



Deputation to the Town of Huntsville's
General Committee
July 26, 2023



Worth Noting



Aspen Valley
Wildlife Sanctuary
is NOT an
advocacy group.

We DO educate
about living in
harmony with
wildlife.

Remarkable Contributors



1. Habitat Engineer
2. Sponge
3. Speed Bump
4. Filtration Plant
5. Firebreak

Acknowledgement



Beaver activities can cause damage.

Luckily solutions are available.

Today's Objective



Move to amend Huntsville's beaver by-law to include coexistence strategies AND actively encourage coexistence strategies while continuing to mitigate risk.

Current Bylaw 2021-53

Management of Nuisance Beavers and Beaver Dams in the Town of Huntsville

Allows staff to enter onto private lands to investigate (risk mitigation ✓)

Places responsibility of beaver dam on property owner (liability transfer ✓)

Current Bylaw 2021-53

Rock and a Hard Place

Zero reference to coexistence strategies.

Options presented on property access form

A – Give Town or licensed trapper access to “deal with the nuisance beaver and/or dams”

B – Refusal will “result in legal action(s) and you will be held liable”

Amendments for Consideration

Policy Respecting Coexistence with Beavers and the Management of Beaver Dams

Incorporate coexistence strategies.

The Council and the Corporation of the Town of Huntsville acknowledges the immense ecological benefit of the beaver and its dams and strongly supports the use of coexistence strategies.

Revised property access form

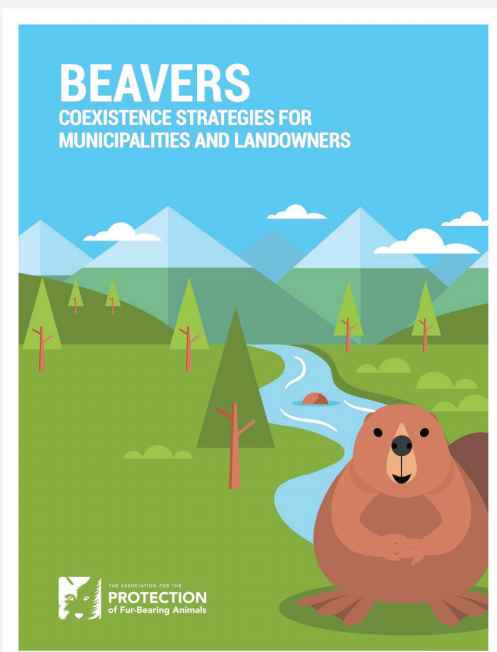
Option A - Commit to implementing coexistence strategies by a set date.

FREE Resources



- Comprehensive self-help ranging from tree protection to blocked culverts to flow device installation
- Access to finding a beaver wetland professional in your region
- Extensive library on all beaver-related topics, from stream restoration to biodiversity to climate change

FREE Resources



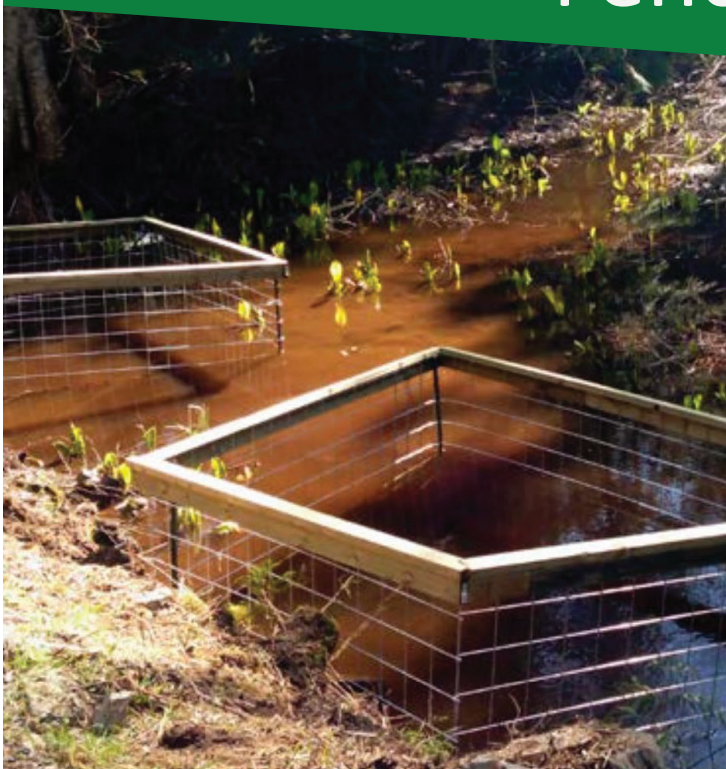
Made available by The Fur-Bearers

- Role beavers play in ecosystems
- Step by step solutions (coexistence strategies) to address conflict
- Extensive list of scientific references

Trees and Infrastructure Protection



Culverts and Exclusion Fences



Dam and Pond Levellers



Combo Devices



Next Steps

1. **Amend** by-law (Aspen Valley submitted draft for consideration)
2. **Train** Town staff / local business in non-lethal beaver management (Beaver Institute)
3. **Educate** the public (joint education initiative with Town of Huntsville, District Council, Aspen Valley, Watershed Council, Fur-Bearers and Beaver Institute)

Why Now?

- Growing public interest in environmental policy (e.g. Integrated Watershed Management)
- Expanding communities
- Inevitable conflict with nature
- Non-lethal solutions exist, and are BOTH economically and ecologically responsible

Circling Back ...



Move to amend Huntsville's beaver by-law to include coexistence strategies AND actively encourage coexistence strategies while continuing to mitigate risk.



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