

# BEAVERS

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## DID YOU KNOW?

**Beavers make an essential contribution to our natural environment.**

The ponds that beavers create provide food sources and healthy, freshwater habitats for many other species of wildlife.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Beaver dams prevent flooding and erosion by slowing rapidly-flowing water.**

Beaver dams also prevent water run-off. This contained water provides a readily-available supply that replenishes groundwater sources.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**Beavers are excellent forest managers.**

Beavers usually fell fast-growing, deciduous trees (e.g., aspen, willow, white birch, alder). They remove these trees from the water's edge, thereby allowing sunlight through and providing space for other trees to grow.

*To control the water level in your pond, why not build a “beaver baffler”? For details, check out this link:*

*[www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/pdfs/the%20beaver.pdf](http://www.torontozoo.com/adoptapond/pdfs/the%20beaver.pdf)*



## HELP!

### Is there a beaver in the boathouse?

Periodically, a beaver may move into a boathouse. You have provided a dark, quiet place for them to live.

### TRY THIS!

Making a disturbance with a loud radio or bright lights can discourage beavers from moving in. You can also place a water aerator (with vigorous bubbling) near areas where they have piled sticks. When the beavers leave, seal off vulnerable areas with wire fencing. When you leave the cottage for the winter, sink fencing across the boat-access areas.

### Is a beaver cutting down your trees?

### TRY THIS!

Although beavers do not often harm “valuable” hardwoods (such as maple or oak), you may wish to protect a specific tree. To do so, encircle it with heavy, wire fencing, and leave a 15-cm space between the wire and tree trunk. Anchor firmly.