

Revelstoke Bear Aware Society Annual Report

December 31, 2014



Photo: Sandy Adams



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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This annual report describes the activities and initiatives of the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society from January 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014 and provides:

- A description of current human-bear conflict.
- Accountability to the community and financial contributors.
- A record for the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society.

The focus of Revelstoke Bear Aware in 2014 was threefold:

- To continue our diverse education outreach programs to reduce human-bear conflicts and educate the community about reducing bear attractants.
- To reduce the availability of unmanaged fruit to bears in the town
- To continue working towards attaining Provincial Bear Smart status in Revelstoke

2014 was an extremely busy year for Revelstoke Bear Aware. There were 302 reports concerning black bears and 3 reports concerning grizzly bears, totalling 305 reports made to the RAPP line and to Revelstoke Bear Aware. Conservation Officers destroyed nine black bears, and a resident destroyed one further black bear after it broke into a residence. Two black bears were relocated. No grizzly bears were destroyed or relocated this season.

Garbage continues to be the number one attractant for bears, followed very closely by unmanaged fruit trees. Cherry trees were especially problematic this season because they bore abundant fruit at approximately the same time that the wild huckleberry crop failed in the lower elevations of the valley. Pet food, birdfeeders, compost, outdoor freezers and fridges, grease barrels, hazelnut trees, camping coolers, vegetable gardens, and grain on railway tracks were also reported as attracting bears this season. In addition, there were four reported instances of bears attracted to livestock and livestock feed, in at least 2 cases chickens were killed by bears. Beehives and dirty BBQ's were not reported as bear attractants this season.

There were 24 instances of bears damaging property, ranging from pushing over fences to ripping apart storage sheds. On 18 separate occasions bears entered or attempted to enter buildings. There were 8 instances of bears acting aggressively towards humans or pets.

Revelstoke Bear Aware delivered 25 presentations, attended 6 public events and festivals, and presented at 3 of the North Columbia Environmental Society (NCES) Garden Guru workshops. We also collaborated with the NCES to hold a fruit-tree pruning workshop in the spring. Through these events we reached a total 1333 people.

Owing to the extremely busy season, door-to-door visits were mostly in response to bear reports. Efforts were made to visit busy areas within a day or so of the report being made. Door-to-door visits to homes totalled 458 in 2014.

The Revelstoke Bear Aware website was rebuilt in 2014 and there were 8,888 visitors who collectively viewed 15,810 pages on the site. A Facebook page was maintained with 82 posts made throughout the season; there were around 48,500 post views. Numerous posts regarding attractant management and the Gleaning Project were made to the Stoke List.



Revelstoke Bear Aware issued 8 press releases, had 11 articles published, and gave 9 radio interviews.

The Gleaning Project collected 1771 lbs. of excess fruit from 17 properties and donated much of it to the Food Bank and the Local Foods Initiative preserving project. An Adopt-a-Fruit-Tree project continued with several self-sustaining tree owner / tree harvester relationships. The fruit-tree mapping project saw more unmanaged fruit trees in Revelstoke being removed or brought under management.

Bear in Area lawn signs were deployed in areas where bears had been reported. Feedback suggested that the signs were very effective at raising awareness. Signs were deployed 152 times during the season, for an average of 3 days at a time giving a total of 562 sign/days in 2014.

Garbage cans left out overnight in contravention of the Solid Waste and Recycling Bylaw (#2006) were tagged with a sticker informing the owner that garbage is a bear attractant and asking them to secure their can until collection day. Thirty-one garbage cans were tagged in 2014.

Included in this report are recommendations for 2014. Key recommendations are summarised below;

- Revelstoke Bear Aware continues to implement an outreach program to educate the residents of Revelstoke and newcomers about reducing human-bear conflict in bear country.
- Revelstoke Bear Aware continues to work with the City on the Solid Waste Collection Strategy and encourages the implementation of a bear resistant system. When the new bear-resistant solid waste collection system is implemented, Revelstoke Bear Aware will work with the City to provide education to residents.
- Revelstoke Bear Aware continues to request that the City initiate a wildlife attractant bylaw for Revelstoke covering garbage, fruit, birdfeeders, outdoor fridges and freezers, barbeques, pet food, chickens and chicken feed, compost, and beehives.
- Revelstoke Bear Aware continues its fruit attractant reduction strategies, including encouraging the City to remove unmanaged cherry trees from Woodenhead Park and Big Eddy Park, and to manage the flowering or fruiting of the specimen cherry tree at Kovach Park.
- Revelstoke Bear Aware continues to lobby for the return of at least one Conservation Officer stationed in Revelstoke.

It would not have been possible to deliver the Revelstoke Bear Aware program to so many members of the community without the support from volunteers. This year a total of 232 volunteer hours were given to Revelstoke Bear Aware.



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The mission of Revelstoke Bear Aware is to reduce human-bear conflict through education, cooperation, and active management initiatives in the community of Revelstoke and surrounding area. The Revelstoke Bear Aware program has been delivered in Revelstoke and surrounding area since 1996 with impressive results. The annual average number of bears destroyed has been reduced from 27 to less than 7 since the program began. The Revelstoke Bear Aware program receives substantial community-wide support.

1.1 Program Information

The focus of Revelstoke Bear Aware in 2014 was to continue working towards attaining Provincial Bear Smart status in Revelstoke, to reduce the availability of unmanaged fruit to bears in the town, and to continue our diverse education outreach programs to reduce human-bear conflicts and educate the community about reducing bear attractants.

This annual report describes the accomplishments of Revelstoke Bear Aware from January 01, 2014 to December 31, 2014.

Revelstoke Bear Aware is administered and implemented by a Community Coordinator who is hired by the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society throughout the year. Sue Davies has a Master of Science in Applied Ecology and a diverse background with experience in fruit tree research, volunteer management, and funding acquisition.

The program was partially funded by the British Columbia Conservation Foundation between May and November. Funding for the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society in 2014 was also received from Columbia Basin Trust (Community Initiatives Fund), BC Hydro, Revelstoke Credit Union, and Revelstoke Community Foundation, and Lush Cosmetics. Valuable in-kind support was received from Parks Canada, the City of Revelstoke, the Conservation Officer Service, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, and many individual volunteers.



1.2 Community Profile

Revelstoke is located adjacent to the Columbia River at the north end of upper Arrow Lake. Four valleys intersect here; the Columbia River valley, the Illecillewaet River valley, the Jordan River valley and the valley leading to Eagle Pass. The Monashee Mountains border the community to the west and the Selkirk Mountains, containing Mount Revelstoke National Park, lie to the east. Many of the surrounding mountain slopes provide prime black and grizzly bear food sources and shelter. Revelstoke is located in Bear Country. Consequently we have many bears of both species in the vicinity, although our valley bottom location means that black bears are more common in the town than grizzlies.



Figure 1. Satellite image of Revelstoke and surrounding area provided by Google Earth.

1.3 Historic Situation

The relative isolation of Revelstoke and its proximity to bear habitat has contributed to a large number of human-bear conflicts in the past. Over the ten-year period between 1986 and 1996, 15 grizzlies and 266 black bears were destroyed in Revelstoke and the surrounding area. During the same period, 107 grizzlies and 54 black bears were relocated.

In September of 1994, the municipal landfill was protected with electric fencing for the first time. Prior to this, the garbage at the landfill provided a major food source for bears. This resulted in unnaturally high numbers of habituated and food conditioned grizzly and black bears in and near Revelstoke. The bears, already accustomed to feeding on garbage at the landfill, started to search for alternate food sources within the city. Groups of citizens voiced their concern about this situation and pressured the local governments to stop or reduce the destruction of bears within and around the city.

In an effort to remedy this situation, local residents, agencies, organizations, and various levels of government created the Bear Management Committee. The goal of the committee was to develop strategies that would reduce human-bear conflicts, increase public safety, and reduce the unnecessary destruction of bears.

In 1996, the Bear Management Committee acquired funding and created the position of Bear Aware Program Coordinator. The role of the coordinator is to educate the citizens of Revelstoke about their responsibilities and the importance of identifying, managing, or eliminating bear attractants on their property. In 2004, the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society became a registered non-profit organization and now accepts donations, grants and in-kind contributions to achieve this goal.

The program has now been operating consistently in Revelstoke for the past 19 years and has proven to be very successful in reducing conflict between people and bears. The average number of bears destroyed each year has been reduced from 27 to less than 7 since inception of the program (Figure 2).

Based on the success of Revelstoke Bear Aware, other communities in British Columbia began to show interest, and similar programs have been initiated around the province. The British Columbia Conservation Foundation administers the provincial WildSafeBC (which evolved out of the provincial Bear Aware program) and provided financial support to a number of communities throughout the province, including Revelstoke.



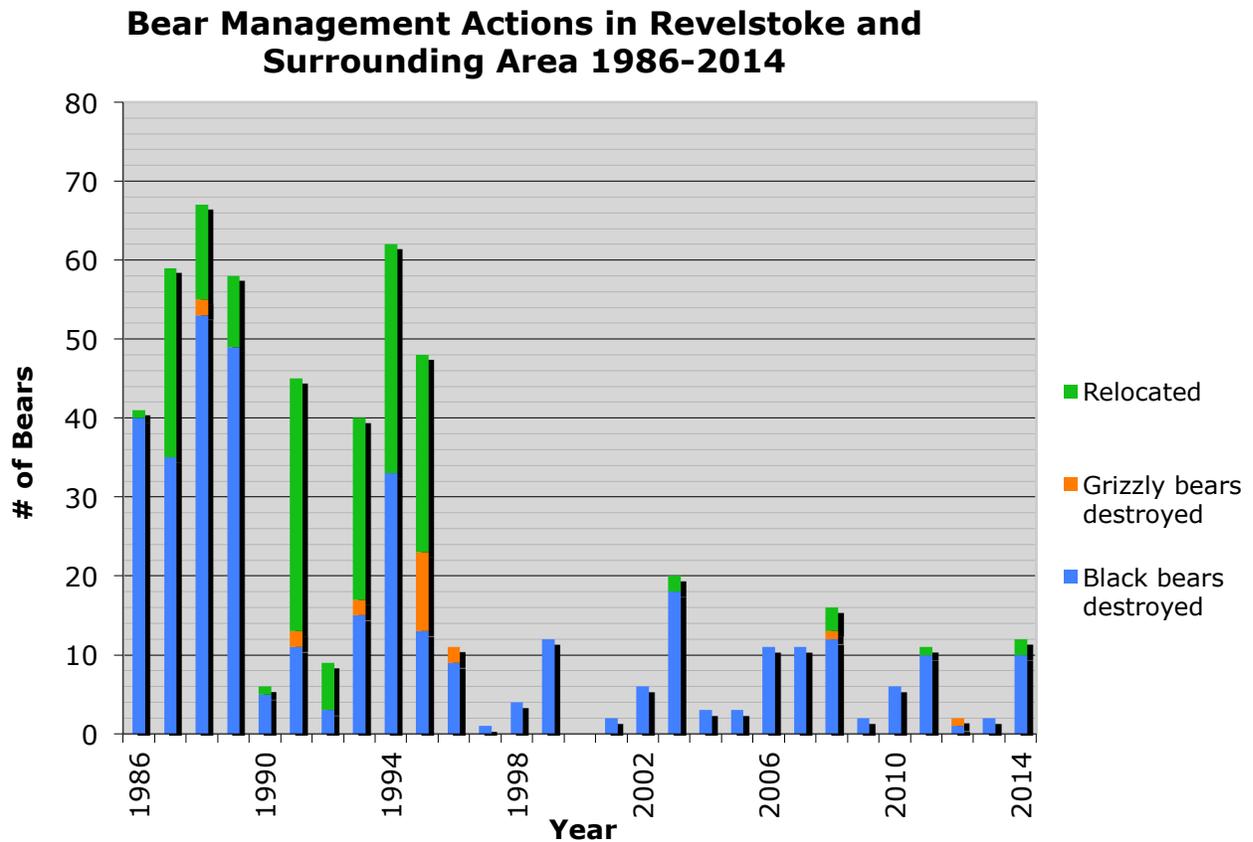


Figure 2. Bear management actions in Revelstoke and surrounding area 1986-2014.

2.0 REPORTED BEAR SIGHTINGS AND BEAR MORTALITY DUE TO HUMAN-BEAR CONFLICT IN 2014

Residents of Revelstoke and surrounding area are urged to report bear sightings to the RAPP Line and / or to Revelstoke Bear Aware. Every sighting reported includes information about the location of the sighting, the bear species involved, if there was property damage, and if a bear attractant was noted (i.e. garbage, fruit tree, compost, livestock, birdfeeders, outdoor freezers and fridges, or vegetable gardens).

2014 was a very busy year for bear activity in Revelstoke and the surrounding area possibly due to a failure in the wild berry crop at lower elevations. There also may have been a higher population of bears present this year due to the relatively mild previous two seasons and the lack of bears destroyed over the past two years. There were a total of 305 bear sightings reported to the RAPP line and to Revelstoke Bear Aware, with reports related to both black bear and grizzly bear activity.



Table 1. The total number of bear sightings reported to the RAPP line and Revelstoke Bear Aware between 2005 and 2014.

Year	Total Bear Sightings Reported
2005	50
2006	147
2007	143
2008	162
2009	34
2010	212
2011	221
2012	125
2013	41
2014	305

2.1 Reported Black Bear Sightings and Mortality Results

In 2014 there were 302 reports regarding black bears made to the RAPP line and to Revelstoke Bear Aware. The Conservation Officer Service destroyed nine habituated and food-conditioned black bears and relocated two bears that had not become habituated but that were consistently seen in town. A resident destroyed one black bear after it broke into a house. A resident may have destroyed another sow, leaving two orphaned this-season cubs. Efforts were made by Northern Lights Rescue Sanctuary to capture the cubs and rear them in captivity until a suitable age for release, however these efforts were unsuccessful.

This season saw many bears destroyed on the roads around Revelstoke. There were also several reports of bears being injured but still mobile. At least 4 reportedly injured bears foraged for some time in different parts of town during the season.

The high numbers of black bears in Revelstoke this season may have been attributable to several factors: a poor crop of huckleberries in the lower elevations; possible higher than normal high cub survival over the previous two relatively mild seasons; very few bears destroyed over the past 2 seasons leading to the potential for bears developing habituated behaviours over several seasons.

The first reported black bear sighting in 2014 was on May 7th and the last reported sighting was on November 25th.

Table 2 summarizes reports concerning black bears received by the RAPP line and Revelstoke Bear Aware between 2005 and 2014. It also summarizes black bear mortality during this period in Revelstoke and surrounding area.



Table 2. The number of reports concerning black bears and black bear mortality, between 2005 and 2014 in Revelstoke and surrounding area.

Year	Reports Concerning Black Bears	Black Bear Mortality
2005	48	3
2006	143	11
2007	136	11
2008	151	12
2009	34	2
2010	212	6
2011	212	10
2012	119	1
2013	39	2
2014	302	10

2.2 Reported Grizzly Bear Sightings and Mortality Results

There were 3 reports concerning grizzly bears to the RAPP line and Revelstoke Bear Aware and no grizzly bears were destroyed in 2014. The number of grizzly bears destroyed in Revelstoke and surrounding area per year has been minimal, with two bears destroyed between 2005 and 2014.

Table 3 summarizes reports concerning grizzly bears received by the RAPP line and Revelstoke Bear Aware between 2005 and 2014. It also summarizes grizzly bear mortality during this period in Revelstoke and surrounding area.

Table 3. The number of reports concerning grizzly bears and grizzly bear mortality, between 2005 and 2014 in Revelstoke and surrounding area.

Year	Reports Concerning Grizzly Bears	Grizzly Bear Mortality
2005	2	0
2006	4	0
2007	7	0
2008	11	1
2009	0	0
2010	0	0
2011	9	0
2012	6	1
2013	2	0
2014	3	0



3.0 BEAR ATTRACTANTS

Each report to the RAPP line or Revelstoke Bear Aware details if it was a 'sighting only' or if a bear attractant was involved; garbage, fruit tree, livestock, pet food, outdoor freezers and fridges, compost, birdfeeders, BBQ's, beehives, vegetable gardens, spilled grain on the CPR train tracks, or salmon at Bridge Creek (Table 4). The table also summarizes incidents where property damage occurred, where buildings were entered by bears, and when bears were considered to be aggressive to either people or pets.

Table 4. Bear attractants reported between 2008 and 2014 in Revelstoke and surrounding area.

Attractant Reported	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Garbage	48	12	76	70	28	10	69
Fruit Trees	17	3	20	19	1	5	57
Livestock	11	1	5	4	1	0	4
Pet Food	4	1	2	0	0	2	3
Outdoor Freezers & Fridges	4	1	2	2	1	0	3
Compost	3	1	3	5	3	0	2
Birdfeeders	3	3	1	3	0	1	2
BBQ	2	0	0	0	1	0	0
Beehives	1	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vegetable Garden	1	0	2	1	0	0	1
Grain on CPR Train Tracks	n/a	0	3	0	0	0	4
Salmon at Bridge Creek	n/a	0	1	0	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0	0	0	1	5
Sighting Only	62	14	99	112	72	22	143

Property Damage	2	4	7	5	6	0	24
Entering buildings	n/a	3	4	6	6	1	18
Aggressive towards people	n/a	0	2	3	2	0	6
Aggressive towards pets	n/a	0	0	1	0	0	2

Garbage continues to be the greatest bear attractant, although fruit trees follow very closely (Figure 3). Cherry trees were particularly problematic this season due to the abundance of fruit they produced, the fact that this abundance became available at approximately the same time that the lower elevation huckleberries failed to produce a crop, and the warm dry weather that meant that the fruit dried on the tree and remained edible for several weeks.



Livestock and livestock feed accounted for 4 reports this season. In two instances, chickens were killed. Several grain spills on CP Rail tracks created a strong attractant for bears. Pet food, outdoor fridges and freezers, compost, birdfeeders and vegetable gardens accounted for the balance of reported attractants.

Bridge creek continues to have few or no salmon and no bears were reported in the area. The Rod & Gun club are considering an application to revitalize the streambed to increase salmon spawning to a level equivalent to a natural stream.

Bear Attractants in Revelstoke, 2014

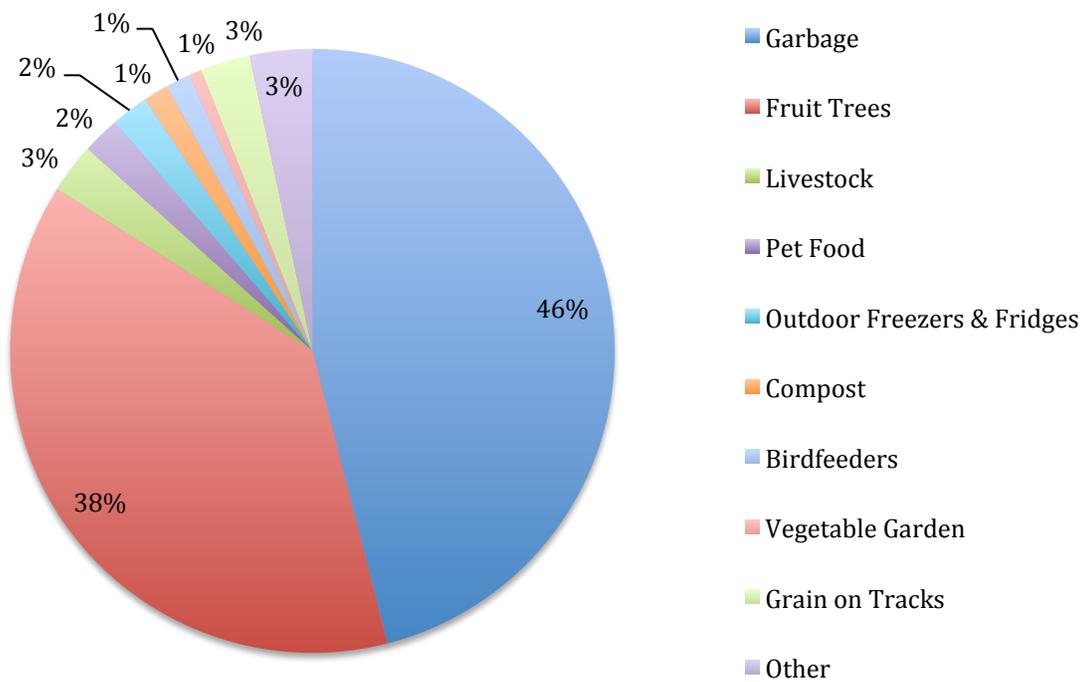


Figure 3. Chart showing bear attractants in Revelstoke and surrounding area, 2014.

There were 24 instances of property damage. Damage was considered to have occurred in instances ranging from minor damage to fences, through to bears breaking and entering houses. Bears either entered or tried to enter buildings on 18 occasions in 2014. There were also 6 instances of bears showing aggression to humans, and 2 instances of aggression towards pets.



4.0 PROGRAM DELIVERY

4.1 Public Displays, Presentations, and Festivals

Revelstoke Bear Aware attended 6 public events including the community Farmers Market, Mt Revelstoke Centennial Celebration, and Timber Days. We also delivered 13 classroom presentations, and 12 small-group activity sessions to grade 1-2 children at the Kokanee Fish Festival. We continued our association with the NCES, collaborating with them to present a fruit-tree pruning workshop presented by Jake Roos of Loki Tree Services, and delivering presentations at their Garden Guru series of workshops throughout the summer.

Revelstoke Bear Aware also presented to the Revelstoke New Citizens group and the English as a Second Language class in 2014. A separate initiative saw Bear Aware present information to hotel staff in their role as front line tourist contacts.

Through these presentations and events a total 1,333 people were reached. Table 5 provides details of the presentations, events and festivals and the number of people who attended each event.

Table 5: Public displays and presentations in 2014

Date	Event	Details	People in Attendance
March	CBT Community Meeting	Bear Aware presentation	129
April	Pruning for a Manageable Harvest	Fruit tree pruning workshop	22
April	Mt Revelstoke Centennial Celebration	Public Display and kids activities	98
May	New Citizen Workgroup presentation	Presentation	10
May	Garden Guru series	Composting and Garden Planning - Q&A	32
May	Farmers Market	Public Display	168
June	Stepping Stones preschool	Presentation	21
June	City Council Presentation of Annual Report	2013 Annual Report - Bear Aware Update	18
June	Hotel staff education	Presentation	13
July	Farmers Market	Public Display	130
July	Corner Stones after school care	Presentation	14



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Date	Event	Details	People in Attendance
July	Summer Camp	Presentation	13
July	Garden Guru Series	Chickens - Q&A	9
July	Garden Guru Series	Backyard Bees - Q&A	18
August	Timber Days	Public Display	122
August	Stepping Stones preschool	Presentation	19
August	Junior Naturalist (younger)	Presentation	15
August	Junior Naturalist (older)	Presentation	17
September	Farmers Market	Public Display	115
September	Kokanee Fish Festival	12 small-group presentations	147
October	Community Centre preschool	Presentation	15
October	English as a Second Language Class	Presentation	10
October	City Admin and Security Committee	Backyard chicken and electric fence talk	9
November	Corner Stones preschool	Presentation	34
November	Columbia Park Elementary	5 presentations (grades K - 4)	135
Total			1333





Figure 4. Jake Roos of Loki Tree Services demonstrates pruning an overgrown cherry tree at the fruit-tree pruning workshop in spring.

4.2 Waste Management

Garbage is consistently available to bears in Revelstoke and was again the number one bear attractant in 2014. In at least two instances, bears accessed several garbage cans in a row that were placed at the curb on the morning of collection. Access to garbage was implicated in most of the instances where bears damaged property and entered dwellings.

There are several reasons why a review of the garbage collection system in Revelstoke is imperative at this time. The number of bear reports concerning garbage was high in 2014 (69 reports) but also the nature of those reports was of great concern. In several cases bears accessed garbage after breaking into buildings, in other cases bears became aggressive after continually accessing garbage in areas where residents had no bear resistant garbage storage. There is considerable concern that these sorts of conflicts may result in human injury if garbage continues to be accessible to bears in the future.

Another factor that makes this a suitable time to review the garbage collection system is that Revelstoke needs to replace its garbage collection truck in the near future because the old truck is near the end of its life. Also, injuries sustained by collection operators mean that there is a need to double the number of operators on each shift to continue with the status quo, thus increasing the cost of the current system.

In May 2014 the City of Revelstoke produced a report on the options for solid waste collection in Revelstoke. A cost analysis of several collection options (based on estimates)

shows that the status quo is more costly than all other options. The other options considered are: standardised bear-clip bins to every house; bear-clip bins to those houses without bear resistant garbage storage options (around half of all residents) and non-clip bins to all other houses; non-clip bins to all houses; contracted out collection (includes the cost of bear-clip bins) (Table 6).

Table 6: Excerpt from the City of Revelstoke Solid Waste Management Report (May 2014) showing annual costs associated with different options for solid waste collection.

Options	Contract Cost	City Cost	Tipping fees	Total Cost/HH
Status Quo	0	95	25	\$120
1. Bear Clip Bins	0	91	25	\$116
2. ½ Bear Clip/ ½ Standard Bins	0	86	25	\$111
3. Standard Bins	0	81	25	\$106
4. Contracted	(55-75)	14	25	\$94-\$114

It should be noted that bear clip bins are *not* bear resistant while placed at the curb because they must be unclipped by the resident. However, if the bins are kept clipped at all other times, bears will learn that accessing the garbage inside is difficult and not worth the effort. It is inferred that the risk of bears accessing bins during the relatively short window while they are unclipped at the curb is relatively low.

It should also be noted that the City currently uses a manual collection system, the use of bear clip bins requires the switch to a fully automated system and the use of a fully automated system given the City's heavy snowfall may cause issues.



Figure 5. Strewn garbage was a common sight in Revelstoke during late summer and fall, 2014.

Recycling continues to be a low risk attractant to bears in Revelstoke. The only report positively attributed to recycling in 2014 concerned unwashed recyclable beverage containers, not curbside recycling.

Currently, the City of Revelstoke's Solid Waste & Recycling Bylaw (# 2006) allows garbage and recycling to be placed on the curb only between the hours of 6am and midnight on the day of collection and states that garbage and recycling containers must be secured against wildlife when not at the curb. The Ticket Information Utilization Bylaw (# 1780) will be updated early in 2015 to provide tickets for Bylaw Officers to enforce Bylaw # 2006.

4.3 Door-to-door

Door-to-door visits in 2014 were mostly in response to reports of bears in the area. Efforts were made to visit areas as soon as bear activity was reported. A total of 458 residences were visited in 2014. Residents were given information regarding management of bear attractants and the opportunity to have any questions regarding human-bear conflict answered.

4.4 The Gleaning Project

The Gleaning Project gathers surplus fruits and vegetables from the community, helping to reduce bear attractants. Residents with excess fruit can contact Revelstoke Bear Aware to arrange volunteers to harvest the fruit. The volunteers receive some of the fruit and the remaining fruit is donated to Community Connections Food Bank. The project also invites all residents to donate their extra fruit, berries and vegetables directly to the Food Bank.

The program was advertised through posters, a radio talkback show, and through posting on the Stoke List and the Facebook page.

- 17 properties were gleaned by the project in 2014,
- 1771 lb. of fruit was harvested,
- 869 lb. went to the Food Bank; 389 lb. of which was preserved before donation,
- 902 lb. of fruit went to the volunteers who harvested it,
- 34 volunteers collectively donated 93 hours to the project during the season.

Of the 12 properties that were harvested by the Gleaning Project in 2013 but not in 2014, 8 managed their own fruit, 2 were adopted, 1 had the trees removed, and 1 had no fruit on the trees this year.

There were fewer than normal apples this year, probably due to adverse conditions over apple flowering season, however both cherries and plums were abundant in Revelstoke in 2014. Unfortunately cherries produced their abundant fruit at about the same time that the berry crop in the lower elevations of the valley was failing, a combination that attracted many bears to Revelstoke backyards.





Figure 6. A young black bear eats fallen cherries in a Revelstoke front yard.



Figure 7. A volunteer harvests some of the abundant yellow plums in 2014.



4.5 The Adopt-A-Fruit-Tree Project

The Adopt-a-Fruit-Tree project aims to pair up fruit tree owners who cannot manage their tree with people that have the skills and time to harvest the trees. The project began in 2013 and has continued into 2014 with several partnerships continuing over the two years and new partnerships developing this year.

The Local Foods Initiative is developing a garden-share project and the Adopt-a-Fruit-Tree project information will be added to the database they develop as it becomes available. In the future, Adopt-a-Fruit-Tree partnerships may be managed by the garden-share project.

4.6 Fruit Tree Mapping Project

Last season the fruit trees in Revelstoke were mapped during the spring blossom period. Fruiting trees were located using a GPS unit loaned to the project by Parks Canada. Many trees on wild lands were removed or brought under management last year. The project has continued into 2014 as noted in the points below:

- BC Hydro removed several hundred sapling cherry trees from the dyke on the north bank of the Illecillewaet River. A wild apple tree with low quality fruit, and a large wild cherry tree upstream of the Illecillewaet Bridge were also removed.
- The City removed 2 apple trees, one that was actively attracting a bear to an area near a rest home. Unfortunately the City did not agree to remove the blossoms of a large specimen cherry tree at Kovach Park (using a fire hose) due to water use restrictions. In 2015, use of a pressure washer will be tested for effectiveness and its safety to the tree. The City still has several wild cherry trees at various parks and the new City Council will decide if removal of these trees is possible.
- CP Rail has removed several more fruiting trees and still has 2 more that we would like removed.
- The Sandman Hotel has agreed to remove 2 unmanaged apple trees that they did not even know they owned.
- Three more private owners removed a total of around 33 more wild fruit trees on their properties.
- This year again, the Illecillewaet Greenbelt Society gave permission for members of the public to harvest wild fruit trees on the greenbelt area and Bear Aware advertised their location and fruiting season on the Stoke List and Facebook.

4.7 Fruit Tree Pruning Subsidy Program

In Revelstoke backyards there are many fruit trees that are very large and would benefit from being pruned. Many owners would manage their trees better if they were smaller but don't have the skills to prune their tree. Having the tree professionally pruned is a solution for these people but cost is often an issue.

It was thought that if a subsidy were available, there would be around 20 fruit tree owners who would take up the opportunity to have their tree pruned. Unfortunately, although



funding was sought from CBT Community Development Fund to carry out this program, funding was not granted this year. It was decided that this section of the project should be put on hold for this year and efforts would be made to improve the concept for the 2015 season.

4.8 Garbage tagging

Garbage cans left out overnight attract bears. In 2012 a new bylaw (Solid Waste and Recycling Bylaw #2006) was adopted. It states that garbage cans must be secured against wildlife until 6am on the morning of collection and re-secured by midnight that same day.

Cans left at the curb overnight in contravention of the bylaw were tagged with a sticker informing the owner that garbage is a bear attractant and asking them to secure their can until collection day. Thirty-one garbage cans were tagged in 2014. The City was informed of those addresses where cans had been left out and issued warning letters to those concerned.

The Ticketing Information Utilization Bylaw (#1780), which is necessary to enforce compliance of bylaws such as the Solid Waste bylaw, was not updated when the Solid Waste bylaw was adopted. This has been brought to the attention of the City, which is working hard to ensure that amendments to the Ticketing Bylaw are made as soon as possible.

4.9 Bear in Area Signs

In 2014 a new initiative was used to catch the attention of the public. Bright Yellow 'Bear in Area' lawn signs, similar to those used by election campaigners, were deployed in areas where bears had been reported. The signs were highly visible and gave an immediate reminder that residents needed to check for any attractants on their property. Each sign encouraged people to secure all attractants and listed the most common attractants. Signs were left at the incident site for an average of 3 days to ensure that people would know that the sign related to a current situation.

Feedback from members of the public was very positive and suggested that this was a very effective way of reminding people of the need to manage any bear attractants on their property. Indeed the signs generated a lot of interest, especially as they graphically showed that bears are sighted throughout the whole town.

During school presentations in the fall, children were asked if they had seen the signs and almost all said they had. When asked for their reaction when seeing a sign on their street, many said that they had asked their parents if the bears could get to their garbage or if it had been put away. Although this was a relatively informal way to gauge efficacy of the signs, the feedback was very positive.



Figure 8. Bear in Area sign posted on CPR hill, summer 2014.

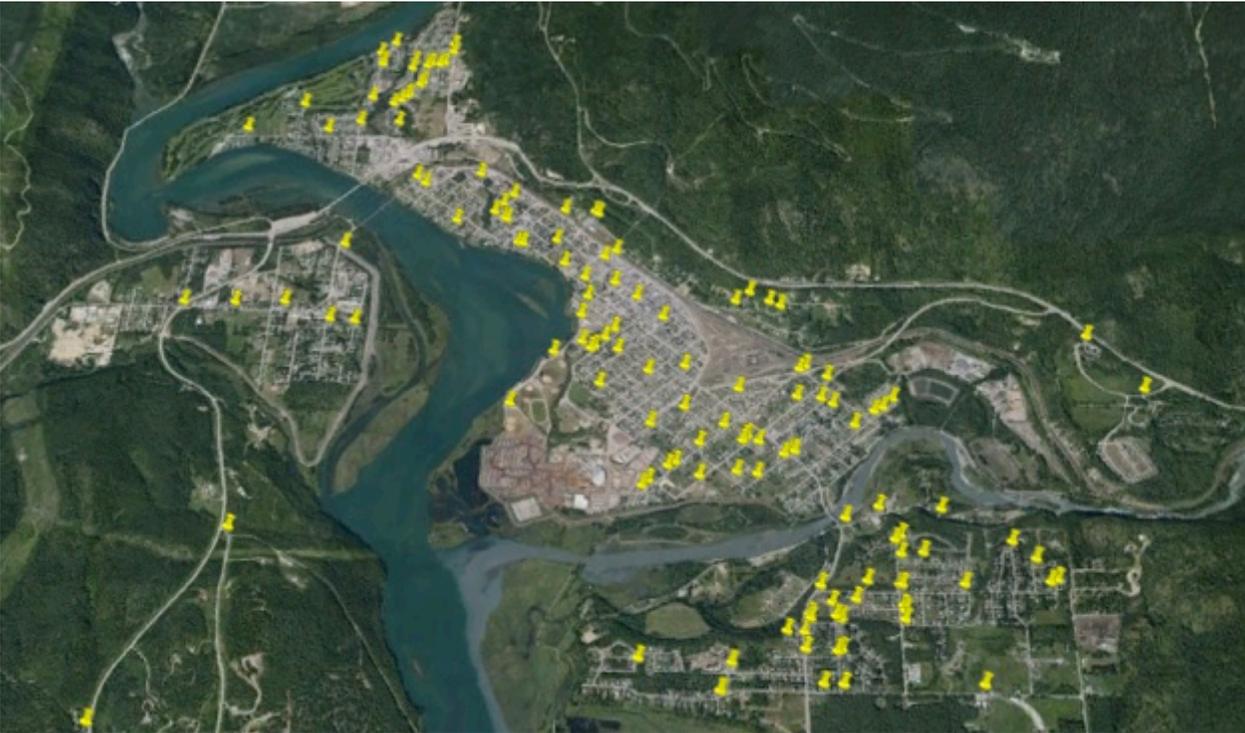


Figure 9. Map showing Bear in Area sign deployment in Revelstoke, 2014.



5.0 MEDIA

5.1 Revelstoke Bear Aware Website

The Revelstoke Bear Aware website (www.revelstokebearaware.org) was completely rebuilt in 2014 thanks in part to a huge donation of volunteer time by Jackie Morris. The new site now has a modern new look, easy navigation, new resources for teachers and kids, and good usability by mobile devices. There were 8,888 separate users who visited the Revelstoke Bear Aware website over the season, with 15,810 page views, a significant increase over last year.

In 2014, Revelstoke Bear Aware collaborated with other agencies to increase the usage of the Revelstoke Bear Aware website. The following agencies have links to Revelstoke Bear Aware on their websites: The City of Revelstoke, CSRD, “Welcome to Revelstoke” Guide, and The Revelstoke Current.

5.2 Newspaper

Revelstoke Bear Aware issued 8 press releases in 2014. Revelstoke has two weekly newspapers, the Revelstoke Times Review and the Revelstoke Current, and a quarterly publication, Reved Quarterly. All are very supportive of Revelstoke Bear Aware. In 2014, 11 articles written by Bear Aware were published. A further 7 articles written by others regarding Bear Aware issues or projects were published. Of the total published, the Revelstoke Times Review published 5 and the Revelstoke Current published 11 (Table 7). See Appendix 2 for full media releases.

Table 7. Revelstoke Bear Aware articles, 2014

Newspaper	Date	Article Title
The Revelstoke Current	June 6	A new Look for Bear Aware’s website
The Revelstoke Current	June 24	Homeowners asked to start taking responsibility for garbage
Revelstoke Times Review	June 25	WildSafeBC asks homeowners to start taking responsibility for garbage
Revelstoke Times Review	July 14	Residents encouraged to heed “Bear in Area” signs
The Revelstoke Current	July 14	Heed WildSafeBC’s new ‘bear alert’ signs!
The Revelstoke Current	July 20	Hotels, resorts can make a difference with wildlife
The Revelstoke Current	August 1	Take precautions: bear sightings on the rise
Revelstoke Times Review	August 1	Bear sightings double as fruit trees bear fruit
Revelstoke Times Review	August 27	WildSafeBC issues advisory after three bears destroyed
The Revelstoke Current	August 27	Tale of three bears leads to a public advisory
The Revelstoke Current	October 27	Bears breaking into homes will be destroyed



5.3 Advertising

In 2014, Revelstoke Bear Aware purchased advertisements in the City of Revelstoke Leisure Guide - summer and fall editions. Revelstoke Bear Aware also posted advertisements on the Stoke List to promote the Gleaning Project and general bear awareness.

Table 8. Revelstoke Bear Aware advertisements, 2014.

Publication	Date	Advertisement Title
Revelstoke Leisure Guide	Summer edition	Got Food? Be a responsible bear aware resident
The Revelstoke Current	Continuous	Revelstoke Bear Aware "Button" - link to RBAS website
Revelstoke Leisure Guide	Fall edition	Got Food? Be a responsible bear aware resident
Reved Quarterly	Summer & fall editions	Manage all bear attractants
Flyer sent to all residents	September	Public Advisory
The Stoke List	Regular from Late July to September	Gleaning Project information
StokeFM	September	Talkback - general bear awareness

5.4 Facebook

This season the WildSafeBC Facebook page was very successful. Eighty-two posts were made during 2014, generating around 48,500 views over the season. The WildSafeBC Facebook page hibernates over the winter season so a Facebook page administered solely by Revelstoke Bear Aware has been created to give a more consistent source for Bear Aware information in Revelstoke.

5.5 Radio

The coordinator was interviewed 9 times over the season by both EZ Rock radio and Stoke FM. This included a live talkback show on Stoke FM in August to promote a public advisory.

5.6 Video

The DVDs 'Staying Safe in Bear Country' and 'Living in Bear Country' are available to loan from the library and may also be watched at the Parks Canada office by request.

5.7 Television

Six overlapping Bear Aware advertisements appear on Revelstoke Cable TV advertising channel throughout the bear season. This advertisement runs 15 to 20 times a day between August and November.



5.8 Public Advisory

Due to the extremely high number of bear sightings, a public advisory was issued. Flyers were mailed out to 2600 homes (out of approximately 3100 in total - some do not accept flyers), the coordinator appeared on a radio talkback show, various forms of social media were employed to carry the message, and posters were deployed around the town.

5.9 Other

Revelstoke Bear Aware was able to deliver its message through a variety of initiatives in 2014 including letters and pamphlets in the Welcome Wagon and at the information centre. Bear Aware posters and pamphlets were also distributed to campgrounds, notice boards, Bed & Breakfast's, new citizen's groups, and local businesses. A bear Aware logo appeared on the City Garbage schedule encouraging residents to secure their garbage during the months from April - November.

6.0 VOLUNTEERS

It would not have been possible to deliver the Revelstoke Bear Aware message to so many members of the community without the support from volunteers. This year a total of 232 volunteer hours were given to Revelstoke Bear Aware. The members of the Revelstoke Bear Aware board volunteer many hours of their time to provide support and guidance to the program. During the fruit season volunteers also helped with the Gleaning Project. The hourly wage was calculated from the Provincial Bear Aware Volunteer Program schedule (Appendix 3).

Table 9. Revelstoke Bear Aware volunteers, 2014.

Name	Activity	Hours	Value	Total
T. Jensen	Gleaning Project	1	\$16.00	\$16.00
J. Beck	Gleaning Project	5	\$16.00	\$80.00
J. Delesalle	Gleaning Project	1.5	\$16.00	\$24.00
N. Delesalle	Gleaning Project	1.5	\$16.00	\$24.00
A. Delesalle	Gleaning Project	1.5	\$16.00	\$24.00
S. Simes	Gleaning Project	1.5	\$16.00	\$24.00
C.I Fry	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
L. Stovel	Gleaning Project	5	\$16.00	\$80.00
J. Beauce	Gleaning Project	4	\$16.00	\$64.00
H. Hamilton	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
A. Beauce	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
E. Beauce	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
B. Legebokoff	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00



Revelstoke Bear Aware Society Annual Report - 2014

Name	Activity	Hours	Value	Total
J. Davies	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
B. Davies	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
M. Hemphill	Gleaning Project	12	\$16.00	\$192.00
T. Pecora	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
C. Pecora	Gleaning Project	4	\$16.00	\$64.00
H. Thomas	Gleaning Project	1	\$16.00	\$16.00
S. Arsenault	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
S. Beck	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
T. Sylvestra	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
J. Bunyan	Gleaning Project	5	\$16.00	\$80.00
K. Robson	Gleaning Project	3	\$16.00	\$48.00
J. Mcnab	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
M. Bruchig	Gleaning Project	6	\$16.00	\$96.00
L. Bruchig	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
S. Jones	Gleaning Project	6	\$16.00	\$96.00
T. Lindegaard	Gleaning Project	2	\$16.00	\$32.00
A. Eder	Gleaning Project	1	\$16.00	\$16.00
M. Fauiot	Gleaning Project	1	\$16.00	\$16.00
D.Greenway	Gleaning Project	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
A. Kaler	Gleaning Project	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
C. Anderson	Gleaning Project	1	\$16.00	\$16.00
R. Larson	GIS Expert	1	\$21.54	\$21.54
L. Parker	Meeting RBAS	10	\$19.00	\$190.00
	Program Advisor	2	\$19.00	\$38.00
J. Morris	Meeting RBAS	16	\$19.00	\$304.00
	Bookkeeping	5	\$16.00	\$80.00
	Website rebuild	24	\$19.00	\$456.00
M. Woods	Meeting RBAS	13	\$19.00	\$247.00
I. Brown	Meeting RBAS	4	\$19.00	\$76.00
B. Gadbois	Meeting RBAS	8	\$19.00	\$152.00
J. Vickers	Meeting RBAS	10	\$19.00	\$190.00
	Program Advisor	3	\$19.00	\$57.00
A. Desjardins	Meeting RBAS	9	\$19.00	\$171.00
	Program Advisor	9	\$19.00	\$171.00



Name	Activity	Hours	Value	Total
L. Umsonst	Meeting RBAS	3	\$19.00	\$57.00
L. Umsonst	Program Advisor	2	\$19.00	\$38.00
D. Bartol	Meeting RBAS	1	\$19.00	\$19.00
Councillor Welock	Meeting RBAS	6	\$19.00	\$114.00
Councillor English	Meeting RBAS	3	\$19.00	\$57.00
T. Hewitt	Meeting RBAS	3	\$19.00	\$57.00
L. Larson	Meeting RBAS	3	\$19.00	\$57.00
S. Boyle	Meeting RBAS	3	\$19.00	\$57.00
B. Delesalle	Meeting RBAS	3	\$19.00	\$57.00
	Totals	232		\$4,128.54

7.0 BEAR SMART

Bear Smart is a voluntary provincial initiative aimed at encouraging communities to reduce the amount of conflict between people and bears by taking personal responsibility for change.

The province's Bear Smart Program is described at www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/bearsmart.

Revelstoke Bear Aware continues to work towards becoming a bear smart community. Recent steps toward becoming Bear Smart include:

- Keeping the Bear Hazard Assessment updated every two years.
- Regularly updating an interactive sightings map including 2014 data (available on the website at revelstokebearaware.org/bear-sightings/map/).
- Continuing to lobby for implementation of a bear resistant solid waste collection system.
- Implementing amendments to the Ticketing Information Utilization Bylaw (#1780) to allow the Solid Waste and Recycling Bylaw (#2006) to be enforced by bylaw officers.
- Continuing to provide input into a backyard chicken bylaw to ensure that Bear Aware principles are included.

8.0 BARRIERS TO THE PROGRAM

Revelstoke Bear Aware has been very well received and supported by the residents of Revelstoke, the City of Revelstoke, and Area B of Columbia Shuswap Regional District. The support, both social and financial, from the community of Revelstoke has meant that there were few barriers to the delivery of the program in 2014.



However, the lack of a local Conservation Officer has caused concern. Since the removal of the Conservation Officer position from Revelstoke in December 2013, officers from Golden, Invermere, and Vernon have covered calls to the RAPP line regarding Revelstoke.

In the past, Revelstoke Bear Aware and the local Conservation Officers have worked very closely to provide effective education and management of human-bear conflict in Revelstoke. This season we have continued to work closely with those officers who have been servicing our area. However the travel time and very large area these officers have to cover did reduce their availability in Revelstoke.

The close cooperative relationship between a local Conservation Officer, Bear Aware, and the community in previous years may have resulted in fewer human-bear conflicts because the Conservation Officer was on hand in Revelstoke and able to deal efficiently with the situation.

Revelstoke Bear Aware relies upon the financial support of sponsors to achieve our goals and our presence in 2015 depends upon this support. Please see the Acknowledgements section of this report for a list of our valued sponsors.

9.0 FUTURE OF THE PROGRAM

Revelstoke Bear Aware has now completed its 19th year of operating in Revelstoke and surrounding area and has been very successful in raising awareness of bears and the attractants that bring bears into our community.

Over the past few years, positive steps have been made toward achieving provincial Bear Smart status. Revelstoke Bear Aware is needed to advocate for completion of the actions and recommendations outlined in the Human-Bear Conflict Management Plan and completion of the criteria required for Revelstoke to become Bear Smart. There is a need to continually raise public awareness and gather support for these initiatives.

There will be an increase in disturbance to wildlife living on Mount Mackenzie and surrounding area as Revelstoke Mountain Resort development continues. In the future, Revelstoke Mountain Resort will include hiking, mountain biking, and golf during the summer months. Education is of utmost importance to ensure that bears are not attracted to human food sources, and do not become food conditioned and a threat to human safety. Revelstoke Bear Aware needs to continue diversifying educational opportunities.

As the population of Revelstoke and surrounding area changes with an increase in new residents, visitors, and absentee owners, it is important to continually seek out new and innovative ways to reach this segment of the population.

Updating the bear sightings map on a regular basis provides valuable information to Revelstoke Bear Aware and the community about the locations of elevated human-bear conflict and helps to direct Revelstoke Bear Aware initiatives. Posting information on the Facebook page creates a very wide exposure for the bear aware message.



The Gleaning Project has been a very successful part of the Bear Aware program in Revelstoke and will continue into the future. Although running this program requires hands on effort from the Bear Aware coordinator, it is spinning off self-sustaining projects into the community. The Adopt-a-Fruit-Tree program has become self-sustaining and will increase as time goes on and more partnerships are found. It has also been noted that informal fruit tree adoptions are happening across the City leading to a better-managed fruit resource in Revelstoke.

Although long time Revelstoke residents have been receiving the Bear Aware message for 19 years and the majority know how to behave in bear country, there are still others that have grown complacent. It is important to continue to educate about the importance of securing attractants.

Revelstoke Bear Aware has proven to be very successful and indispensable in our community where there is high potential for conflict between people and bears. Revelstoke Bear Aware has been very fortunate in past years to receive financial and in-kind support to allow this work to continue. Although the outlook for continued success in reducing human-bear conflict is bright, there is concern about future funding for Revelstoke Bear Aware.

10.0 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR 2015

The Revelstoke Bear Aware Society recommends the following actions for the upcoming year:

- Bear Aware continues to implement an outreach program to educate the residents of Revelstoke and newcomers about reducing human-bear conflict in bear country.
- Bear Aware continues to work with the City on the Solid Waste Collection Strategy.
- City of Revelstoke creates a written plan to guide Revelstoke toward a bear-resistant solid waste collection system.
- City of Revelstoke implements a new bear-resistant solid waste collection system and supplies bear-clip bins to every residence in Revelstoke.
- If the new bear-resistant solid waste collection system is implemented, Bear Aware works with the City to provide education to residents.
- Bear Aware requests that the City initiate a wildlife attractant bylaw for Revelstoke covering garbage, fruit, birdfeeders, outdoor fridges and freezers, barbeques, pet food, chickens and chicken feed, compost, and beehives.
- Provided a wildlife attractant bylaw is adopted, Bear Aware works with the City to add existing unmanaged fruit trees to a GIS map, to allow for better monitoring.



- Provided a written plan is in place to guide Revelstoke toward a bear-resistant solid waste collection system and the above mentioned bylaws are implemented, Bear Aware and the City apply to the province to be granted Bear Smart status.
- Bear Aware encourages the City to remove unmanaged cherry trees from Woodenhead Park and Big Eddy Park, and to manage the flowering or fruiting of the specimen cherry tree at Kovach Park.
- Bear Aware regularly updates its website, Facebook page, and the bear sightings map.
- The City ensures that all new housing developments and subdivisions be required to design for and construct centralized bear-resistant garbage bins.
- Bear Aware continues to target education to new residents.
- Bear Aware continues to work with the Wildfire Interface committee to identify areas within the city that have a high potential for both bear security cover and forest fires.
- Bear Aware continues to expand the Adopt-a-Fruit-Tree program and to work in conjunction with the Community Connections Food Bank and the Local Food Initiative to expand the Gleaning Project.
- Bear Aware continues to foster a good relationship with Revelstoke Mountain Resort development team to ensure that development is bear-resistant in terms of solid waste, recycling, and other bear attractants.
- Bear Aware, the City of Revelstoke and the CSRD continue to lobby the provincial government for long term funding to provide for sustainability of the program.
- Bear Aware continues to lobby for the return of at least one Conservation Officer stationed in Revelstoke.



11.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Revelstoke Bear Aware Society would like to express gratitude to the following organizations for the financial contributions made to Revelstoke Bear Aware in 2014:

Columbia Basin Trust - Community Initiatives Program, for providing core funding to the program in 2014.



The British Columbia Conservation Foundation and WildSafeBC, for providing funding for the Community Coordinator's salary from May 1st to November 30th, 2014.



BC Hydro, for providing core funding to the program in 2014.



Lush Cosmetics, for providing core funding to the program in 2014.



Revelstoke Credit Union, for providing core funding to the program in 2014.



Revelstoke Community Foundation, for providing funding to the Gleaning Project in 2014.



Revelstoke Bear Aware would also like to express gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for valuable in-kind support provided to the program:

- Revelstoke Bear Aware Society 2014 board members: Loni Parker, Ian Brown, Jackie Morris, Brian Gadbois, Marcia Woods, and Janette Vickers;
- Revelstoke Bear Aware Society 2014 agency advisors: Councillor Welock and Councillor English (City of Revelstoke), Alex Desjardins, Lawrence Umsonst, and Dan Bartol (Conservation Officer Service), and Sarah Boyle, Lisa Larson, Bruno Delesalle, and Tawnya Hewitt (Parks Canada);
- Park's Canada for providing board room meeting space, printing, and also providing advice and expertise - in particular Ben Dorsey for advice on the bear sightings map;
- Darren Komonoski, Mike Thomas, Gail Ferguson, Chris Selvig, Teresa LeRose, Cindy Floyd, and City staff for their support, help and input;
- Adam Croxall of BC Hydro for going above and beyond to remove wild fruit trees on BC Hydro property that were causing human bear conflict;
- Scott and Brett Renaud and their companies Score Construction and Bresco Industries for advice and support;
- Penny Paige-Brittin for her continued support of a bear-resistant garbage collection system in her role as Environmental Coordinator for the City;
- David Rooney of the Revelstoke Current, Scott Duke of StokeFM, Scott Campbell and Shaun Aquiline of EZ Rock Radio, the Revelstoke Times Review, Reved



newspaper, and Revelstoke Cable TV for their continued support and promotion of the program;

- Patti Larson and Community Connections Food Bank for continuous support of the Gleaning Project;
- Local volunteers, listed in the volunteer section of this report;
- The Local Foods Initiative, and the North Columbia Environmental Society for their continued support;
- School District 19 and the preschools of Revelstoke for inviting the program into their classrooms;
- Visitor Information Centre staff and the Welcome Wagon;
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District, in particular Ben Van Nostrand and Carmen Fennel from the Columbia Shuswap Region Solid Waste Management Department;
- BC Ministry of Environment;
- The BC Conservation Foundation, for its continued efforts and support of WildSafeBC programs throughout the province. Frank Ritcey, Jen Belhouse and Barb Waters for their valued support;
- Current WildSafeBC Program Coordinators throughout BC for their ideas, support, and hard work throughout the season;
- Previous Bear Aware Coordinators in Revelstoke: Karen Bennett, Debby Robinson, Francis Maltby, Paula Couturier, Todd Arthurs, Steve Kent, Abby Pond, Penny-Page Brittin and Janette Vickers;
- Concerned citizens of Revelstoke for their input, ideas, calls and emails of support and reports of bear movements.



Appendix 1.0 Letters of Support





City of Revelstoke

P.O. Box 170, Revelstoke, British Columbia V0E 2S0
revelstoke.ca

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

February 3, 2014

To Whom it May Concern:

RE: City of Revelstoke Support for Revelstoke Bear Aware Society

I am pleased to provide a letter of support on behalf of the City of Revelstoke for the Bear Aware program.

This program has been successful year after year in reducing conflict between people and bears in the community of Revelstoke and surrounding area. The focus of Revelstoke Bear Aware in 2013 was threefold: to continue working toward attaining Provincial Bear Smart status in Revelstoke, to reduce the availability of unmanaged fruit to bears in the town, and to continue education outreach programs to reduce human-bear conflicts and educate the community about reducing bear attractants.

We sincerely hope the Bear Aware program will continue in the future. By visibly taking responsibility for our actions as they relate to bears, we show visitors that we not only accept these animals as a part of our local landscape but also are willing to go the extra steps to maintain a workable living arrangement with them. This contributes to the positive image tourists enjoy about Revelstoke.

I am optimistic that you will be able to assist this worthwhile endeavour by favorably considering the attached application for funding support.

Sincerely,

David Raven
Mayor, City of Revelstoke

:cf

DEVELOPMENT SERVICES	PUBLIC WORKS	FINANCE	FIRE RESCUE SERVICES	PARKS, RECREATION & CULTURE	CORPORATE ADMINISTRATION	COMMUNITY ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
(250) 837-3637 development@revelstoke.ca	(250) 837-3991 works@revelstoke.ca	(250) 837-2161 finance@revelstoke.ca	(250) 837-2884 fire@revelstoke.ca	(250) 837-9351 proc@revelstoke.ca	(250) 837-2911 admin@revelstoke.ca	(250) 837-5345 ced@revelstoke.ca





Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National
Parks
PO Box 350
Revelstoke, BC
V0E 2S0

February 2, 2014

Sue Davies
Revelstoke Bear Aware Community Coordinator
Box 674, Revelstoke BC
V0E 2S0

Dear Ms. Davies,

Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks would like to express its continued support for the *Revelstoke Bear Aware Program* and its success in contributing to the regional conservation goal of maintaining and securing black and grizzly bear populations. *Revelstoke Bear Aware* objectives link directly with Parks Canada's management goals of supporting environmental stewardship efforts adjacent to, and beyond our national park boundaries.

As a founding member of *Revelstoke Bear Aware*, Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks have participated in and celebrated the many collective successes as we've watched the program grow and evolve over the last 15 years. Among the most impressive of your achievements, your success has been clearly demonstrated through the significant reduction of problem bears destroyed within the community of Revelstoke. Parks Canada staff will continue to support the *Bear Aware Program* through direct involvement in your various initiatives, provision of staff expertise and our agency resources.

The 2013 fruit gleaning project was a huge success and probably greatly contributed to the low number of bears reported in town. We applaud your 2012/13 achievements and look forward to 2014 as you continue with your many conservation initiatives, and work closer towards our common goal of having Revelstoke become one of British Columbia's few *Bear Smart* designated communities. Just as your organization was a pioneer in

Canada





becoming British Columbia's first community *Bear Aware* program, we are confident you will once again demonstrate provincial leadership in working towards this goal.

We look forward to our continued relationship as an essential partner in your progressive organization and wish you and your colleagues all the best for the upcoming season.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryan Chruszcz".

Bryan Chruszcz
A/Resource Conservation Manager
Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks
Parks Canada Agency
Tel: 250-837-7517 / email: bryan.chruszcz@pc.gc.ca

Canada



ELECTORAL AREAS

- A- GOLDEN-COLUMBIA
- B- REVELSTOKE-COLUMBIA
- C- SOUTH SHUSWAP
- D- FALKLAND-SALMON VALLEY
- E- SICAMOUS-MALAKWA
- F- NORTH SHUSWAP-SEYMOUR ARM

MUNICIPALITIES

- GOLDEN
- REVELSTOKE
- SALMON ARM
- SICAMOUS



781 MARINE PARK DRIVE NE
BOX 978 SALMON ARM BC
V1E 4P1
TEL: (250) 832-8194
FAX: (250) 832-3375
TOLL FREE: 1-888-248-2773
WEBSITE: www.csrdb.ca

January 24, 2014

FILE: 5380 41 03

Revelstoke Bear Aware Society
P.O. Box 674
REVELSTOKE BC V0E 2S0

RE: Letter of Support

The Columbia Shuswap Regional District (CSRD) would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society and their involvement with the Solid Waste Management Plan Advisory Committee.

Improved landfill management practices have led to measures such as electric fencing, with Revelstoke being one of the first landfills in the Province to be fenced and electrified. This caused bears, habituated to landfill garbage, to move into the city which prompted the need for bear aware education. The Revelstoke Bear Aware Society has been instrumental in delivering this needed service.

In 2013, the CSRD started the construction of yard and garden waste composting infrastructure at the Revelstoke landfill which will be completed in the spring of 2014. Anytime you have materials being composted, within a municipality where bears are known to frequent, public education is imperative and helps to reduce human/bear conflicts. The CSRD continues to rely on the efforts of the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society and their public educational work to minimize human/bear conflicts.

Please consider this letter as strong support for the Society's fund raising efforts and feel free to contact the undersigned at (250) 833-5940 if you have any questions.

Yours very truly,

Ben Van Nostrand, B.Sc., P.Ag., ASCT.
Waste Management Co-ordinator
Operations Management

/bvn

COLUMBIA SHUSWAP REGIONAL DISTRICT





Date: January 13th, 2014

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in support of the Revelstoke Bear Aware program.

From my perspective, the program is a significant benefit to Revelstoke because it fosters a sense of community and personal responsibility for the effects of human activities on natural processes and ecosystems. The program also helps to:

- *Reduce human/wildlife conflicts and improve public safety,*
- *Maintain a healthy wild population of black & grizzly bears in the area, and*
- *Create an educated, informed public, which is receptive to more complex messages about ecological processes and conditions. .*

Any support you can offer the Revelstoke Bear Aware Program would be worthwhile and appreciated.

Yours Truly,



Alexandre Desjardins
Conservation Officer
Columbia Kootenay Zone

**Ministry of
Environment**

**Conservation
Officer Service**

Report all Poachers and Polluters 1-877-952-7277





COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS (REVELSTOKE) SOCIETY
www.community-connections.ca

January 8, 2014

Bear Aware Society
Box 674
Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support to the Bear Aware Society.

The Bear Aware Society has worked together with Community Connections Food Bank in past years on "The Gleaning Project". This program has become a very valuable asset to our Food Bank. We encourage community members to contact Bear Aware to collect and gather surplus fruit and produce from their yards. This valuable program has greatly enhanced the quality and quantity of fresh food that we can provide in our food hampers and was much appreciated by everyone. This past season we were very fortunate to receive 1093 pounds of fresh produce including cherries, plums, apples and pears.

In addition the Gleaning Project provided excess fruit to a preserving project in conjunction with the Local Food Initiative of the North Columbia Environmental Society and we received a wide variety of preserved fruits. This agency also tracks sources of free pick-your-own fruit in the community that has been utilized by those in need.

I look forward to working with the Bear Aware Society in the future and will be pleased to participate in collaborative efforts.

Sincerely,

Patti Larson

Patti Larson
Director, Community Outreach

314 Second Street East, P.O. Box 2880, Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0
Phone (250)837-2920 Fax (250)837-2909



January 23rd, 2014



Revelstoke Bear Aware Society
PO Box 674
Revelstoke, B.C.
V0E 2S0

I am very pleased to be providing this letter of support to the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society for the valuable educational programs that they provide for our elementary students at all grade levels. I believe the elementary program itself has played an important role in ensuring that the community of Revelstoke is able to demonstrate a healthy respect for the dynamics around human-bear interactions. Further, the program lets the community know the importance of ensuring a safe environment for our children and the many small things that can be done to be Bear Aware! With the recent news that Revelstoke will no longer have a local conservation officer, it will be even more important to ensure that we are "bear aware".

In the past year, the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society was responsible for providing educational programs in the following schools.

Arrow Heights Elementary School

- Bear Aware presentation to Kindergarten students
- Bear Aware presentation to Grade 2/3 students

Begbie View Elementary School

- Bear Aware presentation to two Kindergarten classes
- Bear Aware games with Grade 1 students at the Kokanee Fish Festival
- Bear Aware brochure making workshop with Grade 2 students

Columbia Park Elementary School

- Bear Aware presentation to all but two classes in the school
- Bear Aware games with Grade 2 students at Bridge Creek Fish Festival

If you are in receipt of this letter, you are no doubt considering providing financial support to the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society. I would thank you in advance for

School District Office
501 11th Street P.O. Bag 5800 Revelstoke, B.C. V0E 2S0
Tel: (250) 837-2101 Fax: (250) 837-9335



supporting this important local initiative, which has truly become a part of the fabric of Revelstoke.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to call.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Hooker", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Mike Hooker
Superintendent of Schools

cc: Letters of Support File



Appendix 2.0 2014 Press Releases



Press Release: June 5

Revelstoke Bear Aware has a new look website!

Just in time for the new bear season, Revelstoke Bear Aware has a whole new look to their website (www.revelstokebearaware.org). “The new site will be easier to navigate, have lots of fun new resources, and still be the same fantastic source of good, local information about how to reduce conflict with bears”, said Sue Davies, Revelstoke Bear Aware Coordinator.

“We have made it easier to do what it is you want to do when visiting the site”, said Davies. “If you want to report a sighting, click the button for ‘Report’; if you want to be more bear aware, click that button. And of course if you want to donate or volunteer we have buttons for those too!” she said. “We have put our main message front and centre too; the front page now has 4 check-marked items regarding the most common bear attractants, make sure that you can check these off at your home too.”

The new ‘Resources’ section has everything from colouring pages and crosswords for the kids, to instructions for building an electric fence to protect your chickens. These resources are available to download and use for free - a great recourse for those wanting to be more bear aware.

The interactive map of local bear sightings is still on the site and gives a good indication of what bear activity there has been in and around town. You can look either at historical data stretching back to 2009, or just at the most recent sightings. The map is updated as new sightings are reported, so if you see a bear, be sure to report it.

The number to call to report a sighting is 1 877 952 RAPP (7277). This number gets you through to the provincial call centre and the information then comes through to Revelstoke Bear Aware and the Conservation Officer Service. Davies explained that Revelstoke lost its Conservation Officer last December when the position was transferred to Golden. “The more calls to the RAPP line, the more likely we are to get a Conservation Officer back in Revelstoke,” said Davies.

Bear Aware is a non-profit organization and gets it’s funding from various sources. The cost of the new website is not insignificant and Bear Aware has been fortunate to have Ryan Anderson of Perimeter Design donate time and expertise to recreating the website. Ben Dorsey of Parks Canada has also donated time and effort to the system that runs the bear sightings map, and CBT Community Initiatives, BC Hydro, Revelstoke Credit Union, Revelstoke Community Foundation, and Lush Cosmetics have contributed financially to the program this year. It would not have been possible to upgrade the site so quickly and effortlessly without the dedicated volunteer effort from Jackie Morris who transferred all the content of the pages and organized the rebuild.

For more information on managing bear attractants please visit www.revelstokebearaware.org or call Sue Davies on 250 837 8624.

To report bear sightings or conflicts with bears please call the 24 hour hotline at 1-877-952 RAPP (7277).

Press Release: June 21

WildSafeBC asks homeowners to start taking responsibility for garbage.

Up till now there have been relatively few bear sightings in Revelstoke this season, and those have been mostly just bears eating natural food in the wild. However that has all changed in recent days. “Bears have been reported damaging property, getting into garbage, disturbing compost and stealing garbage cans in four different areas of town this week”, said Sue Davies, WildSafeBC Coordinator.



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“Fortunately people have been calling the RAPP line (1 877 952 7277) to report these incidents, which helps get the information out there,” said Davies. She wanted to convey the importance of calling the RAPP line to report these incidents so that information could be gathered and shared. “People are worried that if they call the RAPP line, the conservation officer will come and shoot the bear. That is not necessarily the case. Destroying the bear is the last thing anyone wants, and is only used as a last resort if the bear has become conditioned to eating human food, has lost its fear of people and is a serious threat to human safety,” said Davies.

The first line of defence is with the homeowner, to ensure that bears and other wildlife don't get access to human food. Revelstoke's new garbage bylaw (#2006) states that garbage must be secured against wildlife. A regular plastic or metal garbage bin will not protect your garbage. Unless you have one of the bear resistant bins, it must be in a locked shed or garage to keep it secure.

Other foods bears are attracted to are birdfeeders, fruit, smelly compost, livestock and livestock feed, pet food, and dirty barbecues. “Ensure these things are not available to wildlife and chances are that bears will just wander on by and cause no conflict,” said Davies. “The bonus is that removing the availability of these food sources also means that rodents, coyotes, and cougars are less likely to pay a visit to your property.”

For more information on managing bear attractants please visit www.wildsafebc.com. To report wildlife sightings or conflicts with wildlife please call the RAPP Line at 1-877-952 7277.

WildSafeBC gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Columbia Basin Trust, BC Conservation Foundation, the Ministry of Environment, and Revelstoke Bear Aware. Revelstoke WildSafeBC also appreciates the on-going in-kind support from Parks Canada.

Press Release: July 04

Got fruit ripening on the tree? Call the Gleaning Project!

Revelstoke Bear Aware is once again running the Gleaning Project in 2014. For those not in the know, the Gleaning Project is where volunteers help harvest excess fruit and take it to Community Connections Food Bank.

“Leaving fruit on the tree or on the ground to rot is just asking for bears to come and snack at your place,” said Sue Davies, coordinator for Revelstoke Bear Aware. “And as the saying goes, a fed bear is a dead bear, and a far more dangerous bear too,” she said. “If you can pick your own fruit, then do so; if you have too much, take it to the food bank. If you can't harvest your own fruit, that's when to call the Gleaning Project to come help. Volunteers will harvest the fruit, the volunteer pickers get to keep some, and the rest goes to the food bank. It's a win-win-win situation,” said Davies.

“Last year I noticed that many people were independently gleaning fruit around town,” said Davies. “People were just asking their neighbours or other fruit tree owners if they could help with harvesting, and many good relationships developed, which is great. People who want to eat local and harvest whatever is available are exactly what we need here in bear country!”

At this time of year, cherries are just beginning to come ripe. If your tree is ready and you can't manage, or if you want to be one of those volunteer pickers, call Sue Davies on 250 837 8624 or email beaware@telus.net.

If you have harvested your fruit and there is too much for you to enjoy it all, you can either take the excess directly to the food bank on Friday mornings from 8:00am at 600 1st St. W., or call Sue and she will take it to the food bank for you.



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If you spot a bear eating fruit (or any other human food) the number to call to report it is 1 877 952 RAPP (7277). This number gets you through to the provincial call centre and the information then comes through to Revelstoke Bear Aware and is entered into the interactive map of bear sightings.

Revelstoke Bear Aware thanks the Revelstoke Community Foundation, Columbia Basin Trust, Revelstoke Credit Union, Lush Cosmetics, BC Hydro, the BC Conservation Foundation, and Parks Canada for support for the program this year. For more information on managing bear attractants please visit www.revelstokebearaware.org or call Sue Davies on 250 837 8624.

Press Release: July 14

WildSafeBC encourages Revelstoke residents to heed “Bear in Area” signs

In the last few weeks there have been two separate incidents in Revelstoke where bears have either tried to enter houses or have actually broken in. Revelstoke has been lucky in the recent past; there have been no really serious conflicts with bears. However, this year looks set to a busy one for bears. “Two mild years with good wild food have probably increased the natural bear survival rate,” said Sue Davies, coordinator for WildSafeBC, “which means that pressure on town food sources will be on the increase. If bears come to town in search of food, it is everyone’s responsibility to ensure that they don’t find anything.”

So we know there are bears in Revelstoke, but where exactly? WildSafeBC is now making the presence of bears highly visible on the street. Observant residents of the Big Eddy, CPR hill, Columbia Park, Arrow Heights, and Red Devil Hill areas will have noticed bright yellow lawn signs stating that there is a bear in the area and asking that all bear attractants are secured.

“I get to know where all the bears are because people report them to the RAPP line”, said Davies “and I wanted everyone else to know too. So I thought I’d put up those very visible signs. I’ll be putting them there only for a day or two, so if you see one you know there is a really good reason to make sure your property is not going to be the one attracting the bear.”

If you see a sign, please ensure that your garbage is locked away, your fruit trees are harvested, your barbeque is clean and locked away, your birdfeeder is taken down for the summer, outdoor fridges and freezers are secured against wildlife, and your pet and livestock food is securely stored. These are the primary things that bears and other wildlife such as coyotes tend to get into.

For more information on managing wildlife attractants please visit www.wildsafebc.com. To report wildlife sightings or conflicts with wildlife please call the RAPP line at 1-877-952 7277. WildSafeBC gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Columbia Basin Trust, BC Conservation Foundation, the Ministry of Environment, and Revelstoke Bear Aware. Revelstoke WildSafeBC also appreciates the on-going in-kind support from Parks Canada.

Press Release: July 19

Glacier House teams up with WildSafeBC for positive changes

Glacier House Resort recently called in Sue Davies of WildSafeBC to present to their entire staff about keeping conflict with wildlife to a minimum. The resort is under new management and the new owner, Daniel Kellie, has great enthusiasm for making sure that the environmental impact of the resort is as small as possible.



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“They called me to help with making the property less attractive to wildlife and with educating the staff, so the staff could pass on their understanding of wildlife to their guests. I just wish everyone were as proactive about reducing conflict with wildlife. Some other businesses are going a long way toward being wildlife-aware, but Glacier House has really gone the extra mile”, said Davies. “The very best way to approach the problem of wildlife conflict is to avoid it in the first place, and Glacier House is on the right track,” she said.

Earlier consultation with WildSafeBC led to the installation of bear-resistant steel bins on the property, secure storage of food waste including a locked grease barrel, and now the staff have had a full presentation on wildlife and how to avoid conflict. Each room will also have brochures on bears, coyotes, cougar, and deer, with brochures available for guests to take away also.

WildSafeBC is committed to teaching people how to reduce conflict with wild animals in Revelstoke. “I’d love for other resorts, hotels, camp grounds, and even restaurants in the area to be as proactive as Glacier House”, said Davies. “I’d be more than willing to put together a package to suit each business; brochures, information session with staff, helping with reducing wildlife attractants on the property and such. And this applies to those businesses down town too. Remember, there are certainly bears and coyotes throughout the whole town, even the occasional cougar too,” she said.

You can contact Sue Davies on 250 837 8624 or at revelstoke@wildsafebc.com to take up her offer of wildlife-proofing your business. For more information on managing wildlife attractants please visit www.wildsafebc.com or www.revelstokebearaware.org. To report wildlife sightings or conflicts with wildlife please call the RAPP line at 1-877-952 7277.

WildSafeBC gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Columbia Basin Trust, BC Conservation Foundation, the Ministry of Environment, and Revelstoke Bear Aware. Revelstoke WildSafeBC also appreciates the on going in-kind support from Parks Canada.

Press Release: July 30

WildSafeBC predicts a bumper crop of bears in fruit trees this year.

WildSafeBC coordinator, Sue Davies says that this year is shaping up to be a very busy year for bear conflicts. “Already this year we have had 67 reports of bears in town, nearly twice as many as the total count last year, and we are not even into the really busy time yet,” she said.

Most of the bear reports involved bears into either garbage or cherry trees. “For a week or two there, the phone was going non-stop with people complaining that there was a bear in their cherry tree,” said Davies. “I had to keep telling people over and over, the bear is there because the fruit is there. If you don’t want the bear, harvest your fruit.”

The problem many people have is that their fruit tree is enormous - too tall and a huge job to harvest. So, prune the tree. A tree that is well pruned can still provide good shade, and the up side is that the fruit is likely to be much higher quality, as well as being far easier to harvest.

“We need to be more proactive about our fruit trees. Leaving food, including fruit “for the bears” is actually an offence under the Wildlife Act, as well as a significant danger to people in the neighbourhood, and the ultimate cause of many instances of bears being destroyed,” said Davies. “Now plum and apple season is coming up fast and people need to be responsible for their fruit.”

The Conservation Officers from Golden and Vernon are active here in town and have set several bear traps in areas where bears have become food conditioned, although no bears have yet been caught. Conservation Officers have the power to issue fines to those people who consistently allow wildlife access to food such as



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rotting fruit or garbage on their property. So far they have not issued any fines, but the likelihood is that they will need to take some action if residents don't look after their fruit and garbage.

If you don't want all your own fruit, consider taking the excess to the food bank (open 8am on Friday mornings at the Legion on Garden St), or advertise it on the Stoke List as pick-your-own. If you are unable to harvest your tree, please call the Gleaning Project (250 837 8624) and volunteers will harvest the fruit and take it to the food bank for you.

WildSafeBC will be also conducting garbage tagging over the next few weeks to remind people that garbage should be kept secure from wildlife at all times and only be at the curb from 6am to midnight on the day of collection.

For more information on managing wildlife attractants please visit www.wildsafebc.com. To report wildlife sightings or conflicts with wildlife please call the RAPP line at 1-877-952 7277.

WildSafeBC gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Columbia Basin Trust, BC Conservation Foundation, the Ministry of Environment, and Revelstoke Bear Aware. Revelstoke WildSafeBC also appreciates the on-going in-kind support from Parks Canada.

Press Release: August 26

Three bears destroyed in town - WildSafeBC issues a Public Advisory.

As expected from early numbers of bear reports, Revelstoke now has large numbers of bears roaming town and looking for food. "Three bears have now been destroyed in Revelstoke this season," said Sue Davies of WildSafeBC, "and if we don't clean up the garbage and ripe fruit, more are likely to follow." WildSafeBC, in partnership with Revelstoke Bear Aware, are issuing a public advisory to help raise awareness of the issue, and encourage residents to manage all bear attractants.

"Look for the public advisory flyer in your mail, on public notice boards, and on social media," said Davies. "Read the list on the flyer of all the things bears might be attracted to, then put yourself in the bear's shoes, and look at your property as an area to forage for food. If you find anything that a bear might eat, secure it! If you don't secure your bear attractants then the story below, which happened here just a few days ago, will unfold over and over again this season."

A habituated black bear walked down the middle of the street in the middle of the day systematically going through garbage cans put out for collection. Probably the same bear that showed interest in entering a home in the same area. The Conservation Officer was called and a trap was set. Within the day the bear was caught and destroyed as a 'problem bear'.

But before you get all riled up about the Conservation Officers having to shoot this bear, consider the history of this bear and the reason it is in this situation in the first place.

It was probably living a wild life accessing all sorts of wild foods with a healthy respect for humans and the danger they posed to it, when it noticed a huge cherry tree just dripping with ripe fruit so it stopped by for a feed. People in the neighbourhood saw the bear and stopped to take photos, some of them shouted and honked their horns, some dogs barked, but the bear soon learned that the shouting, honking, and barking didn't hurt, so it continued to eat cherries. Then it moved on to the tree next door.

A couple of weeks of this had it very comfortable with the presence of humans, and when the cherries dried up and ran out, it moved on to the garbage can that was left beside the back door of one of the houses. The next day was garbage day in the neighbourhood and suddenly there were garbage cans everywhere. The bear's lack of fear of humans led it to wander down the middle of the road checking out each bin, even though people were still shouting at it.



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The bear's next move was to go up the steps and sniff at the screen door of one of those houses. Suddenly the humans saw this as a serious threat to their safety and the bear is now a 'problem bear'. But really, it is not the bear that's the problem; the problem is the cherry tree, the garbage, and the humans that didn't manage to keep these things from feeding the bear.

We have a very good public awareness program in Revelstoke concerning what to do to reduce the risk of conflict with bears, but many residents choose not to follow the basic advice, which is to secure all items that attract bears.

Cherry and other fruit trees are allowed to grow out of control, the fruit left to drop and rot on the ground; garbage is stored by the back door or on the front deck; fridges and freezers are kept on porches; people believe that their chickens are safe because they are in the middle of town or they have a wooden coop (even though bears naturally rip apart logs to get at insects); birdfeeders are stuffed full of high calorie bird (or bear) food and left hanging in a tree as an open invitation to a bear.

The problem is not the bear! Secure all bear attractants now to encourage bears to go and forage in the wild and avoid being destroyed or becoming dangerous and causing someone harm.

For more information on managing wildlife attractants please visit www.wildsafebc.com. To report wildlife sightings or conflicts with wildlife please call the RAPP line at 1-877-952 7277.

WildSafeBC gratefully acknowledges the financial support of Columbia Basin Trust, BC Conservation Foundation, the Ministry of Environment, and Revelstoke Bear Aware. Revelstoke WildSafeBC also appreciates the on-going in-kind support from Parks Canada.

Press Release: October 27

Breaking and entering - food-conditioned bears dining in Revelstoke

Last week, a bear broke into several homes in Arrow Heights, some of them twice. Bears in other parts of town have also been causing havoc - ripping siding off houses, breaking fences, tearing into garbage sheds, pushing on windows, and generally becoming very comfortable dining on our unmanaged foods. These bears have a history of getting into our non-natural food sources; they didn't just suddenly start breaking into homes, they came to it because we left garbage and other foods out as an invitation.

Many people feel that bears were here first and we should just accept that they are a part of the natural world here in Revelstoke. That may be true, however when bears were in this valley before the town of Revelstoke was here, this was just another valley, and garbage, garden-variety fruit trees, bird-feeders, and pet food were not here as an attractant. We, the community of Revelstoke, have made this area a place where non-natural food sources for bears are over abundant. We cannot blame the bears for acting on their instincts and coming here from far and wide to partake of the food we leave out.

The prognosis for these food-conditioned bears is not good. As with the bear that was destroyed after spending the night in a tree by Home Hardware, and the other 8 bears that have so far been destroyed this year in Revelstoke, these bears will probably be removed and destroyed as soon as possible. They have become conditioned to eating human food, habituated to humans, and are now considered a public safety concern.

As responsible humans, we can think this through and realize that attracting bears and then destroying them because they are large, powerful, and unpredictable is unacceptable. To live here in harmony with the local population of bears we need to make absolutely sure that we keep all our food sources secured.



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Garbage is the most common bear attractant in Revelstoke, especially at this time of year when fruit trees are mostly finished. **It is the responsibility of each and every resident of Revelstoke to ensure that their garbage is not accessible to bears.** Quite aside from the bylaw that says as much, our neighbourhood safekeeping depends upon it.

Unfortunately there are many people in Revelstoke who do not have a garage or access to another form of bear resistant garbage storage. We suggest that careful management of your garbage is the best practice. Keep all food waste separate and store in the freezer in a sealed bag until collection day.

The City is currently considering creating a bear-resistant garbage collection system. Please lend your support to this issue by asking council candidates their views on timely implementation of the system.

For more information regarding management of wildlife attractants, please see www.revelstokebearaware.org. To report a conflict with a bear please call the RAPP line on 1 877 952 7277. Conservation Officers from Golden and Vernon will respond to calls in Revelstoke.

Revelstoke Bear Aware gratefully acknowledges support from Columbia Basin Trust, BC Hydro, Lush Cosmetics, Revelstoke Credit Union, Revelstoke Community Foundation, and WildSafeBC. Revelstoke WildSafeBC and also appreciates the on-going in-kind support from Parks Canada.



Appendix 3.0 Bear Aware Volunteer Program



Table 1. BEAR AWARE VOLUNTEER PROGRAM - Volunteer Activity management structure:

Volunteer position descriptions			
	Position	Position Description	Hourly Wage Value
1	Board and/or committee member (4162) ¹	Sit on the community public advisory committee, providing insight into the community structure and needs of the community in relations to bear-human conflict.	\$19.00
2	Volunteer Manager (6216)	Manage all volunteers, ensuring they are briefed on their job description, hours of work, proper orientation and training. Record all volunteer hours and provide a report to the Program Delivery Specialist.	\$13.99
3	Volunteer trainer. (4216)	Develop and deliver training to volunteers on bear-human conflict. The Bear Aware Program.	\$15.56
4	Program Advisor (6481)	Provide guidance and advisement to the Bear Aware Program and the Program Delivery Specialist.	\$15.44
5	Door-to-door canvasser (6411)	Either assisting the Program Delivery Specialist or working with another volunteer, conduct door-to-door visits in neighbourhoods within the community with reported bear-human conflict. Provide information to homeowners on how to manage bear attractants. Assist homeowners in finding solutions to attractant management through the identification of bear attractants, the proper management of attractants, recommending bear resistant products, deterrents and general safety information. Recording of all door-to-door visits to the Program Delivery Specialist. Assist the PDS with media releases informing the public on the problem with the various types of food attractants and the results this has on bears as well as the threat to public safety the presence of habituated bears pose.	\$16.34
6	Garbage raid (7621)	Working with the Program Delivery Specialist or another volunteer for safety reasons, visit neighbourhoods during the evening hours to record the number of garbage cans placed at the curb the night before pickup. All cans to have affixed a "Bear Attractant" sticker. Provide written reports to the PDS of all evening garbage raids. Assist the PDS with media releases informing the public on the problem with garbage being placed at curbside the night before pickup and share that information on a one-to-one basis with members of the community.	\$15.79
7	Public display (6481)	Assist with the creation of public displays for the purpose of educating people on bears and the dangers involved in allowing bears to access food attractants. Provide general information on bear biology and behaviour, safety around bears, human habituation and human food conditioning. Use props such as bear skull, hides, claws, teeth, photos, videos to assist with educating the public.	\$15.44



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8	Public presentations (4131)	Develop or use already available public presentations to meet the needs of educating members of the community through public presentations. This may involve the use of hands on props such as bear skulls, hides, claws, teeth, photos, videos, charts. The use PowerPoint or Presentations. These presentations are aimed at public audiences, such as service clubs, special groups, local clubs, NGO's, general public.	\$26.70
9	School presentations (6472)	Develop or use already available public presentations to meet the needs of educating members of the community through public presentations. This may involve the use of hands on props such as bear skulls, hides, claws, teeth, photos, videos, charts. The use PowerPoint or Presentations. These presentations are aimed at school age children, child care facilities, youth clubs, etc.	\$20.38
10	Researcher (4161)	Conduct research for the local Bear Aware Program and the local Program delivery Specialist on subject matter that is required for the improvement and betterment of the program delivery.	\$24.00
11	Computer programming (2174)	Web page design for the local Bear Aware Program.	\$23.48
12	Bookkeeping (1231)	Maintaining financial books for the Bear Aware Program	\$16.00
13	Correspondence and report writing. (1452)	Writing letters or reports for the Bear Aware Program under the direction of the Program Delivery Specialist or Advisory Committee.	\$15.72
14	Mapping (2255)	Taking raw data and entering it into GIS software or similar software to produce conflict maps, corridor maps, conflict areas, etc.	\$21.54
15	Journalism (5123)	This person counsels or assists directly with the regular preparation of media releases, conducts research for news stories or personally writes media stories for the Bear Aware Program.	\$23.88
16	Fruit Picker (8431)	Picking unwanted fruit and processing it.	\$16.00

¹National Occupational Classification Code (NOC) - Human Development Canada

