Perhaps it was their patriotic duty.

Two federal politicians from Nova Scotia rescued a beaver on an Ottawa street this week.

Mark Eyking and Rodger Cuzner, both Liberal MPs, were on their way to a shared apartment Wednesday night when they saw something standing on its hind legs in the middle of Sparks Street.

"We thought it was a dog at first and we came closer, and lo and behold it was a beaver," said Eyking, MP for Sydney-Victoria.

They decided they couldn't leave the misguided animal there, so they called 911, but were told to call animal control. That's when they took matters into their own hands.

"I used my corralling and wrangling instincts, so I got pushing him in that direction and Rodger was on traffic control. The tricky part was crossing Wellington Street with six lanes of traffic," said Eyking, who's from a farming family.

Cuzner, MP for Cape Breton-Canso, said it was quite a scene.

'Everyone was pretty kind'

"The old beaver didn't pay too much attention to the Walk, Don't Walk signs. We held up traffic and everyone was pretty kind," Cuzner said.

Eyking thinks it was an hour before they finally managed to guide the beaver to the Ottawa River.

"He was a little hesitant about going in," Eyking said. "He tried to follow us back, but anyway, we got him in the water and away he went, slapped his tail and took off."

Eyking shrugs off the rescue as just another issue that had to be dealt with.

"We work together up here no matter what comes up," he said. "We did what we had to do, you know, as members of Parliament on the Hill, saving the Canadian national emblem."

Maybe they're in line for the Order of Canada, Cuzner joked.
"Such a noble act," he said with a laugh. "At least maybe James Moore, the minister of heritage, might take us for supper some evening."