



HAZELWOOD LAKE CONSERVATION AREA



We are so fortunate to have so many magnificent mammals here at Hazelwood Lake Conservation Area.

Mammals are characterized by the presence of mammary glands (milk glands), with which they feed their offspring, who are live-born. Secondary characteristics of mammals include the possession of body hairs. Did you know that mammals also possess a 4-chambered heart, a diaphragm, and two sets of teeth (milk teeth which are shed and then replaced with a permanent adult set)?

Mammals have been the dominant life form on Earth for the past 65 million years and have diversified into an array of forms.

All mammals have specific habitat requirements which determine where it can live. These are called niches and could include specific vegetation type, soil, air, rainfall, light intensity, space, shelter, and food availability.

Scientists have categorized mammals into three categories, largely based on their teeth, which can tell us a lot about an animal's diet:

- **Herbivores**, who only eat plants, have teeth for nipping and flat molars for grinding.
- **Carnivores**, who only eat other animals, have teeth for grabbing, puncturing and tearing meat. They also have sharper molars for grinding up food.
- **Omnivores**, who eat both plants and animals, have a combination of tooth patterns from both herbivores and carnivores.

The Lakehead Region Conservation Authority properties provide excellent protected habitat for a variety of local wildlife including:

- Predators such as Canada Lynx, Timber Wolf, Red Fox, Black Bear
- Large herbivore ungulate such as White-tailed Deer and the occasional Moose
- Small mammals such as Porcupine, River Otter, Beaver, Pine Marten, Red Squirrel, Least and Eastern Chipmunk, Red-backed vole, Meadow Jumping Mice, Deer Mice, Long-tailed Weasel and Snowshoe Hare.





Have you ever noticed the chewed-away bark of Jack Pine tree trunks? Porcupines love to eat the tender layers just inside the bark.

Beavers have played a role in shaping many local wetland habitats when constructing their dams or lodges. The dams are built to raise the water levels where they wish to build their lodge. You can see evidence of their activity around this shoreline ecosystem. The beaver commonly chews and cuts down birch, poplar, willow and alder species for building material and food. The Beaver's flat tail serves many purposes including balance while chewing trees, as a rudder for swimming and as a warning sign then slapped loudly on the surface of water.

Wildlife Viewing

Here are some tips on viewing wildlife successfully:

- stay on trails
- stay clear of nests and dens
- move slowly
- listen carefully
- leave pets at home
- avoid eye contact with wildlife
- never approach or harass wildlife



Activity : Build Like a Beaver

Head outside during or after a rainstorm and find a puddle in some dirt or mud. Open one end of the puddle to make a stream that drains the puddle. (dig out a trench). Now, quickly collect twigs, branches and even dirt to build your own dam and see if you can stop the flow of water before your puddle dries out.