

Dealing with Beavers

Landowners (e.g., private landowner, municipality) are responsible for managing hazardous beaver dams that threaten their own property. The removal of a beaver dam is a temporary solution as beavers will rebuild quickly or others will move in. The removal of a beaver dam should only be considered when no other management options (e.g., bafflers, deceivers, culverts, trapezoidal fences of woven wire mesh) are possible.

The North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA) is not responsible for the management of beavers and beaver dams except on NBMCA-owned land.

Beavers play a vital role in wetland ecosystems and are considered "ecosystem engineers" because of their ability to construct dams and create ponds. Beavers create wetland habitats for other species, increase biodiversity, improve water quality, store water during droughts, minimize flood risk and mitigate flooding peaks.



What can a property owner do with regards to managing beavers and beaver dams?

Following is a summary of information dealing with protection of property and beaver dams in Ontario. This summary is neither a legal document nor a complete collection of the current regulations. **It is meant to be a convenient reference only.** Please refer to the legislations for specifics. Under the Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997, it is illegal to damage or destroy beaver dams, unless specifically exempted by the Act (i.e., for the removal of dams to protect private property). Visit Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act, 1997, S.O. 1997, c. 41 (ontario.ca) for more details.

Destroying a dam should only be considered after other techniques have been tried. The removal of a beaver is a quick but temporary solution. If the habitat remains attractive to beavers it will not be long before new beavers move into the area.

If dam removal is necessary:

- Exercise extreme caution to prevent downstream flooding, damage to natural habitats and property damage. If a dam is removed, you are not exempt from: potential civil liability through damages to neighbouring properties and the need for permission to access another landowner's private property.
- For best practises, Fisheries and Oceans Canada's "Interim code of practice: beaver dam removal" can be found here: <https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/pnw-ppe/codes/beaver-dam-barrage-castor-eng.html>.

For further information visit these websites:

- Ontario Government - Prevent Conflicts with Beavers <https://www.ontario.ca/page/preventing-conflicts-beavers>
- Central Algoma Coalition - Resources - Beaver Management Toolkit www.centralalgomafreshwatercoalition.ca/

Dealing With Beaver Issues

PRIVATE PROPERTY

MUNICIPAL PROPERTY

CROWN LAND

NBMCA PROPERTY

PROVINCIAL HIGHWAY

- Municipal-owned land
- Right-of-way along municipal roads
- Affecting a municipal road

- Beaver dams are generally not monitored on Crown Land
- Contact MNRF if a beaver dam or beaver on Crown Land is causing damage to your adjacent property

- Conservation Areas
- NBMCA-owned land

- Numbered highways
- Right-of-way along numbered highways



Please refer to the *Fish and Wildlife Act, 1997* for specifics

Generally speaking, here are some suggested best management practices for managing beavers on private property:

- Plant trees and vegetation that beavers don't like, such as elderberry, twin berry and ninebark
- Install beaver pond leveler
- Install electric fencing along stream banks
- Wrap individual trees in metre-high, galvanized welded wire fencing, hardware cloth or multiple layers of chicken wire

Township of Bonfield

705-776-2659

Municipality of Callander

Roads & Utilities

705-752-1010

Municipality of Calvin

Public Works

705-744-2210

Township of Chisholm

Public Works

705-724-5530

Municipality of East Ferris

Public Works

705-752-2740 ext. 229

Town of Mattawa

Public Works

705-223-361

Municipality of Mattawan

Roads

705-200-8577

City of North Bay

Public Works

705-474-4340

Papineau-Cameron

Township

Roads

705-744-5072

Municipality of Powassan

Public Works

705-724-2813 ext. 202

Ministry of Natural Resources & Forestry (MNRF)

North Bay Office
875 Gormanville Rd,
North Bay, ON
P1B 8G3
705-475-5501

Parry Sound Office
7 Bay St,
Parry Sound, ON
P2A 1S4
705-746-4201

North Bay-Mattawa Conservation Authority (NBMCA)

nbmca@nbmca.ca
705-474-5420

Ministry of Transportation (MTO)

Toll Free Number
1-800-268-4686

Sample Beaver Pond Leveler

