

External Messaging

Beaver Dam Removal for Protection of Property

(Crown and Private Land)

- Thank you for your inquiry on how to address beaver activity that has caused flooding.
- 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 habitat for other species, increase biodiversity, improve water quality, store water during droughts and minimize flood risk and mitigate flooding peaks.
- MNR is not responsible for actively monitoring beaver dams and generally will not undertake measures to maintain beaver dams on Crown land to protect neighbouring private land properties.
- 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. 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.
- Under the *Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act* (FWCA), it is illegal to damage or destroy beaver dams, unless specifically exempted by the Act (e.g., for the removal of dams to protect private property).
 - Where property or infrastructure is threatened by beaver dams on Crown or private land (including on a neighbouring property), an individual is empowered (e.g., MNR authorization is not required) to manipulate or destroy beaver dams to protect their property.
 - Landowners may choose to hire a registered trapper to destroy the beaver dam for them or they may remove the dam themselves
 - The landowner or the agent (e.g., registered trapper) of the landowner removing a beaver dam is cautioned as they are not exempt from:
 - Potential civil liability through damages to neighbouring properties (e.g., downstream of dam);
 - The need for permission to access another landowner’s private property and;
 - The application of the Federal *Fisheries Act* which prohibits destruction or alteration of fish habitat. Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s “Interim code of practice: beaver dam removal” can be found here: [Interim code of practice: beaver dam removal \(dfo-mpo.gc.ca\)](https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/).
- For information on how to prevent conflicts with beavers, visit: [Preventing conflicts with beavers | ontario.ca](#)

- For information on beaver management techniques, review Central Algoma Freshwater Coalition's toolkit: [Beaver Management Toolkit](#)
- For further assistance, please contact Brianne Brothers, Integrated Resource Management Technical Specialist, North Bay District at 705-493-1189 or Brianne.brothers@ontario.ca.

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- 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. The removal of a beaver should only be considered when no other management options (e.g., bafflers, deceivers, culverts, trapezoidal fences of woven wire mesh) are possible.
 - The removal of a beaver in combination with dam destruction will only slow beavers down. If the habitat remains attractive to beavers, new beavers will move into the area.
- On **private land**, the FWCA allows landowners on their own property to harass, capture or kill a beaver that is damaging or is about to damage their property.
 - To remove a beaver from their property, landowners may remove the beaver themselves or hire a registered trapper.
- On **Crown land**, landowners are required to obtain ministry authorization to remove a beaver that is causing damage to their property.
 - To remove a beaver from Crown land a registered trapper must be utilized.
- For information on how to request ministry authorization to remove a beaver and/or contact a registered trapper please contact Brianne Brothers, Integrated Resource Management Technical Specialist, North Bay District at 705-493-1189 or Brianne.brothers@ontario.ca.