

Grey Abbey Culvert Beaver Baffle

November 2021



At the bottom of the Lakeshore East Rail Corridor embankment at Grey Abbey Park, water is unable to drain away causing water ponding and bank saturation. This is a serious safety issue for trains, their crew and passengers.

What is Happening in Grey Abbey Park?

If you have recently visited Grey Abbey Park you will have likely seen the results of beaver activity in the park. Metrolinx has been closely monitoring this activity, as we do with all of our corridors.

Grey Abbey Park is a much-valued greenspace in the south Morningside area of Scarborough. The Lakeshore East Rail Corridor passes through the area serving customers from east of Oshawa all the way to Toronto. A Beaver Baffle has been installed on the Grey Abbey culvert (pipe) to prevent water from saturating the corridor embankment.

Why a Beaver Baffle?

Beaver Baffles, or corrugated plastic pipes, are a proven technique to ensure that ponding does not impact rail infrastructure. The Beaver Baffle now runs

Don't Tamper with the Beaver Baffle

The beaver baffle is a key safety measure to protect the integrity of the rail embankment.

Drainage issues and the erosion it causes are a leading cause of train derailments across the country and around the world.

We know our neighbours along the corridor share our desire for the highest level of safety.

For the safety of our crews, passengers, and the people who live and work along the corridor - please help us keep this safety measure functioning as designed.

through the beaver dam and into the culvert. The beaver dam caused water levels to rise on the south side of the corridor and the water began saturating the corridor embankment. The baffle pipe allows the water to flow through the area without touching or stressing the beavers. When beaver dams are removed it causes significant stress to the beaver - they are aware that the dam has been broken - and they feel a tremendous pressure to restore the dam. The baffle allows the water to drop more gradually - the beaver is baffled as to why their dam is not fully successful, but they come to accept the change, or in some cases move to more suitable location.

Allowing the water to flow avoids serious safety issues for operating trains on the Lakeshore East Rail Corridor. The embankment is very steep (approx. 20 feet) and narrow. A full embankment washout could cause a derailment and potentially put the train operators and all the passengers at risk. Any tampering with the Beaver Baffle is a danger to the rail corridor.



The culvert pipe is shown with the Beaver Baffle (corrugated plastic pipe) going through the beaver dam. The Beaver Baffle has been tampered with and pulled out of the water which prevents the water from flowing. This is a serious safety issue.

As part of the GO Expansion program and adding a third track, the existing Grey Abbey culvert will be cleaned and kept in use and an additional culvert will be added in this area. More updates will be provided on GO Expansion as details become available.

For the latest information on what's happening in your area, please subscribe to our Toronto East weekly e-newsletter by going to metrolinx.com/subscribe or visit metrolinx.com/lakeshoreeastrailcorridor.

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