

It's been a couple of months since Abby and I saw what I thought might be a beaver in the lake near our house. It seemed too big for a muskrat but I was seeing it through a stand of willows and never got a clear look at its tail before it went into the water. Since then, however, we've seen plenty of evidence that there is a beaver in the lake.



The wire in that picture is an attempt by one of the home owners along the trail to protect what remains of the stand of trees that formed their back 'fence'.

Last night when we were out for our walk we stopped just before the bridge to say hello to another dog walker and when I glanced down towards the water the beaver was sitting right there. Not four metres away from me. By the time I got my camera out of my (left? why??) pocket he was already in the water but I still got a couple of pictures of him.



He was sitting right in that gap in the brush when I first saw him. I was really impressed at how big he was - about the same size as Abby (10 Kg or 20 lb.) - and how unconcerned about the dogs (the other was a German Shepard) and people he seemed to be. He also looked very glossy - I suppose because he was still wet - and very squashy. I know beavers have large claws and big teeth but they also look seriously huggable.

## New Resident

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