

Castor Canadensis (Beaver)

Background

Two staff members from the Toronto Parks and Recreation were at Forest Valley to survey the impact beavers have had on the land. They had been sent out to gather information because a complaint had been filed by members of the local community. Parks and Recreation provided Forest Valley with handouts which were being given to the local community. These hand-outs were designed to educate home-owners and residents about beavers.

Beavers typically move into an area for 4 (four) years then leave for 5 (five) years. This has been a consistent pattern at Forest Valley for the past 20 (twenty) years.

You simply want to live and thrive in a protected natural habitat as has been done for thousands of years. You are the national animal of Canada and helped create the Hudson Bay Company with your long glossy brown coat. Your preference of tree is the trembling aspen as its soft wood is easy for you to chew through. Trembling aspen grow very quickly and live 60 (sixty) to 100 (one hundred) years.

Things to think about before your trip

Resources available from the Forest Valley website:

- Historically Speaking - Information about Forest Valley Site
- Beaver Dam Management BC
- Beaver Dam Removal Fisheries Canada
- Town of Richmond Hill Beaver Management Policy Summary

See also:

- Beaver Information from UP NORTH by Doug Bennett and Tim Tiner
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- What is your group's position (removal or leave it be)?
 - What role does the beaver play in Canada's history?
 - Define 'natural disaster' and natural occurrence.

Forest Valley

What questions can you think of that you would want to answer during your trip?

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What to do with your information

- This activity leads into an in-class debate well.
- Students and teachers are encouraged to:
 - Be an active participant in a debate on whether or not to remove the beaver from Forest Valley property;
 - Write reflective stories within the students assigned role on the outcome of the debate; and
 - Identify and become involved in other environmental issues.

Clear Vision Consulting Firm

Background

Two staff members from the Toronto Parks and Recreation were at Forest Valley to survey the impact beavers have had on the land. They had been sent out to gather information because a complaint had been filed by members of the local community. Parks and Recreation provided Forest Valley with handouts which were being given to the local community. These hand-outs were designed to educate home-owners and residents about beavers.

Beavers typically move into an area for 4 (four) years then leave for 5 (five) years. This has been a consistent pattern at Forest Valley for the past 20 (twenty) years.

Consultants have been hired to arrange this conference with all the interested parties to deal with the beaver and flooding issue. The consultants have arranged for the conference to occur at Forest Valley Outdoor Education Centre, located on the floodplain within the area under question to gather first-hand knowledge. Clear Vision will establish the consultation process so that all stakeholders have an opportunity to explore, hear other opinions and share their own. All groups will have an opportunity to ask questions and gather information within a respectful environment. Clear Vision is not a decision-making body and the final decision will be left with the Local Council.

Things to think about before your trip

Resources available from the Forest Valley website:

- Beaver Dam Management BC
- Beaver Dam Removal Fisheries Canada
- Town of Richmond Hill Beaver Management Policy Summary

See also:

- http://toes.tdsb.on.ca/day/forest_valley/
- Beaver Information from UP NORTH by Doug Bennett and Tim Tiner

- What is your group's position (removal or leave it be)?
- Why is the beaver special to Canada?
- Define natural disaster and natural occurrence?

Forest Valley

What questions can you think of that you would want to answer during your trip?

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What to do with your information

- This activity leads into an in-class debate well.
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 - Write reflective stories within the students assigned role on the outcome of the debate; and
 - Identify and become involved in environmental issues.

Community Group A (Complainants)

Background

Two staff members from the Toronto Parks and Recreation were at Forest Valley to survey the impact beavers have had on the land. They had been sent out to gather information because a complaint had been filed by members of the local community. Parks and Recreation provided Forest Valley with handouts which were being given to the local community. These hand-outs were designed to educate home-owners and residents about beavers.

Beavers typically move into an area for 4 (four) years then leave for 5 (five) years. This has been a consistent pattern at Forest Valley for the past 20 (twenty) years.

It is your group of concerned citizens that came together to lodge a formal complaint. You use the pathways in the valley for exercise (for both humans and dogs). Recently, you have noticed that the pathways are becoming very muddy, wet and in some cases impassible. The members of your group have watched as the river has slowly risen. When walking you now must get your boots muddy, your dog's fur becomes matted and you have to side step around large muddy puddles. It is evident that the beaver and the beaver dam are responsible for this. You are also concerned about the possible erosion that may occur affecting your property.

Things to think about before your trip

Resources available from the Forest Valley website:

- Historically Speaking - Information about Forest Valley Site
- Beaver Dam Management BC
- Beaver Dam Removal Fisheries Canada
- Town of Richmond Hill Beaver Management Policy Summary

See also:

- Beaver Information from UP NORTH by Doug Bennett and Tim Tiner

- What is your group's position (removal or leave it be)?
- Why is the beaver special to Canada?
- Define 'natural disaster' and natural occurrence.

Forest Valley

What questions can you think of that you would want to answer during your trip?

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What to do with your information

- This activity leads into an in-class debate well.

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 - Identify and become involved in environmental issues.

Community Group B (Youth)

Background

Two staff members from the Toronto Parks and Recreation were at Forest Valley to survey the impact beavers have had on the land. They had been sent out to gather information because a complaint had been filed by members of the local community. Parks and Recreation provided Forest Valley with handouts which were being given to the local community. These hand-outs were designed to educate home-owners and residents about beavers.

Beavers typically move into an area for 4 (four) years then leave for 5 (five) years. This has been a consistent pattern at Forest Valley for the past 20 (twenty) years.

During an Earth Day event held at Forest Valley, several students from different areas of Toronto decided to create a group of concerned students. Your group is from varied locations around Toronto with a common goal of becoming involved in community issues. Seeing that you are not yet of voting age, you have decided that you can use your collective voices to bring about change. This conference of groups coming together to discuss the beaver issue at Forest Valley seems like an ideal opportunity to become involved. Each member has an equal voice but you feel you must stand united at the conference.

Things to think about before your trip

Resources available from the Forest Valley website:

- Historically Speaking - Information about Forest Valley Site
- Beaver Dam Management BC
- Beaver Dam Removal Fisheries Canada
- Town of Richmond Hill Beaver Management Policy Summary

See also:

- Beaver Information from UP NORTH by Doug Bennett and Tim Tiner
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- What is your group's position (removal or leave it be)?
 - Why is the beaver special to Canada?
 - Define 'natural disaster' and natural occurrence.

Forest Valley

What questions can you think of that you would want to answer during your trip?

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What to do with your information

- This activity leads into an in-class debate well.
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 - Be an active participant in a debate on whether or not to remove the beaver from Forest Valley property;
 - Write reflective stories within the students assigned role on the outcome of the debate; and
 - Identify and become involved in environmental issues.

Federation of Ontario Naturalists (FON)

Background

Two staff members from the Toronto Parks and Recreation were at Forest Valley to survey the impact beavers have had on the land. They had been sent out to gather information because a complaint had been filed by members of the local community. Parks and Recreation provided Forest Valley with handouts which were being given to the local community. These hand-outs were designed to educate home-owners and residents about beavers.

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The Federation of Ontario Naturalists is an independent, not-for-profit nature and conservation organization, founded in 1931, as a provincial voice for the conservation of forests, wetlands, waterways, grassland and wildlife. The FON will assist all levels of government with advocacy and policy implementation or creation on behalf of the natural world. It will help to preserve Ontario's irreplaceable northern wilderness. It will support local community action to protect Ontario's remnant southern forests and their biodiversity. FON will advocate an ecosystem approach to restore and maintain healthy populations of threatened species and will help provide essential habitat for numerous species of plants and animals on our nature reserves, ecologically significant property throughout Ontario

Things to think about before your trip

Resources available from the Forest Valley website:

- Historically Speaking - Information about Forest Valley Site
- Beaver Dam Management BC
- Beaver Dam Removal Fisheries Canada
- Town of Richmond Hill Beaver Management Policy Summary

See also:

- Beaver Information from UP NORTH by Doug Bennett and Tim Tiner
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- What is your group's position (removal or leave it be)?
 - Why is the beaver special to Canada?
 - Define natural disaster and natural occurrence.

Forest Valley

What questions can you think of that you would want to answer during your trip?

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Ontario Nature (ON)

Background

Two staff members from the Toronto Parks and Recreation were at Forest Valley to survey the impact beavers have had on the land. They had been sent out to gather information because a complaint had been filed by members of the local community. Parks and Recreation provided Forest Valley with handouts which were being given to the local community. These hand-outs were designed to educate home-owners and residents about beavers.

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Ontario Nature is the leading voice in the promotion and preservation of Ontario's natural environment through the creation of parks and nature reserves, the responsible management of forests, and the protection of rare, threatened, and endangered species. They work to involve people in nature protection and to foster a conservation ethic by encouraging responsibility towards nature. They offer support to local conservation groups, distribute educational materials, and provide hands-on conservation and restoration teaching opportunities through the Volunteer for Nature program. They continue to be a strong presence at Queen's Park, working with the government to create policies that protect wildlife and natural areas. They educate the public on the importance of nature in all of our lives and provide opportunities for youth and adults to learn more about nature and become actively engaged in the conservation movement.

Things to think about before your trip

Resources available from the Forest Valley website:

- Historically Speaking - Information about Forest Valley Site
- Beaver Dam Management BC
- Beaver Dam Removal Fisheries Canada
- Town of Richmond Hill Beaver Management Policy Summary

See also:

- Beaver Information from UP NORTH by Doug Bennett and Tim Tiner
- www.ontarionature.org

- What is your group's position (removal or leave it be)?
- Why is the beaver special to Canada?
- Define natural disaster and natural occurrence.

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Sub-committee City of Toronto Local Council

Background

Two staff members from the Toronto Parks and Recreation were at Forest Valley to survey the impact beavers have had on the land. They had been sent out to gather information because a complaint had been filed by members of the local community. Parks and Recreation provided Forest Valley with handouts which were being given to the local community. These hand-outs were designed to educate home-owners and residents about beavers.

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This subcommittee has been created to investigate public demand for wildlife information and assistance. It has the authority to make a decision. The council has no personal stake in the outcome. The decision is based on data collected from onsite observation, scientific information and appeals from various groups. The final decision needs to ensure that all voices have been heard and accounted for and will best suit the community and the environment. The subcommittee will act or react to public requests for information or assistance. This subcommittee will act appropriately towards either leaving the animals or physical removal of the animals (lethal or non-lethal methods).

Things to think about before your trip

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- Historically Speaking - Information about Forest Valley Site
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- Beaver Dam Removal Fisheries Canada
- Town of Richmond Hill Beaver Management Policy Summary

See also:

- Beaver Information from UP NORTH by Doug Bennett and Tim Tiner
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- What is your group's position (removal or leave it be)?
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The Discovery Channel

Background

Two staff members from the Toronto Parks and Recreation were at Forest Valley to survey the impact beavers have had on the land. They had been sent out to gather information because a complaint had been filed by members of the local community. Parks and Recreation provided Forest Valley with handouts which were being given to the local community. These hand-outs were designed to educate home-owners and residents about beavers.

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The information that is gathered for your story on this issue needs to be accurate, non-biased, ethical, clear, professional and fact-checked. Although the story will have a particular viewpoint, accuracy is extremely important and you must decide, from a public information standpoint, what information (websites, phone numbers) is provided as part of the story. Discovery Communications is the world's #1 nonfiction media company reaching more than 1.7 billion cumulative subscribers in 209 countries and territories.

Things to think about before your trip

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- Beaver Dam Management BC
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- Town of Richmond Hill Beaver Management Policy Summary

See also:

- Beaver Information from UP NORTH by Doug Bennett and Tim Tiner
- <http://corporate.discovery.com/our-company/overview>

- What is your group's position (removal or leave it be)?
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 - Are there other environmental issues that the students could become involved in?

Toronto Parks, Forests, and Recreation (Parks and Rec)

Background

Two staff members from the Toronto Parks and Recreation were at Forest Valley to survey the impact beavers have had on the land. They had been sent out to gather information because a complaint had been filed by members of the local community. Parks and Recreation provided Forest Valley with handouts which were being given to the local community. These hand-outs were designed to educate home-owners and residents about beavers.

Beavers typically move into an area for 4 (four) years then leave for 5 (five) years. This has been a consistent pattern at Forest Valley for the past 20 (twenty) years.

Toronto Parks, Forest and Recreation is interested in finding out what the root cause of the issue is and are able to offer a large range of options to the sub-committee. What is the real concern? Is there an underlying issue that needs to be resolved? Its mission is to provide the people in the diverse communities of Toronto with full and equitable access to high calibre, locally responsive recreational programs, efficiently operated facilities and safe, clean and beautiful parks, open spaces, ravines and forests.

Things to think about before your trip

Resources available from Forest Valley:

- Historically Speaking - Information about Forest Valley Site
- Beaver Dam Management BC
- Beaver Dam Removal Fisheries Canada
- Town of Richmond Hill Beaver Management Policy Summary

See also:

- Beaver Information from UP NORTH by Doug Bennett and Tim Tiner
- <http://www.toronto.ca/divisions/parksdiv1.htm>
- http://www.toronto.ca/budget2011/pdf/presentation11_pfr.pdf

- What is your group's position (removal or leave it be)?
- Why is the beaver special to Canada?
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Toronto Region Conservation Authority (TRCA)

Background

Two staff members from the Toronto Parks and Recreation were at Forest Valley to survey the impact beavers have had on the land. They had been sent out to gather information because a complaint had been filed by members of the local community. Parks and Recreation provided Forest Valley with handouts which were being given to the local community. These hand-outs were designed to educate home-owners and residents about beavers.

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Formed in the aftermath of Hurricane Hazel (1954) the TRCA has a strong history in watershed management and leadership in applying sustainability practices. With decades of practical experience in protecting the environment, educating young people, and engaging communities, TRCA works with governments, businesses, and individuals to build a greener, cleaner healthier place to live. The TRCA is concerned with the negative publicity of green spaces and would like to see this issue resolved quickly. The preference is that this decision is made in manner that is satisfactory to everyone who is attending the conference.

Things to think about before your trip

Resources available from Forest Valley:

- Historically Speaking - Information about Forest Valley Site
- Beaver Dam Management BC
- Beaver Dam Removal Fisheries Canada
- Town of Richmond Hill Beaver Management Policy Summary

See also:

- Beaver Information from UP NORTH by Doug Bennett and Tim Tiner
- <http://www.trca.on.ca/>

- What is your group's position (removal or leave it be)?
- Why is the beaver special to Canada?
- Define 'natural disaster' and natural occurrence.

Forest Valley

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