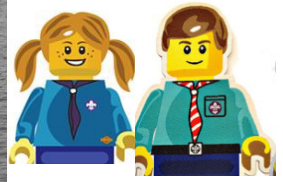


## Section Reports: Ontario Beaver Colony 2017/18



It's been another amazing year for Ontario Beavers. Where shall I start! From the fun filled weeks of kayaking and paddle boarding in the summer to meeting Father Christmas at the climbing wall, it's been hectic, but lots of fun.

We've had a visit from the Police with their van; many of the beavers were locked up in the van but thankfully released in time to go home with their parents. A visit to the fire station where the beavers enjoyed soaking me with the water hoses.

Safety has been high on our agenda so we invited the local lollipop man, to talk to the group about road safety and the green cross code. This was followed by home safety, water safety and of course stranger awareness.

We have been practicing how to communicate in different ways. The beavers quickly mastered sign language.

We have enjoyed hikes, making bug hotels and natural sculptures in the woods. A hike which involves an Easter egg hunt is always a favourite.



We have been thinking about health and fitness, looking at what we eat, taking care of our teeth and of course exercise. The beavers particularly enjoyed our recent athletics session.

While thinking about the difficulties that people can experience it became apparent that many of the children, their families and the leaders have someone close to them who has been affected by dementia. So with this in mind we invited a parent who works in the Victoria Centre to talk to the group. This evolved into the Beavers taking Christmas presents to the wards in the Victoria Centre and singing Christmas carols. The event was a hit with both residents and Beavers, the smiles and laughter where amazing. We hope to return in the summer.

One of our proudest memories was the Bronze certificates many of our Beavers were awarded at the climbing event as they enjoyed the activities with the rest of their colony.



There has been much, much more, with lots of fun, laughter and smiles. As always the Beavers take an active part in a number of camps through-out the year, last year we had 4 camps including the pirate camp where they all enjoyed a fantastic weekend of fun and activities.

We have a colony closed face book page which is proving to be a great way to get information to and from parents about current and future events.

All the Beaver leaders would like to thank the beavers for their keenness and appreciation of the activities. Also to all of the parents who have given us immeasurable support over the year. Both things keep us going and smiling!

The colony has gone from strength to strength with both beavers and leader numbers increasing we are now running at 22 beavers and a team of 3 assistant leaders, 2 section assistants and 2 young leaders. I would personally like to thank the assistant beaver leaders, section assistants and young leaders who have been dedicated to providing a wide range of experiences in a positive manner in which each beaver is recognised and supported, for the time they have given and their flexibility. Also for the support they have given me personally to make Ontario Beavers a success - Thank you Terry, Dave, Paul, Caz, Maisey and Nick.

Jackie Stevens  
**Beaver Leader**

**Parent and Beaver comments:**

I have learnt to hike and all about boats, swimming, kayaking and paddle boarding. I love learning new stuff.

It's the best because we do loads of fun activities!

Beavers is cools, I love rock climbing and the badges because you get to do fun stuff so it's good.

My child has gained in confidence.

Great activities.

I like paddle boarding and falling in the water.

My youngest can't wait until she joins Ontario Beavers could you run a group just before the session for siblings who are nearly old enough to start?

My son has come along so much in the time he has been a beaver, matured a lot and family have commented on his politeness. He now has a new focus to learn new skills and grow to develop into his teenage years.