

Beavers

These semi-aquatic mammals can create quite a problem and can be found in Brazeau County. Most beaver damage occurs in rural areas where the beaver will flood cultivated land, hay fields, pastured land and roadways as well as detour or restrict water flow in stream ways. Damage in urban areas is not as much of a problem, however can be quite severe when beaver cut down valuable ornamental trees and shrubs or undermine yards, walks and roadways with their burrowing.



To prevent beaver damage you can encircle a treed area with a fence or even wrap individual trees with chicken wire to a height of at least 1m. Valuable broad-leaved trees can be protected in the same manner, but with the fence half a meter below ground as well. However, this type of prevention may be expensive. **Thiram** is the only repellent known to reduce beaver damage and can be applied directly to trees and shrubs. No license or permit is required for this; however.



If you should want to control water levels without removing any beaver from the area, your best choice of action would be to install a “beaver drain pipe”. This device is just a long sewer pipe that bypasses the beaver dam allowing water to drain out of the affected area and continue on its original path. It is also a very good method of controlling any flooding without destroying the dam itself.

Culverts are another target for beaver vandalism and may often become blocked or plugged. This is easily avoided with the installation of a beaver guard. Other effective methods of beaver control include shooting and trapping which may be done year round on your own land or on private land provided you have written landowners consent.

For more information about Beavers and methods of control or removal, please contact the Brazeau County Agricultural Department at 542-7777.

