





## **NEWS RELEASE**

May 22, 2020

## Skinned beaver in Richmond prompts reward

## Residents, pet owners should be aware of potential danger in community

**RICHMOND, B.C.** – Two animal organizations are offering a \$1,000 reward for identification and conviction of the person(s) responsible for a skinned beaver found dumped along Richmond's West Dyke.

Richmond resident Mandy Lichtmann discovered a skinned beaver carcass about 25 metres where the City of Richmond had previously removed a beaver lodge.

"I was horrified to discover the carcass, particularly as two adult beavers and two kits haven't been seen since the city removed the lodge," Mandy says. "The area where I found the beaver is off a walking path heavily used by families, children and people with pets who are out to enjoy Richmond's natural beauty and wild inhabitants."

The Fur-Bearers and a private donor to the Regional Animal Protection Society each put up \$500 for the reward. The City of Richmond told The Fur-Bearers and Mandy in an email that they have not trapped or contracted anyone to trap on the West Dyke. It is not known if this was the location where the beaver was killed or trapped and if that was done legally, but the disposal of the body in such a way is unlawful.

Eyal Lichtmann, who is Mandy's husband and CEO of the Regional Animal Protection Society, says that as an animal rescue group RAPS is contracted by the City of Richmond to provide humane care for wildlife, where applicable, and if injured to provide medical care. "Justice must be done for this horrific action and perpetrators of such acts should know they will face consequences," says Eyal Lichtmann.

"We are concerned about this situation and are hoping someone in the community will know what happened and provide valuable insight to investigators," says Lesley Fox, Executive Director of The Fur-Bearers. "Anyone with information about this or other unlawful wildlife incidents should contact the BC Conservation Officer Service through their Report All Polluters and Poachers line. Tips and information can be submitted anonymously through the BCCOS's online portal."

Solutions that keep beavers in place while protecting vital infrastructure are used across North America and The Fur-Bearers and RAPS would be pleased to assist the City of Richmond in learning more about these options. All tips and information can be sent to the BC Conservation Officer Service's RAPP line at 1-877-952-7277 or online (anonymously) at <a href="https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/">https://forms.gov.bc.ca/environment/rapp/</a>.

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For further updates on this matter, please visit <u>www.rapsbc.com</u> and <u>www.thefurbearers.com</u>. Photos may be attributed to Mandy Lichtmann.

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