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Beaver sterilization project, *Castor canadensis*, in an urban setting

Marc-André Fortin

Le Groupe Prevost-Fortin

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Beaver sterilization project, *Castor canadensis*, in an urban setting

Presented by the Groupe Prévost-Fortin Inc.
For the Bird Strike Committee of 2011



Presentation

- The problem;
- The Biology of *Castor canadensis*;
- Capture procedures;
- The benefits of sterilisation;
- The Montreal Airport Project;
- The Farnham Garrison Project;



One beaver too many

Why is the population growing

- The price of beaver pelts has dropped;
- The lack of natural predators in urban and semi-urban areas;
- A species that re-produces rapidly.

Damage

- Chews trees, up to 100m from the pond;
- Blocks up culvers with dams;
- Floods roads, rail tracks and farm land;
- Creates a welcome habitat for water fowl and increases the risk of bird strikes
- Airports and beavers do not mix!



Castor canadensis

(General information)

- Location: Almost all of Canada and the USA.
- Weight: adults from 11-35 kg.
- Life span: Approx 20 years in captivity and 10 years in the wild



Castor canadensis

(General Information)

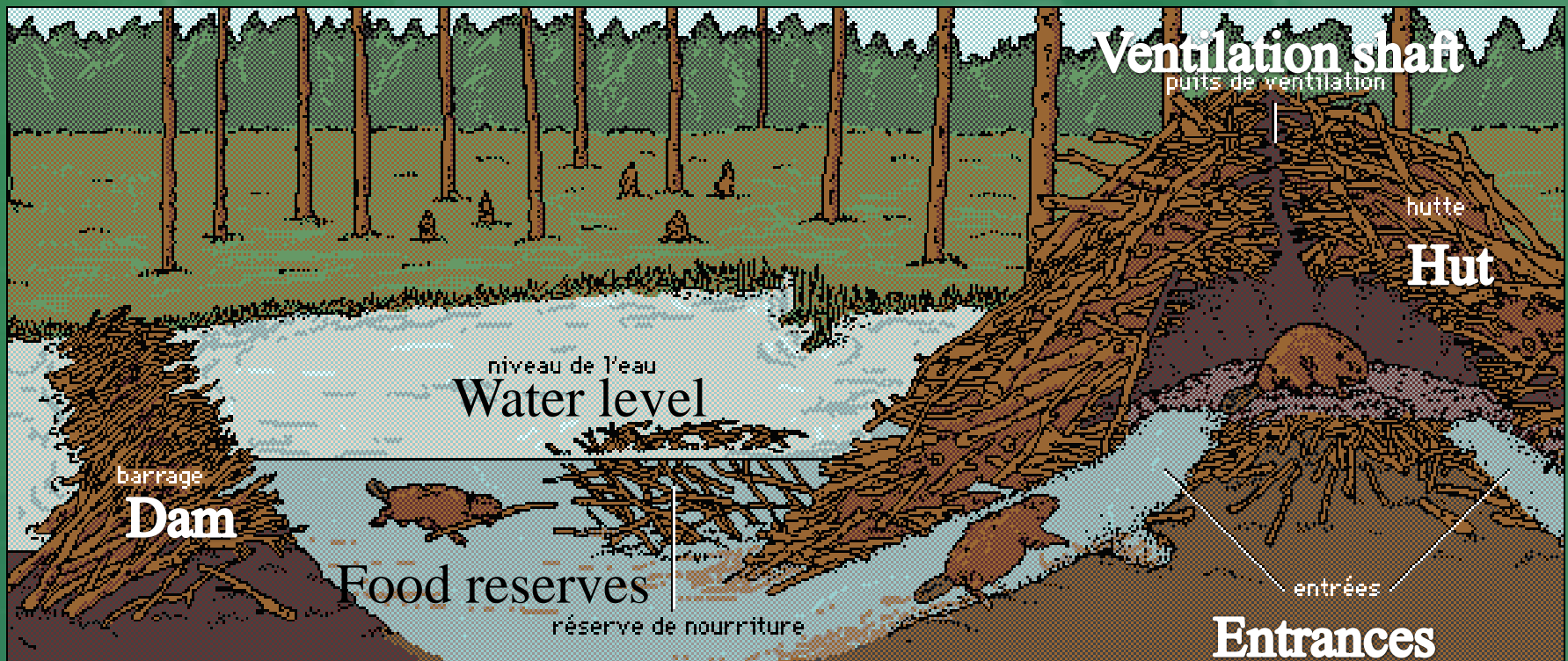
- castoreum, a rarity, is an oil secreted by a gland, located near the rectum, used to mark its territory



Castor canadensis

(Food reserves)

- Food reserves are collected towards the end of summer to carry the colony through the winter.



Castor canadensis

(Signs to look for in locating the dam)



Castor canadensis

(Signs to look for- chewed trees)



Map 1

Description of the terrain within the limits of Pierre-Elliott-Trudeau Airport

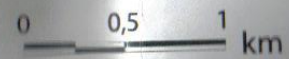


- Limite de l'aéroport
- Bois
- Friche
- Marais
- Marécage arborescent
- Marécage arbustif
- Zone d'eau libre
- Lac ou bassin de rétention

Marsh
Bog



1 : 6 000



Source

Services Environnementaux Faucon Inc.
Division environnement - octobre 2006

Hauts-Monts Inc. - 2005

Castor canadensis

(Access to the area)



Capture methods

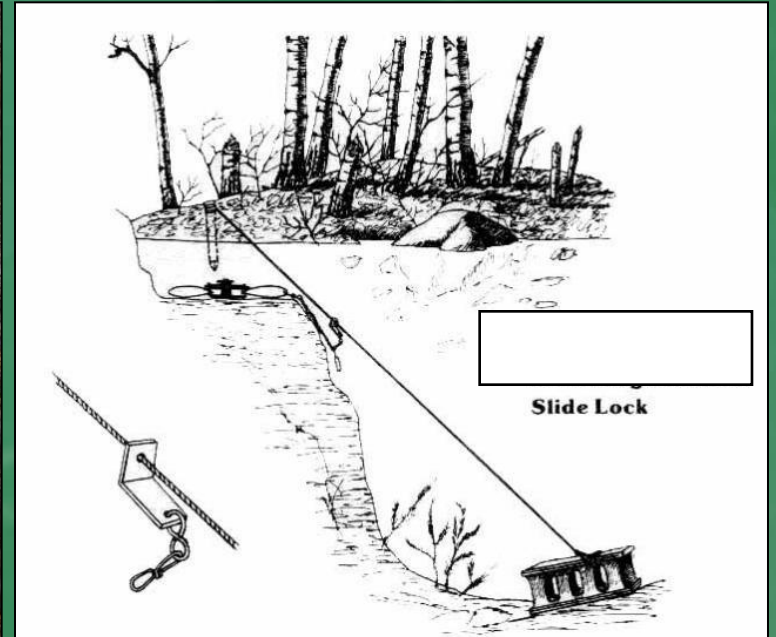
Installing a *Hancock trap*



Capture Methods

Other types of traps

- X type trap Conibear- used to capture



Different methods for controlling the Beaver population



Montreal Airport study

Results

- The dominant couple stayed together after sterilisation
- None of the partners were found in a state of lactation
- No new beavers were found within the Airport territory

The Farnham Garrison

The 2nd sterilization study

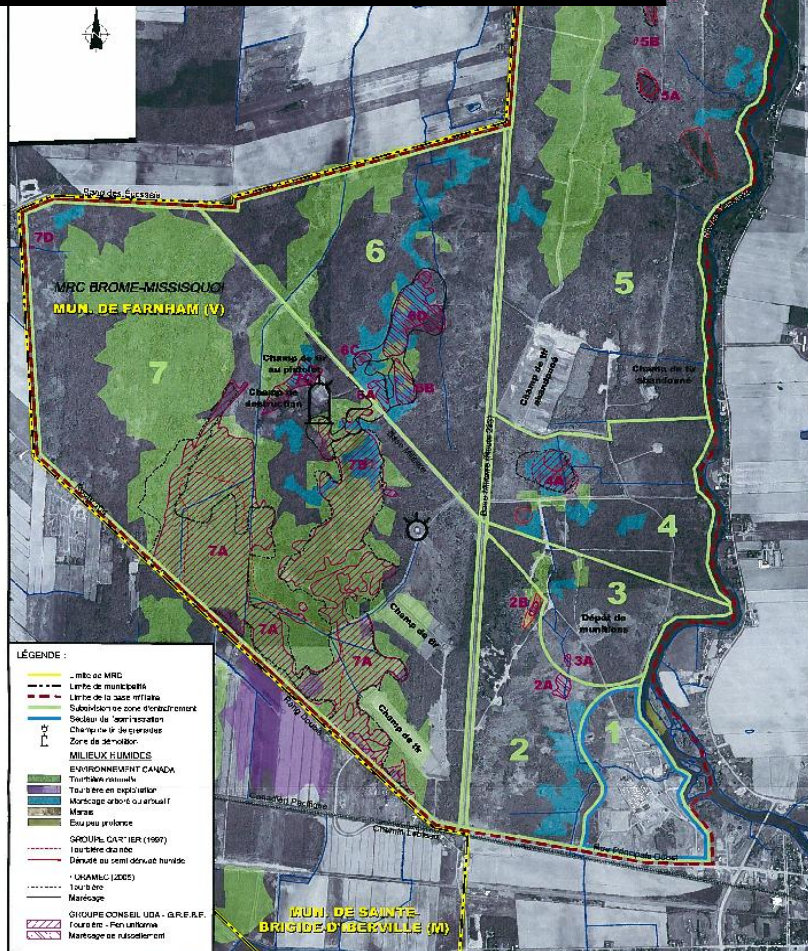
Training camp for the Canadian Armed Forces

A camp located on an ideal location for beavers

The military operations were hampered by the ever rising water levels

Map 2

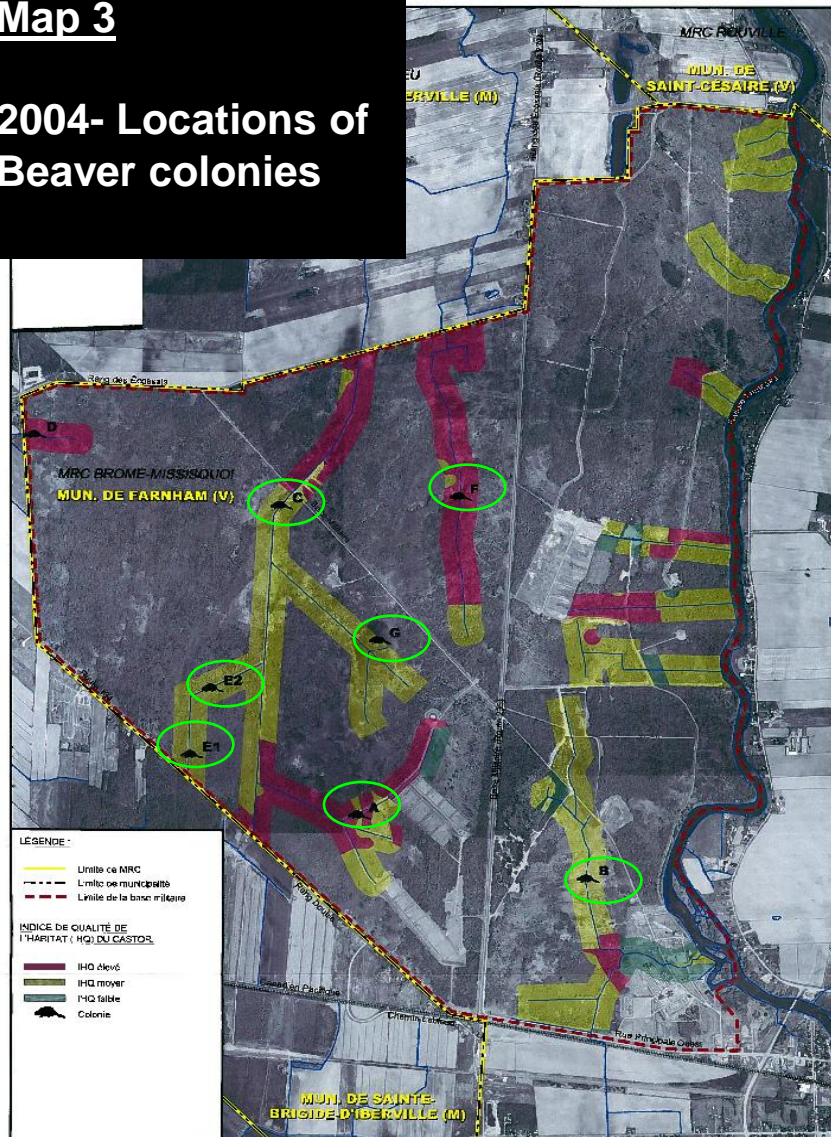
2004- preliminary topographical view using photo-interpretation



	Projet: ÉTUDE DE SUITE DES TERRES HUMIDES SECTEURS D'ENTRAÎNEMENT DE LA GARNISON DE FARNHAM	Titre: Milieux humides Données géométriques et géométriques préliminaires selon la photo-interprétation	Date: 07.02.20
G.R.E.B.E. inc.	Groupe Conseil UDA inc. Agri-Environnement, Sécurité et environnement	Projet: 2004-01-01 4198 010	Page: 12/19 (61.00)

Map 3

2004- Locations of Beaver colonies



	Projet: ÉTUDE DE SUITE DES TERRES HUMIDES SECTEURS D'ENTRAÎNEMENT DE LA GARNISON DE FARNHAM	Titre: Indice de qualité de l'habitat du castor
G.R.E.B.E. inc.	Groupe Conseil UDA inc. Agri-Environnement, Sécurité et environnement	Projet: 2004-01-01 4198 010

The Farnham Garrison Project



Least Bittern

The Farnham Garrison study

results

- All 5 couples in the study remained sedentary and remained together for at least 4 years after sterilization
- None of the partners were found in a state of lactation

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A new sterilisation project in progress

