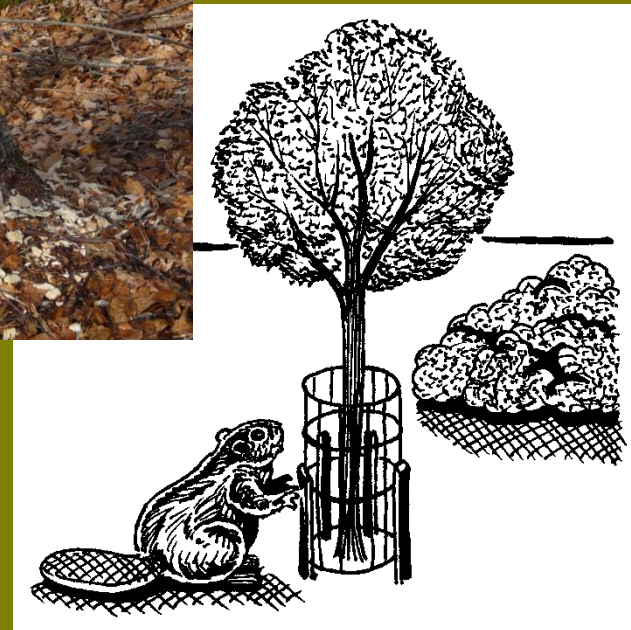
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How to Prevent Conflicts

***(Make your property unwelcoming
by managing what attracts
them)***

- Eliminate foods, trees and woody veg where possible
- Choose plants and trees carefully
- Wrap individual trees a metre high
- Painted trunks (sand/paint mix)
- Protect larger areas 1.5 m fence
- Electric fencing along river and shorelines

Conflicts with Beavers



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How to Handle a Conflict

Dam/Den Removal

Section 8 (2) (3) and (4) of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act (FWCA) states:

- (2) A person shall not intentionally damage or destroy the den of a habitual dwelling of a furbearing mammal, unless the person holds a licence to trap furbearing mammals.*
- (3) A person shall not damage or destroy a beaver dam unless the person holds a licence to trap furbearing mammals*
- (4) Sub (3) does not apply to a person, or the agent of a person, who damages or destroys a beaver dam to protect the person's property.*

Conflicts with Beavers



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How to Handle a Conflict

Dam Removal

- Destruction is temporary
- Extreme caution to preventing downstream flooding, damage of natural habitats and property damage.
- DFO Notification – 10 days
- Liable for any property damage that occurs due to your actions

Conflicts with Beavers



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Conflicts with Beavers

How to Handle a Conflict

To Prevent Flooding

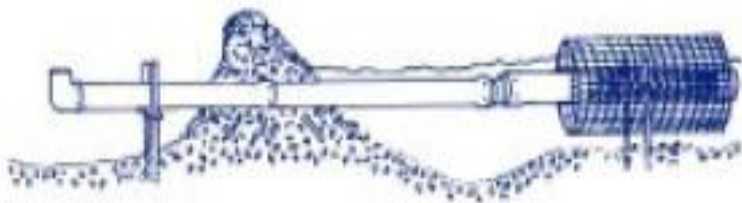
- Variety of techniques used
 - Bafflers, deceivers, culverts
- Blocked culverts
 - V-shaped, semicircular, trapezoidal fences of woven wire mesh
- MNR provides construction advice



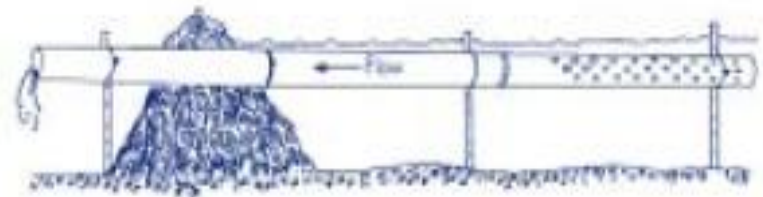
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Conflicts with Beavers

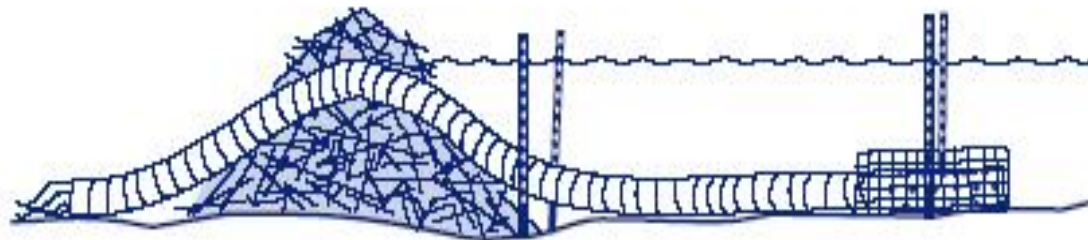
Water Level Control Devices



*Clemson beaver pond leveler**



*PVC beaver drain pipe**



*Massachusetts beaver pond leveler**

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Lethal Action

Section 31(1) of the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act states:

- *If a person believes on **reasonable grounds** that wildlife is damaging or about to damage the person's property, the person may, on the person's land;*
 - (a) *harass the wildlife for the purpose of deterring it from damaging the person's property; or*
 - (b) *capture or kill the wildlife*

Removing Beavers



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Lethal Action

The FWCA allows property owners to use **AGENTS** to harass, capture and kill wildlife that is damaging or about to damage the person's property

Sec 31 of the FWCA defines **AGENTS** as:

- **Licensed Trappers**
- Employees or agents of the OSPCA
- Members of the landowner's immediate family
- Employees of a municipality who are responsible for wildlife control
- Persons whose primary business is the business of removing nuisance wildlife.

Removing Beavers



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Live Trapping

All Agents Must Adhere to the
Following Regulations Regarding
Capture & Release of Wildlife

(FWCA: Ont. Reg. 665/98 s. 133 and Ont. Reg.
667/98 s. 25(3))

- Live holding traps must be inspected once a day
- Wildlife must be released within 24 hours
- Wildlife must be released within a max. of 1 km of the original capture site

Removing Beavers



Private Land Trapping

Removing Beavers

[illegible]

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Please keep in mind...

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

Sometimes humans and beavers come in contact when beavers 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.



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BEAVERS

Sometimes they fail.

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For more information and assistance...

- **To Locate a Wildlife Control Agent...**
 - Speak with neighbours, family and friends. Look for "animal control" in your phone book or online.
- **To Locate a Licensed Trapper...**
 - Contact the Ontario Fur Managers Federation at (705) 254-3338 or by e-mail at furman@furmanagers.com
- **For More Information on Beavers...**
 - Parry Sound or Bracebridge Offices or the Natural Resources Information Centre at 1-800-667-1940.
 - Muskoka Watershed Council – Stewards' Guide Series:
http://www.muskokaheritage.org/mwc/files/2011/12/BEAVER_PONDS_Stewards_Guide1.pdf

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QUESTIONS

