

## Draft 2: Seeking a Humane Beaver Wildlife Policy

Council has been anticipating a Humane Beaver Management Strategy since the Fall of 2012. Staff informed AWAC and Council that such a strategy was being created in the Winter 2013 and that it would be forthcoming in May of 2013.

AWAC recently learned that four beavers were removed from the Stoney Creek area in July 2013, and their dam destroyed. To the best of our knowledge, these four beavers were removed by a trapper licensed through the Ministry of Natural Resources (MNR) who is known for using the Conibear trap. This trapping device is designed to crush an animal's neck, applying approximately 90 pounds of pressure per square inch. It can take animals from 3 to 8 minutes to suffocate in these traps; when used as a water-set trap – such as for beavers and muskrats, for example – it can take the animal more than 9 minutes to drown. We do not view this method of beaver management as humane.

While we recognize the City's need to protect infrastructure and the public from damming, flooding and/or felled trees, we believe that non-lethal and cost effective options could have been employed in this case, and should be used exclusively going forward.

As part of this strategy, AWAC recommends that Council request Staff introduce a Humane Beaver Management Policy for the City of London as soon as possible because further plans might be made to destroy more beaver dams and trap/kill more beavers. We request that City Council empower Civic Administration to establish a Humane Beaver Management Demonstration Project within our City.

The appropriate devices that can be used to mitigate the effects of beaver activity in waterways will be installed, using the hired services of a recognized expert in the design and installation of these devices. These devices must be expertly designed for the specific area in order to succeed in mitigating the flooding effects of beaver activity. For this reason, we would request that AWAC and other animal protection groups be consulted before hiring the outside consultant.

This demonstration project will establish expertise and experience on use of these devices within our region, and serve as a model for other areas within our City.

Finally, AWAC recommends that Council request Staff implement a Humane Wildlife Policy immediately such that wildlife will not be killed except as a last resort and that Staff be requested to present a report to Council which outlines options and reasons humane alternatives can't be taken prior to any lethal decision.