

The Township of Horton Policy and Procedures			
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POLICY: Beaver Control Policy			
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POLICY STATEMENT:

The Township of Horton has established a Beaver Control Policy to assist in flooding prevention. The terms of this policy are for properties owned by the Municipality, or for properties with which the Municipality obtains consent from the landowner to remove/manage problem beaver.

DEFINITIONS:

“Applicant” means the agent requesting the removal of problem beaver and may be the Township of Horton, a person requested to remove the problem beaver by the Municipality (i.e. trapper), or an individual property owner.

“Municipality” means the Corporation of the Township of Horton.

“Owner” means:

- (a) An owner, part owner, joint owner,
- (b) In the case of the absence or incapacity of a person or persons having ownership of any interest in the parcel of land, a trustee, an executor, a guardian, an agent, a mortgagee in possession or a person having the care or control of land,
- (c) In the absence of proof to the contrary, the person assessed for the taxes on the parcel of land.

PROCEDURE:

Beaver Maintenance & Incentive Program

1. The Municipality may from time to time determine there to be problem beaver located at specific sites within the boundaries of Horton Township.
2. The Municipality will identify on the “*Beaver Maintenance & Incentive Permit – Authorization to Remove Problem Beaver*”, the Municipal employees and/or other individuals acting on the Municipality’s behalf to fulfil the terms of the permit.
3. Those persons permitted to carry out beaver management for the municipality, must remove problem beaver in areas determined by the Municipality and as identified on the Township of Horton authorization to

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Remove Problem Beaver Application Form (Schedule A of this policy). This Authorization will indicate the specific area of concern and the approximate number of beavers to be removed.

4. In every instance that the Municipality wishes to remove problem beaver, on or adjacent to private property, landowner consent must be obtained by the Municipality.
5. The Municipality will provide an incentive for approved and authorized problem beavers trapped or otherwise destroyed within the Township of Horton at a rate of \$75.00 per beaver, with evidence by way of a tail submitted to the Municipal Office.
6. Beaver tails **less than three (3) inches** in length are NOT acceptable for payment.
7. Beaver tails will be permanently marked as they are recorded and disposal of the marked tails is the responsibility of the person submitting the tails.
8. The disposal of all destroyed problem beaver, are to be the sole responsibility of those listed on the *"Beaver Maintenance & Incentive Permit – Authorization to Remove Problem Beaver"*.
9. Compensation outlined by this policy does not apply to any other employee contracted by the Municipality to perform the same service (i.e. Municipal Animal Control By-Law Officer, Public Works Operator/Labourer). All Municipal employees are exempt from receiving compensation.
10. The total amount paid out by the Township on this program is limited to the amount provided in the budget annually.
11. The Township may establish limits on the amount payable to a landowner or authorized person.
12. If you are using a firearm, you must follow regulations and local by-laws.

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13. A landowner may hire an agent, including a trapper to act on their behalf.

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Beaver Dam Removal – Private Property

- A. Destroying a dam should only be considered after other techniques have been tried.
- B. If dam removal is necessary:
 - Exercise extreme caution to prevent downstream flooding, damage to natural habitats and property damage.
 - Check with Fisheries and Oceans Canada to avoid causing serious harm to fish and fish habitat by following best practices.
 - You may be held liable for any property damage that occurs downstream.
- C. The Township shall only remove a dam if it is deemed reasonable, accessible, and shall not cause undue harm to properties both upstream and downstream of the dam and is deemed to be a benefit to the Township in .
- D. The Township is not required to remove dams on private property and shall not assume any liability for damage caused to property upstream or downstream of a dam located on private property whether it remains or is removed.
- E. The Township will only consider removal of a dam if its removal is deemed to be beneficial to the Township for flood prevention. A dam may be removed at any time by Township forces on Township property, and may be removed on private property with landowner consent.

Schedule "A": BEAVER MAINTENANCE & INCENTIVE PERMIT – AUTHORIZATION TO REMOVE PROBLEM BEAVER