



Nuisance Beaver Program

Background Information

Northwestern Ontario is divided into assigned areas for trapping purposes called trap lines.

Each trap line has an assigned trapper and an assigned beaver quota (number of beavers that may be harvested).

Every year the assigned trapper is responsible for harvesting a minimum of seventy-five percent (75%) of the beaver quota assigned for his trap line.

Failure to harvest the required amount of fur from any particular trap line could result in the loss of the trap line to the assigned trapper.

During open water conditions, and particularly during heavy rain periods, beavers are constantly on the move, so even if a trapper is harvesting the required amount of beavers each year, there is a good possibility that beavers may relocate and cause problems to infrastructure or work operations.

This is why there was a need to create a nuisance beaver program to provide a service to help industry, as well as the private sector to deal with unwanted conflict with beaver activity.

It soon became apparent that having a nuisance beaver program only during the closed trapping season was not sufficient.

Most beaver activity and movement happens after the season closes when the young are born. Like any other species as the population expands the required amount of living space also increases (look at our cities compared to ten years ago). We also receive our heaviest rainfall of the season right after the trapping season closes (May through the end of June) which triggers beaver to go looking for more lucrative grounds (usually a culvert that requires little work to plug and create a pond).

Therefore as of last year the Dryden Trappers Council signed a contract with the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) to act as an agent and provide nuisance beaver removal twelve (12) months of the year as required.

To date, this has been a very successful program and we will again be supplying the same service this year to those who choose to participate.

All trappers participating in the program carry a 2 million dollar liability insurance policy through the Ontario Fur Managers Federation (OFMF) (provincial trapping organization), are members in good standing of the Dryden Trappers Council, use internationally tested and approved equipment and have all been trained and tested in the most humane trapping techniques.