

A Very Big Discovery

On October 2, 2007, Canadian scientist Jean Thie (TEE) was studying **satellite photos** of Earth on his computer. He looked very carefully at a photo that showed **wetlands** in Canada's Wood Buffalo National Park. Suddenly, something in the photo caught Jean's attention. He zoomed in to take a closer look.

Jean saw a large object stretched between two wooded areas. As he studied the photo, he was shocked to discover that he was actually looking at a huge beaver **dam**. "To find a 500-meter (1,640-ft) dam is not that hard," Jean said, "but 850 [meters] (2,789 ft) is quite amazing!" In fact, Jean had discovered the longest beaver dam in the world. It was longer than nine football fields placed end to end!

The world's longest beaver dam (shown in yellow) is about three feet (.9 m) high and four feet (1.2 m) wide. Few people have seen it because it is far from any roads or trails.



North American beaver



Beavers are the largest member of the **rodent** family in North America, which also includes squirrels, mice, and rats. The furry builders can grow up to four feet (1.2 m) long.