

THIS MORNING, I THOUGHT ABOUT THIS BEAVER

During my time as a teenager, I supplemented my income (there was none from the farm) by setting up my own trap line. I was able to harvest the furs from Muskrats and Weasels, but I was unsuccessful with Mink.

I noticed when this family of Beavers moved into the pond on the neighbouring farm. The Owners, Chernoffs, had moved to British Columbia to obtain a more regular income. The activity of all wild animals was of special interest to me and so I observed as they constructed their "house". They then gnawed down white poplar trees and dragged the branches alongside of their "home". Obviously, this was in preparation for winter, where they could access the branches and gnaw off sections to "dine" in their house. I was intrigued by all this. I finally caught one, but I knew there was more.



Winter had set in, and my school activities compromised my "business". One day I noticed that a deep furrow emanated from the Beaver House and was directed North in an almost straight line. I followed the furrow back to house and I was able to determine that the shallow slough had frozen so that all the water was now ice. It obviously had obstructed the access to the house. (All Beavers access their houses from under the construction.

Then I surmised that the Beaver family may have originally migrated from Swan River which was directly North of this slough. Instinct provided direction to these Beavers to return to the river so that they could survive. I then retraced my footsteps and followed the deep furrow (Beavers weight from 50 to 70 pounds) for about ½ mile or so. Yes, it continued to Swan River.

I always wondered since about this Beaver Family:

- Did they survive the 1 ½ mile trek to Swan River?
- They would be helpless in the deep snow if a hungry coyote happened along
- A Beaver is not accustomed to walking on land much more deep snow as they usually swim in water. Did they die of exposure?

So, my thoughts of 1956 are the same as they are today.....I just don't know the end of this adventure and how Mother Nature looks after its creation.

Written by EWV November 22, 2022.