



Beloved species from Canada's wetlands

RIVER OTTER

Lontra canadensis

- + Travel in winter by sliding along the ice at distances of six metres or more per slide.
- + Are near-sighted on land but see well underwater, using a transparent membrane to cover their eyes like goggles.
- + Combine musk from scent glands at the base of their tail with poop (known as spraint) and deposit it along trails and shorelines to communicate information with other otters about identity, age and gender.
- + Live in dens (known as holts) along shorelines, often in natural hollows or burrows made by other animals.
- + Can hold their breath underwater for up to eight minutes.
- + Wash themselves after every meal.
- + A group of otters goes by many names, including bevy, romp and lodge. When in the water, the group is called a raft.

