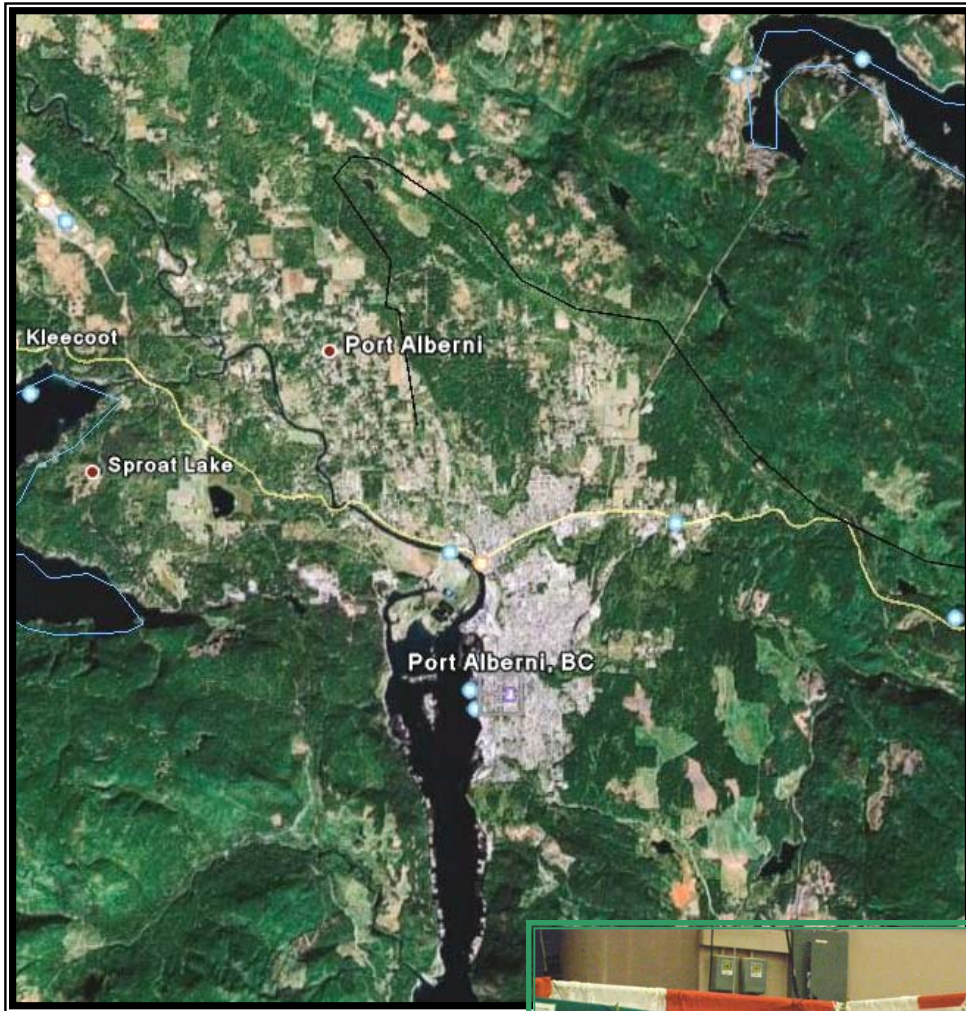


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**Bear-People Conflict Management Plan (Proposed)  
for  
CITY OF PORT ALBERNI, BC  
Application For Bear Smart Community Status, Phase 2**



Prepared for  
**City of Port Alberni**  
British Columbia  
**December 2008**

Prepared by  
Maggie M. Paquet, MAIA BioLogics  
Port Alberni, BC



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## PLAN APPROVAL

Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

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Recommended by: \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

### DISCLAIMER

Maggie M. Paquet, Biologist, of MAIA BioLogics, Port Alberni, gathered the research and prepared this document, with input from staff in local, regional, and provincial governments, the BC Conservation Officer Service, members of the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee, Hupacasath and Tseshahat First Nations, local residents, and others. I have assumed that the information provided from the various sources is accurate and reliable.

The report was written according to the guidelines of the BC Bear Smart Community Program for a Bear-People Conflict Management Plan, except where additional analysis was deemed necessary.

While this report contains the best information available to provide authorities in the study area with an accurate and authoritative analysis of the subject matter, no liability is assumed with respect to the use or application of the information contained herein.



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RECORD OF PLAN REVISIONS

Date	Approved by



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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

As with the active implementation of a Bear-People Conflict Management Plan, the writing of such a plan cannot be accomplished without the assistance and collaboration of key agencies and individuals. In this regard, I would like to acknowledge—and heartily thank—the following:

Port Alberni Mayor and Council, especially our liaison, former Councillor Charles Mealey.

City staff: Russell Dyson, Davina Sparrow, Guy Cicon, Scott Smith, Scott Kenny, Jake Colyn, Randy Fraser, and others.

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District directors Penny Cote (Sproat Lake) and Patty Edwards (Beaver Creek).

Conservation Officer Service: Jeff Tyre (Alberni), Ron Heusen (Central Island Zone Supervisor), Dan Dwyer, Sr. CO North Island Operations, and former Alberni area CO Jesse Jones.

Mike Badry, BC Ministry of Environment Wildlife Conflict Prevention section.

Tony Hamilton, Provincial Carnivore Specialist, BC Environment Ministry.

The volunteers who are members of the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee: Carrie Smith, Dawn Boyce, Darlene Clark, Heidi and Sabrina Zimmermann, Maureen Sager, Jenn Pistotnik, and all those who came on board after this report was written.

Al Ross, Fisheries and Wildlife Steward, Hupacasath First Nation.

Lisa Gallic, Public Works & Natural Resources Director, Tseshah First Nation.

City residents who have contacted me by phone and email, but who wish to remain anonymous.

Members of the North Shore Black Bear Network and North Shore Black Bear Society for providing me with good ideas, as well as many of the generic photos used in this report.

The companies that produce bear-resistant garbage containers, namely:

Jeff Rollins (Rollins Machinery, Langley) for the loan of a Schaefer residential roll-out cart to test,  
Steve Thompson (BearSaver, Calif.) for the loan of 2 BearSaver residential roll-out carts to test,  
Russ Roy (Squamish), who is sending a Critter Guard retrofitted cart to test.

Phil Edgell for testing a (Rollins) bear-resistant bin and sending photos of it to me.

Sean Sharpe, RPBio, for his friendship and encouragement.

Wayne McCrory, RPBio, bear biologist, and outstanding mentor, for continued advice and encouragement.

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Cover images: Google Earth image of Alberni Valley; Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee booth at 2008 Alberni District Fall Fair, M. Paquet photo.

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## PART ONE—SUMMARY

### A. SUMMARY RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PORT ALBERNI BEAR HAZARD ASSESSMENT (2007)

The following is a summary of the main recommendations presented in the Port Alberni Bear Hazard Assessment (BHA) conducted by Maggie Paquet, Biologist, in 2007. A table of the full list, the City department or other agency having primary responsibility as of the time of submitting the BHA, along with the current status of each recommendation is presented in Appendix 1. Also listed are additional recommendations that are becoming standard to Bear Plans; these are listed in italics below.

While this Bear Plan is only written for the City of Port Alberni, the activities listed below are also highly recommended for the outlying Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District electoral areas of Beaufort, Beaver Creek, Cherry Creek, and Sproat Lake, as well as for adjacent Indian Reserve lands of the Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations. Efforts to “bear proof” only the city will not be fully successful—nor will the City’s goal of achieving Bear Smart Community status—without the collaboration and cooperation of all the adjacent communities in the Alberni Valley.

#### Waste management

- a. Consider bulk purchase of bear-proof residential garbage cans for distribution to city residents on an “at cost” basis. Bulk purchase helps to ensure that residents can afford the garbage cans and that the equipment is consistent across the city to facilitate municipal garbage collection.  
[Squamish has done this and implemented a cost-recovery program of charging property owners 20% of the cost added to property taxes for five years.]
- b. The primary recommendation for reducing hazards, including at schools, parks and trails, and residential neighbourhoods, is to install bear-proof garbage and recycling receptacles and a city-wide Bear Smart waste management system.
- c. Port Alberni’s Parks Department should consider public education targeting garbage bins and cans in parks and walkways as being unsuitable for household garbage. While this is an infraction of the municipal waste collection bylaw and is acknowledged to be difficult to enforce, it is important to help the public understand how this increases the possibility of “food-conditioning” bears, encourages bears to lurk near parks and walkways, and increases the likelihood of someone encountering a bear.
- d. Consider bear-proof neighbourhood-based drop-off bins for suitable “hotspot” areas, particularly for housing complexes where people don’t have garages, sheds, or other secure places to store their garbage cans and recycling boxes.
- e. Where secondary and “illegal” rental suites occur, require owners to allow tenants to use the city’s garbage collection system.
- f. Bear-proof waste management practices and systems should be phased in over the next two to three years and be accompanied by a public education/information program, including public open houses where feedback is obtained that can help refine the system and increase compliance. Phasing in the system also helps to spread out the costs.
- g. Recycling and compost depots should be inside a bear-proof enclosure. They should be regularly inspected to ensure garbage isn’t scattered on the ground.



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- h. *Treat all waste products as a bear attractant, whether it is garbage, compost, or recycling, and properly secure it from bears at all stages on its way from the household, commercial, or institutional source to the landfill (or recycling transfer station).*
- i. *Do a cost accounting of the various bear-proofing options. This should consider the costs of poorly effective bear-proofing, including reduced public safety, increased property damage, higher enforcement costs, higher demand on (and costs to) agencies to respond to conflicts (including the RCMP), greater number of bears killed, etc.*
- j. *Adopt a bear-proofing system that provides the best long term solution. Do not invest in bear-proofing that is not adequately tested or that has an already proven poor track record.*
- k. *Engage the public in selecting the best option(s); test various options.*
- l. *City-wide bear-proofing should include residential, commercial, industrial, and institutional locations (including schools, daycares, and multi-family developments)*
- m. *Implement a continued monitoring, inspection, and maintenance program of all bear-proof containers to keep them in good repair. Bears can access bear-proof containers when they can be tipped over, when hinges break, or when they have cracks large enough for bears to get their teeth or claws into.*



This garbage bin along Kitsuksis Walkway was tipped over by a bear largely for two reasons: it was not properly anchored in a concrete pad and it contained household garbage that attracted the bear. Residents should NEVER put household garbage into public garbage bins.

## Other attractants

- n. *Fruit trees, bird feeders, berry-producing landscaping plants, gardens, composts, backyard pools and ponds, hot tubs, barbecues, livestock, beehives, pet and livestock feed, outdoor storage of fridges and freezers, antifreeze, and paint all need to be managed in such a way as to minimise their attractiveness and availability to bears. Pass strong attractant bylaws with enforcement that addresses all attractant issues.*
- o. *Encourage property owners and city landscapers to only use landscaping plants that do not provide food for bears.*
- p. *Thickets of wild blackberries should be cut back wherever they attract bears to human use areas, such as parks, public walkways, school yards, along rail and Hydro lines, and any municipal and private lands.*
- q. *Encourage residents (through public education and through modification of bylaws if necessary) to use either electric perimeter fences or motion-activated sprinklers to deter bears from getting at livestock or into gardens and fruit trees.*



## Public education

- r. *Engage the public in adopting bear-proof waste management throughout Port Alberni, including for commercial, institutional, and industrial sites. This includes holding community consultations and, using information presented in the BHA, propose methods/systems that will work best in specific neighbourhoods.*





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- s. Sponsor a dedicated public education program (the most highly recommended is the BCCF's Bear Aware Program), including making application to the province's Bear Smart Community Program for funding for the full spectrum of Bear Smart activities. Support the development of a local volunteer community-based Alberni Valley "Bear Aware" group with staff and Council liaisons.
- t. Develop targeted public information programs for new residential, commercial, and industrial developments, including information for realtors and new residents (e.g., provide info sheet to Welcome Wagon) so newcomers can be informed about living in "bear country" and the need to prevent bears getting access to garbage and other non-natural attractants on their properties. An educational message should be developed specifically for people living adjacent to greenbelts and bear movement corridors (such as Dry Creek).

## Bylaws

- u. Port Alberni should amend its waste collection bylaw and encourage the regional district to do the same to prevent people putting residential garbage cans out on the night before collection day. For residents who have good reasons why they can't comply with this, consider alternatives that are amenable to both the resident and the city's garbage collection staff.
- v. Bylaws need to include all attractant issues, including landscaping plants that attract bears; the use of electric fences or other deterrents for gardens, fruit trees, and composters; and control of dogs on public walkways and trails that are located in known bear-use areas.
- w. Implement a Zero Tolerance enforcement policy for non-compliance (after a short period for people to get used to it).
- x. Require multiple-dwelling and commercial complexes to include Bear Smart principles on waste management and landscaping in their strata council bylaws.
- y. *Implement or amend other bylaws as necessary to prevent inadvertent feeding of bears, such as through the use of birdfeeders, outdoor freezers, dumping of garden wastes onto City property, improper storage of livestock and pet foods*

## Green space planning and management

- z. Pedestrian walkways should be located and designed to maintain separation between bear- and people-use areas wherever possible. Safety considerations include type of landscaping plants used, visibility, bear-proof garbage cans, and use of temporary or permanent signage when bears are known to be in the area.
- aa. Ensure all municipal landscaping uses species and varieties of trees and shrubs—whether native or horticultural varieties—that do not provide food for bears (e.g., salal, Oregon grape, mountain ash, bearberry (*uva-ursi*), apples, cherries, roses, nut trees, clover).

## Planning (OCP and future development plans, development permits)

- bb. Develop a community vision statement that includes language to enable better coexistence with bears and that will result in greater public safety, reduced bear-people conflicts, and fewer bears killed.
- cc. Review the OCP with the intent to amend it to include specific bear-friendly language.



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- dd. New homes being developed adjacent to green spaces (including riparian corridors, rail and power lines, etc.) that are known to be used by bears, should consider installing perimeter fencing sturdy enough to deter bears. The City Planning department should point this out to developers seeking permits.
- ee. Inform developers about bear-safe requirements, including bear-proof garbage collection methods and landscaping requirements to prevent attracting bears into newly developed areas and thereby habituating them to human-use areas.
- ff. Community planning should include the development and use of a detailed bear habitat and travel corridor map so that bear (and other wildlife) concerns can be adequately addressed when first planning new developments. This will enable developers to prevent or mitigate potential conflicts.
- gg. Where the OCP or any development plans refer to riparian setbacks and habitat use corridors for fish, these terms should be defined and include specific recommendations to maintain safe separations between bear use areas (including movement corridors) and residential and commercial developments. This recommendation holds for all the development plans throughout the city.

Since the Bear Hazard Assessment report was submitted to the city last year (2007), a number of these recommendations have been acted upon to varying degrees, as detailed in the following sections and in Appendix 1.



Bear getting into open dumpster at development on edge of community.  
NSBBN photo.



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## **B. SUMMARY BEAR-PEOPLE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR THE CITY OF PORT ALBERNI (PROPOSED)—2008-2013**

The goal of this Bear-People Conflict Management Plan is to build on the information provided in the Bear Hazard Assessment conducted for the City (Paquet 2007), assess the current status of activities in the City (including waste management issues and bylaws), and make recommendations that will assist the City to significantly reduce bear-people conflicts, increase safety for people and protection of private property, and reduce the number of bears destroyed within the City's boundaries.

The Plan contains proposed priorities and actions for implementation to be phased-in over a five-year period. This amount of time is recommended as a reasonable period to allow the City's staff and the public to make and accept the necessary changes and funding requirements that will enable the City to apply for BC Bear Smart Community status. It follows the provincial Bear Smart Community Program guidelines for a conflict management plan.

This Bear Plan should be considered as "proposed" until it has been adopted by the Port Alberni City Council. If Council adopts the Plan and begins to implement it, then it can submit an application to the province for Bear Smart Community status. As an alternative, Council may modify the proposed plan, in which case Council has the option of submitting its own Bear-People Conflict Management Plan using the consultant's plan as background, keeping in mind there are required criteria to meet provincial standards for such status.

### **PLAN HIGHLIGHTS**

1. Developing a community vision statement to enable better coexistence with bears will result in increased public safety, reduced property damage, and reduced bear-people conflicts and management kills.
2. Implement a City-wide bear-proof waste management system. Ideally, this needs to be across the whole Alberni Valley, including the ACRD areas of Beaver Creek, Sproat Lake, Beaufort, and Cherry Creek, and the Tseshaht and Hupacasath reserve lands. The five-year phase-in period will allow for gradual investment in best bear-proofing.
3. Public support of adoption of the Bear Plan, especially the bear-proof garbage system, is essential.
4. Entails the City maintain a high degree of coordination with all relevant agencies and partners.
5. There are as yet no functioning public education or conflict monitoring programs. These need to be created as soon as possible and be strongly supported by the City and other Valley communities as listed in #2 above.
6. The exercises of reviewing and updating the City's OCP and area development plans, as well as development permit area plans, should engage the public to increase support of this Bear Plan.
7. Once fully implemented, the City of Port Alberni will have significantly reduced bear-people conflicts and can achieve Bear Smart Community status. This will enhance the City's attractiveness to residents, businesses, and tourists. It will also confer a better liability position for the City.



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## TOP PRIORITIES—2009-2010

### Develop a Community Vision Statement that Supports Bear Smart Principles

- Engage the public in determining the best options for bear-proofing, siting bear-proof containers in neighbourhoods, mitigating other residential attractants, increasing public education and tolerance levels for bears, and other aspects of the issue.
- The community vision statement will recognise the primary goal of this Bear Plan: to improve public safety by significantly reducing the dependency of black bears on non-natural attractants. This will effectively eliminate the food-conditioning of bears in the City and eventually allow for more proactive management of bears that do enter human-use areas.

### Implement Bear-Proof Waste Management Throughout the City

- Design and begin to install the most effective bear-proof waste management system possible. Focus first on parks, trails, and hotspot neighbourhoods, completing these within the next two years. Gradually phase in the rest of the City over the implementation period. Combine this with a Zero Tolerance policy for compliance enforcement of relevant bylaws. The goal is to prevent the food-conditioning of bears.
- All waste, whether garbage, recycling, or compost, should be considered a bear attractant and treated as a waste product. It should be secured against access by bears; this includes institutional (schools, hospitals, etc.), industrial (shipyards, rail yards, fish plants, etc.), and commercial waste (malls, waste and grease bins at restaurants and other food outlets, etc.).
- Involve the public in the bear-proofing process. Public consultation tends to increase compliance with bylaws, increasing their effectiveness and reducing enforcement costs.
- Half-effective bear-proofing will not work, will be more costly over the long term, and will result in the city being less Bear Smart, increased unease by residents, and having continued property damage and management bear kills.

### Implement a City-Wide Public Education Program

- Widespread public education activities carried out by a locally based person (preferably a Bear Aware Program Delivery Specialist) is absolutely critical to Port Alberni becoming eligible for Bear Smart Community status. However, public education alone, will not achieve the objective (see Section 4.2.1).
- In addition to the recommendations in the 2007 Bear Hazard Assessment (see Appendix 1), the following are also important activities for Port Alberni:



Include easy-to-find “Bear Smart” information on the City’s website with local contacts and links to organisations, such as Whistler’s Get Bear Smart Society and North Vancouver’s North Shore Black Bear Network.



All messages need to include a reminder that bears can be encountered almost anytime and anywhere within the city and that, while they are not generally aggressive toward people, any bear has the potential to become dangerous. We all need to know how to respond safely to any encounter with a bear. Consistent and best practices safety information (e.g., Do not run or scream; Back away slowly; Pick up small children or pets; etc.) should be provided on all public messages.



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## *Coordinate with adjacent jurisdictions*

- Develop an overall, comprehensive strategy across the Alberni Valley, including with the adjacent ACRD electoral areas, First Nations, and with School District #70, because bear-people conflicts in the city of Port Alberni exist throughout the area and because the bears don't recognise jurisdictional (political) boundaries.

## *Develop and maintain a bear-people conflict monitoring program*

- The public education group should work with area Conservation Officers, and a Bear Aware Coordinator when one is hired for Port Alberni, to develop a systematic monitoring program that includes consistent recording of all bear sightings and conflicts (see Appendix 4), and conducting a periodic analysis in order to respond to local situations. This requires high quality and effective training for volunteers and good communication among the participants. An annual report should be produced. This is an extremely important criterion of the Bear Smart Community Program.

## Modify bylaws and step-up compliance to Zero Tolerance

- Port Alberni's current garbage management bylaw was enacted in 1993 and is out of date. The City is well aware of this and is currently in the process of revising the bylaw to meet current technologies, information, and understanding of Bear Smart principles. See page 3 for an explanation of the kind of bylaw that is needed. See also Appendix 7 for examples of bylaws from other communities engaged in Bear Smart activities.
- Once the solid waste management bylaw is amended, the City will need to publicise it well and give people adequate time to get used to it. When that happens, and even in the early days, the city should let people know that compliance and enforcement will be stepped up to Zero Tolerance. Remember, even one household in a neighbourhood that doesn't properly manage its garbage can ruin it for the whole area by attracting bears to the neighbourhood.
- The City's Property Maintenance Bylaw No. 3915 also has potential application for Bear Smart activities in that it can require owners to clean up garbage or remove items that might potentially attract a bear. The city may want to review this bylaw to see if it, too, is in need of revision to meet Bear Smart principles.

## **ONGOING PRIORITIES—2009-2013**

### Maintain and support the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee and assist in developing a fully functioning multi-agency Bear Working Group for Alberni

- The Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee, which started up in late Spring 2008, is comprised of multi-agency members and community volunteers. It is a precursor to an Alberni Valley Bear Working Group. In the future, there should be two distinct groups organised: a Bear Working Group (see Section 2.1) to oversee decision-making for Alberni, and a community-based volunteer group, preferably under the leadership of a BCCF Bear Aware program delivery specialist, to carry out focussed public education and bear-people conflict monitoring programs. Both groups will need a variety of support, both in funding and in-kind, from the City.
- Full cooperation and collaboration among these two bodies is essential to support the adoption and widespread acceptance of implementing Bear Smart principles—and practices—for Port Alberni.





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## Mitigate other bear hazards (fruit trees, birdfeeders, ponds, hot tubs, etc.)

- While garbage is recognised as the number one non-natural food attractant bringing bears into residential and commercial areas, the second most common attractant is fruit trees, followed by bird-feeders, gardens and composts, backyard ponds and hot tubs, and landscaping trees and plants that produce berries.
- Strategies to reduce the availability of these attractants include:
  - ongoing public education about them
  - developing and enforcing bylaws governing their use (e.g., specifying winter use only for birdfeeders [and then only when suspended out of the reach of bears AND by keeping the ground underneath clean of seeds], removing landscaping plants that attract bears, timely removal of fruit and windfalls, adequate fencing of fruit trees and gardens, including portable electric fencing, no outdoor storage of fridges or freezers, etc.).

## Modify green space development and management planning

- Plan and manage green spaces for the safest possible bear situation. Provisions for new green spaces need to allow for undisturbed bear habitats and travel/movement corridors where possible. Implement measures that encourage bears to stay out of developed areas (e.g., through siting, fencing, visibility, bear-proof waste receptacles).
- All waste receptacles in parks, trails, and public spaces should be bear-proof, should be emptied frequently in hot weather or heavy use conditions, and should be inspected and maintained regularly.
- In parks and play areas situated in known bear use areas (such as Blair Park/Kitsuksis Walkway), children's playsets should either be fenced or moved at least 50 metres from dense shrub or forest cover. Remove garbage receptacles from playset areas. Post temporary (or permanent, if appropriate) "bear-in-area" warning signs in play areas where bears have been sighted.



North Vancouver District sign in parks where bears have been sighted. It gives advice and a contact number. M Paquet photo

## Modify OCP, other development plans and permits

- Ensure future planning and new developments are done in a Bear Smart manner at the earliest possible planning and design stages.
- Using available data on bear use areas and movement corridors, new developments can be sited and designed to reduce potential conflicts.
- Permits, particularly for multi-family complexes, commercial areas, and institutional developments, should require bear-proof waste management to be "built in" to the development.

## Additional recommendations

- To help increase the safety of children and staff, all schools need to fully engage in Bear Smart practices.



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## PART TWO—BEAR-PEOPLE CONFLICT MANAGEMENT PLAN (THE “BEAR PLAN”)

### 1.0 THE BEAR SMART COMMUNITY PROGRAM

The Bear Smart Community Program is a province-wide initiative of the BC Environment Ministry to reduce bear-human conflicts. The province created the proactive Bear Smart Community Program in 2002 in partnership with the Union of BC Municipalities and the BC Conservation Foundation. According to the government's website, the program guides communities toward a safer and more sustainable way for people and bears to co-exist. The program's goal is “to address the root causes of bear-human conflicts, thereby reducing the risks to human safety and private property, as well as the number of bears that have to be destroyed each year.”<sup>1</sup> The initiative depends on a variety of partnerships with a number of other provincial agencies, regional and municipal governments, businesses, community groups, NGOs, and individuals. The Bear Smart Community Program is designed to be adaptive so that new management options or improvements can be incorporated into each phase. Criteria for each step in the process are provided so that communities have clearly defined and achievable targets.

#### 1.1 Criteria for Communities

The government's website states that communities are required to meet the following six criteria in order to be designated Bear Smart:

1. Prepare a bear hazard assessment of the community and surrounding area.
2. Prepare a management plan based on the bear hazards and land-use conflicts identified in #1.
3. Revise planning and decision-making documents to be consistent with the management plan.
4. Implement a continuing education program directed at all sectors of the community.
5. Develop and maintain a bear-proof municipal solid waste management system.
6. Implement Bear Smart bylaws that prohibit the provision of food to bears as a result of intent, neglect, or irresponsible management of attractants.

This Bear Plan is the second major phase in a series of six steps required for Port Alberni to achieve Bear Smart Community Status as established by the BC Ministry of Environment (Davis et al. 2002).

**Table 1. Status of required components for Designation as a Bear Smart Community**

Steps	Criterion	Completed for Port Alberni
1	Prepare a Bear Hazard Assessment using the criteria outlined.	√ (Paquet 2007)
2	Prepare a bear-human conflict management plan designed to address the bear hazards and land-use conflicts identified in the hazard assessment.	√ (complete when adopted by City Council)
3	Revise planning and decision-making documents to be consistent with the bear-human conflict management plan.	Under consideration
4	Implement a continuing education program directed at all sectors of the community.	In progress
5	*Develop and maintain a bear-proof municipal solid waste management system.	Under consideration
6	Implement "Bear Smart" bylaws prohibiting the provision of food to bears as a result of intent, neglect, or irresponsible management of attractants.	Under consideration

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/bearsmart/bearsintro.html>

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\*Fulfilment of this step requires partnership between the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the City of Port Alberni, which is currently being worked towards.

There are two primary phases in the Bear Smart Program:

1. Phase 1 is to conduct a Bear Hazard Assessment, which is a detailed assessment and analysis of the state of the problem in a given location/study area. The Bear Hazard Assessment (BHA) also makes recommendations for solving the problems and conditions described in the assessment.
2. Phase 2 entails producing a Bear-People Conflict Management Plan for the study area. This is the problem solution phase of the initiative. It contains the priorities and actions for implementing the recommendations that were set out in the BHA. The implementation period for the Bear Plan is typically up to five years to allow communities to carry out the necessary activities and acquire the funding needed to implement new systems and practices.

Phase 1 is the problem analysis phase and has these seven components:

1. conduct preliminary bear hazard assessment
2. review bear-human conflict public education programs
3. design bear-human conflict monitoring (and reporting) system
4. review waste management system
5. review waste management bylaws
6. create a green space management strategy
7. review community planning strategy

**Table 2. Status of required components for Phase 1 of the Bear Smart Community Program for Port Alberni**

#	Criterion	Status
1	Conduct preliminary bear hazard assessment (BHA)	√
2	Review bear-people conflict public education programs	In progress
3	Design bear-people conflict monitoring system	Not yet started
4	Review waste management system	Under consideration
5	Review waste management bylaws	In progress
6	Create (or review) green space management strategy	Under consideration
7	Review community planning strategy	Under consideration

Phase 2 focuses on the Bear-Human Conflict Management Plan and has these six components:

1. implement bear-human conflict monitoring system
2. implement public education program
3. implement bear-proof waste management system
4. implement and enforce bear smart bylaws (moving to Zero Tolerance)
5. revise the Official Community Plan (and Regional Growth Strategy, if applicable) to be consistent with the Bear-Human Conflict Management Plan
6. implement the green space management plan



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**Table 3. Status of required components for Phase 2 of the Bear Smart Community Program for Port Alberni**

#	Criterion	Status for Port Alberni
1	Implement bear-people conflict monitoring system	Not yet started; only source of information is from the area Conservation Officer
2	Implement public education program	Just getting started, needs Bear Aware program
3	*Implement bear-proof waste management system	Recognition of need; solutions being considered; informed decision rests partially on this report and results of community trials underway elsewhere in BC.
4	Implement and enforce bear smart bylaws	In progress
5	Revise the OCP to be consistent with this Bear Plan	Port Alberni's OCP is not yet due for revision, but modifications may be made at suitable times.
6	Implement the green space management plan	Under consideration

\*Fulfilment of this step requires partnership between the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District and the City of Port Alberni, which is currently being worked towards.

Successful completion (or continuation) of all the criteria in tables 1, 2, and 3 requires continued commitment from the City, as well as to an active partnership with the member agencies of the Alberni Bear Working Group, once this entity is established (City of Port Alberni, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, Conservation Officer Service, RCMP), and the volunteer-based Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee (AVBSC). Some of the activities of this partnership require funding and commitment from jurisdictions and agencies that are out of the control of the City, such as the COS, the RCMP, the ACRD, and School District #70, which is not currently involved with the AVBSC.

## 1.2 Response Plan

Once a community is designated as “Bear Smart” (or has been recognised by the COS as successfully and well-involved in the process), more options become available in how bears can be managed. In a Bear Smart Community, fewer bears will be coming into conflict with people; those that do will not be getting a readily accessible food reward.

The COS and BC Environment are committed to working with local governments, law enforcement agencies, and community groups to develop a response plan for bear-people conflicts. The response plan will allow BC Environment and its partners the option of using non-lethal techniques, such as bear aversion, when bears exhibit undesirable behaviours. Non-lethal control of bears, including short distance (<10 km) translocation, aversive conditioning, and on-site release, will be used in communities that have been formally designated as “Bear Smart” where a plan outlining responses to human-bear conflicts has been prepared and approved by the Regional Director. The Bear Aggression Index developed by Carrie Hunt<sup>2</sup> is used, along with other procedures, by the Conservation Officer Service to evaluate risks posed by bears to COs and the public. Non-lethal management techniques may be used when it is determined that a bear's behaviour does not pose a moderate to high risk to public safety or cause significant damage to public or private property.

<sup>2</sup> Carrie Hunt, *Bear Shepherding Guidelines for Safe and Effective Treatment of Human-Bear Conflicts*. Wind River Bear Institute. 2003 Partners-in-Life Program.



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**Table 4. Bear Aggression Index**

<b>Safety risk for public before conditioning</b>	<b>Index level</b>	<b>Immediate responses: Bear attitude response to human before conditioning</b>
Excellent safety	1	Leaves on approach
Good safety	2	Stands ground on approach, but then leaves
Moderate safety	3	Leaves only after yelling/honking/firecracker
Moderate to poor safety	4	Stays and stands ground after yelling/honking/firecracker but then leaves
Poor safety	5	Stays and approaches after yelling/honking/firecracker
Not safe/Should not risk conditioning	6	Stays and charges after yelling/honking/firecracker
<b>Safety risk for teams and public during conditioning</b>	<b>Index level</b>	<b>Immediate responses: Bear attitude response to humans during conditioning</b>
Excellent safety	1	Leaves on approach
Good safety	2	Leaves after yelling/honking
Good to low safety	3	Stays after yelling/honking, but leaves after firecrackers or projectiles
Low safety	4	Stays and stands ground after firecrackers or projectiles
Not safe/Should not risk conditioning	5	Stays and approaches after firecrackers or projectiles
Not safe/Should not risk conditioning	6	Charges or attacks after firecrackers or projectiles

When a community has progressed in the BC Bear Smart Community Program through public education, attractant and waste management, bylaw enforcement, and multi-agency cooperation, COs and their partners can use this guide to help reduce the number of bears that are destroyed in and around that community. It is certainly something to strive for.



Bear cubs learn from a very young age where to find food, where it's safe to be. This generation is likely to be destroyed unless serious intervention occurs in what they are learning.

NSBBN photo.





## 2.0 INTRODUCTION TO THE BEAR PLAN FOR PORT ALBERNI

Conflicts between humans and bears occur frequently in many British Columbia communities. In the past, attempts at managing these was largely reactive in that problems were only addressed after they had developed. “Fixing” the problems usually meant destroying the bears involved or moving them to a remote location. However, this approach is expensive and has proved to be futile. It does nothing to decrease either the frequency or the intensity of future conflicts, and does little to protect public safety or prevent property damage. This inefficiency, combined with a change in the public’s attitude towards destroying bears, has resulted in changes to the ways in which human-bear conflicts are managed.<sup>3</sup>

In 2007, a Bear Hazard Assessment was conducted for the City of Port Alberni. The study area did not include the adjacent Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District electoral areas of Beaufort, Beaver Creek, Cherry Creek, and Sproat Lake, or the Indian Reserve lands of the Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations, although it recognised two things relative to these areas: (1) bears entering the city pass through these areas; and (2) the four Valley ACRD electoral areas (specifically) need to join the city in becoming Bear Smart and support, through funding and staff time, the city’s commitment to becoming a Bear Smart community. Following up on the recommendations contained in the Bear Hazard Assessment, the City of Port Alberni has commissioned this Bear-People Conflict Management Plan, hereinafter referred to as the “Bear Plan.”

Specifically, this Bear Plan contains the following components:

1. A review of information in the 2007 Bear Hazard Assessment with respect to:
  - patterns identified of historic human-bear conflicts, any available information from people living in the City, and on information from City staff;
  - status of residential and commercial garbage management;
  - status of garbage management at parks, schools, and other public access places where there may be a high public safety risk for conflict with bears;
  - status of effectiveness of a public education program, particularly targetting on high-risk neighbourhoods and other areas, such as parks and at schools.
2. Assessment of the status of any current bear-people conflict monitoring system.
3. Assessment of the status and effectiveness of any current public education program.
4. Assessment of the status and enforcement of Bear Smart bylaws.
5. Assessment of the status of “bear-friendly” language in the City’s OCP, neighbourhood development plans and permits, and regional growth strategy.
6. Assessment of the status of “bear-friendly” language in the City’s green space management plan.
7. Recommendations on the above that the City can implement to enable it to proceed to an application to the province for Bear Smart Community status.

This report is a required component of the Province of British Columbia’s Bear Smart Community Program and, if adopted by City Council, will form the basis of the City of Port Alberni’s application to the province for Bear Smart Community status.

Two of the most critical components a community needs to have in place in order to demonstrate that it is committed to the program and desires to obtain Bear Smart Community status are the level and

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<sup>3</sup> Davis, Helen M., Debbie Wellwood, and Lana Ciarniello. March 2002. “*Bear Smart*” Community Program: Background Report. BC Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection, Victoria, BC; p. i.



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quality of public education AND the extent to which the community is in the process of bear-proofing its waste management operations (including amending necessary bylaws and providing compliance enforcement). This report describes the progress of the City of Port Alberni in achieving these and other requirements, as set out below.

Throughout this document, please keep these points in mind:

1. The Bear Plan proposed by the consultant has yet to be approved and adopted by the City.
2. The proposed Bear Plan allows for an implementation period between 2009-2013.
3. The Bear Plan addresses black bears, but can be used for wolves and cougars, also a safety concern in the Alberni Valley.
4. A management goal is proposed for community direction and buy-in of the Plan.
5. If implemented, a significant reduction of management bear kills and property damage, as well as increased public safety, will be the positive outcomes.
6. The highest priority of the Bear Plan is to implement an area-wide waste management system that is as fully bear-proof as possible, given current technology.
7. The consultant does not recommend any garbage collection/containment systems that are only partially bear-proof, have a poor track record, and end up with high long-term costs for maintenance and property damage for the City, and management of bear problems for the enforcement agencies.
8. Successful implementation of the Bear Plan will require commitment of the City to coordinate activities and policies with multiple agencies (e.g., ACRD, RCMP, COS, AVBSC, and public groups such as the Alberni Environmental Coalition).



Just some of the property damage a determined bear will do in its search for food. Photo: Bear Smart Durango (Colorado).

“Bear Tracks and Lumberjacks” is a catchy phrase to attract visitors to the Alberni Valley. We have a rich ecological and social history in the Valley that is something of which we can all be proud. One of the ways we can demonstrate that we are good stewards of this history is to manage our relationship with local wildlife. When we allow bears to be attracted to our garbage and other non-natural attractants, we put that relationship—and the bears—in jeopardy. Access to these attractants can



cause a local increase in the bear population (see Section 5.1), which further increases the number of conflicts with bears. Increased conflicts usually results in an increased number of habituated and food-conditioned bears, which ultimately are destroyed. The destruction of a high number of bears is evidence that we are not (yet) good stewards of our area's bears. A high number of conflicts can lead to an increase in the potential risk to the safety of residents and visitors alike. These are all good reasons to support this Bear Plan for Port Alberni.

## 2.1 Goals of the Bear Plan

The goals of the Human-Bear Conflict Management Plan<sup>4</sup> are to:

1. provide a general summary of the human-bear conflict issues in the community based on the Bear Hazard Assessment [Phase 1 Problem Analysis]
2. identify the community's level of commitment to the program
3. identify the level of tolerance of the community towards maintaining or restoring natural bear habitats (e.g., travel corridors and feeding areas) adjacent to the community
4. clearly establish goalposts for the success of the program
5. identify the agencies, groups, or individuals responsible for addressing problems (see Appendix 1)
6. determine what is necessary to address each problem successfully
7. set priorities for specific actions to be taken
8. develop a timetable for addressing each problem
9. conduct a cost estimate of proposed management actions and provide a budget break-down for each of the criteria in the program

Many of these goals may be undertaken by the multi-agency Bear Working Group, especially the last one as this information is not readily available to the consultant. As well, government members of this group have the authority needed to make the necessary decisions to achieve Bear Smart status.

The government's background report for the Bear Smart Community Program also states that, "Preparation for the management plan should include a brainstorming stage for generating ideas and concepts for developing the plan. The contents of the management plan should be developed using a consensus-based approach for identifying and assessing preferred solutions."

The timing for Port Alberni is such that there has been no pre-existing multi-agency Bear Working Group (BWG) with which to carry out such a brainstorming stage. During the course of implementing this Bear Plan, this can be remedied, however, if and when such a working group is established and the Plan can be so modified. The BWG should have active membership from a wide range of provincial, regional, and local government agencies, the RCMP, area First Nations, the newly organised Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee (which is actually a good precursor to a BWG for Alberni that only needs to have active participation from the range of agencies described above), and representation from the as-yet-to-be-created effective public education and bear-people conflict monitoring programs.

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<sup>4</sup> *Ibid.* p. 39. [Davis, Helen M. *et al.*]



## 2.2 Bear-Human Interaction Definitions<sup>5</sup>

Most of the following definitions apply to terms used to describe bear-human interactions:

**Aggressive behaviours:** Defensive: Defensive aggression is usually provoked and results in the bear swatting, charging, etc. when approached too closely. Offensive: Offensive aggression is usually initiated by the bear as attempted predation, tearing tents without food attractants, etc.<sup>6</sup>

**Anthropogenic foods:** Foods generally derived directly or indirectly from humans—usually non-natural (e.g., garbage), but can also be natural (e.g., fruit trees, artificially planted landscaping (e.g., mountain ash trees)).<sup>7</sup>

**Bear/human interaction:** Any of the various activities and their effects involving bears and humans, including sightings, encounters, and incidents.

**Bear Plan:** a bear-people conflict prevention (or management) plan.

**BHA:** a Bear Hazard Assessment.

**Bluff or False Charge:** A type of defensive or dominance behaviour exhibited by bears that can be characterised by a bear running or moving towards a person but veering off or stopping before making physical contact. This is almost always accompanied by other ritualised displays, like huffing, jaw-popping, or slapping the ground.

**BRO:** a Bear Response Officer, a position within the Conservation Officer Service.

**BWG:** the Bear Working Group comprised of public and private agencies and public interest groups.

**CO/COS:** a Conservation Officer or the Conservation Officer Service (a branch of BC Environment).

**Dangerous wildlife:** Under BC's Wildlife Act, specifically the Carnivore species: bear, wolf, coyote, and cougar.

**Displacement:** Encounters where the bear is displaced and runs or walks away.

**Dominance behaviour:** Body language and vocalisations used by bears to establish dominance hierarchies. Bears may also use this behaviour when interacting with people. The behaviour includes direct eye contact, jaw-popping, huffing, swatting, and bluff or false charges. This behaviour is considered defensive posturing rather than aggressive behaviour.<sup>8</sup>

**Encounter:** When bear is aware of human presence, regardless of whether or not the human is aware of the bear; bear may ignore people (because habituated to people), or may approach people.

**Food-conditioned:** Bears that have been rewarded or positively reinforced with non-natural foods, such as human food or garbage, and as a result have learned to associate humans and/or human developments with the potential to obtain food. Bears that are both human-habituated (see below) and



<sup>5</sup> Most of these definitions come from the following publication: Wellwood, Debbie. 2001. *Hazard Assessment of Bear-Human Conflict in Stewart, British Columbia—Phase 1*, Raven Ecological Services, Smithers, BC; p. 7; others have been adapted from general research and information from Wayne McCrory and others specialising in bear biology.

<sup>6</sup> BC Ministry of Environment. Dec 2002, Third Ed. *Bear-People Conflict Prevention Plan for Parks and Protected Areas in British Columbia*. Victoria, BC; pp. 73.

<sup>7</sup> Dolson, S., and C. Sherlock. 2006. *Responding to Human-Bear Conflicts: A review of non-lethal management techniques*. Prepared for Conservation Officer Service. Get Bear Smart Society, p. 8.

<sup>8</sup> Dolson, S., and C. Sherlock, Ibid, p. 8.

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food-conditioned generally pose a serious threat to human safety. As a result, these bears are frequently killed (Herrero 1985, Ciarniello 1997).

**Human-habituation:** The reduction or absence of an avoidance or fear response that a bear can learn from neutral interactions with people and that are not threatening, painful, or injurious (to the bear). Bears can be human-habituated without being food-conditioned.

**Incident or conflict:** The most serious bear-human interaction. An interaction is considered an incident or conflict when any of the following occur:

- physical contact between a person and a bear
- damage to or loss of property or food
- high intensity charge by a bear toward people
- people have to take extreme evasive action in response to a bear
- people use a deterrent on a bear
- a bear is translocated or destroyed

**Non-lethal Bear Management:** A term used to describe various bear behaviour modification methods, including active approaches like aversive conditioning, bear-shepherding and hazing, as well as passive methods such as electric fencing.<sup>9</sup>

**Non-natural foods:** Foods made available to bears by people and that are either not natural in a bear's diet or have been taken out of a natural/wild context and placed in a settled area (such as some tree or shrub species that people use for landscaping purposes, in a backyard garden, agricultural setting, etc.).

**Observation:** When a human sees a bear but the bear is unaware of the human.

**Zero Tolerance:** Conservation Officers will issue a Dangerous Wildlife Protection Order (DWPO) for any garbage/attractant infraction, which carries a fine of \$545 when these are not obeyed.

## 2.3 Methodology

In order to prepare this Bear Plan, I first did an in-depth review of my 2007 Bear Hazard Assessment report, particularly the recommendations listed in that report. Next, I set out to determine which activities and policies the City had already undertaken in the intervening year (see Appendix 1).

I had telephone and/or email discussions with individuals in various City departments (Administration, Planning, Bylaws, Waste Management, etc.), and maintained an exchange of information to stay current with any new developments. Maps were provided by the Engineering & Planning department.

I discussed various activities with members of the District CO Service and attended inaugural meetings of the newly formed Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee (see Appendix 3).

I communicated with SD #70 School Trustees (Larry Ransom) and SD #70 Superintendent of Schools Cam Pinkerton, and sent them a copy of the BHA, pointing out the recommendations and sections that specifically dealt with school issues.

Research was carried out in a number of ways, including online research of practices and bylaws of a number of communities in BC, Ontario, and Colorado that are also working on bear-people conflict

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<sup>9</sup> Dolson, S., and C. Sherlock, Ibid. p. 9





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issues. I had discussions or email exchanges with scientists knowledgeable in this area, including bear biology specialists (all RPBios) Tony Hamilton, Paul Paquet, Sean Sharpe, and Wayne McCrory.

I did a thorough review of the latest technologies in waste management (and their costs), including attending at Wasteline Containers in Abbotsford and Rollins Machinery in Langley, as well as numerous other manufacturers and suppliers via the internet, emails, and phone calls.

I did periodic checking of the information on the City's website regarding bylaws (and reviewed the relevant ones), waste management, and the OCP.

I re-visited a number of parks, schools, and identified "hotspot" neighbourhoods in the City to assess any changes in waste management practices and/or equipment since the BHA was submitted.

I collected articles (see Appendix 5) from the *Alberni Valley Times* and the *Alberni Valley News* about bears in the region, and reviewed a large sample of comments posted on the *Alberni Online* website.

I reviewed a number of Bear Hazard Assessments and Bear-People Conflict Management Plans for other BC communities (including those written by myself and others), as well as background and research reports, books, and journal articles on the subject. I collected information on bear-people conflicts in nearby jurisdictions (e.g., east side of Vancouver Island, North Island and Sooke to Port Renfrew areas, and the Lower Mainland).

I discussed the issue with the relevant people at both the Tseshaht and Hupacasath First Nations reserves and provided them with educational materials to help reduce conflicts in their communities.

I entered into a research agreement with the Ministry of Environment to review Provincial Wildlife Occurrence Reports, and consulted with Conservation Officers about recent encounters with bears in communities in the South Coast (e.g., Coquitlam, Port Renfrew). I also discussed bear behaviour with both the North Shore and Coquitlam Bear Aware program delivery specialists, as well as with bear biologists and bear behaviour specialists in BC and elsewhere.

I continued to update the information I collected so that this report is as current as possible.



This bear has made a considerable nuisance of itself, decreases safety for the family that lives in this house, and will keep coming back looking for another food reward. If it is female, it will teach any future cubs it may have to do the same.

NSBBN photo.



## 3.0 DISCUSSION: IMPLEMENTING THE BEAR PLAN

The goal of this Bear-People Conflict Management Plan is to build on the information provided in the Bear Hazard Assessment conducted for the City (Paquet 2007), assess the current status of activities in the City (including waste management issues and bylaws), and make recommendations that will assist the City to significantly reduce bear-people conflicts, increase safety for people and protection of private property, and reduce the number of bears destroyed within the City's boundaries.

The Bear Plan contains proposed priorities and actions for implementation to be phased-in over a five-year period. This amount of time is recommended as a reasonable period to allow the City's staff and the public to make and accept the necessary changes and funding requirements that will enable the City to apply for BC Bear Smart Community status. It follows the provincial Bear Smart Community Program guidelines for a conflict management plan.

This Bear Plan should be considered as "proposed" until it has been adopted by the Port Alberni City Council. If Council adopts the Plan and begins to implement it, then it can submit an application to the province for Bear Smart Community status. As an alternative, Council may modify the proposed plan, in which case Council has the option of submitting its own Bear-People Conflict Management Plan using the consultant's plan as background, keeping in mind there are required criteria to meet provincial standards for such status.

In his 2006 Bear Hazard Assessment for the North Shore (p. 48), McCrory highlighted the benefits of implementing the report's recommendations:

*The over-arching goal of implementing the bear-people conflict management plan. ...should be to improve public safety by significantly reducing the dependency of black bears on artificial attractants—mostly human foods (largely garbage)—primarily through implementing an effective bear-proof waste management system combined with adequate bylaws and a Zero Tolerance policy for non-compliance... The long-term objective of a... Bear Plan should be to minimise the food-conditioning of bears...*

The tangible benefits of implementing an effective Bear Plan are:

- increased safety for residents due to the reduced risk of encounters with black bears
- reduced property damage by food-conditioned bears
- more effective and efficient use of local and provincial (CO Service) resources
- better long-term prognosis for healthy black bear populations

There is an element of immediacy in the need for Alberni to implement the recommendations of the Bear Hazard Assessment (Paquet 2007) due in large part to a trend identified by the CO Service of an increasing number of resident bears that are no longer taking to the "bush" to hibernate over winter. The concern relates to the increasing number of bears coming into conflict in our area likely because the bear population is higher than what would normally be sustained if the bears were not accessing high-calorie non-natural foods. The relatively higher number of mostly food-conditioned and human-habituated bears in our area greatly increases the safety risk for residents.

Research throughout North America indicates that black bear populations are growing and that they are expanding their range, after having once been reduced in numbers—even extirpated in many areas. Researchers suggest that because people have moved into many areas once inhabited by bears, the widespread habitat loss, coupled with natural food shortages due largely to weather conditions,



and the lack of adequate management of garbage by people and the natural ability of bears to access non-natural foods, there is an increasing frequency of interactions between black bears and people.<sup>10</sup>

In prior years, the risk of serious conflicts causing injury to people was practically non-existent in our area. In the previous decade, there were 11 incidents throughout the whole South Coast/Vancouver Island region that resulted in minor injuries. However, the overall picture has now changed with the attacks and injuries, some requiring hospitalisation of more than 24 hrs, that occurred in summer 2008, such as the ones in Coquitlam, Port Renfrew, Whistler, and elsewhere, as well as higher numbers of home invasions by bears everywhere in the South Coast/Vancouver Island region, including in Port Alberni (see media articles in Appendix 5).

It is also possible that the numbers of conflicts in Port Alberni are on the rise. By early November this year, Alberni residents had already made 508 calls to the provincial wildlife reporting line. Compare this with previous years: 410 in 2004, 505 in 2005, 381 in 2006, and 469 in 2007. Based on the average number of calls made in the months of October, November, and December in any given year (46), this year's total could be close to 600. Information from the COS (as reported in mid-November by the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee), is that 11 bears were destroyed in Port Alberni and 5 in the Sproat Lake area, totalling 16 so far this year. Last year, 14 bears were destroyed.

### 3.1 Top Priorities

The top priorities are those actions that need to be implemented as soon as possible over the next two years (2009-2010) to mitigate the relatively high number of bear-people conflicts in our area.

#### 3.1.1 Develop a community vision statement that supports Bear Smart principles

Opening up the discussion of how Port Alberni can become Bear Smart to the whole community is necessary in order to find the solutions local residents can embrace.

In his 2006 North Shore BHA (pp. 48-49), McCrory commented on the often strongly conflicting range of notions residents held about bears and bear-proofing the waste management system. Much of the disparity, he noted, was due to the lack of widespread scientific information about bears and about the kinds of waste management systems that have been put into place in communities that are already working towards being Bear Smart. He added:

*Some of these views were not based on good science or sound information. A major short-coming was the lack of a common vision between the various decision-making agencies and other community members involved in the bear issues...I believe it will be important to develop a common vision statement, as well as to involve residents in developing it and formulating a sound strategy to address all bear issues proactively.*



#### 3.1.2 Implement bear-proof waste management throughout Port Alberni

The City of Port Alberni's Public Works Department services approximately 6,250 residences and 290 commercial dumpsters.<sup>11</sup> Residential garbage collection is currently done by manual methods. However, concerns for workers' health and safety will bring about changes to at least a semi-automatic



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<sup>10</sup> Sharon Baruch-Mordo. 2007. MSc Thesis: *Black Bear-Human Conflicts in Colorado: Spatiotemporal patterns and predictors*; Colorado State University, Fort Collins & Colorado Dept. Fish, Wildlife & Conservation; pp. 53, 68, and 75.

<sup>11</sup> Randy Fraser, City of Port Alberni Public Works, personal communication, 11 December 2008.



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pickup system. The technology does not yet exist for a fully automated collection system that is also fully bear-proof

There are good products available to bear-proof the residential collection system (see Appendix 8). The major consideration is cost. Rollins Machinery in Langley is a local company that already does a lot of business here. A good thing for Port Alberni to undertake is a trial—or test case—of bear-proof bins in some of the hotspot neighbourhoods to determine how effective they are in reducing conflicts and how well people will use them. Rollins has quoted me a cost of about \$110 per 120-140 litre bear-proof cart, delivered to Port Alberni for an order of under 100 carts. The province's Bear Smart program will provide funding for such a trial, if the City applies for it.

When I did the BHA last year, I noted that many of the city's dumpsters had plastic lids and many lids were left propped open. The city is currently in the process of changing most of these over to dumpsters that have sturdy metal lids. On a recent tour around the city, I also noticed that a good number of them were closed and locked. There is always concern for people's various abilities to put garbage into dumpsters. Metal lids are heavy, and many people either can't reach or can't lift the lids. Wasteline Containers in Abbotsford designs and manufactures several models that can be adapted for use by a variety of the City's commercial customers (see Appendix 8 for more information).

The City Engineer has been attending meetings of the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee and working closely with the group. He is in the process of reviewing several potential waste management systems to determine which will best suit Port Alberni.

Through years of research, and the collection of mountains of data and on-the-ground experience, there is no doubt that the relatively easy access to anthropogenic sources of food by bears is the chief factor in the development of bear-people conflicts in settled areas. Changes to the Wildlife Act and policies and permits associated with the Environmental Management Act highlight this fact.

Under the Wildlife Act (Section 88.1), it is illegal to allow access to food by "dangerous wildlife," and Conservation Officers can issue an offence ticket as follows:

## ***Dangerous wildlife protection order***

**88.1 (1)** *In this section:*

**"attractant"** *means food, food waste, compost or other waste or garbage that could attract dangerous wildlife;*

**"private dwelling"** *means a structure used solely as a private residence or a residential accommodation within any other structure.*

*(2) If a conservation officer believes on reasonable grounds that dangerous wildlife is or may be attracted to any land or premises other than a private dwelling, the conservation officer may, without a warrant, enter and search the land or premises.*

*(3) If a conservation officer believes on reasonable grounds that the existence or location of an attractant in, on, or about any land or premises, other than in a private dwelling, poses a risk to the safety of any person because the attractant is attracting or could attract dangerous wildlife to the land or premises, the conservation officer may issue a dangerous wildlife protection order directing an owner, occupier, or person in charge of that land or premises to contain, move or remove the attractant within a reasonable period of time specified in the order.*



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The Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot, not the City, operates the Regional landfill. The fact that this and numerous other landfills around the province have been electric-fenced over the past decade or so is a response to the strong evidence that garbage is a major attractant to bears and, hence, a major cause of bear-people conflicts. The Environmental Management Act is not explicit—within the Act itself—about landfill conditions in relation to wildlife, but there are provisions in Part 3 of the Act (section 28) that authorise the issuance of operational certificates for municipal solid waste management facilities (landfills). Operational certificates are issued by BC Environment and have a condition that they must be operated in accordance with the Landfill Criteria. These include the following rule: *Landfills are to be operated so as to minimize the attraction of wildlife such as bears and birds by applying cover at required frequencies and instituting a good housekeeping program. Further control measures, such as bear control fences and bird control devices, may be specified by the Manager.*<sup>12</sup> If certain landfills have a legal obligation to install electric fences, it is likely because the Manager has specified that.<sup>13</sup>

Essentially, what this means is that staff in the Environmental Protection branch of the ministry have the ability to make bear-proof (electric) fencing a condition of the operator's permit. Usually these are regional districts. The COS works with regional districts on these kinds of bear-related attractant issues.<sup>14</sup>

These regulations and the research point out that only when a community implements a fully effective bear-proof waste management system throughout its area, can bear-people conflicts be significantly reduced and prevented.

A good source of information on what kinds of waste management systems may work for Port Alberni is to look at what other communities are doing and whether or not they are successful in increasing safety and reducing bear-people conflicts. Notable successes occur in Canmore, Alberta, most of the provincial and national parks in the Rocky Mountains, Revelstoke, Furry Creek (south of Squamish), and, to a limited extent, in Whistler.<sup>15</sup> Many of these communities use a form of centralised drop-off depots for residents to deposit their garbage and recycling materials, and it is a system that McCrory favours, provided the depots are all fenced in a bear-proof manner. However, I do not believe this is a system suitable for Port Alberni. Too many people are not mobile and too many have nowhere else to safely store their garbage between trips to a depot. I do, however, think a bear-proof central drop-off setup may be suitable for new, more compact residential developments, but it would need to be built into the development in the design stage and all buyers would need to be informed of the system and the reasons for it.

Many communities in the south coast area are awaiting the results of an important bear-proof waste management trial carried out in the City of Coquitlam between fall 2007 and fall 2008. The following is a description of this trial that was supplied to me by Coquitlam's Recycling and Waste Reduction Officer:

## *Wildlife Resistant Container Pilot*

*The purpose of the one-year pilot is to isolate residential areas in the north and northeast sectors of Coquitlam to run trials of bear-resistant collection methods using*

<sup>12</sup> See Landfill Criteria (7.13 Wildlife (M)): [www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/mpp/lcmsw.html](http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/epdpa/mpp/lcmsw.html).

<sup>13</sup> Peter Trotzki, Director, Policy and Legislation Branch, BC MOE, personal communication, 4 Nov 08.

<sup>14</sup> Ron Heusen, CO Service, Field Supervisor, Central Island Zone, personal communication, 4 Nov 08.

<sup>15</sup> These are described fully in bear hazard assessments for RMOW, Squamish, Lions Bay, etc.



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*two test areas and two different collection methods. We will also test various garbage cans and bins in Mundy Park.*

*The goal is to identify for residents that garbage is the major attractant that draws bears into residential areas. The plan is to also educate residents about other attractants, such as fruit trees, birdfeeders, livestock, etc. We will contact residents by conducting survey(s), going door-to-door, sending out printed materials and reminders, plus we will be delivering free bins for them to try.*

*The three different residential garbage containers that we will test claim to be wildlife/bear-resistant. The characteristics our trial seeks to determine include:*

- *effectiveness (when used properly) of keeping wildlife, including bears, out of garbage*
- *if the bins reduce the number of bears being attracted because of easy access to garbage*
- *if they are user-friendly, including being easy to empty/handle for residents and staff*
- *if they are cost-effective*
- *if they are durable*
- *the type of warranty the various companies offer*
- *which (how many, if any) the city can recommend to residents to purchase (the city may subsidise costs to residents; this is yet to be determined)*

**1. Single family residential units using bear resistant carts—480 units** *The residential area we've chosen was selected for the following reasons:*

- *it is surrounded on three sides by a greenbelt area (golf course, riparian area, ravine)*
- *it contains the approximate number of households desired for the pilot (500)*
- *it has a history of high bear-people conflict activity*
- *it has newer homes with enclosed garages (for garbage storage during the week)*
- *it has few, if any, mature fruit trees in the area*
- *it likely has fewer additional attractants than an older neighbourhood (e.g., well-established grape vines, wild and landscape shrubs with berries, gardens)*

**2. Single family residential units in a more rural setting off Victoria Drive—48 units** *This test will use a centralised collection bin for residents to drop off their items. They will be provided with a key to the bin. The collection method used here will be similar to that used in Canmore, Alberta. The rural street is fairly isolated from regular subdivision-type collection and is in an area known to be used by bears.*

**3. Coquitlam Parks Department** *is also running a trial of a number of wildlife-resistant bins to determine the best bin type(s) for use in city parks and trails.*

*Characteristics we're looking for include:*

- *user friendly*
- *easy to empty*
- *durable*
- *wheelchair access and access to children*
- *aesthetics*
- *cost effective*

*We believe that the information gathered from these pilots will be very useful in other municipalities/regions.*



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Results of this trial will be available to the public by the end of 2008, and this consultant will endeavour to obtain those results and transmit them to the City Engineer for consideration. I recommend that Port Alberni also conduct a testing program in the City's hotspot neighbourhoods. High conflict areas in the city this year include Cherry Creek Road near the new mall, both sides of "the Dip" near 10th Avenue, along Kitsuksis Walkway, and the areas off 3rd Avenue in the vicinity of Zellers. The map on the unnumbered page following is an amalgamation of hotspots for the years 2004-2008.

Deciding on a bear-proof waste management system that will work—and be accepted by residents and be enforceable in the mix of urban, commercial, industrial, institutional, and recreational settings—will be a challenge for Port Alberni. The results of Coquitlam's pilot project will be important in helping the City decide on the best ways to significantly reduce bear-people conflicts. Whatever system is developed, while it may be considered expensive to initiate, it must prove to be affordable over time. Phasing in a system over the implementation period will enable the City to afford to pay for the equipment needed. Importantly, an incremental phase-in period will allow the City to make changes or corrections as new information and technologies surface.

### 3.1.3 Implement a City-wide public education program

An effective, multi-faceted public education program goes a long way to helping all residents understand the need to become Bear Smart. The Bear Aware program of the BC Conservation Foundation and BC Conservation Officer Service is just such a program.

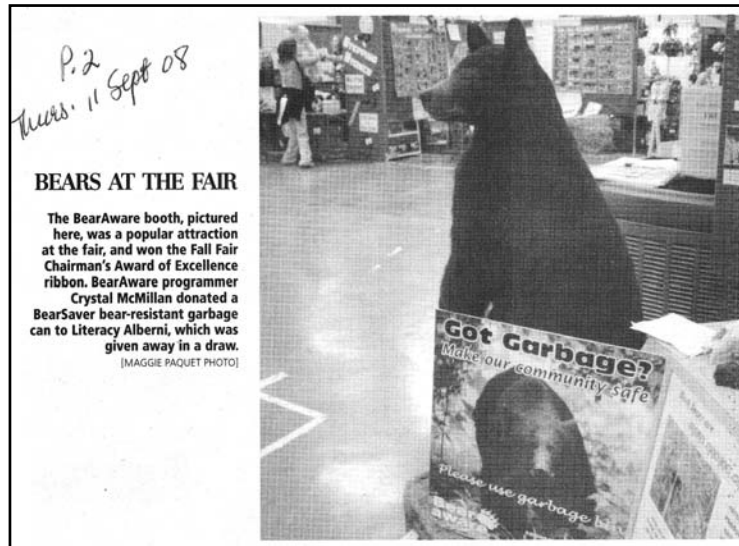
Many BC communities—among them Whistler, Coquitlam, Kamloops, Nelson, Prince George, Revelstoke, Gibsons, Sechelt, Squamish, and North and West Vancouver—have implemented and supported Bear Aware programs, some for nearly a decade. Once funding is secured, usually jointly from the province, the Bear Aware Program, and the local sponsoring community or agency, a program delivery specialist (PDS) is hired for the municipality. Much of the public education material used by the PDS has already been developed and tested in other locations, although there is some adaptation to target messages specifically for individual communities.

Port Alberni needs a Bear Aware PDS who lives in the local area, recruits local volunteers to work with the program, and who can respond to calls from the local public. This group, under the guidance of the PDS, will also be able to carry out the all-important bear-people conflict monitoring that needs to occur in order to determine what kinds of problems the community is having, where the hotspots are, where (and at whom) to target concentrated efforts, and to assist the local Conservation Officers and municipal bylaw enforcement personnel in their work (see Appendix 4 for sample form for monitoring bear-people conflicts by volunteers).



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The Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee currently is providing some public education activities, and has planned a number of public education and other initiatives (see the committee's 2008 work plan in Appendix 3). Eventually, however, I suspect the committee will break into two distinct groups: the much-needed volunteer-based public education group working under the auspices of the Bear Aware program, and the Bear Working Group, required by the province's Bear Smart Community Program. It is very important to have both types of groups in Port Alberni.



In their report, Davis et al describe the importance of the Bear Working Group (also called a Bear Stewardship Committee).<sup>16</sup>

*The most effective way to implement the “Bear Smart” Program is to create a Bear Stewardship Committee [e.g., Bear Working Group]. Decisions on the process, delivery, and implementation of the “Bear Smart” Community Program must come from a community that takes ownership of the program... Community ownership implies that the community values the lives of bears. It also suggests that these communities have a desire to reduce preventable destruction of bears and foster an attitude that will ensure the health of bear populations over the long term. Communities need to decide if and how they will co-exist with bears. Without public and community support for proactive management, human-bear conflicts will continue to increase, and bears will continue to pay the price. Change in public attitudes and commitment can change decades of reactive management into a co-operative effort of which a community can be proud.*

*The primary objectives of the Bear Working Group are to:*

- 1. Initiate and support the development of the “Bear Smart” Community Program.*
- 2. Review management strategies and options for attaining “Bear Smart” Community status.*
- 3. Initiate and review the Problem Analysis.*
- 4. Establish a Human-Bear Conflict Management Plan that will implement the recommendations from the Problem Analysis.*
- 5. Monitor the progress of the program.*
- 6. Provide annual reports that identify the progress of the program, evaluate the success or failure of management strategies, and provide direction for the program for the following year.*

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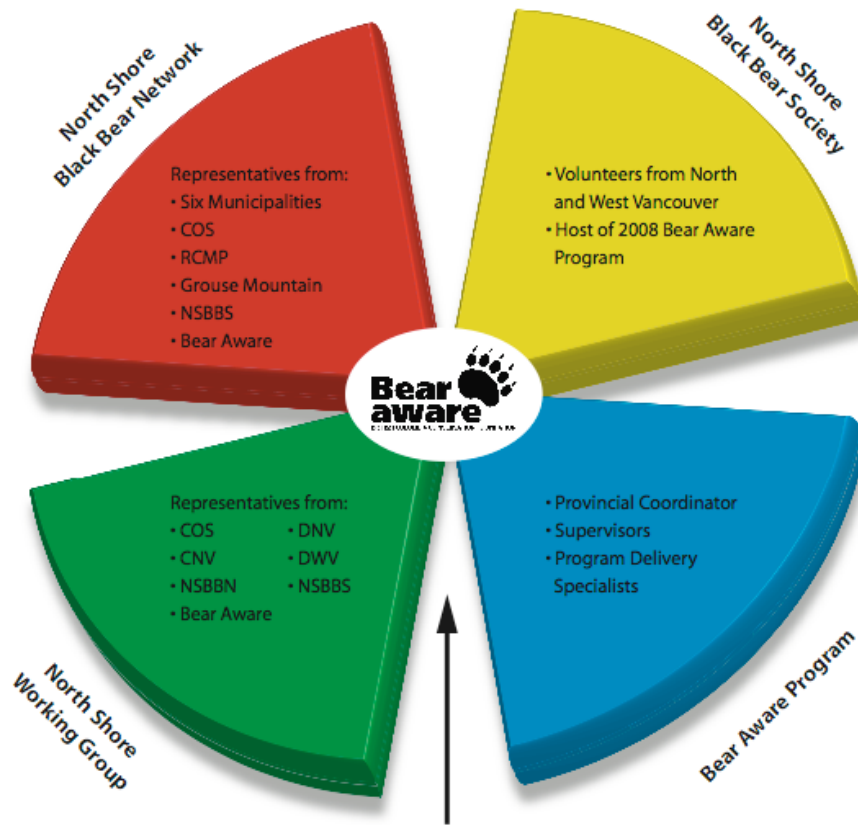
<sup>16</sup> Davis et al, Ibid. p. 19.



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The relationship between a community-based public education and conflict monitoring group and an overall decision-making Bear Working Group can be illustrated by the graphic below, which was provided by Christine Miller, Bear Aware Program Delivery Specialist for the North Shore (2008).

## The North Shore Model



The 2008 Bear Aware Program Delivery Specialist has had the opportunity to work with many groups and individuals whose common focus is on the reduction of human / bear conflict on the North Shore.



A Bear Working Group (even the precursor AVBSC) did not exist in Port Alberni until after the completion of the Bear Hazard Assessment. Through the collaborative efforts of the city, the CO Service, and the BC Conservation Foundation (primarily through Crystal McMillan), the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee came into being. Membership includes a city councillor, city staff from the Engineering and Planning departments, two regional district directors (Sproat Lake and Beaver Creek), members of the CO Service, and will, from time to time, also require other staff members (e.g., Bylaw Enforcement, Parks), waste management staff from the ACRD, and community volunteers from user groups (because of their various areas of expertise), such as the Alberni Environmental Coalition, Alberni Valley Outdoor Club, Friends of the Log Train Trail, etc.

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## 3.2 Ongoing Priorities

Ongoing priorities are those that need to continue throughout the implementation period, and beyond, in many cases. They are the infrastructure that supports being a Bear Smart Community. While some of these activities have been active, others, including implementing Bear Smart bylaws to prevent food-conditioning of bears, need to start as soon as possible.

### 3.2.1 Maintain and support the activities of the Bear Working Group (and the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee)

The importance of the BWG was described in the previous section. Active support throughout and after the implementation period of this Bear Plan needs to continue, if Port Alberni is to become a Bear Smart Community.

*Coordinate with other jurisdictions and agencies/organisations, including:*

Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

Alberni Port Authority

School District # 70

Hupacasath First Nation

Tseshah First Nation

BC Parks

BC Forest Service

BC Hydro

Fisheries & Oceans Canada

Alberni Valley Tourism Association

Alberni Chamber of Commerce

Catalyst Paper, Port Fish, and other industries located along the waterfront

In addition to the range of agencies and organisations that are already members of the BWG, it is necessary to coordinate all bear-proofing efforts between the BWG and the above-listed agencies in order to achieve the goals of this Bear Plan.

### 3.2.2 Mitigate other bear attractants

Fruit trees, birdfeeders, backyard pools and ponds, hot tubs, gardens and composts, barbecues, patios, pet foods and dishes, any small livestock and their feed, dumping of garden wastes onto City property (including unwanted fruit), even beehives, are all attractants for bears. In order to prevent attracting bears into residential areas in their search for food, all these need to be made as bear-proof or otherwise as inaccessible to bears as possible. Once garbage becomes significantly less available, these other attractants can provide sufficient reasons to keep bears searching for food rewards in neighbourhoods and so must also be reduced.





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## 3.2.3 Modify bylaws and step-up compliance enforcement to Zero Tolerance

Port Alberni's waste collection bylaw needs to prohibit people putting their garbage out the night before collection. It is also preferable if the bylaw would specify only using bear-proof garbage containers, or storing their garbage in a bear-proof enclosure. At the very least, it should prohibit people putting their garbage out in plastic bags or in open cans with no lids. The benefit of a bear-proof garbage can is that it can be put out on the morning of collection while still securely closed, thus discouraging bears from roaming around neighbourhoods on garbage-collection day, which is what occurs now.

Other existing bylaws, such as those regulating unsightly properties and dogs on leashes, can have some application for Bear Smart practices.

Once Bear Smart bylaws are in place and the public is well-informed about them, compliance should be stepped up to Zero Tolerance because it only takes one resident out of compliance to spoil it for all the others in a neighbourhood who are working to prevent attracting bears.

Bylaws, coupled with green space, OCP, and development plans and permits that recognise the need to keep bears and people separated, will result in fewer bears being destroyed, less property damage, and an increased safety margin for Alberni's residents.

## 3.2.4 Modify green space development and management planning (parks and trails)

In addition to the easy accessibility of garbage and non-natural food attractants, how we use and develop land, including how we manage our green spaces, has a major influence on whether or not bears come into conflicts with people in our community. Parks and trail developments that do not take into consideration the prior use of habitat by bears is one of the causes of the steep rise in bear-people conflicts over the past number of years. Green spaces, ravines, and creeks give bears sufficient cover to move into residential and commercial areas that have high attractants. Wherever possible, new parks should avoid being established in known bear habitats and movement corridors. If this is unavoidable, then extra measures will need to be put in place to inform people to be aware that a bear could be encountered at any time and what to do if this happens.

In order for residents to fully enjoy our parks and walkways, city staff will need to implement measures to prevent bears from threatening the safety of park users. Some measures to do this include siting childrens playsets well away from dense shrubs and tree cover, remove garbage cans from play areas, and post temporary warning signs when bears are known to be in the area (see photo on p. 8).

All waste receptacles in parks, trails, and public spaces should be bear-proof, should be emptied frequently in hot weather or heavy use conditions, and should be inspected and maintained regularly. The public needs to be aware that if they put household garbage into public garbage cans, they make these cans more attractive to bears. Port Alberni's Parks and Recreation Manager, Scott Kenny, is aware of problem and is planning on putting decals (at right) on all the park garbage cans (see picture for sample of decal).

As well, the department only uses landscaping trees that are not fruit- or nut-bearing, preferring to only use trees like maples. I was informed that the city will no longer be planting mountain ash trees along boulevards. These can become very attractive to bears in years when other foods are scarce.



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## 3.2.5 Modify the Official Community Plan and future development plans

The Bear Smart Community Program requires that all planning and decision-making documents be consistent with a bear-people conflict management plan. In other words, planning documents need to show how bear use areas are kept separate from areas that people use, as much as possible. And where it isn't possible, they need to describe mitigation efforts required to help keep conflicts to a minimum, such as a targeted public education program and prescriptive waste management bylaws.

Currently, neither the city's strategic plan nor its OCP make mention of policies or practices in relation to keeping bears and people separate. In fact, there is no bear-friendly language in these documents. Appendix 14 of the 2007 Bear Hazard Assessment contains yellow-highlighted sections and phrases where Bear Smart language could be included, or where the topic has relevance for applying Bear Smart principles. Recommendations to amend the OCP and planning documents recognise the need for a public consultation process to achieve the necessary changes, as well as the need for sufficient information to help people understand the reasons for the changes and to increase compliance with permit requirements and bylaw changes.

City Planner Scott Smith attends meetings of the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee and is aware of these requirements. He is considering guidelines for development permits for commercial and residential complexes that would point out the need for bear-proof waste management either through using bear-proof equipment or by requiring a bear-proof enclosure be built to house dumpsters. However, these enclosures may cause problems when they are emptied. Ken Ermantrout, the local manager of WSI<sup>17</sup>, said having dumpsters inside enclosures reduces their productivity because of the extra time and staff effort to put wheels on the dumpsters and then roll them out of the enclosures so they can be emptied. These kinds of problems can be addressed in community consultations.



A view of the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee's booth at the Fall Fair, and the first prize ribbon it won.  
M. Paquet photo.



<sup>17</sup> Ken Ermantrout, personal communication, 11 December 2008.

## 4.0 NEXT STEPS

### 4.1 Resources Needed To Implement The Bear Plan

When people see the word “resources,” they think of financial resources. Certainly those are required to fully implement this Bear Plan. However, not all the actions needed have to cost money, or very much. Re-allocating staff resources, if only on a temporary basis, and offering various kinds of support to local residents and community groups, can also help achieve some of the items on the list of criteria to successfully implement the Bear Plan. The other major “resource” needed is a commitment to becoming Bear Smart. Everyone, from government agencies to residents, can contribute to this goal.

1. Develop a Bear Smart Community Vision Statement

To save money, this could be done through the media, at least to all but the final stage. It could also be accomplished as part of any OCP and new neighbourhood or development plan reviews.

2. Implement area-wide Waste Management

This is the most expensive item on the list. Bear-proofing all waste management in Port Alberni will undoubtedly be a significant challenge, both financially and socially. Initial costs to install bear-proof garbage cans and dumpsters throughout the City will be high, but costs all around will eventually come down. Seeking funding only from government sources will likely take considerable time to achieve. Consider looking for private, business, and foundation sponsorship (e.g., Adopt-a-Can programs) of bear-proof bins, such as for schools, public spaces, and other high-profile locations.

3. Establish and Maintain an Area-wide Public Education Program

Provincial, regional, municipal, and organisational funding working together can achieve this goal. The best way to achieve it is through successful application to the province for a BC Conservation Foundation Bear Aware Program Delivery Specialist (PDS) for Alberni.

4. Maintain an Area-wide Bear-people Conflict Monitoring Program

This program needs to encompass the entire Alberni Valley in order to reflect the fact that provincial data and Conservation Officers do not distinguish the City separately from ACRD electoral areas or the local Indian Reserve lands. Resources are needed to establish a “Bear Line” (which could be used by a Bear Aware PDS) for local residents to call to report sightings of bears (so their movements can be tracked) and for immediate information/assistance about conflicts with bears.

5. Implement Relevant Bylaws and make provision for Zero Tolerance Compliance and Enforcement

Achieving implementation of this criterion will require the development of new bylaws, which could incur some financial expenditure. Publicising and enforcing them will require mostly staff resources. Using information from current and future BWG partners, such as the RCMP, the COS, and Bear Aware, volunteers can help reduce the number of bylaw officers needed to patrol neighbourhoods looking for infractions.

6. Green Space Development and Management Resources and Development Planning Resources

Both of these will likely require financial resources to allow for public consultation and feedback. Some non-financial resources could be achieved through re-allocating staff, however temporarily.

With strong commitment to reducing conflicts between people and bears, the City of Port Alberni can become a Bear Smart Community. Agencies, businesses, organisations, and individuals are all potential sources of the ideas, the funding, and the drive needed to achieve the goal. With some dedicated planning and coordination, such as could be provided by an Alberni BWG, the City could implement this Bear Plan over the next five years... or less.



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*I love bears and the wildlands where they live. Bears have fascinated me, scared me 'til my heart pounded, and inspired me... They have helped me to learn about the diversity of life on earth and how nature works. Few biologists can study bears without seeing in them traits that are distinctly human. Such traits make people feel a strong attachment toward bears. Needless killing of bears elicits compassion and anger in me. We know how to do things better, how to make bear country safer for both bears and people.*

- Stephen Herrero, in *Bear Attacks: Their Causes and Avoidance*.

## 4.2 Moving Forward to Attaining Bear Smart Community Status

### 4.2.1 Human Behaviour and Community-Based Social Marketing<sup>18</sup>

In the introduction to her report, Visser (p. 3) says this:

*Surveys across North America... indicate that most residents know how to not attract bears to their backyards, and that a substantial portion of people care about bears and wildlife. Yet bear-human conflicts continue, largely because of attractants, and many bears are killed every year as a result.*

*Why are people not motivated to take action, even when they say they believe in peaceful coexistence with bears? Why do people's actions differ from their words? Why aren't our "bear smart" programs working to the extent we would like? How can we foster the human behaviour changes that will lead to truly bear-smart communities?*

Changing human behaviour is the key to achieving Bear Smart Community status. By using community-based social marketing (CBSM) strategies to promote bear smart behaviour in people, we can achieve a higher degree of success than by a public education campaign alone. CBSM "looks at understanding human behaviour." How do we do this?

- Look at who is doing the activities/behaviours you want and who is not doing them.
- Break down behaviour changes into segments.
- Identify barriers—the PERCEIVED ones, since they are the reality for those who hold the perceptions.
- Identify motivators/incentives.
- Identify useful tools to influence behaviour.
- Develop measurable programs to change behaviour.

CBSM, says Visser (p. 6), "is NOT doing a communication or education campaign." CBSM is about directly intervening with people "to modify human behaviour to reduce negative human-bear interactions, specifically to reduce or eliminate bear attractants in or near people's residents."

CBSM is not a simple public education campaign uniformly applied to all communities as though they were all identical. It requires conducting prior research to discover that community's barriers to bear attractant management. CBSM requires that you do not assume you know what the barriers are in a given community. You must actually survey and test to discover them, and then tailor your strategy to

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<sup>18</sup> This section has been synthesised primarily from two reports: Visser, Lorna. 2007. *Using community-based social marketing strategies to promote bear smart human behaviour: A review of the literature on bear-human conflict in a CBSM context*. Carmanah Strategies. New Denver, BC; pp. 38; and Benoit, Jason. 2007. *North Shore Human Behaviour Study: Bear Attractant Management*. North Shore Black Bear Network and BC Conservation Officer Service; North Vancouver, BC; pp. 16.





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change peoples' behaviours in that community. Below is a survey conducted in Durango, Colorado. This is a useful template for Port Alberni to help us tailor our own educational efforts, plus it would be a clear message to residents that local government does care about this issue and intends to do something about it:

## CITY OF DURANGO AND BEAR SMART DURANGO BEAR SURVEY RESULTS

In summer 2003, the City of Durango, the Colorado Division of Wildlife, and Bear Smart Durango conducted a survey of residents with the intention of better gauging residents' thoughts on the extent and root causes of bear and human conflict in the city of Durango. The surveys were included in city residents' utility bills and mailed to households in Durango. Out of 5400 surveys sent, 1089 were returned by residents, nearly a 21% return. (N/A) indicates no answer. Some questions have multiple answers or residents chose more than one answer.

### Do you think Durango has a bear problem?

688 - Yes

329 - No

067 - It's not a bear problem, it's a people problem (write-in answer)

068 - N/A

### Does your neighborhood have a problem with bears getting into trash >receptacles?

478 - Sometimes

395 - Yes

209 - No

010 - N/A

### How would you rate the problem in your neighborhood?

612 - Minor problem

243 - Not a problem

224 - Major problem

017 - N/A

### What part of Durango do you live in?

354 - Section 2

309 - Section 3

181 - Misc.

112 - Section 1

084 - Section 4

040 - Section 6

009 - Section 5

### What type of neighborhood do you live in?

838 - Residential single-family dwellings

225 - Mixed single-family/multi-family

076 - Adjacent to federal or state land

070 - Mixed commercial/residential

035 - Mostly multi-family apartments

025 - Rural

015 - Mobile home park

003 - Agricultural

005 - N/A

### When does your neighborhood have the biggest problem with bears and trash?

599 - Early fall

397 - Mid to late summer

171 - There is no problem

136 - Early to mid summer

048 - N/A

### When do you put out your trash?

804 - Morning of pick-up

160 - It is always out

148 - Night before pick-up

021 - N/A





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## Where do you store your trash?

642 - Inside garage, shed, home, or other enclosure  
336 - Outside in a trash receptacle next to my house  
091 - Outside away from house  
066 - In an alley  
007 - N/A

## The following are known to attract bears. Check those you think apply to your neighborhood.

724 - Garbage stored outside  
679 - Trash receptacles put out night before pickup  
603 - Fruit-bearing trees  
268 - Bird feeders left out overnight  
260 - Outdoor grills not cleaned after food preparation  
237 - Pet or livestock food left outside  
092 - N/A

## What actions are you willing to take to help reduce bear and human conflicts?

664 - Change my habits to avoid issues listed above  
460 - Support citations for offenders after appropriate warnings  
295 - Pay more to have a bear-proof trash receptacle  
078 - Donate my time as a Bear Aware volunteer  
180 - N/A

## How would you rate your knowledge of how to avoid bear and human conflicts?

920 - I have adequate information on the subject  
116 - I have not received enough information  
053 - N/A

### *Benefits of and barriers to bear attractant management*

The benefits of managing bear attractants accrue to individuals, communities, provincial and local governments, and society as a whole. Individuals can better enjoy their homes and local recreational pursuits, such as bringing in the groceries, or walking along a community trail, when they don't have to be so concerned about encounters with food-conditioned and human-habituated bears.

Communities benefit by the increased safety of residents, less damage to municipal and private property (and lower insurance rates), and a better sense of well-being for everyone. Neither will so many community members become upset when bears have to be destroyed.

Local and provincial authorities won't have to spend so much time and money on compliance and enforcement, and can better direct their energies and expertise to the many other tasks for which they are responsible.

Society as a whole is much better served when bear populations are in better balance with the local environment. If we better managed our garbage and other food attractants, there would likely be many fewer bears in the local environment. In summary, the benefits of bear attractant management are:

- safer neighbourhoods
- compliance with provincial and local/regional regulations and bylaws
- no requirement to pay fines for non-compliance
- reduction in bear-people conflicts
- residents and tourists not upset when bears are killed
- bear populations are not artificially increased because of access to garbage/food attractants

The barriers to managing bear attractants—at our homes and throughout our communities—may be internal or external. For example, lack of knowledge is an internal barrier, as is not caring about the issue. An example of an external barrier is lack of convenience to bear-proof one's garbage either because bear-proof containers are unavailable or unaffordable, or if a resident is not mobile to take their garbage to a central bear-proof drop-off station.



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The primary barriers identified in a number of communities where the research has been done, include:

- lack of education/information
- disinterest
- inconvenience
- lack of household and institutional money to pay for bear-proof equipment
- social/political inertia to pass bylaws that would require either local governments or local residents to spend the money needed to achieve fully bear-proof waste management

This latter one is a very real—and very valid—barrier in all the communities in which I have undertaken bear-people conflict related work. One aspect of this is that most local governments have already invested considerable resources in the status quo regardless of whether or not their current waste management system has any potential to reduce the frequency or intensity of bear-people conflicts.

Lack of knowledge about the need to manage bear attractants and about how to do it are also major barriers. Public education goes a long way to rectify this. But an information campaign alone is not enough. For example, in Vancouver's North Shore neighbourhoods that were identified as having a high frequency of conflicts, the CO Service conducted a series of bear attractant inspections. The North Shore has had an excellent and widespread public education program in operation for nearly a decade. Over the course of a year (Fall 2005-Fall 2006), the COs documented an increase of from 71% to 85% of households that "diligently managed food attractants." While this may seem to be a high rate of compliance, it is still inadequate. Even one household providing a food reward can keep bears coming to the neighbourhood. Public education and awareness campaigns alone, and the resulting social diffusion that occurs, do not achieve the 100% compliance that is required.

What other strategies are needed? What motivates some residents to comply and what are the barriers preventing others from doing so? Analysing human behaviour is the key. We know more about humans than we do about bears, so it makes good sense to analyse our own behaviour in the context of what prevents us from stopping to attract bears into our communities? What motivates others to practice good bear smart behaviour?

It is important to do the research. On the North Shore, for example, a phone survey was developed and tested. The results indicated that people who were familiar with the issue learned about it from three major sources: the media (TV and newspapers), their children's schools, and the North Shore Black Bear Network's (and subsequent Bear Aware program) pamphlets and canvassing. The survey also revealed that a majority of people who did practice bear smart behaviour were more motivated by safety and protection of property concerns than by conservation of bears. This result highlights that public education campaigns should not focus on "a particular agenda or an agency's view of what should be done... education should be conceptualised as a way to help people make informed choices about what they think should be done..." In studies done elsewhere in North America (New Jersey, Michigan, Whistler) threats to public safety had the highest level of concern, followed by threats to pets, agricultural damage, and damage to personal property. These are powerful motivators to encourage people to change their behaviours.

One of the important things Port Alberni can do to begin implementing this Bear Plan is work with the provincial government and the BC Conservation Foundation to get a Bear Aware program in place for the Alberni Valley, with a locally based Program Delivery Specialist (PDS). A major strength of the Bear



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Aware program is that the PDS doesn't simply distribute information/education materials. They interact directly with people in their homes, schools, places of work, in public places such as malls, and in the media. Ideally (and usually), they work closely with both local (bylaw officers) and provincial (conservation officers) compliance and enforcement personnel. Each makes positive use of the other's authority, information, and activities/efforts.

Province-wide, the number of complaints residents logged with the Conservation Officer Service nearly doubled between 2003 (11,589) and 2007 (18,070). In that same period, the number of bears killed in Region 1 (Vancouver Island) fluctuated considerably, most likely due to increased conflicts in years with poor berry crops and other natural foods (2003-134; 2004-292; 2005-99; 2006-150; 2007-155, for a total of 830 bears killed in the five-year period). During that same period, the number of people injured by bears in Region 1 totalled four (2 in 2003 and 2 in 2005). There were no humans killed by black bears in Region 1 for those years or for any of the years for which I have data, back to 1986.<sup>19</sup>

These numbers point to the very low risk of injury or death from attack by a black bear in Region 1. However, 2008 has been a different story. The media has been replete with lurid articles about bears injuring people, invading homes, and getting shot out of trees (see Appendix 5). This year's statistics have not yet been tabulated, but it will be interesting to see them when they are to see if there is a new trend developing. In the meantime, there is no doubt that an encounter with a bear—such as going out to your garage on a dark October night and coming face-to-face with a 250-lb black bear—is a frightening and potentially dangerous situation. Provincial and municipal authorities are becoming more aware of the need to do what they can to protect the safety of their residents.

The two biggest barriers to bear-proofing our communities are knowledge and funding. We are continually increasing our knowledge and understanding of the complexities of bear-people conflicts, but we may never know everything about them. For now, we need to do all we can to commit the resources needed to act on what we do know. Success will come incrementally with increases in both knowledge and funding for the programs and activities that are required to make the City of Port Alberni a Bear Smart Community.



In time, and with success in becoming Bear Smart, this is a scene we'll no longer see in Port Alberni. NSBBN photo.

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<sup>19</sup> Provincial Bear Attack Statistics by Region, BC Ministry of Environment, Biodiversity Branch, data to 2007.



## 5.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### 5.1 A Bit of Bear Ecology

In any discussion of bear-people conflict, it is beneficial to present information on the ecology of black bears so that we can better understand the dynamics and complexity of the issue. The ecology of bears includes their evolution, required habitats, and their behaviours and how these predispose bears to coming into conflict with people. British Columbia has six subspecies of black bears; those occurring on Vancouver Island are a distinct subspecies (*Ursus americanus vancouveri*) from those found in the rest of Canada. They have larger heads and jaws than mainland bears, are a bit larger overall, and are primarily of the black colour phase. Because of the relatively short winters and mild climate, and a historic abundance of food, Vancouver Island's bears generally have short hibernation periods and are not noted for aggressive behaviour toward people.

Recent research points out the importance of bears in ecosystems, particularly those that have salmon-forest components, which, historically, is much of what Vancouver Island was all about—trees and fish. The research helps us understand that bears provided important ecosystem functions, such as the distribution of soil nutrients that enabled the once-lush forests of Vancouver Island.

Black bears are truly forest-dependent animals. They prefer the types of forested habitats generally found in valley bottoms. The dense understorey in older forests offers a wide variety of foods bears require. The trees provide protective cover and, when climbed, safety from threats. In wet coastal areas particularly, large (generally old-growth) trees and tall stumps also provide bears with important places to den for the winter that are high and dry, thus enabling them to better maintain body temperature during the wet winters, and to avoid predators.<sup>20</sup> In our province's mountainous terrain, valley bottoms are also where most people like to live and where most of our towns are located. This is a root cause of bear-people conflicts.

In her report, *Reducing Human-Bear Conflicts*,<sup>21</sup> Ciarniello says that to understand how “problem” bear behaviour develops, one needs to know the biological requirements of bears and how they learn. While bears are classified as carnivores, they are...

*...opportunistic omnivores that feed primarily on grasses, forbs, berries, [and insect larvae], “but prefer richer, fatty foods when available (e.g., fish, ungulates)...[and] will switch foods according to their...distribution and abundance... [B]ears will select habitats that contain plant foods high in... nutrients... Consuming large quantities of digestible food is especially important prior to denning. The ways bears process foods, and their constant struggle to attain the largest layer of fat possible to survive winter denning, are keys to understanding their attraction to non-natural foods. Landfills and other non-natural foods [especially garbage] are some of the most concentrated sources of calorie-rich foods and are, therefore, attractive to bears.*



<sup>20</sup> Davis, H. 1996. MSc Thesis: *Characteristics and Selection of Winter Dens by Black Bears in Coastal British Columbia*. Simon Fraser University, Vancouver, BC.

<sup>21</sup> Ciarniello, L.M. 1997. *Reducing Human-Bear Conflicts: Solutions Through Better Management of Non-Natural Foods*. Report prepared for the BC Ministry of Environment, Lands & Parks, Bear-Human Conflict Committee; pp. 139, including appendices.



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She further explains:

*Bears select habitats based on a number of factors, including quality and availability of foods, forest/security cover, breeding opportunities, avoidance of other bears (e.g., black bears avoid grizzly bears, female and subadult bears avoid adult males). The amount of nutrition attained influences reproductive success and social status, and is vital to survival. Non-natural attractants are often concentrated in a site (e.g., a landfill) and within an area (e.g., a town) and offer high nutrient availability with [comparatively] little energy expenditure [by the bear]...*

*Curiosity is a [lifelong] characteristic that helps bears discover the most productive and nutritious foods...[they] also possess the ability to learn through the observation of other bears [and their own experiences, often needing only one incident to teach them something]. Because bears are very effective learners, any high energy food that they feed on may be included in their search image [emphasis added].*



A sow and cub check out this porch for a meal; the cub remembers this food source.  
Norma Rodgers photo.

Bears quickly learn to recognise visual cues, such as a garbage can, a freezer on a porch, or plants in a patio garden, as potential food sources, and this fact is stored in their memory. Coupled with their keen sense of smell, even more effective than a dog's, it is easy to understand how garbage becomes such a powerful attractant.

In order to survive—both as individuals and as a species—it is absolutely imperative that bears “bulk up” before denning. A female will not produce young if she does not have sufficient fat reserves to successfully sustain herself and gestating, then nursing, cubs. While mating occurs in spring and early summer, implantation of the embryo occurs in late fall, just prior to winter denning. Nature has provided her body with the knowledge that if she cannot provide the fats and nutrients for herself and her young, including nursing cubs for at least 14 weeks prior to emerging from her den, the embryo will be flushed from her body. We now know why hyperfeeding in fall is such an imperative for the species.

By allowing bears access to non-natural food sources, particularly calorie-rich garbage, Ciarniello says, “... we may accelerate the natural reproductive cycle of the bear. Being drawn to richer artificial food sources, bears respond with a decreased interval between breeding, larger litter size, and earlier reproduction.”

She also points out (pp. 7-8):

*Bears are very effective learners. Cubs remain with their mother for one to three years and in that time learn the requirements necessary for survival for the remainder of their life. If the mother is a ‘garbage bear,’ then the cubs will learn to forage on garbage. Similarly, if no avoidance of humans is displayed and/or food is attained from humans, then a lack of fear of humans and an association between humans and food may be learned.*





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When you consider this, it becomes easier to understand what attracts black bears to human use areas and what makes them lose their fear of people. You can see that when we don't manage non-natural attractants, we provide a smorgasbord for bears and teach them to associate people with sources of food. Couple this with the knowledge that bears have amazing capacity to learn and remember, and that sows teach their cubs how to survive in all habitats, including settled ones, and the picture on how and why conflicts develop between bears and people further emerges.



Bear spies a tempting berry plant and compost bucket on a patio, both of which, along with the location, it has learned to recognise as a potential food source. L Ruskin photo

Our challenge is to introduce factors that (a) significantly decrease the availability of non-natural foods for bears, and (b) offer learning opportunities to bears that strongly discourage them from approaching the places where people live, including rural locations. This leaves the more wild areas where people may work or recreate where, again, we have the responsibility to learn how to avoid potential problems with bears and employ practices that reduce conflicts (e.g., brushing out and widening trails, reducing/eliminating security cover in picnic and play areas, learning how to react more safely when confronted by a bear).

Bears, like people, are creatures of habit—and habitat. Their movements from one habitat use type (denning, feeding, shelter, mating) to another become trails that they use for generations. When human development breaks up previously contiguous bear habitat, the animals' movement corridors become fragmented. Not only does this force bears to risk entering areas where there are people (when they would normally avoid us), it can have negative effects on conserving bears as a species. Habitat fragmentation causes wildlife populations to become isolated and increases the risk of extirpation and, ultimately, extinction of at least that unique genetic stock of the species. This is another important reason to proactively manage bear-human conflicts that, while not directly related to the Bear Smart program, is essential if we want to achieve any degree of environmental sustainability.

Habitat is everything. Ultimately, it shapes the evolution—including the behaviours—of every species on Earth. Habitats also evolve. Generally, barring catastrophic events, changes are slow and incremental. But as we've learned, there is one agent that is capable of changing habitat at a fairly rapid rate; a rate that makes it difficult for other species to adapt in pace with the changes. That agent is human beings.

As a species, humans have a very high capacity for flexibility in behaviours, which is also called learning. We have well learned how to exploit—or use—habitats to best meet our immediate needs. Only recently have we begun to have a better understanding of the effects of changes on the other species that share our surroundings.

Bears, too, have a degree of flexibility in behaviours, or learning, although nowhere near what humans are capable of. In fact, of all the carnivores, bears have the highest brain-to-body mass ratio, which translates as a well-developed capacity for learning. In the forests and river valleys of British Columbia's south coast region, bears and people are frequently in direct competition for habitats. It's safe to say that bears will always lose this battle. So it comes down to the fact that we humans need to choose whether or not we want to retain bears as part of the species composition of the habitats in which we live.



## 5.2 Risk Assessment and Risk Management<sup>22</sup>

Every day, officials charged with protecting public safety... must determine when there is sufficient scientific evidence to support government intervention and decide what actions are most appropriate. Nearly all regulatory decisions [including bylaws] are made with incomplete scientific knowledge and data. Scientific certainty is an elusive, if not impossible, goal. Reducing risk involves two overlapping stages: risk assessment and risk management.

*Risk assessment* is a useful analytical tool to determine the potential effectiveness of a regulatory decision; certainly, it provides a means to organise and present technical information to decision-makers.

Risks may be characterised in a quantitative or qualitative manner. Risk assessment is a function of two independent factors: the potency (or danger) of, and exposure to, a hazard. As the bridge between risk assessment and risk management, risk characterisation combines exposure data with the effects of a hazard... to determine the risk. It should include a description of the strengths, limitations, and uncertainties associated with the risk assessment process.

*Risk management* involves considering alternative strategies and taking actions to reduce or minimise risks. Risk management decisions take into account not only the risk assessment, but often numerous other factors including... the feasibility and cost of preventing or managing the risk, social and behavioural factors that influence risks, and societal preferences.

[T]he benefits of reducing risks to public safety and the environment are typically more difficult to quantify than the costs. It is difficult to put a monetary value on maintaining the viability of natural resources or the benefits for future generations, yet there is often widespread public agreement that a resource [wildlife, for example] should be protected or maintained.

The public wants strong environment, health, and safety laws, and they want to participate in the decisions influencing their lives... [T]he important elements of a risk assessment and the key... considerations in making a risk management decision should be communicated... to interested citizens, who should be provided opportunities to express their views... Ultimately, a risk management decision involves a broad range of considerations, including economic feasibility [and] societal values...



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<sup>22</sup> www.nnic.noaa.gov/CENR/riskwht.html, accessed 2000; URL no longer active; US Nat'l Science & Technology Council; adapted.



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## 6.0 LIST OF CONTACTS

PA = Port Alberni    ACRD = Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District    PDS = Program Delivery Specialist

Russell Dyson, PA City Clerk

Guy Cicon, PA City Engineer

Scott Smith, PA City Planner

Scott Kenny, PA Parks and Recreation

Randy Fraser, PA Public Works/Waste Management

Mark Zenko, PA Bylaw Officer

Bylaw officers in Coquitlam, North Vancouver, Canmore, Whistler, Nakusp, Gibsons, elsewhere

Charles Mealey, (former) PA City Councillor

Penny Cote, ACRD Director, Sproat Lake

Patty Edwards, ACRD Director, Beaver Creek

Tony Hamilton, Carnivore Specialist, BC Environment

Mike Badry, BC Environment, Wildlife Conflict Prevention Section

Ron Heusen, Zone Supervisor, Mid-Island, BC Conservation Officer Service

Jeff Tyre, Conservation Officer, Port Alberni

Jesse Jones, former Alberni area Conservation Officer

Dan Dwyer, Senior Conservation Officer, North Island Operations Area

Chris Doyle, Conservation Officer Service, Alice Lake (Squamish District)

Al Ross, Fisheries and Wildlife Steward, Hupacasath First Nation

Lisa Gallic, Public Works Manager, Tseshah First Nation

Volunteer members of the fledgling Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee: Carrie Smith, Dawn Boyce,

Darlene Clark, Heidi and Sabrina Zimmermann, Maureen Sager, and Jenn Pistotnik

Larry Ransom, SD #70

Cam Pinkerton, Superintendent of Schools, Alberni District (#70)

City residents who wish to remain anonymous

Wayne McCrory, RPBio, McCrory Wildlife Services, New Denver, BC

Sylvia Dolson, GetBearSmart Society, Whistler

Lori Homstol, Whistler Bear Aversion Research Team (BART)

Meg Toom, Bear Aware PDS for Squamish

Drake Stephens, Bear Aware PDS for Coquitlam

Christine Miller, North Shore Black Bear Society and Bear Aware PDS, North Vancouver

Jeff Rollins, Rollins Machinery, Langley, BC

Russ Roy, Critter Guard Lock Systems, Squamish, BC

Steve Thompson, BearSaver, Ontario, California

John Nesbitt, Wasteline Containers, Abbotsford

Ken Ermantrout, Manager, Waste Services Inc. (WSI)

Patty Sowka, Living With Wildlife Foundation, bear-proof container testing program, Montana

Bryan Peterson, Director, Bear Smart Durango (Colorado)

Barbara Thomas, District Manager; and Janelle Erwin, District Engineer, Ministry of  
Transportation and Infrastructure, Vancouver Island District

Christa Zacharias-Homer, Deputy Director Regional Operations Branch, Environmental Protection  
Division, BC Environment

Peter Trotzki, Director, Policy and Legislation Branch, BC Environment



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## APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Table of Status of Recommendations in Port Alberni BHA (2007)

Appendix 2: August 2008 Work Plan of Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee

Appendix 3: Sample Minutes of the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee  
(Aug and Sep meetings)

Appendix 4: Sample Form for Monitoring Bear-People Conflicts by Volunteers

Appendix 5: Miscellaneous Media Articles




Appendix 6: Checklist of Bear Smart Activities for Port Alberni

Appendix 7: Sample Bylaws for Garbage and Other Attractants

Appendix 8: Information about and images of Waste Management Supplies  
and Equipment



## Appendix 1: Matrix of Status of Recommendations in Port Alberni BHA (2007)

#		Status as of October 2008	Recommendation	City department with responsibility to do
		<b>For Public Education/Information Activities</b>		
1.		Under consideration. ACRD is considering including public information in their communications with the public about recycling and other waste management issues.	Engage the public in adopting bear-proof waste management throughout Port Alberni, including for commercial, institutional, and industrial sites. This includes holding community consultations and, using information presented in the BHA, propose methods/systems that will work best in specific types of neighbourhoods.	<b>Public Works</b> With a successful Bear Aware Program Application the City will engage the public through providing bear smart information and links to suppliers of bear proof systems. Open houses and displays would also be effective. Staff will assist to prepare materials and coordinate methods of engagement.
2.		A Bear Working Group meeting the requirements of the Bear Smart Program has begun to be formed, but still requires consistent membership from provincial, regional, and other authorities (e.g., RCMP, ACRD Waste Management personnel, etc.), and local outdoor recreation and natural history groups (e.g., Valley Outdoor Club, Saturday Walkers, Friends of the Log Train Trail). The volunteer members of the fledgling group plan to carry out public education, but as yet have not become fully engaged, largely due to lack of capacity at the organisational and funding levels. Volunteers staffed a booth at the Alberni District Fall Fair. A city councillor, the city engineer, city planner, and two Regional Directors (Penny Cote and Patty Edwards) attend most meetings. Area COs attend meetings when they are available.	Sponsor a dedicated public education program, such as Bear Aware. Support the development of a volunteer community-based "bear watch" group. Carrying out continuous communication to the public during "bear season" is important, particularly about what constitutes attractants and about safety issues when near a bear. Public education needs to emphasize the fact that while Vancouver Island black bears have rarely exhibited aggressive behaviour towards people, any bear has the potential to become dangerous.	<b>Administration</b> The 2008 Bear Aware Program will establish the initial resources. No commitment is being made for subsequent years at this time. Crystal McMillan, Bear Aware Supervisor for the BCCC is setting up the Port Alberni Bear Working Group, which will require a Council and staff liaison.
3.		No solely volunteer-based community group for the express purposes of public education and bear-people conflict monitoring yet exists, although the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee does have a small number of volunteers in the early stages of learning about the issue; there is no Bear Aware Coordinator for PA yet, but this should be a priority.	Encourage any "bear watch" group that forms in the area to maintain a liaison with the BC Conservation Corps' Bear Aware Program (if not already a part of that program), and with any regional Bear Aware groups, such as the ones in Tofino and Ucluelet, and those on the lower mainland (e.g., the North Shore Black Bear Network and the Whistler Get Bear Smart Society).	<b>Administration</b> With the Port Alberni Bear Working Group being established, links with the BC Conservation Corp would be readily available. Crystal McMillan is committed to the local program. 
4.		Email from Mike Badry on 12 Aug informs that our application has been approved, cheque coming in Sept, no indication of amount approved; no Bear Aware Coord has been hired for PA; no monitoring or data collection of calls to COS/RAPP line.	Work with District Conservation Officers, a Bear Aware Coordinator if one is hired for Port Alberni, and any community-based "bear watch" group to develop a systematic monitoring program that includes recording all complaints and conducting a periodic analysis in order to respond to local situations.	<b>Administration</b> Dependent on 2008 Bear Aware application. Ongoing resources not committed at this time. 
5.		No information available.	Encourage local businesses and community organizations to embrace Bear Smart principles. Where funding is a consideration, encourage an "Adopt-a-Can" program for sponsoring purchase of bear-proof garbage containers.	<b>Parks and Recreation</b> Bring forward concept to the Port Alberni Bear Working Group. 

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#	<b>Status as of October 2008</b>	<b>Recommendation</b>	<b>City department with responsibility to do</b>
6.	The Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee has discussed preparing educational materials to distribute to realtors to help new residents learn about bears in the community. See Appendix 3 for items the committee has discussed.	Develop targeted public information programs for new residential, commercial, and industrial developments, including information for realtors and new residents so newcomers can be informed about being in "bear country" and the need to prevent bears getting access to garbage and other non-natural attractants. An educational message should be developed specifically for people living adjacent to greenbelts and bear travel corridors. The messages need to include a reminder that bears can be encountered at any time in these areas, including in parks, city streets, and along area trails and walkways.	<b>Planning</b> Research other municipalities for standard materials. This would take staff resources to complete such a program, including development of local education materials (not committed at this time).
7.	No information available.	Support the development of a community-based program to reduce bears' access to fruit trees and other non-natural attractants, whether in residential yards, downtown areas, or industrial settings. This may include such activities as picking fruit and distributing it to the food bank or local institutions and agencies.	<b>Administration</b> Bring forward concept to the Port Alberni Bear Working Group. Time and resources to coordinate harvesting of surplus fruits was attempted previously to benefit low income families, but failed due largely to lack of adequate working and storage space.
8.	No information available.	Encourage residents and property owners to prune (or remove) shrubs and trees in order to reduce the cover available to bears in neighbourhoods.	<b>Administration</b> Propose that the Port Alberni Bear Working Group coordinate nurseries and landscaping companies and support the local media to develop and implement an education program.
9.	No information available.	Educate residents on safe ways to carry out low-level hazing practices on their own properties, such as by banging pots and pans, using an air horn, or generally scaring bears away, but <b>only from a safe vantage point.</b>	<b>Administration</b> Could be undertaken by Port Alberni Bear Working Group with assistance of local media.
<b>For City Council</b>			
10.	No information available.	Maintain a high degree of coordination of Bear Smart-related practices and policies throughout the city, and urge the regional district to implement these in the adjacent regional district electoral areas (Beaver Creek, Cherry Creek, Beaufort, Sproat Lake.).	<b>Administration</b> Refer the Bear Hazard Assessment to the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District along with the City's response. Bear Aware Program for 2008 is a joint effort.
11.	No information available.	In addition to the desire to increase safety for people and property, and support the intent of the BC Wildlife Act in not providing non-natural attractants to carnivores, another incentive for local governments to bear-proof their communities as much as possible could be the BC Occupiers Liability Act. I recommend the City have its legal department look into the possible ramifications of this legislation, which states: Possible ramifications of the BC Occupiers Liability Act (RSBC 1996) Chapter 337 Section 2 and 3	<b>Administration</b> Refer to the City's solicitor for legal opinion.

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#	Status as of October 2008	Recommendation	City department with responsibility to do
<b>For Schools, Community Use Areas, Parks and Trails</b>			
12.	Dumpsters at Harbour Quay, including those located at the Farmers Market area, still have plastic lids. The Haul-All Hid-a-Bag garbage cans in parks are not anchored in concrete pads (as the maker recommends) to prevent bears tipping them over. Schools are still not always locking their dumpsters, replacing plastic lids, or installing bear-resistant individual garbage cans. Some garbage cans are still located on or adjacent to play areas.	Schools, public use areas (e.g., the library, Echo Centre, Penny Lane, Farmers Market, Harbour Quay, Victoria Quay), parks and walkways should ensure that all pedestrian-type garbage cans are bear-proof and are emptied frequently, particularly in locations adjacent to greenbelts, fish-bearing streams, etc., and in warm weather, when odours increase and more easily attract bears.	<b>SD/Parks and Recreation</b> Replace 6 barrels with Haul-All bear proof containers (\$6,000). Parks and Recreation expense, not budgeted.
13.	Survey of alleys and properties in downtown commercial area shows increased number of dumpsters with metal lids, and locks were being used.	All dumpsters at schools and public use areas should be bear-proof and kept locked at all times.	<b>SD/Parks and Recreation/Public Works</b> Dumpsters have locks, staff need to be diligent in using them, to be reinforced. We could implement more secure systems (dumpsters) over time at "hot spots". Budget considerations for public works.
14.	The 2007 Bear Hazard Assessment report was sent to the School District office. There has, as yet, been no reply.	Schools should ensure that all areas on school grounds have good visibility from school windows to playsets and playfields. Playsets at schools should be located close to school buildings and within clear view of school windows.	<b>School District (SD)</b> Refer to SD #70.
15.	The 2007 Bear Hazard Assessment report was sent to the School District office. There has, as yet, been no reply.	Schools should ensure that there are no landscaping plants or unfenced gardens and composters that will attract bears.	<b>SD</b> Refer to SD #70.
16.	The 2007 Bear Hazard Assessment report was sent to the School District office. There has, as yet, been no reply.	Have an in-school monitoring system so that any bears, cougars, or other predators in the vicinity are reported and children can be kept in or closely watched when outdoors.	<b>SD</b> Refer to SD #70.
17.	No information available. The 2007 Bear Hazard Assessment report was sent to the School District office. There has, as yet, been no reply.	Playsets, whether at schools or in parks, should be located well away from dense shrubs, trees, and other things that obstruct visibility and that offer cover for bears. If they cannot be moved to at least 50 meters away from bear cover, they should be enclosed in a sturdy fence that is high enough to deter bears and that is spaced well away from adjacent vegetation.	<b>Parks and Recreation</b> It is not practical to move playground structures unless they are to be redeveloped. Development is dependent upon funding from other than City sources. Propose posting signs and moving trash cans away from playgrounds. Refer to SD #70.
18.	No information available. The 2007 Bear Hazard Assessment report was sent to the School District office. There has, as yet, been no reply.	In areas where bears have previously been observed, play areas should be posted with permanent bear warning signs.	<b>Parks and Recreation</b> We estimate that we would require approximately 140 bear signs for parks at an installed cost of \$50 per sign for a total of \$7,000, not budgeted. Refer to SD #70 for their properties.
19.	No information available.	Parks and public walkways should have signs about the importance of controlling dogs in bear habitat and bear warning signs.	<b>Parks and Recreation</b> We estimate that we would require approximately 50 Bear and Dog signs which would cost approximately \$2,500 installed, not budgeted.
20.	No information available.	New public trails and walkways should not be developed along riparian corridors that bears are known to use. Existing walkways (e.g., Kitsuksis Walkway) should be posted with bear information signs.	<b>Parks and Recreation</b> It has always been the plan to extend City trails up through the major ravines to connect to regional trails. Disagree with this suggestion. Propose continue to promote trail extension in these areas (Rogers, Kitsuksis, Dry, and Ship Creeks).



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#	Status as of October 2008	Recommendation	City department with responsibility to do
21.	No information available.	Plans for new parks and trails should be thoroughly assessed for potential impacts on bear use areas in all seasons, including impacts that may be caused by increased human use of the area.	<b>Parks and Recreation</b> Trail planning does include public participation.
2.	No information available.	Port Alberni's Parks Department should develop a procedure (if it doesn't already have one) for emergency closure of parks, walkways, and other facilities, in cooperation with the District CO Service (and possibly the RCMP), when a hazardous wildlife-related situation is reported or identified.	<b>Parks and Recreation</b> We currently work with the District CO and assist as required.
<b>For Waste Management</b>			
23.	No information available.	Consider bulk purchase of bear-proof residential garbage cans for distribution to city residents on an "at cost" basis. Bulk purchase helps to ensure that residents can afford the garbage cans AND that the equipment is consistent across the city to facilitate municipal garbage collection.	<b>Public Works</b> Bear proof garbage cans are costly and not necessarily compatible with alternative waste collection systems. The City has the ability to impose this standard or could help bulk-buy for resale to the community.
24.	City Engineer and others in process of gathering information on equipment and waste systems.	The primary recommendation for reducing hazards, including at schools, parks and trails, and residential neighbourhoods, is to install bear-proof garbage and recycling receptacles and a city-wide Bear Smart waste management system.	<b>Public Works</b> More investigation of the financial and waste collection system needs to be done.
25.	No information available.	Port Alberni's Parks Dept should consider public education targeting use of garbage bins and cans in parks and along walkways as being particularly unsuitable for household garbage. While this is recognized as an infraction of the municipal waste collection bylaw, and is acknowledged to be difficult to enforce, it helps the public understand how this increases the possibility of "food-conditioning" bears and encourages bears to lurk near parks and walkways, and increases the likelihood of someone encountering a bear.	<b>Parks and Recreation</b> Extremely difficult to change habits. Decals on all garbage containers - estimated cost of \$2,500, not budgeted.
26.	Communal neighbourhood drop-off depots would be on public property, generally. So far, this is not being considered for the City. For housing complexes, the City can require landlords to provide bear-proof waste containment.	Consider bear-proof neighbourhood-based drop-off installations for suitable "hotspot" areas, particularly for housing complexes where people don't have garages, sheds, or other secure places to store their garbage cans and recycling boxes.	<b>Public Works</b> Cost for communal drop offs to be covered by? The landlord would be responsible for private properties.
27.	No information available.	Where secondary and "illegal" rental suites occur, require owners to allow tenants to use the city's garbage collection system.	<b>Public Works</b> All properties are assessed a garbage fee and this would permit tenants to also have their garbage collected.
28.	Under consideration.	Bear-proof waste management practices and systems should be phased-in over a number of years (3 to 5) and be accompanied by a public education/information program, including public open houses where feedback is obtained that can help refine the system and increase compliance.	<b>Public Works</b> Direction from Council would be required.
29.	Currently, residential recycling pickup for most items is in place. Other items are dropped off at a central depot that is not fenced or staffed and which has some problems.	Recycling and compost depots should be inside a bear-proof enclosure. They should be regularly inspected to ensure garbage isn't scattered on the ground.	<b>Public Works</b> Recycling depots should be managed and built to address bear intrusions.

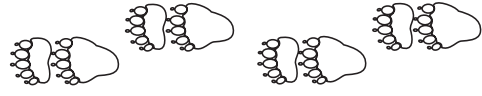


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#	Status as of October 2008	Recommendation	City department with responsibility to do
<b>For Bylaws</b>			
30.	City is currently considering wording to amend its bylaw about when garbage cans can be set out for collection.	Port Alberni should amend its Waste Collection bylaw and encourage the ACRD to do the same, to prevent people putting residential garbage cans out on the night before collection day. For residents who have good reasons why they can't comply with the bylaw, consider alternatives that are amenable to both the resident and the city's garbage collection staff.	<b>Public Works/Administration</b> This could be addressed in the awareness program.
31.	City Engineer currently reviewing bylaws of a number of other BC communities, both for wording and to determine how effective they are.	Bylaws need to include all attractant issues, including landscaping plants that attract bears; the use of electric fences for gardens, fruit trees, and composters; and control of dogs on public walkways and trails that are located in bear-use areas.	<b>Administration</b> Bylaws could be amended to reflect these issues, with the incorporation of municipal ticketing program to fine offenders.
32.	Bylaw amendments are being considered by City Engineer. Once adequate attractant bylaws are in place, the City can enforce them. The City has one Bylaw Enforcement Officer.	Implement a zero-tolerance policy for enforcement/compliance of bylaws.	<b>Administration</b> Amend the City's policy for bylaw enforcement from voluntary compliance to zero tolerance.
33.		Require multiple-dwelling and commercial complexes to include Bear Smart principles on waste management and landscaping in their strata council bylaws.	<b>Planning</b> The City cannot enforce Strata Council bylaws. Bear Smart principles for new development could be included in Development Permit areas of the OCP. This could be done in conjunction with the work under Item 34.
<b>For OCP, Development Plans, and Green Space Planning and Management</b>			
34.	No information available.	Develop a community vision statement that includes language to better coexist with bears that will result in greater public safety, reduced bear-people conflicts, and fewer bears being killed.	<b>Administration</b> Research other municipalities. This would take staff resources to complete such a program, including education materials.
35.	No information available.	Review the OCP with the intent to amend it to include specific bear-friendly language.	<b>Planning</b> Specific policies related to bears requires review of the environmental section of the OCP. This may require budget resources for outside expertise.
36.	No information available.	New homes being developed adjacent to green spaces (including riparian corridors, rail and power lines, etc.) that are known to be used by bears, should consider installing perimeter fencing sturdy enough to deter bears.	<b>Planning</b> A fence would be a substantial cost and would not work unless it was continuous and would not recommend this.
37.	No information available.	Community planning should include the development and use of a detailed bear habitat and travel corridor map so that bear (and other wildlife) concerns can be adequately addressed when planning new developments.	<b>Planning</b> The City could do mapping. However, budget resources for outside expertise may be required to determine the habitat areas.
38.	No information available.	Inform developers about bear-safe requirements, including bear-proof garbage collection methods and landscaping requirements to prevent attracting bears into newly developed areas and thereby habituating them to human-use areas.	<b>Planning</b> Specific policies related to bears requires review of the environmental section of the OCP. This would require budget resources as outside expertise will be needed.

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#	Status as of October 2008	Recommendation	City department with responsibility to do
39.	No information available.	Ensure future planning and new developments, including for parks and other public spaces, are done according to Bear Smart principles at the earliest possible planning and design stages.	<b>Planning/Parks and Recreation</b> Specific policies related to bears requires review of the environmental section of the OCP. This may require budget resources for outside expertise.
40.	No information available.	Pedestrian corridors should be located and designed to maintain separation between bear- and people-use areas, wherever possible. Safety considerations include type of landscaping plants used, visibility, bear-proof garbage cans, and use of temporary or permanent signage when bears are known to be in the area.	<b>Planning</b> The trail system in the Valley is highly valued by the public. Trying to separate them is not feasible. Education for people/wildlife interactions is more appropriate.
41.	No information available.	Ensure all municipal landscaping (including “streetscaping”) uses species and varieties of trees and shrubs—whether native or horticultural varieties—that do not provide food for bears (e.g., salal, Oregon grape, mountain ash, bearberry (uva-ursi), apples, cherries, roses, clover). See Appendix 6 for list.	<b>Parks and Recreation</b> Will consider as development proceeds.
42.	City Planner considering this recommendation; however, no information is currently available.	Where the OCP or any development plans refer to riparian setbacks and habitat use corridors for fish, these terms should be defined and include specific recommendations to maintain safe separations between bear use areas (including travel corridors) and residential and commercial developments. This recommendation holds for all the development plans throughout the city.	<b>Planning</b> The OCP has several general policies.



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## **Appendix 2: 2008 Work Plan of the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee**



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Activity	Lead	When?	Status as of 29 August 2008
<b>Human-Bear Conflict Management Plan</b>			
Contract awarded to Maggie Paquet by the City of Port Alberni; funded by BC Environment ministry in 2007	Maggie Paquet	Fall 2008	three quarters complete, still collecting info to complete waste/recycling mgmt, public education, bylaws, and development and planning
<b>Education</b>			
Information tables at local events- Find Events and Schedule Tables	Carrie Smith	August	Had booth at Salmon Fest, Fall Fair. What about a public event or school presentations?
Homeowner's checklist put in PA Utility Bills	Crystal McMillan	June/July-?	Asked both Russell and Drew
Bear Aware Info to Car Rentals	Sabrina Zimmerman	?	Need update from Sabrina
Attend "Parks & Trails" Meetings	Crystal McMillan	ongoing	contact Libby Avis
<b>Ministry of Transportation Signage on Hwy 4</b>			
	Crystal	Sept	In progress/ on next agenda for update
	Maggie (update)	July/Aug	Discussed signage with MOT personnel, got permission to design signs for pullouts on Hwy 4 between PA and West Coast, to submit to MOT for approval; on next meeting agenda for update
Ministry of Transportation Support Letter from ACRD	Penny/ACRD	July	Complete
<b>Attractant &amp; Waste Management</b>			
Solid Waste Collection & Disposal Bylaw Bear Smart Amendments	Crystal McMillan/City	Ongoing	Met with Guy Cicon & Charles Mealey; Bear Smart amendments under review
<b>Volunteer Training</b>			
BC Conservation Foundation Volunteer Training	Crystal McMillan	July-Aug	1st session 20 Aug, 10 am at ACRD boardroom; to set next session at upcoming meeting
<b>Funding</b>			
Seek "outside" funding sources for "Alberni Valley Bear Smart" Program	Crystal, Maggie, Carrie (others?)	July	Maggie - EC/EcoAction, Naesgaards, Coulson FP, & PCAF; Carrie - Kiwanis and Lions Club; Crystal - Rotary Club; Penny - ACRD Funding
Bottle Drives	Sabrina Zimmerman	?	Sabrina checked with recycling depot; we need to be a registered society
Make new application to Ministry to fund various Bear Smart activities, including purchase of bear-resistant bins for neighbourhood hotspot trials, top-up for CMP, educational activities expenses	Crystal, Maggie, City (?ACRD)	ongoing	2008-09 funding just received; should find out when next deadline is to write a new application for ongoing needs
<b>The Work Plan will be reviewed at every Bear Smart committee meeting as part of the agenda to update the status of the projects and inform committee members of progress.</b>			

## Work Plan of the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee, August 2008

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## **Appendix 3: Sample Minutes of the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee Meetings**

- A. August Meeting**
- B. September Meeting**





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## **A. August AVBS Committee Meeting Minutes**

### **Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee, Minutes for 20 Aug 2008**

#### **1. Bear Aware Training Session held at the ACRD Boardroom**

Present: Sabrina, Heidi, Dawn, Patty, Carrie, Crystal, Darlene, Penny, Maggie.

The BC Conservation Foundation (BCCF) acts as administrator for Bear Aware, also does elk and steelhead recovery projects.

The delivery of the Bear Aware Program is a BC Conservation Foundation project. The objective is to reduce the number of residential human-bear conflicts by controlling non-natural attractants, such as garbage and tree fruit. The program was started in 1992 by staff of the BC Ministry of Environment. The BCCF was asked to deliver and expand the program in 1998, in response to the great need throughout the province. The BC Conservation Foundation was founded and incorporated by the directors of the BC Wildlife Federation (BCWF) in 1969. The purpose was to contribute significantly to the perpetuation and expansion of fish and wildlife populations through the efficient implementation of projects in the field. Funding for fish and wildlife conservation and financial enhancement for non-government agencies generally comes from two sources. The first is through a levy on license sales such as the Wildlife Habitat Conservation Stamp and, in BC, the Habitat Conservation Trust Fund surcharge. The second major source of funding comes from direct fundraising by environmental nonprofit organizations, such as Ducks Unlimited and the BCWF.

Volunteers for Bear Aware should direct any questions about wildlife either to Conservation Officers or to the Wildlife Branch of the Environment ministry. Volunteers should bring a focus to attractants only.

A door-to-door campaign is necessary in hotspots in order to make people aware of attractants. Records should be kept for the Conservation Officers. Maggie has developed a good template for this so all reporting by volunteers can be standardised (see Appendix 4).

Other notes: Carrie—Farmers Institute; Patty—ACRD Agriculture Committee; Tony Hamilton—September Whistler Bear Working Group meeting regarding data collection advisory info.

#### **2. Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee Meeting @ 11:00 am, ACRD Boardroom**

Present: Crystal McMillan, Maggie Paquet, Carrie Smith, Patty Edwards, Sabrina Zimmerman, Heidi Zimmerman, Dawn Boyce, Darlene Clark, Penny Cote, Charles Mealey, Jenn Pistotnik/AEC, Jeff Tyre, Tony Hamilton, Helga Schievink.

##### **1. Welcome and introductions.** Maggie has to leave early.

Maggie : There is no representative from First Nations here today. Maggie has modified and updated a funding proposal for First Nations to establish an educational program for Nuu-Chah-Nulth communities that, once worked on by NTC members, would probably better reflect First Nations cultural values for wildlife. She has discussed it briefly with Al Ross at Hupacasath, who expressed favourability, and will contact Lisa Gallic at Tseshah to discuss.

##### **2. Review of minutes of previous meeting.**

Correction: Need to add that Carrie attended the meeting on July 16.

##### **3. Conservation Officer Report, Jeff Tyre:**

Jeff reports 6 bears killed in area this month alone. Also reports “hot spots” for bear activity: Kitsuksis Walkway and Ahahswinis Reserve (Hupacasath) area one of worst right now, also Brown Rd, Indian Rd. Lots of fruit trees, wild and orchard. Rex Rd, Craig, Bishop, they are into

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garbage. Wellington Ave, Victoria Rd, 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup>, Anderson, they are into garbage and fruit. Beaver Creek (Cameron & Bainbridge Rds) has bears taking free range chickens and breaking into chicken coops. Cherry Creek (Albert Rd) a bear took a sheep. The West Coast has bear home invasions.

Question asked: Do the RCMP keep records of bear reports? Jeff said that the RCMP usually refers calls to the Conservation Officers.

Crystal reports that two cubs were taken to the Wildlife Recovery Centre in Errington (over this current season).

Heidi has found evidence of poaching in Sproat Lake area. Poaching should be reported to the Conservation Officer Service for investigation.

Tony: People need information on attractants and where to purchase electric fences, especially for fruit trees and chicken coops (Maggie said she would get this and distribute to group for public education purposes). There needs to be data collection and mapping for "hot spots." The greenway corridors are providing quick in and out access for the bears.

(Agreed to move up agenda item # 6 so Maggie can hear it before she leaves.)

5. Statistics on bear sightings and bear activity in PA: Crystal provided everyone with a copy of the BC Conservation Foundation Interim Report for PA.

Bear Complaints and Sightings: (data from the COS Problem Wildlife Occurrence Reports): June-38, July-61, and to August 15-5.

Bears Killed or Relocated: June-5, July-2, and to August 15-2.

Estimated number of people contacted through Door to Door Campaigns, Public displays and presentations: 2440.

Total number of volunteer hours: May 17, June 24, July 70 and to August 15<sup>th</sup> -12.

## 6. Tony Hamilton's presentation: black bear research, bear safety & biology

The general habitat of the Alberni Valley has historically been very rich for bears and other wildlife. Early logging likely improved some feeding areas for bears, but older second-growth forests generally have a denser canopy and because it's darker under it; do not have a lot of food plants. So these forests offer very little feeding habitat for bears. The second growth harvest will initially invigorate food plants for bears and other wildlife, but because of our wet winter climate, black bears on Vancouver Island are old-growth-dependent for denning structures, which means they need very large trees. They can also use old-growth stumps or logs, but not culverts. The dens have to be very dry or the bears and any cubs lose too much body heat while denning and will die. While all bears will feed in the clear cuts, the females tend to stay in the edge areas, using forested areas for protection (cover and to send cubs up when threatened). Male bears prey on cubs. Females with cubs likely seek out traffic noise and people to help shield them from male bears. Cubs are trained by their mothers, so if she hangs around human use areas and highways, so will they. Bears make memory maps of food locations and teach these to their offspring. Signs of bears using trails include horizontal bite marks as much as 5 ft. up the tree, where bears rub. They mark the ground and urinate. When the dominant bear is killed, these trails are used by all other bears as a highway into town.

There is a lot of bear mortality in our area. There is a population sink in the Alberni Valley. Basically, this means that bears come into the valley because of all the attractants here. When they get destroyed, another bear soon moves in to take its place. Until all attractants are responsibly managed, preferably eliminated as much as possible, "new" bears will continue to move into the area to replace the ones killed. This is a very negative wildlife management situation and could eventually lead to a crash of the population.



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Many of the bears coming into conflict with people are "teenage" males. Young male bears are often a problem when they are sent away by the mother (remember, she has taught them how to survive and if she is already using human-use areas, so will he) because they need to establish their own home range, which is much larger than the female's home range. Female bears overlap home ranges with other female relatives. (The Conservation Officer confirmed that many of the calls he has attended have been due to young male bears.) When bears eat fruit, the seed in their scat is scarified, which increases germination and fruit trees will start to grow everywhere. Some districts are banning mountain ash (rowan) trees, they produce fruit in late fall when nothing else is available. 2nd growth not good habitat, and 2nd growth clear cuts also probably not good habitat; 3rd growth habitat has a severe denning structure deficit. 1 bear/km<sup>2</sup> in productive CWH zone. Seems like things re in decline across the Island; higher mortality of bears than Wildlife Branch wants to see. (1) push Kim Brunt and Tony to give us population objectives for this community; (2) and guiding principles for our community; (3) and a set of protocols to guide Jeff/COS (generic protocols and those specific to our community).

Bears have a matriarchal society in that the mothers teach cubs how to survive, kick out the male cubs, and allow female cubs to share home range to a larger extent. (a) Habitat is a major influence on conflict. There are habitat factors that influence conflict behaviour AND there are behavioural factors. (b) Males (adults) prey on cubs; bears, sub-adults often hang around people areas for protection. (c) Memory mapping of food sources: time and place. (d) Behaviour: signposts—communication with each other: rubbing, biting, scratching, on trees, etc. Also footpad trails; ritualistic behaviours. (e) Population processes: \*Disruption of home ranges/social fabric through mortality, creates opportunity for unnaturally high rates of immigration (most conflict bears are sub adult males); \*eventually mortalities can create a population sink, which affects a larger and larger area/subpopulation. (f) Bears are unique in that they are an excellent ecosystem health meter: they are a Keystone, Indicator and Umbrella species; very unusual for one species to be all three.

#### 4. Conflict Management Report by Maggie:

The Bear-People Conflict Management Report is about two-thirds completed, but still needs more information on waste/recycling management, infrastructure costs, public education, bylaws, and development permits. She is going over to the mainland today to meet with companies that provide garbage cans and containers. She will have her draft report to the city and conservation officers in early September.

Maggie needs to know about future committee, including volunteer, activities so that she can include them in her report. Maggie has offered to assist volunteer activities with information, particularly if Crystal is not available, and has said she will help at the Fall Fair if needed. If anyone needs any info, please call Maggie at 723-8802 or cell# 735-2327.

Tony will encourage Fish and Wildlife for black bear population objectives. There needs to be a statement about guiding principles, a set of protocols to guide the conservation officers. This should be included in the report.

7. Update on Ministry of Transportation Signage Project: Maggie would like to help design the signs. The sign locations have to meet Highways ministry's safety requirements, e.g., in safe locations, such as existing pullouts.

#### 8. Review work plan AVBSC:

Bottle Drive: Sabrina checked with the recycle depot and was told that our group must be a registered society.

Looking into T-shirts and logos.

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Salmon Festival: Carrie reported that we will participate with an information table, we need volunteers.

Heidi suggested that we hand out pins, for a donation. There is not enough time to get pins ready.

Car Rentals: Sabrina reported that Budget Rentals will put out our pamphlets and also get customers to sign a form with the rental agreement waiver; they are not allowed to stop on highways to view bears.

Parks and Trails: Penny mentioned Libby Avis.

Waste Management Bylaws: Moving forward, waiting for recycling component. All new containers must meet the new criteria. Maybe the Tourism Ministry can help with Olympic funds. Maggie expressed concern that if people do not adequately wash out all recycled food and drink containers, they will become another major attractant for bears

Funding: Carrie is searching out contact people for Lions and Kiwanis. Need more information on specific projects.

Crystal contacted Karen Goldby of the Rotary Club. Receiving \$3000.00 for brochures and signage at Harbour Quay.

9. Progress on Bear Smart Amendments to the City's Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Bylaw # 4392: Crystal reported that Guy Cicon sent an email stating that he has no problem recommending the proposed amendments to Council. Crystal has provided the City with a copy of the new Tofino Waste Bylaw which incorporates recycling and suggests PA adopt the same wording. Charles and Crystal were discussing the best time to bring the amendments before Council due to the election process. Was decided to discuss further at the next meeting.

10. Regional District Bylaws: Drew Hadfield was not present. Crystal has electronically provided Drew with bear smart amendments to consider incorporating into the new Regional District Waste Management Bylaw. Topic carried forward to next meeting.

11. Upcoming Events for Bear Aware Booths: Decided to carry forward to a separate volunteer meeting later on in the week.

12. Door to Door Campaign: Carried forward to separate volunteer meeting.

13. Educational Merchandise: Sabrina suggests fridge magnets etc. She has a catalogue from Nile Creek Clothing.

14. Other discussions and questions: Penny asked a question to Tony about the effects of climate change with regards to the bear population. Tony replied that if the climate is colder and wetter, there will be problems with pollination, resulting in no fruit or berries. Salmon stream temperature is also important, no spawning if it is too warm. The hopeful part is that the black bear is very adaptable. When natural foods go down, conflict goes up. Local naturalists need to help monitor local natural food production as a predictor for seasonal conflict potential. A question was asked about diversionary feeding. Tony said that it is not a good idea. It has to be on such a large scale and still the non natural attractants win.

Dawn: Regarding fruit picking, arrange volunteer picking for food banks.

Next meeting Tuesday, September 16, 2008

Meeting adjourned at 2:00 p.m.

Minutes prepared by Carrie Smith, edited and circulated by Maggie Paquet.



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## B. September AVBS Committee Meeting Minutes

### MINUTES OF MEETING: ALBERNI VALLEY BEAR SMART COMMITTEE (AVBSC)

ACRD Boardroom, 3008 5<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Port Alberni

Tuesday, September 16

11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

**Note: Action items are in red print**

**Present:** Crystal McMillan/BCCF, Maureen Sager/AEC, Heidi Zimmerman/Sproat Lake Volunteer, Guy Cicon/City of Port Alberni, Carrie Smith/Cherry Creek Volunteer, Dawn Boyce/Sproat Lake Volunteer, Penny Cote/Sproat Lake Director, Darlene Clark/BCWF, Maggie Paquet/Biologist, Patty Edwards/Beaver Creek Director

**Regrets:** Jeff Tyre/COS, Scott Smith/City of PA, Russell Dyson/City Clerk, Al Ross/Hupacasath FN, Lisa Gallic/Tseshah FN, Charles Mealey/City Councillor, Jenn Pistotnik/Volunteer (UVic student), Sabrina Zimmerman/Volunteer.

**Review of Agenda,** Maggie asked to add these items: (a) invite Christine Miller of NSBBS to do a presentation in Port Alberni; (b) ways to get more volunteers; (c) monitoring conflicts/sightings in the city/rural areas; (d) report of Fall Fair booth and ribbon we won; (e) invite COS Zone Supervisor Ron Heusen to next meeting to discuss future plans and COS requirements for a BRO for Alberni Valley/training RCMP to attend bear calls/bear aversion/First Nations/on-reserve aversion training

**Review of Minutes of previous meeting:** Correction needed: "Bear Aware is funded by the BC Conservation Foundation..."

Crystal delivered the **Conservation Officer Service Report** because Jeff Tyre was unable to attend. The Provincial Wildlife Occurrence Report (PWOR) stats for Port Alberni are: June-38 calls, 5 bears killed; July-61 calls, 2 bears killed; Aug-75 calls, 2 bears killed; Sept to date (16th)-17 calls, 1 bear killed. Total calls June through 16 Sept: 191 calls, 10 bears killed. There were no stats available on number of bears relocated (translocated). Crystal reported that the PWORs for September reveal that fruit trees are also a major attractant in the Valley (in addition to garbage).

**Develop a Community Charter** for the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee: Crystal; n/a

**Discuss opening a AVBSC account** at the Credit Union: After a brief discussion in favour of this, Maggie moved that we open an account at the Credit Union; seconded by Darlene, carried. We approved having 4 directors as signatories to the account, with any two directors required to sign cheques. The 4 signatories are: Maggie Paquet, Darlene Clark, Carrie Smith, and \_\_\_\_? \_\_\_\_\_. Darlene Clark was appointed to be Treasurer, with Maggie to assist. **Darlene will get an account ledger book so we also have a written account available of all transactions.**

**Discuss the process of becoming a registered society.** **Maggie and Penny will provide us with information on the process.** Forms can be downloaded from the Society Act site. We must have a minimum of five directors. We need about \$100 to file our application. We should also include the required clauses in our purpose statement/constitution/bylaws to enable us to apply to Canada Revenue Agency to be a registered charity so we can give tax credit receipts for donors. If and when we do become a registered society, both City and Regional District members can only sit in an advisory capacity and not as directors or members.

**Funding proposal for Bear Smart Educator for Nuw Chah Nulth Communities:** Maggie revised an old proposal and is in the process of discussing the potential for this kind of project with members of the Hupacasath and Tseshah First Nations. **She will report more fully at next meeting if there are First Nations members present.**

**Update on progress of Port Alberni Bear-People Conflict Management Plan:** Maggie reported the report is nearly finished, pending responses from the city on proposed bylaw amendments and info from waste management companies on new prices of bins and dumpsters.



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**Update on Ministry of Transportation Signage Project for Hwy 4:** After the exchange of letters between the ministry and Crystal, with supporting letter from ACRD Director Cote, Maggie spoke with personnel in the Hwys District office and was told that **we need to make the signs**, keep them simple and direct, and present the text for approval. They will issue permits for us to erect the signs in SAFE locations along the highway to the west coast. The signs MUST be in safe pullouts, such as at the historical marker at Sproat Lake, the rest stop near Taylor Flats, etc. **We need to inform the Hwys ministry of the exact locations where we want to put the signs.** The email address of our contact is Janelle.Erwin@gov.bc.ca

**Review AVBSC Work Plan.** We need educational materials for volunteers to use. Maggie will ask the NSBBN if we can use their materials, credit them, but get them printed with our own group's name on them for local recognition. Heidi will obtain printing quotes from local printers.

**Discuss progress on Bear Smart amendments** to the City's Solid Waste Collection and Disposal Bylaw #4392: Guy Cicon/Charles Mealey/Crystal McMillan. Maggie had provided Guy and others (including Port Alberni Bylaw Officer Mark Zenko) with sample bylaws from other communities, and Guy was reviewing them during this meeting. We decided that because this is such an involved and protracted discussion, we need to hold a separate meeting to discuss. (Crystal, was there a meeting date/venue set?)

**Discuss updating regional district bylaws** to reflect Bear Smart standards for rural ACRD districts within the Alberni Valley: Drew Hadfield/Crystal McMillan. (Please include in this discussion information on the potential of ACRD's recycling bins to attract bears and what level of public education and other actions ACRD will take to prevent this, such as refusing to take recycled food and drink containers unless they are cleaned out) (more???)

**Door-to-door Campaign:** Identify areas of high activity and coordinate volunteer campaign: Crystal reported on some of the neighbourhood hotspots: [What are they?]

**Discuss production of Alberni Valley Bear Smart educational** merchandise, e.g., fridge magnets, T-shirts, teddy bears, Bear Smart colouring books, playing cards. etc. Sabrina/Crystal/Maggie

**New Items:** (a) **We agreed to invite Christine Miller and pay her expenses; Maggie will talk to Christine and find a compatible date and venue ASAP;** (b) ways to get more volunteers could include more articles in local media asking people to volunteer, signing up volunteers at public events, approach individuals each of us know who may be interested; (c) monitoring conflicts/sightings in the city/rural areas requires that we have a template for documenting our monitoring efforts so all info is standardised and complete, and that we need a dedicated "bear line" phone. Should the city fund this? Who? **Maggie will check out Rogers and Telus to see if we can get one donated, Darlene will check with RMOW and DNV to see how their phone/call-in system works;** (d) Our Fall Fair booth was very successful. We had hundreds of people stop by each day. Many expressed interest in the bear-resistant garbage can. We won the Fall Fair Chairman's Award of Excellence ribbon for our booth. We sold Bear Smart playing cards and colouring books, and some of Crystal's bumper stickers. Sales and donations totalled \$133, plus we got a \$75 rebate from the Fair people because we had an inside booth instead of one outdoors; (e) Maggie discussed the need to invite COS Zone Supervisor Ron Heusen to our next meeting to discuss future plans and COS requirements for a BRO for Alberni Valley/training RCMP to attend bear calls/bear aversion/First Nations/on-reserve aversion training.

**Crystal will contact Ron.**

**Next meeting date and venue: 22 October, venue still unknown.**



# D R A F T

## **Appendix 4: Sample Form for Monitoring Bear-People Conflicts by Volunteers**

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## Appendix 4: Sample Form for Monitoring Bear-People Conflicts by Volunteers. (A set form is necessary to ensure consistency of data collected.)

Community Name \_\_\_\_\_ Attendant Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

Date (d-m-y)	Time of day	Location of occurrence/ Street name and #	Caller Name & Contact Info	Description of bear(s), caller's comments and concerns	Attractants Noted	Hotline Attendant Comments	Action Taken

Contact info for attendant & signature:

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# DRAFT

## Appendix 5: Miscellaneous Media Articles About Bears

### A. Articles in previous years

The following articles were written by news staff and appeared in the Alberni Valley Times over the period 2005-2007. The exact dates of publication were not made available to me.

#### Article 1


##### **Bear killed by motorist on Redford Extension    By JULIA CARANCI, AV Times**

A motorist inadvertently struck and killed a black bear in Port Alberni on Monday evening. Local RCMP Cpl. Rob Foster said the bear was crossing the road at about 7:30 pm Monday evening when it was struck by a pick-up truck on Redford Extension near Victoria Avenue.

The bear was killed on impact, Foster said. While the driver did not suffer any serious injuries, about \$3,000 worth of damage was done to his truck in the collision, he added. A public works crew was called in to clear the bear off the road after the incident. It was unknown at press time what the age or sex of the bear was.

Bears have been making quite a nuisance of themselves in the Port of late. Just three weeks ago, a large male bear was shot and killed by conservation officers when it appeared at the Harbour Quay on a Sunday afternoon. A number of locals and tourists were at the Quay at the time - many tried to take photos of the bear, which became agitated, conservation officers said.

That bear had been a problem in town before and was re-located to Kennedy Lake two years ago.


 However, it found its way back to its old stomping grounds.


Local officials receive an average of two calls a day regarding bear sightings in the city.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Article 2

##### **Black bear a regular morning visitor    By JULIA CARANCI, AV Times**

 Residents of Cameron Drive have an unwelcome visitor - he comes a-knockin' quite early in the morning and sometimes leaves behind a big mess.

 Local resident Juanita Currie finally saw the regular intruder out her window early Wednesday morning to a black bear. She first heard the bear several mornings ago after she left her garbage can in the garage overnight. The bear got into it and has also gotten into several other cans in the area, she said. Despite the fact Currie has not left her can outside since the incident, the bear has continued stopping by her home nearly every morning.

"He's definitely got a little path happening," Currie said, adding the bear is now making a regular habit of arriving in the area at between 3 and 5 am. She has seen the bear's footprints in the snow on several occasions over the last week.

A number of residents in the area put their garbage out in the evenings, as the truck arrives at about 8 am, she said. She believes the bear has discovered this fact and is attracted by the smell of the garbage. Currie called authorities about the bear, who told her the fellow will likely continue with his visits unless the neighbours join together and ensure no garbage is left out during the early morning hours.

Port Alberni conservation officer Mike Stern told the Times that this bear will likely keep returning because he has discovered a reliable food source. He encouraged all residents in the neighbourhood

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to contain their garbage in a bear-proof shed or building and not put it out until just before garbage pick-up.

"These are basic facts residents need to be aware of all year," Stern said. "We are living in a greenbelt and need to be diligent 365 days a year."

Stern did say that with the weather becoming colder and snow on the ground, the bear may be thinking about hibernation and could eventually move along on his own. Sadly, habituated bears like this one are not good candidates for relocation and if the bear continues to make a nuisance of himself or has a run-in with a resident he will likely have to be destroyed, he added.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Article 3

### **Large bear sighted near Safeway** By JULIA CARANCI, AV Times

Local SPCA officials are warning the public to be cautious after a large black bear was spotted in the back lane at Bute Street and Ninth Avenue, near Safeway. A number of residents saw the bear lumbering through a back lane, and according to SPCA manager Irene Towell, some were approaching it to get a closer look. Others tried to take photos.

"The bear was stressed," Towell said. "It's dangerous to do that."

City works staff arrived on scene, along with an SPCA van, to clear the area and coax the bear out of the residential neighbourhood. The city works truck was able to nudge the bear down into a gully, Towell explained.

There were earlier reports the bear may have been separated from her cub - however Towell said there was no evidence of a second bear. She is asking residents to keep a respectful distance where bears are concerned.

"It's very dangerous to corner a wild animal," she said.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Article 4

### **They're here ...** By JULIA CARANCI, AV Times

They may be big, black and furry, but they ain't stuffed animals. The bears have returned, and conservation officers are warning residents they will be adopting a zero tolerance policy towards residents who leave out attractants that draw wild animals into residential neighbourhoods.

Local conservation officer Mike Stern told the Times Thursday that several bears have been spotted in the city recently, including one near West Coast General Hospital that has been causing some concern. Stern said he has been keeping tabs on the bear for a couple of weeks - it's a young animal and he fears the bear may be becoming habituated to humans. If the animal gets into a close encounter with a resident or pet, or finds an easy food source like a garbage can, conservation officials may be forced to destroy it.

This is why Stern is beginning his campaign to strongly encourage residents to keep their garbage secured until the morning the garbage truck comes to take it. Residents are also asked to quickly dispose of leftovers from cookouts and barbecues, which can attract bears and other animals. "People have to be diligent," Stern said. "The bears are definitely out and there isn't much food for them in the bush right now."

Another concern: bear sightings along highway 4. The Times recently photographed several bears on the highway about a half-hour West of Port Alberni, including a mother and cub eating grass just a few





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feet away from traffic. Stern said the attraction of the food source is strong enough that bears will feed at the side of the highway regardless of traffic and tourists, who have been known to stop their vehicles in the middle of the highway to get a glimpse of a real live bear.

Stern said it is difficult to get the message out to visitors, who don't reside in the area and aren't aware of the dangers. Tourists who feed bears or aid them in becoming habituated to humans are putting both themselves and the animals they admire at risk, he added.

These bears will either become traffic hazards and have to be destroyed by conservation officers or will cause an accident, harming either people or themselves.

In the end, Stern said relocation does not work and bears who become habituated to humans and cause problems generally must be destroyed.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Article 5

### **Funding approved to bring Bear Awareness to Valley** By JULIA CARANCI, AV Times

It's time to become more bear aware. The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District (ACRD) has approved \$2,500 in funding to hire Crystal McMillan of the Pacific Rim Bear Smart Society to deliver a Bear Aware education program in the Valley. The decision was made at Wednesday evening's board meeting.

Both Tofino and Ucluelet are involved in the Bear Aware program, and politicians there say it has made a difference, greatly reducing human/bear conflicts and consequently, the number of bears that are destroyed each year. Ucluelet Mayor and ACRD director Dianne St. Jacques said McMillan has done an excellent job running the program in her community, along with coming up with innovative ways to raise funds to keep it operating.

Last summer McMillan helped create the Bear Naked Ladies & Friends calendar, which features 10 women and two men, all prominent citizens of Ucluelet, posing in their birthday suits to raise money for the program.

ACRD board members are receptive of the Bear Aware program. Sproat Lake director Penny Cote told the board she would like to see the program adopted locally. Hearing stories of residents shooting bears near the lake has caused some concern, Cote said. "Some people are not trying to live with them," she added.

When contacted by the *Times*, McMillan said she would likely begin working on the education program as soon as next week. Her role will be to mount the program in the Alberni Valley, including a door-to-door education campaign and media relations. The main goal is to educate residents on how to manage attractants bears respond to, like garbage, barbecues, pet food and fruit trees. McMillan is a supervisor for the BC Conservation Bear Aware Program and helped set up the Tofino and Ucluelet programs. The latter community has been participating in the Bear Aware program for the last four years and will this year apply for official BC Bear Aware status, McMillan said.

The next step for the Alberni Valley Bear Aware Program involves completing a Bear Hazard Assessment, which identifies high-risk areas in the community. Local biologist Maggie Paquet has almost completed Port Alberni's assessment. From that report, officials mount a conflict management plan to limit hazards via bylaws and improved management of green spaces within a community.

Any local residents wishing to participate in the Alberni program may contact McMillan at 250-266-BEAR (2327).

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## Article 6

### **Bear killed, sightings up in Port** By JULIA CARANCI, AV Times

Local conservation officers destroyed a young male bear last week after it began killing livestock at a farm in Port Alberni. Bear sightings in the city are up, and conservation officer Mike Stern told The Times a bear was reported to their office after it began killing lambs at a residence on Southgate near the Tim Horton's. The young bear was destroyed - officers were concerned not only for local livestock, but also for residents in the vicinity, which Stern points out is close to park areas where young children play.

This was the second bear destroyed in the city this year; the first was killed after it began killing chickens on a local farm. Bear Aware spokesperson Crystal McMillan said there have been numerous bear sightings within the city limits over the last month, including reports from Bainbridge Road, Craig Road, Alberni Hwy near West Coast General Hospital, Cherry Creek Road, Bute and Redford, Meirs Road and Old Nanaimo Hwy.

The Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District recently approved \$2,500 in funding to hire McMillan of the Pacific Rim Bear Smart Society to deliver a Bear Aware education program in the Valley. Both Tofino and Ucluelet are involved in the Bear Aware program, and politicians there say it has made a significant difference, greatly reducing human/bear conflict and consequently, the number of bears destroyed each year. The goal of the program is to reduce or eliminate entirely the need to kill bears by controlling attractants and making residential neighbourhoods less attractive to the animals - there is a strong public education component to the program. However, the fact remains bears live here too.

Stern confirmed there appear to be many bears among us this summer. "We have more bears in the centre of town right now," he said, adding residents must be aware of the very real possibility of having an encounter with a bear regardless of what part of the city they live in. Port Alberni has a number of greenbelt areas running through it, making it a unique place where wild animals and humans co-exist. "We've had them going through the dumpsters at Dairy Queen," Stern said.

Conservation officers try to scare bears using rubber bullets and bear bangers. They hope that frightening the animals will keep them from wandering through residential areas. However, the program won't work unless residents control their attractants, including fruit trees, garbage and barbecues, say both Stern and McMillan. This means putting out garbage on the morning it is picked up only or securing it in a bear-proof container. It also means picking up fruit that has fallen from trees and cleaning up thoroughly after having a barbecue.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Article 7

### **New bear signage promised on highway and in city** By JULIA CARANCI AV Times

Bear awareness in the Alberni Valley should improve dramatically when promised new signs go up in the city and along Highway 4, say wildlife advocates. Local Bear Aware spokesperson Crystal McMillan told the Times that the Ministry of Transportation has now indicated it supports posting multiple signs along highway 4 between Port Alberni and the West Coast in both directions. The signs will warn travellers about the dangers of feeding wildlife and stopping in the middle of the roadway to view bears and other wild animals.

The point of the signs, McMillan explained, is to reduce the number of animals needlessly killed and injured by motor vehicles each year and minimize automobile crashes associated with drivers stopping unexpectedly on the highway. McMillan has been lobbying hard to get the signs approved - she has received support from the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District, and RCMP detachments in Tofino and



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Ucluelet. Wildlife experts and police say a number of collisions occur every year on the West Coast when tourists stop in the middle of the road to take photos of bears - cars come up from behind and rear-end the stopped vehicle.

McMillan said she is also actively working with the local Rotary Club on bear information signs to be posted at the Victoria and Harbour Quays in Port Alberni. She said the signs will be aesthetically pleasing and feature detailed information about bear behaviour for both residents and visitors to the area. Similar signs have already been posted in the Whistler area. The signs feature information about bear habitat and diet, and also contact information for the Bear Aware program.

Bears are a part of the landscape on the West Coast of Vancouver Island - the Bear Aware program aims to reduce bear/human conflict using public education and the management of attractants such as garbage, livestock and fruit trees.

There have been a number of bear sightings in Port Alberni just over the last several days (Aug. 16 to 20), including reports on Gordon Street, Maitland Street, Tomswood Road, Eleventh Avenue, Dunbar and Margaret streets, First Avenue and Old Nanaimo Highway. Many of the reports involve bears getting into garbage, McMillan said, adding residents are encouraged to put their garbage out on the morning it is being picked up. Ministry of Transportation officials did not return calls by press time.

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## Article 8

### **I'm a lumberjack and I'm Ok** By JULIA CARANCI, AV Times

Bear Tracks and Lumberjacks. The Alberni Valley has a new slogan and logo that will be marketed to the world. Carol Vincent, president of Redbird Communications, unveiled the new Valley brand at Wednesday's Alberni Valley Chamber of Commerce meeting. Redbird was contracted to develop the brand as part of a strategy to attract more tourists to the area.

Vincent said the company developed and presented seven options to the Chamber and Alberni Valley Tourism - local officials ultimately selected one. The logo features the outline of a tree with a stylised image of a bear claw in the centre - the blue interior also features the image of a wave to denote the inlet. The slogan: Alberni Valley - Bear Tracks & Lumberjacks. Vincent told the audience of local business people and residents that the new logo and slogan were developed to reflect the attractions of the Valley and to market to a target audience, one that is not too high end (a la Paris Hilton) and not too rustic. She added a good logo must have a bit of an edge to it. "The safest logo will never get noticed or remembered," Vincent said.

The brand was developed with several key factors in mind: namely to highlight the Valley, water, forests, First Nations and the wild outdoors. City council, the Chamber and Alberni Valley Tourism have all approved the logo, which will now be used on letterhead, business cards, websites and may also be marketed for items like flags, T-shirts and signs.

Vincent said the new brand will become recognisable to both local residents and visitors and was designed to be timeless. "I think it's great," Chamber executive director Mike Carter said. "Technically, it's superb." He added the logo works well large or small and translates well in colour and black and white. It's full speed ahead with marketing the slogan and logo. The new brand will soon find its way into advertising that markets the Alberni Valley and the city.

"I like it," said Port Alberni Mayor Ken McRae, adding he's especially pleased the logo incorporates an image of the water. He said many people outside of the Valley don't know that Port Alberni is a community on an inlet - that it is as much a West Coast city as Tofino or Ucluelet. McRae also appreciates the incorporation of a tree in the logo. "Trees will be here forever," he said. The mayor



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confirmed the city will utilize the logo in its upcoming \$100,000 project to mount way-finding signs throughout the city for the benefit of visitors. The signs should be up sometime within the next couple of months, he said.

\* \* \* \* \*

## Article 9

### **Car accidents involving bears spark concern** By JULIA CARANCI, AV Times

Two bears have been struck by cars near Port Alberni within just a few days of each other. Bear Aware spokesperson Crystal McMillan told The Times this week that a cub was run over by a vehicle about 15 kilometres from Kennedy Lake Rock Bluff on Monday morning. The cub then lay on the road until a Parks employee found it and dragged it off the highway, McMillan said. Another bear was reported to be milling around the area. It is unclear whether the second bear was the cub's mother or sibling, she added.

A second bear was struck by a vehicle near the gate to the Black Powder Shooting Range on Alberni Highway on July 14. Port Alberni conservation officer Ben York confirmed a report came into his office about an adult bear that had been hit and injured by a vehicle and was creating a traffic hazard. However, by the time RCMP and conservation officers arrived on scene, the bear was gone. The injured animal likely dragged itself back into the woods, where it either succumbed to its injuries or possibly survived, York explained.

Bear sightings in the Valley tend to increase during the spring and summer months, particularly along Highway 4 between Port Alberni and the West Coast. McMillan is warning residents there are a lot of bears on the roads right now, with regular sightings on the highway, at the Tenth Avenue dip, on River Road and near the Tseshaht Band office.

The Times spotted a large black bear feeding in the brush at the Tenth Avenue dip on Wednesday morning. A number of cars slowed down to catch a glimpse of the bear - others pulled over to get a closer look. A local resident, concerned the bear would be shot, ran into the bush and frightened it away. McMillan is encouraging residents to refrain from stopping, particularly in the middle of any roadway, to view bears and not to feed them under any circumstances. Feeding bears leads to habituation, which in turn can hasten an animal's demise, she explained.

Her group is requesting funding from the province for signs to be posted on Highway 4 between Port Alberni and the coast, warning residents to pull over if they wish to view wildlife and to refrain from feeding bears or face a hefty fine. Car accidents involving wildlife are not just dangerous for the animals involved. "Hitting a bear with your car is like hitting a brick wall," McMillan said.

Meanwhile, a Bear Hazard Assessment Report on the Port Alberni area is nearly complete. This document will help McMillan greatly in her work as a Bear Aware programmer. The assessment will identify areas where the risk of bear-human interaction is high. This in turn will allow her the opportunity to focus her public awareness campaign on the areas that most require it, mitigating the chances of bear-human conflict, she explained.

\* \* \* \* \*



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## B. Articles from current year

**#1 Bear confronts girl in Port Alberni** [[www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/story](http://www.canada.com/victoriatimescolonist/news/story)]

"He started taking steps toward me like a sumo wrestler."

*Shayne Morrow, Canwest News Service Published: Wednesday, July 23, 2008*

A 13-year-old girl escaped injury Wednesday morning after a face-to-face encounter with a bear that broke into the family home to get at garbage.

Olivia Berg said she was asleep with her three younger sisters in the family motor home, which was parked at the front of their Wellington Road residence.

On the south side of the home is a workshop, that runs the length of the home, with a front and rear entrance.

"I heard an impact, and I came out and went to look for my dad," Olivia said.

The sound was from the bear breaking through the back door, said Olivia's father, Jason Berg.

"The bear pushed his way in, grabbed the garbage and took it out into the yard," Berg said.

Olivia entered the shop by the front door just moments later. She recalled the next series of events in chilling detail.

"I heard a sound like scraping styrofoam on steel. I was still kind of groggy, so I came out to look," she said. "I noticed the garbage, but I didn't see the bear right away."

The animal had retreated about 20 metres to the south from the garbage, and was standing under a grove of fruit trees, with Olivia in the middle.

"I was standing near the garbage with my back turned, and I smelled this really rancid, wet-dog smell," she said. "I turned around and I saw him. He was doing huffy-puffy growling sounds, and buffing himself up, to make himself look bigger."

Olivia said she realized she was directly in between the bear and the garbage, with the shop door about 10 metres away.

"He started taking steps toward me like a sumo wrestler," she said. "I know you're supposed to back up slowly. But I decided to run."

"That was probably the right thing to do," Berg said.

The bear bolted towards the garbage but apparently just kept going, he said. A conservation officer showed up within 15 minutes.

"The conservation officer said this is the first time there's been a bear home invasion in Port Alberni, although it has happened at Sproat Lake," Berg said. "This neighborhood is one of their corridors that they use, and with four children, I'm worried sick about them."

Berg said the bear suspected of killing lambs at a different property last year and was a regular visitor on Wellington Road.

"I'm convinced that, if they'll take a sheep, they'll take a child. They're not afraid of us," he said.

"He was treating me like another bear trying to eat his food," Olivia said.

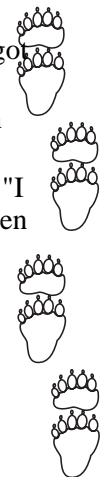
"The conservation officer said he'd come through the creek to get to our yard. That's why I got the wet-dog smell."

Berg said the incident demonstrates what residents have to take precautions when they live in bear territory, because the hungry foragers remember where they've been able to find food.

"The previous owner used to have a large compost pile that the bears used to visit," he said. "I got rid of it when we moved in, but the bears still stop by to check our apple crop, to see when they're ripe. They know the fruit is here and they come by every year."

Berg said conservation officers will likely destroy the animal once he is identified. But he is prepared to deal with the situation himself if absolutely necessary.

"I am a registered firearms owner. I am prepared to shoot the bear if it poses a threat to my family, and the conservation officer said I have that right," he said.





# DRAFT

A Letter-to-the-Editor in AV Times, Summer 2008

## *Troubled by bear problem*

THE EDITOR:

I have recently moved to the Alberni Valley and have been troubled since I arrived by the "bear problem".

I am a former Alberta girl and spent many summers in Banff and Jasper National Parks, where I never saw the garbage on the roads like here.

Why? Because they have bear proofed their towns. A simple solution. Put the garbage away and the bears will stay away. A hefty fine should be levied to anyone who puts their garbage out in plastic bags the day before pick up day. A great revenue for the City! If we don't do something soon, we can change our slogan to "Lumberjacks Only". That will attract tourism. We are smarter than the bears, aren't we?

**B. Tautfest**  
**Port Alberni**



AV Times article on 27 May 2008

## First bear of season destroyed

### Officers step in after bear enters Cherry Creek home

JULIA CARANCI AV TIMES

Port Alberni conservation officers have destroyed the first bear of the season — one of the worst cases of habituation they have come across in recent years.

The young adult male bear — who weighed about 200 pounds and still had some growing to do — had been a problem in the Cypress Boulevard area of Cherry Creek for weeks, explained local conservation officer Jesse Jones.

“He’s been breaking into a lot of garages — they don’t get much worse than this one,” Jones said, adding the bear had become so habituated to eating garbage and pet food that he had completely lost his fear of human beings.

Over the May long weekend officers got the call that the bear had climbed into a home via a partially open window left ajar for the cat.

The bear slid the window and climbed into the home’s coat room. Fortunately, the residents were not home, although they drove up just as the bear was leaving, Jones explained.

While conservation officials had been attempting to catch this bear for some time, they stepped up efforts after hearing this last report, and set a live trap out to catch the bear on Tuesday, May 20.

Jones said the bear was in the trap within hours.

The bruin was destroyed — he was



**Conservation officer Jesse Jones said the first bear killed this year (May 20) in Port Alberni had become so habituated to eating garbage and pet food that he had completely lost his fear of human beings.**

the first bear killed by local conservation officers this year.

Ironically, the bear was destroyed just one day before the local bear working group met for just the second time to discuss changes aimed at reducing the bear problem in the city and making the community more BearSmart, including garbage and fruit management and public education.

Jones explained that since the warm weather broke over the last two weeks, bears sightings have increased significantly and residents must be aware and act accordingly.

Residents in all areas of the city and rural zones are being asked to keep their garbage under lock and key.

“If you think you’re in an area where this isn’t a problem, you’re wrong,” Jones said. “If you put out your garbage, you’ll see a bear, guaranteed.”

*JCaranci@avtimes.net*





Another "home invasion" AV Times article 8 September 2008

# BLACK BEAR BREAKS INTO PORT HOME

## Bruin destroyed after eating Chinese food from fridge

JULIA CARANCI AV TIMES

A bear that wandered into a house in Port Alberni and was discovered eating Chinese food out of the fridge had to be destroyed last Tuesday evening.

Port Alberni conservation officer Mike Newton told the *Times* the bear entered the home, located near the Somass River, via a door left open for the family cat.

The family had gone to sleep.

He explained someone inside the home heard a noise, walked into the kitchen and discovered a full-grown adult black bear chowing down on Chinese food he'd managed to get out of the fridge.

"You can imagine how he felt," Newton said. "He backed into the bedroom and was able to call us via cell phone."

Conservation officers arrived quickly and found the bear, who had finished his snack and left the house by that time, in a plum tree a short distance away.

The bear was destroyed.

"We do not tolerate home invasions at all," Newton said, adding once a bear has been rewarded with food after entering a home, he is likely to practice that learned behaviour again. If that same bear got into another home and was surprised by a young child, the results could be disastrous, he added.

This was the seventh bear destroyed in the city this year.

Local officials say there are multiple sightings of bears all over Port Alberni right now — it's hard to pin down any one location that's a hot spot.

Conservation officials say they are being attracted to residential areas by laden fruit trees, garbage and blackberries, which have finally ripened after a slow season.

"It seems that all over Port Alberni, Tofino and Ucluelet, bears are using attractants as food sources," said Newton. "We're very busy trying to keep all three communities satisfied — trying to keep a lid on the pot."

He stressed residents must do their part by keeping their garbage under lock and key until the morning of pick up, clearing all ripe fruit from trees and being bear conscious at all times.

"If one person fails to do this, the rest of the street will suffer," Newton said, adding once a bear gets food from an area, it will keep coming back.

September and October are traditionally very active times for bears in Port Alberni and the West Coast, as it is the harvest time for fruits and berries and the season when salmon spawn. It is also the natural time bears bulk up in preparation for winter.

Newton said that in a few weeks, the bruin population will leave residential areas for streams and rivers to catch fish, then prepare to den. Sightings should drop at that time.

To report a bear incident, call 1-877-952-7277.

[JCaranci@avtimes.net](mailto:JCaranci@avtimes.net)

## » COUGAR SIGHTING

An adult cougar has been spotted several times in the Bland Road area of Beaver Creek, and conservation officials are asking area residents to call them if it is seen again.

While the cougar has not caused any serious problems in the area, the full-grown cat has been spotted during daylight hours, and appears to have lost its natural fear of human beings.

— ALBERNI VALLEY TIMES





# BearSmart checklist for safety in bear country

10 Sept 2008

MAGGIE PAQUET BEARSMART

It's nearly fall and bears are definitely looking for food! They need to bulk-up big time prior to winter denning. Since we create the conditions that attract bears to where we live, it is our responsibility to do all we can to prevent them from becoming a problem. A bear's sense of smell is probably 100 times better than a dog's, so we have to make sure we aren't attracting them to our homes, businesses, and schools.

If you encounter a bear, do not scream or run. Keep calm! Speak in a firm voice, raise your arms to look larger, back away slowly to a safe place. At your home, pick up small children or pets and go indoors. Let your neighbours know to do the same. Once safely inside, bang pots and pans, or generally make noise to let the bear know it is not welcome in your yard.

Here are some things you can do to stay safe and help prevent bear-people conflicts in your neighbourhood. Never feed bears. Not only is it illegal, it could cause a problem for someone else, and sooner or later, it can result in the destruction of that bear.

## 1. Doors and windows

- During bear season (now), keep accessible doors and windows closed and locked to prevent bears from getting into your house, especially at night.

## 2. Plant attractants

- Cut back blackberries and other bear foods around homes, play areas, near dumpsters and garbage cans.
- Pick up all fallen fruit. If you don't use the fruit, consider asking a community group to take it for the food bank, or remove the trees and replace with species that don't attract bears (no nut trees, either).
- Remove bear foods from ornamental gardens and landscaping, and along trails near residences.

## 3. Garbage attractants

- Only use dumpsters with sturdy metal lids. Keep them locked and emptied frequently.
- Keep garbage cans indoors or in secure closed garages or sheds. Preferably, use bear-resistant garbage cans. Never put your garbage can out before the morning of pickup.
- Remove garbage cans from play areas.

## 4. Location / visibility of playsets and play areas (parks and schools)

- Trim back vegetation along and overhanging fences for visibility. Schools and playgrounds adjacent to dense cover and fish-bearing streams should erect a high fence on that side of the property.
- Move playsets to open, visible areas, and remove plants that block visibility from windows.
- Always make sure play times are supervised if bears are known to be in the area.
- Don't locate dumpsters or garbage cans on or next to play areas.

## 5. Other attractants and activities

- Birdfeeders: Do not use birdfeeders (including seeds, suet, and hummingbird nectar) during bear season (summer and fall). Birds have access to plenty of natural foods during this time.
- Barbecues: Burn your barbecues clean. Wash and store them covered out of the wind, preferably indoors (without the propane tank).
- Pet food: Feed your pets and store their dishes and food inside.
- Livestock and feed: Consider electric fencing to protect small livestock paddocks and chicken coops and runs. Store all feed in bear-resistant containers and in a secure building or shed. Portable, solar-powered electric fencing is available. Contact us for more info.
- Outdoor freezers, fish nets and smokers, coolers, and plastic garbage bags with things other than garbage in them are all attractants to bears. Bears are smart and learn fast. If they see something that has given them a food reward in the past, they'll look for another food reward, even if your freezer, cooler, or a garbage bag doesn't contain anything they can eat. Try to keep these enclosed in a sturdy shed or bear-proof enclosure.
- Actively encourage your neighbours to be bear aware.

For more info, contact Maggie Paquet in Alberni (250) 723-8802, [maggiapaquet5@shaw.ca](mailto:maggiapaquet5@shaw.ca), or Crystal McMillan in Tofino/Ucluelet (250) 266-2327, [bearawareucluelet@telus.net](mailto:bearawareucluelet@telus.net). Please report problems to the Conservation Officer Service (877) 952-7277 (RAPP).

Reporting is important to help us target our education efforts and to help neighbourhoods avoid problems.





Article published in AV Times on 28 January 2008

## Bear Smart garbage containers are here 28/1/08

SHAYNE MORROW AV TIMES

They're a little pricy, but they can sure take a beating.

Beleaguered Alberni Valley residents will now be able to purchase a refuse container able to foil the most motivated bruin, according to Bear Aware Program supervisor Crystal McMillan.

"Beaver Creek (ACE) Building Centre has them in stock, and I also sell them myself," McMillan said.

It's called the BearSaver, and it's marketed by Otto Manufacturing, which sells a wide range of commercial containers, including numerous products for Rubbermaid.

The bad news? A retail price of \$195.99.

"They're a 32-gallon poly cart with wheels, and they're self-latching on top," McMillan said.

The selling point is ease of operation, she explained. The user merely pushes down the lid to lock it securely.

To open, you reach a finger inside a steel frame to trip a release latch. Mr. Bear may be clever and he may be determined, but his paw simply won't fit.

Otto manufactures three animal-resistant containers: Varmint, Black Bear and Grizzly.

"We chose the Grizzly model, because there's not much difference in price, and the reinforcement is that much stronger," McMillan said.

Bear Smart consultant Maggie Paquet, who lives in a bear-plagued neighbourhood, can provide a personal testimonial. The company provided her with two of the containers. She's used one of the BearSavers



Fiona Gibson (left) and Ashley Davies demonstrate the bear-proof garbage container now available at Beaver Creek ACE Building Centre. Called the BearSaver, the easy-to-operate container has a price tag of \$195.99.

[SHAYNE MORROW / ALBERNI VALLEY TIMES]

herself, and her duplex neighbour Louise, who has a larger volume of refuse, has the other.

"A few weeks ago, I heard something bang against my house," Paquet said.

"I went outside, and there was this great big bear — we're talking a 350- to 400-pound adult. He had Louise's garbage can, and he was really working on it. First he dragged it across the lawn, then he threw it down and jumped on it."

The intruder beat, bashed and hurled the container around the back yard, but was unable to pop the lid. He eventually gave up in frustration.

"If that isn't bear-proof, I don't know what is," Paquet said.

Paquet noted that the high price of the containers could deter residents from purchasing them, unless they're particularly vulnerable to intrusion.

"Partly, it's the high transportation charge," she said.

"I've spoken to the company, and if, for example, the city were to make a large purchase (eg. 5,000 units) they could take the cost right down, and give free delivery."

McMillan said the hope is to get the BearSaver into widespread use, to prevent bear-human conflicts. For West Coast residents who wish to purchase the BearSaver (at the same price), contact McMillan at 266-2327.

SMorrow@avtimes.net





These four pages are published in the community phone directory as “Canpages.”

## People & Bears Can Live Together it's our personal responsibility!

B.C. is Bear Country. Whether you're strolling through a residential area or hiking in the backcountry, you may encounter a bear. Bears are generally active from mid-March to November. Their constant search for new food sources may draw them into urban areas, often crossing busy pedestrian areas.

Seeing a bear in its natural habitat can be a memorable experience, but please respect and help protect our bears. Be 'bear smart' and follow these few, simple guidelines to ensure any encounters with bears are positive and free from conflict.

### How can I be bear smart?

Be prepared! Learn as much as you can about bear behaviour before venturing into bear country. Bears are predictable. This trait can be beneficial to people if they come into contact with bears. Recognizing and understanding bear postures and vocalizations will help you avoid a negative experience. Never feed a bear, either intentionally or unintentionally by not disposing of garbage indoors or in a bear-proof container. Bears have a keen sense of smell and can detect the aroma of a barbecue or picnic from a considerable distance. Always be alert and bear aware in bear country.

Respect all bears! Give them plenty of space and do not approach. No one should be encouraged to feed, pet or pose for a photo with a bear. Take pictures with a telephoto lens from a distance. With your cooperation, bears and people can coexist in harmony.

### Tips for hiking safely:

Bears are far more likely to enhance your wilderness experience than spoil it! Knowing how to interpret their behaviour and act responsibly is part of the thrill of sharing forests and mountains with these amazing creatures.

- Be alert. Avoid close encounters or surprising a bear. If a bear hears you coming, it will tend to avoid you.
- Look for signs of recent bear activity - droppings, tracks, overturned rocks, broken up rotted logs, fresh claw marks on trees, plant root diggings, berries on the ground and fur on tree trunks.
- Make your human presence known, talk loudly or sing songs. Cracking sticks is a great way to alert bears of your presence.



- Be especially alert when traveling through dense brush, into the wind, near rushing water, or food sources such as berry bushes. Limited vision or hearing may lead to a surprise encounter.
- If you smell or see signs indicating an animal carcass (ravens circling) leave the area immediately.
- In grizzly country, it's best to hike in groups on established trails (stay out of dense bush) and during daylight hours.
- Traveling on fast moving mountain bikes can lead to surprise encounters. Be Alert!
- Supervise children at all times. Keep all dogs on leash or under (voice) control. Dogs can be helpful in detecting bears, but they may also aggravate bears or lead them back to you.
- Carry red pepper bear spray or another deterrent and know how and when to use it.

### Camping in Bear Country:

When camping in the backcountry, select an appropriate site away from travel corridors and rushing water. Do not camp anywhere bear sign is noticed (i.e. tracks, droppings, fresh diggings, claw marks on trees). Use a flashlight at night. Pack out all garbage, even organic food scraps. Don't bury it, bears will find it and dig it up, creating a potential conflict situation for other hikers or campers. If you burn food scraps or garbage, be sure to pack out unburned portions.

Reduce the odours that attract bears – do not cook near your tent. Do not sleep in the same clothes you were cooking in. Don't take food into your tent, not even a snack. Bears may even be attracted by smelly cosmetics. Use bear-resistant food containers. Coolers and tents are not bear-proof. In public campgrounds, store food in the animal-proof containers that are provided. If none are available, cache food 100 meters away from your tent (suspend between 2 trees a minimum of 4m off the ground and 1m in from the tree trunks).

### If you encounter a black bear in the backcountry:

Note there are no hard and fast rules when it comes to bears, but the following tips may help:

it's our personal responsibility!



## STOP AND ASSESS

- Remember: encounters with aggressive bears are extremely rare and attacks are even rarer. Remain calm and assess the situation.
- Respect the bear's need for space. Never approach a bear for any reason.
- Be predictable. Try not to surprise a bear.

## BEHAVE RESPECTFULLY

- Talk in a normal, non-threatening tone of voice so the bear can identify you as human.
- If the bear is in the distance, try to make a wide detour or leave the area.
- If you suddenly come face to face with a bear...Don't panic!!!
- Speak firmly and stand your ground. Face the bear and keep your eyes on the bear.
- A bear may 'pop' its jaws or swat the ground while blowing or snorting. It may lunge toward you or 'bluff' charge in an attempt to motivate you to leave - usually stopping well short of contact. These are defensive behaviours, signaling you are too close. Remain calm and increase your distance from the bear.
- If you encounter a bear on the roadside, continue on your way. Do not stop and get out of your vehicle, not even for a quick photo.

*For more detailed information on what to do when encountering a grizzly, or what to do in the event of an attack, visit our website at [www.bearsmart.com](http://www.bearsmart.com).*

## The Bear Facts:

Three species of bears are found in Canada. The most common is the American black bear (*Ursus americanus*). The black bear is found in all provinces and territories in Canada except for Prince Edward Island. The grizzly or brown bear (*Ursus arctos*), is found in B.C., Alberta, the Yukon and the Northwest Territories. The polar bear (*Ursus maritimus*) inhabits the remote northern regions of Canada. Black and grizzly bears are hard to distinguish by colour.



Black bears can vary in colour from black, blue-black, dark brown, brown, cinnamon right through to white. Grizzlies, likewise, may range in colour from black to blond. The grizzly bear has a pronounced shoulder hump, a concave or 'dished' facial profile and much larger claws than the black bear. Black bears have a flatter, more elongated 'Roman-nosed' profile and no pronounced shoulder hump. There are no grizzly bears in the Lower Fraser Valley or on Vancouver Island. They are NOT normally found in developed areas of the Sea to Sky Corridor (except around Pemberton) and the Sunshine Coast, but you may come across one in the backcountry.

Bears are omnivorous - their natural diet is mainly



vegetarian and includes: leaves, berries, grasses, roots, insects, fish, carrion and occasionally mammals, such as deer and moose. Bears are attracted to, and will eat many of the same foods humans eat.

Bears have insatiable appetites. They require large quantities of food to sustain themselves during hibernation and to produce offspring. When food is scarce, bears may travel hundreds of kilometres, sometimes coming in contact with human settlements.

Bears generally avoid humans. However, a hungry bear will enter a backyard or campground if lured by the smells from a barbecue or trash bin. Bears are natural scavengers. They will remember an easy source of food and will keep returning if the food source is not properly disposed of.

- Bears' sense of smell and hearing are far superior to humans and their eyesight is at least as good.
- Bears are fast. A bear can run 15 m/sec. - faster than the world's fastest sprinter.
- Bears are strong. They have been known to bend open car doors and pry open windshields in their search for food.
- Bears are good swimmers. Black bears are agile climbers, but grizzlies can also climb trees.

## Bear Safety at Home

Bears have been living in British Columbia since the Miocene era, about twenty million years - a lot longer than people have been around. As modern communities continue to develop and encroach on wildlife habitat, the need for us to protect our bears increases.

Communities can be porous to bear activity, so that bears can pass through, but are not tempted to stop and get into trouble with people and their non-natural attractants. Be 'bear smart' and follow these few, simple guidelines to ensure any encounters with bears are safe.

**Respect bears! If you see a bear in a residential area:**

**Act responsibly!**

- Remain Calm  
Often the bear is just passing

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through, and if it finds no food source, will simply move on.

- **Keep Well Away**  
Do not crowd the bear – give it plenty of space. Warn others to be respectful; bring small children and pets in the house.
- **Let a black bear know it is not welcome in your backyard.** Do not allow the bear to feel comfortable. Make lots of noise and make your presence known to let the bear know it is in human territory. Ensure the bear has a safe avenue of escape/exit. After the bear has left the area, remove any non-natural foods that attracted the bear.
- **When to call for help**  
If the bear appears to be threatening human safety, pets, livestock or destroying property – call the Police or Conservation Officer Service 1-877-952-RAPP (7277). Ask them to use non-lethal alternatives to manage the situation!

## Be Scents-ible about bears!

Bears live to eat, consuming up to 25,000 calories in a day. While they prefer natural foods, they will eat almost anything and will do almost anything to obtain food.

Bears have a keen sense of smell and are driven to investigate. Carelessly stored garbage, birdfeeders, or an unclean barbeque are open invitations to bears. Bears in pursuit of an easy meal may damage property or, in rare cases, cause injury to people.

## What YOU do really matters!

Paying attention to common household activities and making changes in your daily routine will reduce conflicts and contribute to a "bear smart" community. Encourage your friends and neighbours to participate as well. You can ensure a safe environment for your family by following these simple guidelines:



## Give bears respect not garbage!

- Never store garbage outside, unless it is in a bear-proof container. Don't let garbage pile up or develop strong odours that can attract bears. Minimize odours by keeping garbage indoors, in tightly closed plastic trash bags.
- If you have the convenience of curbside pick-up, do not put garbage out until one or two hours before the truck arrives.

- Never leave garbage on your balcony or porch (even if it's screened).
- Lobby your municipal or regional government for a bear-proof waste management system, if you don't already have one.

## Bear-proof Your Property Porches, Windows and Other Entrance-ways:

- Keep doors and windows that are accessible to bears, closed and locked. Food smells can lure bears inside your home.
- Do not store food of any kind outside, even it is inside a locked refrigerator or freezer.

## Vehicles:

- Don't leave trash, groceries, animal feed, coolers, or any odorous item in your vehicle or in the back of a pick-up truck, even under canopies. Bears can easily pry open car/truck windows and doors to access the food inside.

## Birdfeeders:

- Please do not use any type of birdfeeder in bear country.
- As an alternative to hummingbird feeders, plant red or pink native flowers which are known to appeal to hummingbirds.
- Use bird baths to attract birds without attracting bears.



## Fruit Trees/

## Berry Bushes:

- Plant non-fruit bearing trees/shrubs when landscaping. Replace fruit trees/ berry shrubs with non-fruit bearing plants, particularly in areas where you don't want to find a bear feeding, like beside the children's play set or your front door.
- Alternatively, harvest fruits as they ripen (or before if you're not going to use the fruit right away). Remove fallen fruit from the ground below the tree.
- If you are unable to pick the fruit yourself, call your local 'Bear Aware' organization and ask about their 'picking' program or start your own. Ask a friend or neighbour to help.
- Electric fence large orchards whenever possible.

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## Lawns:

- Keep your lawn mowed and weeded. Grasses, dandelions and clover are natural bear foods.

## Gardens:

- Vegetable gardens, especially those containing potatoes and root vegetables such as carrots and beets, attract bears. Flower gardens are not as attractive to bears as long as they don't contain sweet vetch, dandelions and clover.
- Harvest garden vegetables as they ripen.
- Consider electric fencing to keep animals out of your garden.
- Never use blood meal, fish fertilizer or deer repellent in any garden.

## Pets and Pet Food:

- Feed your pets inside and store their food inside. Don't leave dog bones lying around your yard.
- Most dogs can be trained to help deter bears from entering a yard or at least be effective at warning you if a bear is nearby.
- Cats and small dogs should be kept indoors when unsupervised, especially at night, where predatory animals (coyotes, cougars and grizzly bears) can't prey on them.

## Barbeques:

- Burn your barbeques clean immediately after use, wash and store them covered out of the wind – preferably indoors (don't forget to leave the propane tank outside). Always remove the grease can and store it indoors.
- Be watchful at barbeques – the smell from cooking can attract bears from long distances. Don't leave any food unattended outside. As soon as you are finished eating, bring all dishes, containers, utensils and uneaten food inside the house. Promptly and properly discard of all cans, used paper plates, cups, disposable containers and napkins.

## Compost:

- Keep your compost clean.
- Never compost animal waste, oil, grease, or dairy products.
- Sprinkle your compost with lime to aid in decomposition and reduce odour. Cover kitchen waste each time it is added with non food wastes. Keep compost aerated and properly turned.
- Locate compost heap well away from forest edge, thickets and natural pathways used by bears.
- Use the community composting system where available.

## Livestock/Feed:

- Use an electric fence to protect livestock. Calves, goats, geese and especially sheep, pigs and chickens are all vulnerable. Bears don't usually bother horses, adult cattle or llamas.

- Store livestock feed securely indoors or in air-tight, odour-free bear-proof containers.
- If an animal dies, remove the body from your property as soon as possible. Haul it to the landfill, have a rendering service pick it up or bury it at least eight to ten feet deep in a remote spot on your land. Don't dump an animal carcass on public property or leave it near a building, road, trail or other developed area.

## Beehives:

- Place beehives on an elevated platform with an overhang more than two metres above the ground, or surround with electric fencing. Wire beehives together with metal strapping. Use metal, not wooden posts (so the bears can't climb them).
- Don't set up beehives in the early spring when other bear foods are not yet abundant.

## Salt and Mineral Blocks:

- Don't set out salt and mineral blocks to attract unwanted wildlife to your yard. If your intent is to draw deer, elk and moose, salt blocks will also attract bears, coyotes and wild cats to your property.

***The best way to avoid conflict is to prevent it!***

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For more information on living with bears contact:

**Crystal McMillan at  
Pacific Rim Bear Smart  
250-266-BEAR(2327) or  
bearawareucluelet@telus.net  
www.pacificrimbearsmart.com**



# DRAFT

## Appendix 6: Checklist of Bear Smart Activities for Port Alberni

### Activities for a Port Alberni Bear Aware Program Delivery Specialist or volunteer Bear Aware group

- ☒ Form a local committee of volunteers to help make your community **Bear Smart**.
- ☒ Encourage the city to provide the community with a bear information and assistance “hot line”
- ☒ Work with local government to develop and implement bylaws for managing residential and commercial garbage and recycling.
- ☒ Develop a working relationship with regional Conservation Officers and enforcement agencies.
- ☒ Work with schools and various local agencies to deliver programs for community members and school children.
- ☒ Provide community members with information and assistance on how to become bear smart and bear-proof their residence or business, such as the following:
  - Identify the bear habitat and signs of bear use on your property
  - Do your own hazard assessment and develop your own risk management strategy
  - Define your own level of tolerance for bears
  - Consider the following bear-proofing options about:
    - Reinforced garbage containers, when to put garbage out for collection
    - Composting
    - Pets and pet food
    - Fish smokers, outdoor fridges and freezers, and barbecues
    - Livestock and beehives
    - Salmonberries, blackberries, salal, etc. (i.e., wild berries on/near your property)
    - Gardens and fruit trees
    - Bird feeders and birdseed
- ☒ Provide community members with information about bears, including the following:
  - Life history of bears
  - Seasonal patterns of movement and habitat use
  - Diet
  - Intelligence, learning ability, memory
    - Behaviour:
    - Food conditioning (to non-natural food sources, such as garbage)
    - Habituation to humans (proximity)
    - Encounters (what to do when people encounter bears)
- ☒ Provide community members with other useful information, such as:
  - Local bear info and contact numbers
  - What to tell staff, campers, lodge or B&B guests, children, etc.
  - Responsibilities & liability for management/staff of campgrounds, resorts, restaurants, etc.
- ☒ Promote the “Bear Smart” program (by media articles, and possibly by using window signs)

### Assist residents by:

- ☒ Helping them identify the bear habitat and signs of bear use on their property
- ☒ Doing complaint follow-up by working with resident on what might prevent repeat occurrence.
- ☒ Responding to requests to look at prevention possibilities for a specific residence/property.
- ☒ Promote a “Family checklist” or “Bear Block Watch” program”





# DRAFT

- ✓ Compile information on incidents and sightings to enable mapping movements of bears through neighbourhoods

## **Assist restaurants and other businesses that manage food or wastes attractive to bears by:**

- ✓ Identifying the bear habitat and signs of bear use on their property
- ✓ Pursuing their own hazard assessment and developing their own risk management strategy
- ✓ Defining their own level of tolerance
- ✓ Pursuing bear-proofing options, such as use of bear-proof dumpsters other infrastructure solutions – bear-proof sheds for feed, electric fencing, etc.
- ✓ Picnic table signs
- ✓ Seasonal warning signs – consistent appearance
- ✓ Becoming involved in a “ This Business is Committed to Living with Wildlife” accreditation program
- ✓ Promoting the “Bear Smart” program (possibly by using window signs)

## **Assist local government in:**

- ✓ Identifying bear habitat and signs of bear use on the lands they administer
- ✓ Investigating other Community Bear-People Management Plans
- ✓ Undertaking some form of hazard assessment and developing a community risk management strategy
- ✓ Determining the community’s level of tolerance for the presence of bears
- ✓ Incorporating wildlife issues into the Official Community Plan
- ✓ Investigating and assessing bear-proofing options through waste management, infrastructure solutions, vegetation management, by-laws, adoption of best practices, business licensing, etc.
- ✓ Assessing impacts to wildlife in development proposals
- ✓ Coordinating efforts with those of other agencies in this area
- ✓ Accessing support from in-kind donations, technical advice, and funding.

## **Assist the school district in:**

- ✓ Identifying the bear habitat and signs of bear use on the lands it administers
- ✓ Doing their own hazard assessment and developing their own risk management strategy
- ✓ Incorporating wildlife issues in relation to standard operating practices
- ✓ Investigating bear-proofing options
- ✓ Employing warning signs – consistent appearance for use in the area
- ✓ Designing something like a “This School is Committed to Living with Wildlife” program
- ✓ Being aware of the availability of educational resources about bear safety
- ✓ Delivery of educational programs for students and staff

## **Assist new residents and/or landowners in:**

- ✓ Checking with realtors about information and services available re bears and other wildlife
- ✓ Identifying wildlife issues in development plans; easiest stage to prevent conflicts with wildlife
- ✓ Identifying the bear habitat and signs of bear use on the lands they own
- ✓ Pursuing their own hazard assessment and their own risk management strategy
- ✓ Defining their own level of tolerance
- ✓ Investigating bear-proofing options
- ✓ Getting involved in a “Bear Smart” window sign program



# D R A F T

## **Appendix 7: Sample Bylaws for Garbage and Other Attractants**

1. City of Coquitlam
2. Town of Gibsons
3. Village of Kaslo, Solid Waste Management (Garbage)
4. Village of Kaslo, Animal Attractants
5. District of Tofino



# DRAFT



City of Coquitlam

BYLAW

## BYLAW NO. 3768, 2006

A Bylaw to amend City of Coquitlam Solid Waste Management Bylaw, No. 2512, 1992

### WHEREAS:

- A. Council for the City of Coquitlam (the "City") has previously enacted City of Coquitlam Solid Waste Management Bylaw No. 2512, 1992 (the "Solid Waste Management Bylaw");
- B. Council wishes to amend the Solid Waste Management Bylaw to address concerns over wildlife being drawn into residential areas by attractants;

NOW THEREFORE, the Council of the City of Coquitlam, in open meeting lawfully assembled, ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

### 1. Name of Bylaw

This Bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "Solid Waste Management Wildlife Amending Bylaw No. 3768, 2006."

### 2. Amendments to Solid Waste Management Bylaw

- 2.1 Section 3 of the Solid Waste Management Bylaw is amended by deleting the period at the end of subsection (x) and replacing the same with a semi-colon, and by adding the following:

(a.1) "attractant" means any substance which could reasonably be expected to attract wildlife or does attract wildlife including but not limited to kitchen waste, food products, pet food, bird feed, compost, grease, fruit, honey, salt, or chemical products;

(g.1) "enforcement officer" means a conservation officer, bylaw enforcement officer, Bear Aware program staff member, or recycling and waste reduction officer;

(u) (iii) a wildlife resistant container;

(y) "wildlife" means birds and any mammal not normally domesticated, including but not limited to bear, cougar, coyote, wolf, foxes, raccoons and skunks;

(z) "wildlife resistant container" means a fully enclosed receptacle with a sturdy lid which can be completely closed to reduce odours, and which is secured with a latching device of sufficient design and strength to prevent access to the contents by wildlife;



file #: 09-3900-20/3768/1 Doc #: 421635.v3

(aa) “wildlife resistant enclosure” means a fully enclosed structure consisting of walls, roof and door(s) with no more than a 1 cm gap or opening at any location, of sufficient design and strength so as to be capable of being securely latched to deter access to wildlife.

2.2 Section 5.1 of the Solid Waste Management Bylaw is amended by deleting the period at the end of subsection (g) and replacing the same with a semi-colon, and by adding the following:

- (h) all fruit on trees or bushes within 10 metres of a residence be harvested immediately upon ripening;
- (i) all fallen fruit from trees or bushes within 10 metres of a residence be removed immediately;
- (j) bee hives are inaccessible to wildlife;
- (k) grease containers are inaccessible to wildlife;
- (l) outdoor refrigerators or freezers are inaccessible to wildlife;
- (m) dairy products and proteins are not put into compost piles.

2.3 The Solid Waste Management Bylaw is amended by adding the following:

5.2 Except as provided in section 5.3, no person shall knowingly or willingly feed, or in any manner provide or furnish access to food or any other edible substance, to any wildlife.

5.3 In areas frequented by bears, bird feeders:

- (a) must be suspended on a cable or other device and in such a manner that they are inaccessible to wildlife other than birds;

5.4 Solid waste may be placed in any residential waste container by an owner or occupier of a residential dwelling unless and until an owner or occupier of that residential dwelling has been issued a notice by an enforcement officer indicating that they must use a wildlife resistant container, and/or a wildlife resistant enclosure.

5.5 Upon a notice being issued with respect to a dwelling unit, all owners and occupiers of that dwelling unit must place solid waste in a wildlife resistant container, and/or must store their residential waste containers in a wildlife resistant enclosure until such containers are placed out for collection pursuant to sections 6.1 through 6.3.



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6.2 Where the property on which a residential dwelling is located:

(a) abuts on a lane, then the residential waste containers and recycling containers must be placed at the property line, level with the surface of the lane, by no earlier than 9:00 p.m. the night before collection, and no later than 7:00 a.m. on each day designated for collection and removal of solid waste and recyclable material.

(b) does not abut on a lane then the residential waste containers and recycling containers must be placed on the driveway of the property, as near as possible to but not on the travelled portion of the street and without obstructing pedestrian traffic by no earlier than 9:00 p.m. the night before collection, and no later than 7:00 a.m. on each day designated for collection and removal of solid waste and recyclable material.

READ A FIRST TIME this " " day of " ", 2006.

READ A SECOND TIME this " " day of " ", 2006.

READ A THIRD TIME this " " day of " ", 2006

GIVEN FOURTH AND FINAL READING and the Seal of the Corporation affixed this " " day of " ",  
2006.

\_\_\_\_\_  
MAYOR

\_\_\_\_\_  
CLERK



File #: 09-3900-20/3768/1 Doc #: 421635.v3



DRAFT

**TOWN OF GIBSONS**



**GARBAGE COLLECTION  
AND DISPOSAL BYLAW NO. 779**

**Adopted:** May 7<sup>th</sup>, 1996

Consolidated for convenience May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2008

This version of this bylaw is a consolidation of amendments to the original bylaw as of the date specified. This consolidation is done for the convenience of users and accurately reflects the status of the bylaw as of the specified date but must not be construed as the original bylaw and is not admissible in Court unless specifically certified by the Director of Corporate Administration for the Town of Gibsons. Persons interested in the definitive wording of this bylaw and its amendments should view the original sealed bylaws at the Town of Gibsons.



# DRAFT

## TOWN OF GIBSONS

### BYLAW NO. 779

A Bylaw to provide for the Control, Collection and Disposal of Garbage and to establish a Flat Rate Charge

WHEREAS Sections 614 and 932 of the Municipal Act provides that a Municipality may establish and maintain a system to collect, remove and dispose of garbage, may compel persons to make use of the system so established and may otherwise prohibit the accumulation or deposit of garbage, rubbish or discarded materials;

AND WHEREAS the Council may by bylaw enter into contracts for all or part of the collection of garbage on terms and conditions prescribed in the bylaw;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Town of Gibsons, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows

#### 1. Citation

This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as Town of Gibsons "Garbage Collection and Disposal Bylaw No. 779".

#### 2. Definitions

In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires:

APARTMENT HOUSE shall mean any building, structure or place occupied or use as a place of living or a place of abode within the Town and containing more than two self-contained units and includes a hotel, motel, rooming house and boarding house but does not include a row house, townhouse or strata lot residence as included in the definition of "dwelling".

ASHES means ashes, cinders and the remains of any fuel after such fuel has been consumed by fire and shall be deemed to include metal tins, bottles, crockery and glass not having contained food.

COLLECTIBLE GARBAGE shall mean unwanted, noxious, offensive or unwholesome matter or substances of a non-toxic nature derived from normal household use and capable of being contained in a Wildlife Resistant Container, but shall not include the following: grass cuttings; tree or hedge clippings or other garden refuse; hazardous (including pathogenic and radioactive wastes); explosive or flammable substances; chemicals which may create hazardous working conditions; material hot enough to start combustion; waste oil or petroleum by-products; paint, tires, lumber, demolition materials, rocks, gravel or soil, stumps or timber; fish feed bags; batteries; undigested septic sludge.

DANGEROUS WILDLIFE means a bear, cougar, wolf, and coyote.

DWELLING shall mean a building or portion of a building used as a place of abode or place of living within the Town and containing no more than two self-contained residential units, and shall include those buildings identified on the Assessment Roll as single family dwelling; single family dwelling with basement suite; duplex; duplex up and down; duplex single unit ownership; manufactured home (not in manufactured home park); row housing of single unit ownership; seasonal dwelling; stratified rental townhouse with all units rented out under one ownership; strata lot residence including seasonal (condominium), single family dwelling, duplex or seasonal dwelling on two acres or more; **BUT** shall not include an apartment house, hotel, motel, rooming house, boarding house or those buildings identified on the Assessment Roll as manufactured home (in a manufactured home park); triplex; fourplex; all multi-family categories excluding duplexes; all stratified rental apartment categories; seasonal resort, nursing home or congregate care facility uses.



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**GARBAGE** includes trade waste, household waste, garden refuse and all noxious, offensive or unwholesome matter or substances or any article or material which the owner does not wish to retain, including household furniture, appliances, machinery, automobile vehicle bodies and/or parts and construction waste.

**GARBAGE COLLECTOR** shall mean a person appointed from time to time by the Council of the Town of Gibsons to carry out the duties related to collectible garbage as provided in this bylaw.

**HOUSEHOLD WASTE** means general rubbish or an accumulation of waste or discarded materials or things of any kind or nature other than garbage, ashes or trade waste as herein defined.

**OCCUPIER** shall mean any person occupying any dwelling, habitation or place of residence within the Town, but shall not include any person who is merely a boarder, roomer, lodger or the occupant of any apartment building.

**OWNER** shall include the agent of such owner.

**TOWN** shall mean the Municipality known as the Town of Gibsons and may also include reference to the Council of the Town of Gibsons or its authorized servants or agents.

**TRADE PREMISES** shall mean any warehouse, factory, storage yard, store, cafe, eating place, wholesale or retail business place, garage or service station, office building and any building other than a dwelling or apartment house within the Town.

**TRADE WASTE** means refuse and accumulation of waste and abandoned materials resulting from the operation of a trade or business, including boxes and packing cases, wrapping material, sweepings and all flammable materials of a like nature.

**WILDLIFE RESISTANT CONTAINER** means a fully enclosed waterproof container with a lid and a latching device of sufficient design and strength to prevent access by dangerous wildlife and as it applies to a Dwelling measure no more than 75 cm. in height, 60 cm. in diameter and in no case having a volume greater than 77 litres or weight greater than 23 kilograms.

**WILDLIFE RESISTANT ENCLOSURE** means a structure which has four enclosed sides, a roof, doors, and a latching device of sufficient design and strength to prevent access by dangerous wildlife.

### 3. Wildlife Resistant Containers

3.1 Every occupier of a unit in a dwelling within the Town shall provide and maintain in good and sufficient order and repair Wildlife Resistant Containers sufficient in number to contain all collectible garbage from that unit.

3.2 Within the Town every owner of an apartment house and every person who occupies a trade premises shall:

3.2.1 Provide and maintain in good and sufficient order and repair a wildlife resistant container of sufficient capacity to contain all the garbage from that apartment house or trade premises.

3.2.2 Arrange, at their own cost, for the collection and removal of garbage or trade waste from that container on a regular basis at least once a week.

3.3. All collectible garbage shall be kept in wildlife resistant containers which shall, except on the day of collection, be kept in a building or wildlife resistant enclosure connected with the dwelling with which they are associated.



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3.4. All Wildlife Resistant Containers shall at all times be kept on the premises of or connected with such dwelling, apartment house or trade premises and they shall not at any time be kept or placed upon, nor shall they encroach upon, nor project over any street, lane or public place SAVE AND EXCEPT as otherwise provided in Section 3.5 of this bylaw.

3.5. On the posted day of collection the occupier of a dwelling shall:

3.5.1 Place the wildlife resistant container containing collectible garbage adjacent to the street or lane at ground level no sooner than 7:00 a.m. so as to be available for collection.

3.5.2 Such placement to be no more than three (3) metres to the garbage truck when stopped on the nearest accessible point on the street.

3.5.3 On the same day remove all wildlife resistant containers from the side of the street or lane and store them in a building or wildlife resistant enclosure connected with the dwelling with which they are associated.

3.6 No occupier of a dwelling shall fill a Wildlife Resistant Container placed for collection with collectible garbage which prevents the lid of the Container from being tightly closed in place.

3.7. No liquids or free water shall be put or placed in or allowed to run into, or accumulate in any Wildlife Resistant Container, and all such Containers shall at all times be kept clean and in a sanitary condition, securely covered with a water-tight cover.

3.8. No person shall place any explosive substance in any Wildlife Resistant Container.

3.9. All putrescible garbage such as rejected, abandoned or discarded vegetables or animal food shall be drained before being deposited in any Wildlife Resistant Container.

3.10. All Wildlife Resistant Containers shall, at all times, be kept in a good and sanitary condition and shall be accessible for inspection at all reasonable hours. When any Wildlife Resistant Container has been condemned by the Town as unfit for the purpose, such Wildlife Resistant Container shall be removed along with the garbage and the occupier shall forthwith provide a suitable and sanitary Wildlife Resistant Container as described in this bylaw.

3.11 Wildlife resistant containers shall be the acceptable standard of container within the Town of Gibsons in accordance with the following timeframe:

3.11.1 One year from the date of adoption of this bylaw every outdoor container or receptacle used for depositing or storing collectible garbage from a dwelling shall be a wildlife resistant container.

3.11.2 One year from the date of adoption of this bylaw every apartment house and trade premises, including commercial, industrial, institutional, and tourist accommodation buildings shall provide and maintain a wildlife resistant container of sufficient capacity to contain all the garbage from that apartment house or trade premises.

## 4. Frequency and scope of collection

The garbage collector shall pick up collectible garbage from Wildlife Resistant Containers filled and placed as required in Section 3.5 in accordance with the following frequency and scope of collection:

### 4.1 Service

Except as provided in Section 4.4 herein, the occupier of every dwelling within the Town shall use the services of the garbage collector as provided for in Section 6 of this bylaw.



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## 4.2 Dwellings

Collectible garbage from dwellings shall be collected once per week to a maximum of two (2) Wildlife Resistant Containers per dwelling unit for the 12 month period ending February 28th, 1998, and thereafter only one (1) Wildlife Resistant Container per dwelling unit shall be collected.

## 4.3 Apartment houses, trade premises and other buildings

There shall be no collection provided by the garbage collector under this bylaw for apartment houses or other multiple unit buildings nor for trade premises and other buildings.

## 4.4 Excess or other garbage

The pick up of collectible garbage and other garbage in excess of that provided for in this bylaw shall be arranged by the occupier or owner at their cost, either by purchase of an extra container ticket from the Town Hall or the garbage collector, or in accordance with their own independent agreement with a person providing such a service within the Town of Gibsons. Each extra container ticket price shall be \$2.00, \$1.00 of which shall be paid to the contractor for collection purposes and \$1.00 shall be retained by the Town of Gibsons as a credit towards the additional tipping fee charged by the operator of the Sunshine Coast Regional District. Extra garbage must be contained within a wildlife resistant container.

## 4.5 Littering

No person shall throw, place or pile or cause to be thrown, placed or piled upon any street, lane, alley, public land or into the sea within the Town or upon any private lot or property within the Town, any garbage or refuse.

## 5. Charges for collection

The Annual charges for collection of collectible garbage, to the extent provided by this bylaw shall:

5.1 The annual rate for collection and disposal shall be in accordance with the rates shown on Schedule "A" which is attached hereto and forms part of this bylaw.

5.2 Appear as a charge together with the annual property tax notice.

5.3 Be payable to the Town of Gibsons by the property owner of every property containing a dwelling as defined in this bylaw.

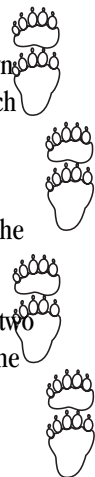
5.4 Where the Town establishes a Special Clean-Up Day or days as an extra collection service, no charge shall be payable.

## 6. Garbage Contracts

6.1 The Town may appoint a garbage collector to remove collectible garbage from dwellings within the Town and such appointment shall be on such conditions as the Town may determine or agree to by contract, which shall be consistent with the terms of this bylaw.

6.2 Where the Town enters into a written contract by bylaw, that provides for the duties of the garbage collector to be undertaken by a person, that contract shall require the garbage collector to undertake the duties as set out in this bylaw which in addition to the foregoing shall include the following:

6.2.1 The contractual garbage collector shall furnish a Performance Bond in the amount equal to two (2) months fees charged under the contract in favour of the Town of Gibsons that will guarantee the specific performance of the contract and against which the Town may claim in the event that the contractual garbage collector fails to comply with the terms of the contract.





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6.2.2 The contractual garbage collector shall carry and pay for comprehensive general liability insurance to a minimum of \$5,000,000.00 (Five Million Dollars) naming the Town of Gibsons as a co-insured and providing for protection against claims arising by third parties as well as coverage for the equipment owned by the garbage collector and for the protection of the employees of the garbage collector so as to comply with the requirements of all legislation including the Workers' Compensation Act.

6.2.3 The term of each contract with the garbage collector shall be for not less than one year and terminates on March 1st of any calendar year, but may be renewed by mutual consent, subject to the provisions of the Municipal Act.

## 7. Garbage Collectors

It shall be the duty of the garbage collector to provide the following services:

7.1 Collect all collectible garbage within the Town in accordance with the frequency of collection set forth in Section 4 of this bylaw.

7.2 Report to the Superintendent of Public Works any violation of this bylaw by persons within the Town.

7.3 Clean up any collectible garbage spilled or scattered in the operation of collection.

7.4 Ensure persons employed for the collection of garbage act in a courteous and disciplined manner.

7.5 Have a central dispatch office equipped with a telephone capable of receiving orders or complaints during ordinary office hours.

7.6 Answer all complaints courteously and promptly.

7.7 Respect private property.

7.8 Provide garbage collection vehicles of substantial construction, which shall be equipped with sufficient covers.

7.9 Ensure garbage vehicles are washed and cleaned and disinfected to such a degree and at such intervals as will meet the requirements of the Public Health Inspector at all times.

7.10 Have all garbage collection equipment accessible to the Public Health Inspector at all reasonable times.

7.11 Ensure that garbage collection vehicles do not interfere needlessly with traffic and that such vehicles are not left standing unnecessarily on any street.

7.12 Abide by all Federal, Provincial and local laws and requirements.

## 8. Enforcement

8.1 Every person who contravenes any provision of this Bylaw is guilty of an offence under the *Offence Act* and is liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than \$100.00 and not more than \$10,000 or imprisonment of not more than six months.

8.2 This bylaw may be enforced by means of a ticket in the form prescribed for the purpose of Section 264 of the *Community Charter*.

8.3 Pursuant to Section 264(1)(b) of the *Community Charter*, Bylaw Enforcement Officers are designated to enforce this bylaw.



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8.4 Pursuant to Section 264(1)(c) of the *Community Charter*, the words or expression in Column 2 of Schedule “B” to this bylaw designate the offence committed under the bylaw section number appearing in Column 1 opposite the respective words or expression.

8.5 Pursuant to Section 265(1)(a) of the *Community Charter*, the fine amount in Column 3 of Schedule “B” to this bylaw is the fine amount that corresponds to the section number and words or expression set out in Columns 1 and 2 opposite the fine amount.

8.6 Each day that a contravention of the provisions of this Bylaw exists or is permitted to exist shall constitute a separate offence.

8.7 No person shall interfere with or obstruct the Bylaw Enforcement Officer or any person acting in the conduct of administration or enforcement of this Bylaw.

## 9 Entry

The Bylaw Enforcement Officer is hereby authorized, in accordance with section 16 of the *Community Charter*, to enter, at any reasonable time, onto property in the course of enforcing this bylaw in order to ascertain whether the regulations of this bylaw are being observed.

## 10. Severance

If any portion of this bylaw is declared invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, then the invalid portion must be severed and the remainder of the bylaw is deemed valid.

READ a first time this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April 1996

READ a second time this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 1996

READ a third time this 30<sup>th</sup> day of April 1996

ADOPTED this 7<sup>th</sup> day of May 1996

“T. Eric Small “

“Terry Lester”

Mayor T. Eric Small

Municipal Clerk

Certified a true copy of Garbage Collection and Disposal Bylaw No. 779

Municipal Clerk



# DRAFT

## VILLAGE OF KASLO

### BYLAW 1071

A BYLAW TO PROVIDE FOR THE COLLECTION AND REMOVAL OF SOLID WASTE WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF KASLO

WHEREAS Sections 8 and 64 of the Community Charter provide that Council may, by bylaw, exercise its authority regarding refuse and garbage, and the use of waste disposal and recycling services;

AND WHEREAS Council wishes to encourage waste reduction, reuse, and recycling to reduce the volume of waste being deposited into the landfill;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Village of Kaslo, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the "Solid Waste Management Bylaw 1071, 2008."

#### DEFINITIONS

2. In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires,

"collection day" means the day or days during each week on which waste is scheduled to be collected from a specific premises;

"collector" means any person employed by, or on behalf of, the Village to collect and dispose of waste;

"container" means a receptacle constructed of non-corrosive durable metal or plastic equipped with a tight fitting cover constructed of the same or similar material and handles for lifting, having a capacity not greater than 17.5 gallons, which is capable of being completely closed to reduce odours and secured with a latching device of sufficient strength and design to prevent access by animals;

"Council" means the Council of the Village of Kaslo;

"industrial waste" means material from excavations; material from lot clearing or building construction, repairs, alterations, or maintenance; debris from any building removed or damaged or destroyed by fire or any other cause; material from any manufacturing processes; dead animals; condemned or contaminated matter from any premises; (and any similar material other than human or animal excrement;)

"landfill" means an area designated and established for the use of residents of the Village for the disposal of waste;

"stand" means a fully enclosed wooden or metal enclosure designed to hold all containers required by the premises on which the stand is provided, which shall be so designed as to reduce odours, to keep all containers a minimum of 250 mm (10 inches) and a maximum of 750 mm (29.5 inches) from ground level, to have no more than a 1 cm gap or opening at any location, to be in a closed position at all times and protected from interference from all animals;

"waste" means discarded or rejected material but does not include human or animal excrement, industrial waste, compostable matter or recyclable material;

"waste collection area" means an area or areas established by Council within which waste will be collected by the Village as frequently as is considered necessary by Council;

"Village" means the Village of Kaslo.

#### RESPONSIBILITIES OF OWNERS AND OCCUPANTS

- 3(1). No person shall dispose of waste or industrial waste except in accordance with this bylaw.
- 3(2). No person shall dump or dispose of any waste or industrial waste, or any noxious, offensive, unwholesome, or discarded matter in any place other than the designated landfill unless directed to do so by the Village.

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4. The owner or occupant of every premise shall provide sufficient containers to hold the normal waste generated from that premises during the period between collection days.
5. No person shall place or keep any container, or receptacle for industrial waste, upon any street or public land in the Village except as specifically provided in this bylaw.
6. The owner or occupant of every premises shall provide, and maintain in good and sanitary condition, sufficient containers for all waste upon the premises owned or occupied by him, and shall ensure that the mouth of each container is closed or securely covered except when the container is actually being filled or emptied.
7. Every person shall dispose of waste upon the premises owned or occupied by him by placing or causing the same to be placed in a container maintained for that purpose, but not elsewhere.
8. All containers shall be placed in the location directed by the Village under this bylaw for collection before 7:00 a.m. on each collection day, but not more than 2 hours in advance of that time.
9. The owner or occupant of premises from which waste is to be collected shall ensure that all wet or granular material is separately wrapped or put into a plastic bag before being placed in a container for pick-up.

## GENERAL REGULATIONS

10. Notwithstanding any other provisions of this bylaw, where a recycling program is in effect and storage or other recycling facilities are available, either within the Village or elsewhere, the following shall be either recycled or otherwise disposed of in accordance with this bylaw:
  - (a) aluminum and tin cans,
  - (b) corrugated cardboard,
  - (c) glass bottles and jars,
  - (d) motor oil,
  - (e) paper,
  - (f) magazines and catalogues,
  - (g) rigid plastic,
  - (h) milk jugs, and
  - (i) all other material as may, from time to time, be accepted for recycling.
11. The Village shall be responsible for removing on collection day only the contents of containers which clearly display official tags sold by the Village. Removal and disposal of the contents of containers which do not clearly display official Village tags shall be the sole responsibility of the owner or occupier of the premises which produced the waste.
  - (a) Official tags will be sold by the Village for a cost of \$2.00 each, and a minimum of 10 tags shall be purchased at any one time.
  - (b) On waste inside a container, the official tag shall be firmly affixed to the top of the waste in the container;
  - (c) Be whole, unaltered, unobscured, and clearly visible to the collector immediately upon removing the lid of the container.
12. Plastic bags may be used for the disposal of waste under the following conditions:
  - (a) plastic bags containing waste shall be kept in a structure, fenced area, stand or other enclosure protected from interference from all animals;
  - (b) plastic bags containing waste shall be in good repair and be kept securely closed except when waste is being placed therein or placed in another container by the owner or occupant on whose premises the waste was generated;
  - (c) Under no circumstances shall plastic bags of waste be placed or kept on any street or public land.



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13. When a stand is used for the storage of waste as provided for in this bylaw, and while the stand is on his premises the owner or occupant of the premises shall be responsible for maintaining the stand in a condition which is not offensive or dangerous to the public health and which is protected from interference from all animals.
14. Where Council considers it in the public interest to do so, the Village may temporarily place one or more stands on public or private lands to accommodate waste expected to be generated at a special event or function. Council may, at its discretion, establish a charge for the temporary placement, use, and removal of stands under this subsection.
15. The owner or occupant of any premises shall at all times ensure that waste or industrial waste is kept within the containers or stands provided for that purpose, and not allowed to spill onto, or accumulate on, any street or adjoining public or private property.
16. No water or other liquid shall be kept in, or be permitted to remain or accumulate in, any container or stand, and no person shall keep or place any explosive, toxic, hot or highly flammable substance in any container or stand.
17. Where any premise is served by a lane, all waste from such premises shall be placed in containers for collection at a location within 2 meters of such lane, but not in the lane.
18. Where any premises is not served by a lane, all waste from such premises shall be placed in containers for collection at a location as close as possible to the traveled portion of an adjacent street, but not on a sidewalk or in such a location as to interfere with vehicular or pedestrian traffic.
19. Where containers are placed for collection within any structure, fence, or other enclosure, direct access to the containers from a street or lane shall be provided.
20. Where special arrangements have been made for on-site pick-up, a passageway and ready means of access from a street shall be maintained at all reasonable times, and such means of access shall be unobstructed and of sufficient size to provide safe and convenient access to Village's collectors and equipment. Where collectors are required to access any building or structure designed to accommodate containers, the access door or gate shall be not less than 1.8 meters or 70.8 inches in height, nor less than 750 mm or 29.5 inches in width.
21. Where any container is not, other than on collection day, kept in a structure, enclosure, or fenced area on the premises, it shall at all times be kept in a stand provided by the owner or occupant for that purpose.
22. Except on collection day, all containers shall be kept and maintained on the premises of the owner or occupant, and any container located on any street or other public land in the Village other than on collection day may be removed and disposed of at the discretion of the Village without compensation to the owner thereof.
23. Collectors designated by Council for the collection and removal of waste shall have the right to enter at all reasonable times all premises and yards to the extent necessary for the performance of his duties in accordance with this bylaw.
24. No person other than a lawful user thereof, or an authorized collector of the Village, shall open any container or stand, remove anything therefrom, add anything thereto, or in any way disturb the contents thereof; nor shall any other person handle, interfere, interfere with, or in any manner disturb any container put out for collection.
25. When any container is in a condition that presents a hazard to the collector or has been condemned by the Village for any other reason, and written notice to that effect has been given to the owner or occupant, the condemned container may be removed and disposed of along with the waste from that premises.





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26. No person shall operate a vehicle in the Village while it is carrying waste or industrial waste unless the portion of the vehicle in which the material is being carried is securely covered or the material is secured to prevent any part of such material from falling off, or out of, the vehicle while it is in transit.
27. The removal of industrial waste from any premises, and the full cost thereof, shall be the sole responsibility of the owner or occupant of such premises.
28. The Village may suspend collection service from properties where stands, or their locations for pick-up, do not comply with the requirements of this bylaw, but such suspension shall not relieve the owners or occupants of such premises from their responsibilities under this bylaw.
29. An owner or occupant of premises may make private arrangements for the collection and disposal of waste, industrial waste, or other material; however the provision of this bylaw shall apply to the accumulation of all such material on the premises.
30. Unless special arrangements are made with the Village to do so, the Village shall not remove or collect any of the following:
- a. industrial waste;
  - b. discarded furniture, appliances or other household equipment
  - c. tree limbs more than 50 mm or 2 inches in diameter, or whole bushes or hedges;
  - d. waste oil or petroleum products;
  - e. gravel, sand, rocks, or bricks;
  - f. discarded material of any kind which weighs more than 10 kg or 23 pounds, or is more than 1.8 meters or 70.8 inches in length; or
  - g. discarded or abandoned vehicles or equipment, or parts thereof, including tires, batteries, etc.
31. Collectors shall not enter any building for the purpose of carrying from or returning thereto any container, except when in the judgment of the Village it is impractical to store the container outside the building.
32. Collectors shall not pick, sort over, or remove for their own use any waste or other discarded materials on any premises or on the collection vehicle.

## OFFENSES AND PENALTIES

33. Every person who violates any provision of this bylaw, or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of any provision of this bylaw, or who neglects to do or refrains from doing anything required to be done by any provision of this bylaw, shall be deemed to be guilty of an offence under this bylaw, and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$2,000.00.

## REPEAL

34. Solid Waste Management Bylaw 1042 is hereby repealed.

## EFFECTIVE DATE

35. This bylaw shall come into full force and effect upon adoption.

READ A FIRST TIME this 24th day of June 2008.

READ A SECOND TIME this 24th day of June 2008.

READ A THIRD TIME this 24th day of June 2008.

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED this 8th day of July 2008.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor J. Holland

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Chief Administrative Officer

Certified correct: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chief Administrative Officer



# DRAFT

## VILLAGE OF KASLO

### BYLAW 1070

#### A BYLAW TO REGULATE ANIMAL ATTRACTANTS WITHIN THE VILLAGE OF KASLO

WHEREAS the Council of the Village of Kaslo deems it advisable to regulate attractants so as not to attract animals;

NOW THEREFORE the Council of the Village of Kaslo, in open meeting assembled, enacts as follows:

1. This bylaw may be cited for all purposes as the *Village of Kaslo Animal Attractants Regulation Bylaw 1070, 2008*.

2. In this bylaw, unless the context otherwise requires,

"Animal" means a dog, cat, bear, cougar, coyote, wolf, skunk, raccoon, raven or crow;

"Animal attractant" means antifreeze, paint, food products, food waste, unclean barbecues, pet food, livestock and livestock feed, beehives, offal, bird feeders containing bird feed between April 15th and December 1st and hummingbird feeders, improperly maintained composts, restaurant grease barrels on public or private land which are accessible to animals, accumulation of fruit in containers or on the ground and any other edible products or waste that could attract animals;

"Container" means a receptacle constructed of non-corrosive durable metal or plastic equipped with a tight fitting cover constructed of the same or similar material and handles for lifting, having a capacity not greater than 17.5 gallons, which is capable of being completely closed to reduce odours and secured with a latching device of sufficient strength and design to prevent access by animals;

"Stand" means a fully enclosed wooden or metal enclosure designed to hold all containers required by the premises on which the stand is provided, which shall be so designed as to reduce odours, to keep all containers a minimum of 250 mm (10 inches) and a maximum of 750 mm (29.5 inches) from ground level, to have no more than a 1 cm gap or opening at any location, to be in a closed position at all times and to be protected from interference from animals;

"Waste" means discarded or rejected materials but does not include human or animal excrement, industrial waste, compostable matter or recyclable material.

3. No person shall store any animal attractant or waste in such a manner that it is accessible to animals.

4. A person storing animal attractants or waste shall

- (a) use a container, or;
- (b) store such container in a stand.

5. Every owner or occupier of real property shall ensure that a container or stand on such real property is

- (a) maintained in good condition and kept in a clean and sanitary condition;
- (b) kept closed and secure when material is not being deposited or emptied, and;
- (c) if damaged, repaired within 7 days of the damage occurring.

6. A person is exempt from sections 4 and 5 for temporary special events if waste receptacles required for the special event are emptied into a container or stand in accordance with section 4 by 10pm on the day of the event.



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7. Every owner or occupier of real property shall ensure that fruit fallen from a tree or bush on such real property is removed from the ground and properly disposed of at least every 3 days.
8. Every owner or occupier of real property shall ensure that a bird feeder containing bird feed on such real property is suspended on a cable or other device in such a manner that it is inaccessible to animals, that bird feed fallen from a bird feeder is removed from the ground and properly disposed of at least every 3 days, and bird feeders containing bird feed are not used between April 15th and December 1st in each year.
9. Every owner or occupier of real property shall store or place an outdoor fridge or freezer containing food products on such real property in such a manner that it is inaccessible to animals.
10. Every owner or occupier of real property shall ensure that livestock or beehives are inaccessible to animals by use of properly maintained electrified fencing.
11. Every person who violates any of the provisions of this bylaw, or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done or omitted to be done in contravention of this bylaw is liable, upon conviction, to the maximum penalties prescribed by the Community Charter and the Offence Act, plus the costs of prosecution.
12. Each day that a contravention or violation of or failure to perform any provision of this bylaw continues to exist will be deemed to be a separate offence.
13. If any portion of this bylaw is held to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity shall not affect the validity of the remaining portions of this bylaw.
14. This bylaw shall come into full force and effect upon adoption.

READ A FIRST TIME this 24th day of June, 2008.

READ A SECOND TIME this 24th day of June, 2008.

READ A THIRD TIME this 24th day of June, 2008.

RECONSIDERED AND FINALLY ADOPTED THIS 8th day of July, 2008.

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Mayor J. Holland

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Chief Administrative Officer  
Certified a true copy:

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Chief Administrative Officer



# DRAFT

## DISTRICT OF TOFINO

### GARBAGE AND RECYCLABLE MATERIALS COLLECTION AND REGULATION BYLAW

#### BYLAW NO. 1070, 2008

**Whereas** the Council of the District of Tofino is empowered and authorized to:

- (a) establish and maintain a system to collect, remove and dispose of garbage, ashes, refuse and other noxious, offensive, unwholesome and discarded matter;
- (b) compel persons to make use of a system established to dispose of garbage, ashes, refuse and other noxious, offensive, unwholesome and discarded matter, and prescribe the terms and conditions on which persons make use of the system;
- (c) enter into contracts with a person for all or part of the collection, removal and disposal of garbage and other waste, on terms and conditions prescribed in the bylaw.

**Now Therefore** the Council of the District of Tofino, in the Province of British Columbia, in an open meeting assembled **Hereby Enacts as Follows:**

#### 1.0 Title

1.1 This bylaw shall be known and cited for all purposes as the "District of Tofino Garbage and Recyclable Materials Collection and Regulation Bylaw No. 1070, 2008".

#### 2.0 Definitions

2.1 In this bylaw:

**Animal Proof Enclosure** means a structure that has four enclosed sides, a roof, door(s) and a self-latching device, of a design and strength sufficient to prevent access by animals.

**Apartment** - as defined in the Corporation of the District of Tofino Zoning Bylaw No. 770, 1997

**Ashes** - means ashes, cinders and the remains of any fuel, after such fuel has been consumed by fire.

**Banned Materials** - means all materials that have been banned by the Regional District from disposal at its landfills.

**Commercial Classification** - means any industrial premises; commercial premises; institutional premises; multi-family premises; dwelling units with more than one home occupation as permitted in the Corporation of the District of Tofino Zoning Bylaw No. 770, 1997, and other uses not included in the Residential Classification in this Bylaw.

**Commercial Garbage Receptacle** - means a receptacle provided by the Garbage Collector, being a loading type of commercial bin.

**Council** - means the Council of the District of Tofino.

**District** - means the Corporation of the District of Tofino.

**Dwelling** - as defined in the Corporation of the District of Tofino Zoning Bylaw # 770, 1997.

**Dwelling Unit** - as defined in the Corporation of the District of Tofino Zoning Bylaw # 770, 1997.

**Garbage** - means and includes any and all rejected, abandoned or discarded waste of household foods or animal food, floor sweepings, crockery, metal ware, tins and bottles and other household waste, but does not include ashes, garden refuse, trade waste, wood or sawdust waste, but does not include recyclable materials or trade waste.



# DRAFT

**Garbage Collector** - means the contractor or person appointed from time to time by resolution of the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District to collect garbage and recyclable material within the District, and to carry out any related duties.

**Garbage Container** - means a container of 120 litres capacity or less, having two handles, a waterproof cover and being no longer than 1.2 metres in any dimension or as defined by the Regional District which may amended from time to time.

**Garbage Tag** – means a permit purchased from the District allowing for one (1) additional residential garbage receptacle.

**Garden Refuse** - shall include all garden remains and grass, trees, or hedge clippings.

**Occupier** - means a person (a) who is qualified to maintain an action for trespass; (b) in possession of Crown land under a homestead entry or pre-emption record; (c) in possession of Crown land or land owned by a municipality under a lease, licence, agreement for sale, accepted application to purchase, easement or other record from the Crown or municipality, or who simply occupies the land.

**Owner** in respect of real property, means the registered owner of an estate in fee simple, and includes (a) the tenant for life under a registered life estate; (b) the registered holder of the last registered agreement for sale; (c) the holder or occupier of land held in the manner mentioned in *Sections 409 and 410 of the Local Government Act, [RSBC 1996] Chapter 323*. (d) a person who is an owner under the letter patent of a municipality, incorporated under *Section 10 of the Local Government Act, [RSBC 1996] Chapter 323*.

**Property** - means land, with improvement so affixed to the land as to make them in fact and law a part of it.

**Recyclable Material** - means paper, metal, plastic, boxboard, cardboard, and other materials as determined by the Regional District but excludes any material contaminated by food or oil.

**Recycling Container** – means a bag or container clearly marked with the words “Recycling” or “Recyclable Materials”.

**Refuse** – means items rejected as waste or garbage.

**Regional District** - means the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot

**Regional District Bylaw** – means the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot, Bylaw No. R1021, A Bylaw to Provide for the Collection of Garbage and Recyclable Materials within the Regional District of Alberni-Clayoquot which may be amended from time to time

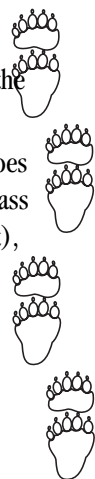
**Residential Classification** - means a residential building containing not more than 2 dwelling units, but does not include a dwelling in a mobile home park or a building to which the only access for garbage collection is via an access route in a strata plan.

**Trade Waste** - means all refuse and accumulations of waste and abandoned materials resulting from the operation of any and all commercial classifications.

**Wildlife Attractants** - means any substance, with or without odour, which could attract wildlife or does attract wildlife, including but not limited to domestic garbage, waste, food for human consumption, grass or other seeds, food for animals (e.g. pet food, livestock feed, birdseed, hummingbird nectar and suet), recyclable materials with food residues, game meat, salt and compost waste excluding lawn clippings, leaves and branches.

## 3.0 General Conditions

3.1 This bylaw shall apply to all land within the District municipal boundaries.





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3.2 No person shall dispose of any garbage, trade waste, garden refuse or recyclable materials except in strict accordance with the provisions of this bylaw.

3.3 No owner/occupier shall throw, place or pile, or cause to be thrown, placed or piled upon, any street, lane or private property, any waste product, refuse or domestic garbage.

3.4 Every owner or occupier of property shall store all garbage, trade waste, garden refuse or other noxious, offensive, unwholesome and discarded matter in a sanitary and inoffensive manner and shall cause the garbage, trade waste, garden refuse or other materials to be removed from the premises at least once every two weeks to the Regional Landfill site or other government approved disposal site.

3.5 All residential and commercial garbage must be stored securely within the principle building, an accessory building, or in an animal proof enclosure.

3.6 On all residential garbage receptacles, every owner or occupier of property shall be responsible to ensure that, the civic address of such property is inscribed with permanent, bold and legible text.

3.7 No person shall place or allow to accumulate in any garbage receptacle any water or liquids unless in containers sealed against leakage.

3.8 No person shall place or allow to be placed in any garbage receptacle any noxious material, dangerous goods or banned material, including, but not limited to:

- (a) explosive substances;
- (b) flammable or volatile liquids;
- (c) human or animal excretions and offal;
- (d) dead animals;
- (e) malodorous substances;
- (f) raw sewage, or septic tank sludge;
- (g) demolition or construction waste;
- (h) gypsum board or drywall;
- (i) paint or used painting containers;
- (j) rocks;
- (k) hot or loose ashes;
- (l) oil or lubricants;
- (m) wet garbage unless it has first been drained of excess moisture and wrapped in a suitable waterproof material;
- (n) grease or any other paste which may adhere to the garbage collection vehicle unless it has been wrapped in a suitable covering.

3.9 Every owner or occupier of property shall be responsible to make their own arrangements to dispose of:

- (a) all bulky waste and garden refuse;
- (b) all garbage in excess of one garbage receptacle that does not have a garbage tag affixed;
- (c) ashes;
- (d) trade waste, wood or sawdust waste;



# DRAFT

- (e) explosives, raw sewage, flammable materials, dangerous or highly offensive wastes, dead animals;
- (f) demolition or construction materials;
- (g) items of any kind that exceed the size or weight allowed for a residential garbage receptacle as per the applicable Alberni Clayoquot Regional District's Bylaw which may be updated from time to time

## 4.0 Garbage Collection - Residential Classification

4.1 The residential garbage collection service provided by the District shall be utilized by the owners or occupiers of:

- (a) all detached, single-family dwelling units;
- (b) each dwelling unit of a:
  - (i) duplex;
  - (ii) triplex;
  - (iii) quadruplex;
  - (iv) townhouse; or
  - (v) row house development;
  - (vi) a mobile home;

but does not include an apartment building containing more than four dwelling units, a hotel, motel, resort, or marina, strata, any commercial property or seasonal campsite.

4.2 The residential garbage collection service shall be provided once every week.

4.3 The maximum number of garbage containers to be included in the residential garbage collection service is one (1) receptacle per dwelling.

4.4 All garbage in excess of one garbage container to be included in the residential garbage collection service shall have a garbage tag affixed to each additional garbage container as per the Regional District Bylaw.

4.5 The maximum number of additional garbage containers affixed with a tag shall not exceed two containers per dwelling serviced.

4.6 Every owner or occupier of property serviced by the residential garbage collection system of the District shall:

- (a) place all garbage for collection in garbage containers.
- (b) ensure that garbage containers have at least two securely mounted handles, and are durable, rust resistant, non-absorbent, water tight, and have close-fitting lids or covers.
- (c) ensure that all garbage set out for collection is placed in a garbage container in accordance with this Bylaw and in such a manner that such waste is not a wildlife attractant, and cannot be blown by wind onto any public or private property.
- (d) ensure that every garbage container set out for collection is not filled above the top level of such receptacle and is securely closed with a close-fitting lid or cover.
- (e) place all garbage containers for collection in full view of and beside the travelled portion of the roadway servicing the property.
- (f) ensure that no garbage container be placed for collection before 6:00 a.m. on the regularly scheduled day for collection .



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(g) ensure that no garbage container be placed for collection later than 8:00 a.m. on the regularly scheduled day for collection.

(h) shall not set out a garbage container for collection that contains anything except garbage originating from the property being serviced.

(i) shall not set out for collection a garbage container that together with the garbage contained in it weighs more than twenty kilograms.

4.7 Every owner or occupier of property shall be responsible to make their own arrangements to dispose of items of any kind that exceed the size or weight allowed for a garbage container.

## 5.0 Garbage Collection - Commercial Classification

5.1 Owners and occupiers of buildings with a commercial classification pursuant to this bylaw shall make their own arrangements for the removal and disposal of garbage.

## 6.0 Collection of Recyclable Materials

6.1 Recycling collection services shall be provided once every two weeks to owner/occupiers serviced by the residential garbage collection service as per section 4.1 of this Bylaw.

6.2 Every owner or occupier of property serviced by the recycling container system of the District must:

(a) place all recyclable materials for collection in recycling container clearly identified as containing recyclable materials, in accordance with Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District applicable Bylaws, which may be updated from time to time.

(b) ensure that all recycling materials set out for collection are placed in a recycling container so that such material is not a wildlife attractant, is free of food waste/residue, and cannot be blown by wind onto any public or private property.

(c) ensure that no substance or items aside from approved recyclable materials are placed for collection.

(d) place all recyclable materials for collection in full view of and beside the travelled portion of the roadway servicing the property.

(e) ensure that no receptacles containing recyclable materials be placed for collection before 6:00 a.m. on the regularly scheduled day for collection.

(f) ensure that no receptacles containing recyclable materials be placed for collection later than 8:00 a.m. on the regularly scheduled day for collection.

6.3 No person shall remove, take or convert to his or her own use any recyclable materials placed on a road allowance, including the sidewalk or boulevard, unless he or she is:

(a) the person who initially placed the recyclable materials on the road allowance;

(b) an employee or agent of the municipality; or

(c) an employee or member of an organization which has been duly authorized by the municipality or the regional district to carry out the collection of recyclable materials within the boundaries of the District.

6.4 On all permitted recycling containers, every owner or occupier of property shall be responsible to ensure that, the civic address of such property is inscribed in permanent, bold and legible text.



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## 7.0 Rates and Charges

7.1 Each residential property serviced by the garbage collector will be charged by the Alberni Clayoquot Regional District in accordance with the Regional District Bylaw.

## 8.0 Bylaw Enforcement Officer

8.1 The Bylaw Enforcement Officer is authorized and empowered to inspect, compel, and require that all the regulations and provisions prescribed in this bylaw are carried out.

8.2 For purposes of this bylaw, the Bylaw Enforcement Officer means any of the following: Clerk-Administrator of the District of Tofino Director of Development Services of the District of Tofino Bylaw Enforcement Officer of the District of Tofino Superintendent of Public Works of the District of Tofino or their duly appointed designate.

8.3 No person shall unreasonably obstruct or prevent a Bylaw Enforcement Officer from carrying out his duties as prescribed in this bylaw.

## 9.0 Removal of Garbage

9.1 (a) Any garbage, bag, garbage bag, bin, receptacle, garbage receptacle, garbage container, commercial garbage receptacle, garbage bag, recyclable material, recycling container, recycling bag, wildlife attractants, waste, trade waste, refuse, garden refuse, food waste, litter, or anything similar in nature that is found to be in contravention of this bylaw shall immediately be removed by the owner/occupier of the dwelling. Where the removal is not immediate, the District of Tofino may remove the garbage, at the expense of the owner/occupiers of said dwelling, as described in Section 9.1 (b) of this bylaw.

(b) The costs payable in the case of removal and disposal as authorised by section 9.1 (a) shall be as follows:

(i) Removal and Disposal Fee on first offence: \$150.00

(ii) Removal and Disposal Fee on each subsequent offence: \$300.00 (c) If the removal and disposal fee is not paid, the District of Tofino may recover the expense, with interest, at the rate of 8% per year with costs in the same manner as Municipal Taxes.

## 10.0 Offences & Ticketing

10.1 Any person who violates any of the provisions of this bylaw or who suffers or permits any act or thing to be done in contravention of this bylaw or who neglects to do or refrains from doing any act or thing which violates any of the provisions of this bylaw shall be liable to the penalties hereby imposed. Each day that such violations are permitted to continue shall constitute a separate offence.

10.2 Any person who violates any of the provisions of this bylaw shall upon summary conviction be liable to a penalty of not more than \$10,000 or a term of imprisonment not exceeding six months or to both.

10.3. If action is taken pursuant to this bylaw expenses may be recovered together with costs and interest in the same manner as municipal taxes.

10.4 Fines and penalties for tickets issued for offences against this bylaw shall be in accordance with Schedule "9", attached hereto and forming part of this Bylaw.

## 11.0 Severance

11.1 The provisions of this bylaw are severable. If any provision is for any reason held to be invalid by the decision of any court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of the remaining provisions of this bylaw.



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## 12.0 Bylaws Repealed

12.1 This bylaw repeals “District of Tofino Garbage Collection and Regulation Bylaw No. 857, 2000.”

Read a first time this 24th day of June, 2008.

Read a second time this 24th day of June, 2008.

Read a third time this 24th day of June, 2008.

Adopted by Council this 22nd day of July, 2008.

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John Fraser, Mayor

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Rob Bremer, CAO

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true and correct copy of Bylaw No. 1070, 2008 cited as the “District of Tofino Garbage and Recyclable Materials Collection and Regulation Bylaw No. 1070, 2008” as adopted by Council this 22nd day of July, 2008.

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Rob Bremer, CAO





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## Appendix 8: Information About and Images of Waste Management Supplies/Equipment



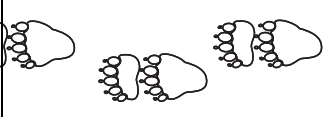
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## Appendix 8. Information about and images of waste management supplies/equipment

The following is from personal visits to companies, phone interviews, emails, internet research, and personal use/testing of roll-out carts. [n/av = not available]. **Important:** prices change and may not be as set out below. This updated table is current as of August 2008.

Name, location of company	item type (s) company provides	initial cost	long term costs	infrastructure required	where used	# people served	Recommendations/ comments (community acceptance rate, etc.)
Rollins Machinery Ltd., 21869 56th Ave, Langley, BC V2Y 2M9; 604-533-0048; Fax: 604-533-3820; cell: 604-833-3428; toll-free: 1-800-665-9060; email: jeff@rollinsmachinery.ca; website: www.rollinsmachinery.ca	provides Haul-All equipment, incl automated trucks, residential and commercial dumpsters, residential polycarts of various sizes (Schaefer roll-out carts). See photos attached. Rollins also supplies Molok and BigBelly systems for parks and open spaces.	high initial costs, sells 32-, 64-gal, and 95-gal Schaefer carts in range \$159-185; good discounts for bulk orders; also sells LaBrie and Haul-All trucks, mechanical arms, and a variety of mostly UEHL dumpsters.	equipment & infrastructure is very durable; cost-effective over time.	semi-automated and automated trucks (LaBrie and other companies)	many locations throughout BC and elsewhere, notably national and provincial parks, in Whistler, other south coast communities, Canmore, etc.	unknown	Brochure says reinforced polybins are certified by the Living with Wildlife Fdn; drawback is that locking clasps must be undone by residents at time of being set out for collection in order to enable emptying by automated or semi-automated means; only bear-resistant for manual collection if collection staff are willing to unlock clasps. Locking clasps have been changed from "thumb clips" to larger carabiners; not as difficult for most people to use; still entails risk of not being kept latched, rendering them not bear-proof. I have not had any test results on the effectiveness of the new carabiner clasping mechanism. Other equipment and infrastructure this local company supplies is highly effective and durable. Made in Canada. This equipment is recommended.
BearSaver, 1390 S Milliken Ave, Ontario, CA 91761; 909-605-1697; www.bearsaver.com; Steve Thompson email: steve@bearsaver.com BC Distributor: Crystal McMillan, Ucluelet, BC; 250-266-2327 email: bearawareucluelet@telus.net	provides Haul-All Hid-A-Bag type single and double trash cans and enclosures; also provides 32-, 68-, and 95 gallon residential poly carts of the "Otto" variety of manufac-ture; also supply commercial dumpsters; products seem quite durable. See attached photos.	high initial costs; US\$ prices for black bear model 32 gal: \$121.44 for 1-300; \$115.21 for 301-1000; \$110.54 for 1001-5000; \$105.87 for 5000+ will tailor payment plan for local governments and/or individual residents if bought in bulk; company agreeable to bulk pricing.	depends on # of items purchased, how used and where located; equipment is very sturdy	depends on system in place; can be used for manual & semi-automated pickup	In many parks, rural areas, and communities in both the US and Canada; specific locations available on request to company.	n/av	32-34 gal residential carts meet most local government limits for household pickup. Larger carts and bins useful in public settings (parks, arenas, housing complexes). Website says residential polycarts employ "one-finger unlatching," with snap-shut lid; designed for manual and semi-automated collection systems. As with residential equipment listed above and below, drawback is that lid must be undone by residents at time of being set out for collection in order to enable emptying by automated or semi-automated means; only bear-resistant for manual collection if collection staff are willing to unlock clasps (most seem to be). Smaller bins (32-gal) have not yet been submitted to LWWF testing program, but most of BearSaver's equipment usually passes the tests with grizzlies. Finger-latch tested in pilot in Coquitlam shows favourable results. Improved design on 32-gal cart ensures latching when lid is simply dropped. This equipment is recommended.
Criffer Guard Lock Systems, R R Enterprises, Russ Roy owner, PO Box 1658, Squamish, BC V8B 0B2; email: renterprises@shaw.ca Cell: 604-892-7947	Retro-fitting of IPL roll-out carts; see attached photos.	Approx \$70 for carts, plus \$91 to retrofit; total approx \$160; comes to your (lower mainland) home to retrofit carts, or will sell complete.	Savings if buy IPL carts in bulk. IPL plastic durable; 5-yr warranty as retrofitted	Suitable for manual & semi-automated collection; applying for patent on latch to use with fully automated collection.	Whistler, Port Squamish, Port Coquitlam; other South Coast towns	So far, about 1,000; expected to increase dramatically over next few years	Retrofitting 64 gal (240 L) carts (price based on this size; likely reduce to about \$70 for 32 gal (120 L) carts, for total about \$140). Ads say BC Conservation Foundation, Bear Aware, Mun District of Squamish, and City of Port Coquitlam endorse these carts + locking hardware. "Bear-tested" in Whistler. IPL plastic and hardware all made in Canada. Pending visual inspection of a 32-gal retrofitted cart and assessment for effectiveness by this researcher, this equipment <u>may</u> be recommended over other equipment because all Canadian in materials and manufacture.

Name, location of company	item type (s) company provides	initial cost	long term costs	infrastructure required	where used	# people served	Recommendations/ comments (community acceptance rate, etc.)
Haul-All Equipment Systems, 4115 18th Ave North, Lethbridge AB T1H 5G1; toll-free: 1-800-661-1162; 403-328-7788; Fx: 403-328-9956; email: solutions@hualall.com; website: www.hualall.com/english/Haul-All equipment available from Rollins Machinery in Langley, BC, see above.	supplies residential and commercial equipment, including automated trucks, commercial/residential dumpsters, and single & double trash cans and enclosures	6 cu yd self-dumping with concrete platform & spacer pads costs \$6,175; Hid-A-Bag trash can + concrete pad costs \$945	n/av	automated trucks; single/double cans need fixing into a concrete base	Canmore, Whistler, other communities throughout Canada and the US, some Nat'l & Prov parks	n/av	Quote dated 13 Jul 2005 based on bulk purchase of 100 dumpsters and 50 hid-a-bag cans: total estimate for 100 dumpsters/platforms is \$617,500; 100 Hid-A-Bag containers/platforms is \$93,000; and 50 Hid-A-Bag cans/platforms is \$47,250, for total quote of \$757,750 + taxes. This equipment is recommended but the single and double Hid-A-Bag cans must be installed properly. High initial costs, lower maintenance costs; equipment durable.
Bear Necessities, BN Waste (Bearbins) Lori Hogarth, 210 Lady Macdonald Dr., Canmore AB T1W 1H3; P: 403-678-6304; F: 403-609-3508 or 403-451-1465 email: info@bearbins.com; website: www.bearbins.com	provides 32-gal cart, and other enclosures and bins to 8 cu yd; metal bins, large and small, similar to Haul-All, but with different opening design.	n/av	n/av	n/av	Fernie, Canmore, Prince George, USFS, Parks Canada, others; undergoing trial in Coquitlam.	n/av	The lid design involves hardware that may be difficult to use in cold weather. Sample currently being tested in Coquitlam pilot project. Initial results of trial are not favourable to this design, in part because of the lid and because cart is top-heavy and tips easily. Not currently recommended by this researcher.
Wasteline Containers Ltd., 2141 Queen St, Abbotsford, BC, V2T 6J3, 604-852-5614, or 1-800-663-1772; Attn John Nesbitt, www.wastelinecontainers.com; info@wastelinecontainers.com	provides dumpsters & compactors of various types, including one called "Bear Proof Lid"	See recent quote on page following this. Prices vary according to number ordered, market fluctuations, etc.	n/av	n/av	n/av		This BC company appears to have well-designed bear-proof dumpster designs; drawback is they seem to only be available on a "made-to-order" basis. There were none available for me to view. See pictures of some products (attached). Equipment designed with "bear-proof" lids and doors is recommended.
Universal Equipment Handling Ltd., 4024 39139 Hwy 2A; Red Deer, AB, T4S 2A8; P: 403-346-1233; F: 403-340-8720 email: charvey@uhecl.com. in BC: Ed Schmidt, Sorrento; toll free: 1-877-843-4105; email: eschmidt@uhecl.com	loaders, waste bulk containers, roll off containers, self dumping hoppers, stationary compactors, products bearproof and non-bearproof	quoted me bulk prices: 100 x 3 cu yd @ \$1,306.80; 20 x 4 cu yd @ \$1,611	n/av	requires automated trucks; model LM2000 costs \$250,000	many locations in BC; Sea-to-Sky, south coast, Vanc. Island, etc.	unknown	Bulk prices could include freight; dumpsters have heavy metal lids, but those used by Carney's in Squamish have problems breaking down; info I have indicates the gauge of steel used for these products may not be heavy enough to withstand use over time.
AtSource Recycling Systems 1318 Ketch Court, Coquitlam, BC V3K 6W1; Toll Free: 1-877-927-8324 P: 604-523-2926, F: 604-523-2920 Email: info@atsource.ca www.atsource.ca	compactors, balers, and recycling equipment; also public use indoor compactors for restaurants, etc.	n/a	n/a	n/a	supply to Jimmy Pattison Group of companies; various agencies and municipalities	across western Canada	Does design work with customers to tailor equipment to need. WasTech is one of their companies, through it, operates GVRD transfer stations and Cache Creek Landfill. "AtSource looks after equipment requirements." Representative said all their equipment is bear-proof when the units are closed.





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## *Wasteline Containers Ltd.*

OFFICE: 2141 Queen Street  
Abbotsford, B.C. V2T 6J3  
Telephone: (604) 852-5656  
TOLL FREE: (800) 663-1772  
Fax: (604) 852-5614

BUILDING WASTE & RECYCLING EQUIPMENT FOR A CLEAN ENVIRONMENT

### FACSIMILE REQUEST AND COVER SHEET

To: Maggie Paquet  
E Mail: maggiepaquet5@shaw.ca Pages: 1  
From: John Nesbitt Date: August 26, 2008  
Re: Bear Resistant Dumpsters

#### MESSAGE

Hello Maggie – Following up on our visit of last week, please find information on our Front load Bear Resistant Containers. These prices include our heavy duty steel fire lids on all containers and our patented IDLock system for securing the lids.

For Containers purchased for use in remote areas where front load style truck service is not available, we provide an optional sliding door system on the back of the container, so that contents can be hand unloaded. This option costs an additional \$295.00, and is lockable.

Steel prices fluctuate and prices quoted are subject to change, up or down, dependent on commodity prices at time of order.

We can also build custom sized containers to fit any customer requirement.

<u>QTY</u>		<u>DESCRIPTION</u>	<u>EACH</u>
<u>EXTENSION</u>			
1	WCFL-2LPM	Front load flat top, 2 yard,	\$1,123.00
1	WCFL-2S	Front load Sloper, 2 yard	\$1,210.00
1	WCFL-3S	Front load Sloper, 3 yard	\$1,317.00
1	WCFL-4S	Front load Sloper, 4 yard	\$1,555.00
1	WCFL-6S	Front load Sloper, 6 yard	\$1,859.00
1	WCFL-8S	Front load Sloper, 8 yard	\$2,187.00

Painted your choice of single colour. Delivery is approximately 1 to 2 weeks. Prices are FOB our plant in Abbotsford. Taxes are extra as applicable.

Regards,  
John Nesbitt  
Tel: 604-852-5656 Cell: 604-828-0944





Photos of selected Wasteline Containers suitable for bear-proof use

**BEAR PROOF LID**

REAR LOAD 6 or 8 YARD

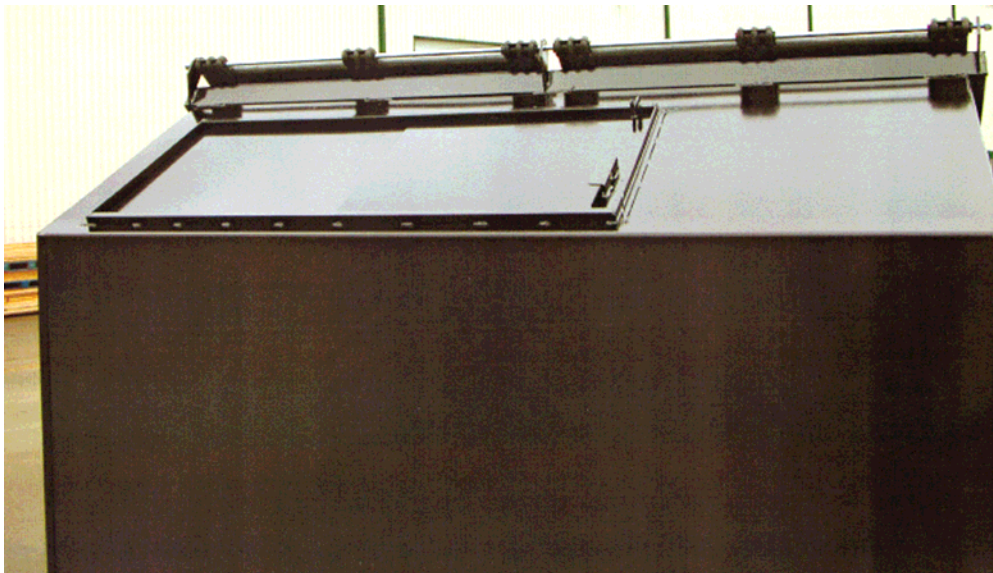


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This is the back of the dumpster shown on the previous page. The platform enables use by shorter people and children. The front could be kept locked until dumpster is emptied and the back opening could be used for more frequent deposit of garbage bags. This model can be fitted with a bear-proof latch, which can also be kept locked.

The model below, with the top-sliding opening, could also be used.



Other bear-proof containers.

The Rollins model below has been modified from equipment previously available. The finger clips were replaced with carabiners and the cables connecting them were changed to short chains. It turns out bears can sometimes chew through the cables, but not the chains. The carabiners are also easier to slip open and closed. The size shown is the one that meets the volume limits for most municipalities.

For information, contact Jeff Rollins at Rollins Machinery Ltd., 21869 56th Ave, Langley BC V2Y 2M9;  
Tel: 604-533-0048; Toll Free: 1-800-665-9060; Fax: 604-533-3820;  
Cell: 604-790-0239; [jeff@rollinsmachinery.ca](mailto:jeff@rollinsmachinery.ca)





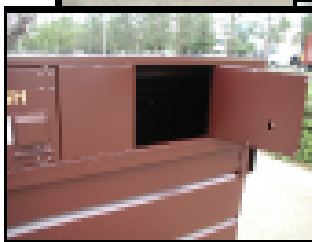
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More bear-proof containers.



## BearSaver

### COMMERCIAL CONTAINERS



New from the North American leaders in bear-resistant containers.

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- EQUALLY SUITED FOR TRASH AND RECYCLING



Tested by the Living With Wildlife Foundation at The Grizzly & Wolf Discovery Center, West Yellowstone, Montana





# DRAFT

## Additional Notes on Community Waste Management Systems

An important research step was to look at how other communities have been successful—or not—at reducing bear-people conflicts through the use of certain types of approaches to bear-proofing. Bear biologist Wayne McCrory developed community models for bear-proofing garbage and recycling collection methods. The success of any model is dependent on the specific characteristics on the local area. Some are more conducive to centralised neighbourhood-types of waste management solutions and some are more successful using individual residence/commercial garbage containment.



Depot in Canmore, Alberta

Photo: W. McCrory

The most successful models he found in western Canada were at Furry Creek and at Canmore and Peter Lougheed Provincial Park in Alberta. These involved modifications of a central drop-off system, and most used Haul-All equipment. A strength of this system is that it consolidates garbage and recycling in centralised locations that can be fenced to keep bears out. A major drawback is that users require transportation to get their garbage and recycling to the depots.

### *Drop-off Depots for Recycling and Garbage*

One option is to install centralised drop-off depots for both garbage and recycling materials. This is the system being used by the Resort Municipality of Whistler (RMOW) since about 1996. At that time, RMOW decided not to implement a residential garbage collection service because of concerns about wildlife, snow removal, and population fluctuations. Instead, two central garbage/recycling depots were established. People bring their garbage to either depot, where it is compacted. In 1998, the compactor sites accounted for about 10% of RMOW's total waste (Whistler Black Bear Task Team 1998). However, this system has only proven to be partially effective in reducing garbage feeding by bears in Whistler. Problems with this system identified by the Whistler Bear Task Team in 1998 persist today and are considered to be the prime “loopholes” in a system that still allows access to garbage and other artificial foodstuffs by bears (McCrory 2005). The problems with this system (as currently in operation in RMOW) include:

- Residents who do not own a car have difficulty taking their garbage to the depots since some live a fair distance away and can't take their garbage by bus. Some are forced to store their garbage on their balconies for short and long periods, which attracts bears. This contributes to a number of bear complaints in Whistler annually. Despite suggesting that a 1-800 pick-up service be used, this has never been put in place. In 2005, the Whistler Bear Working Group decided to have Haul-All come in an study the strategic locations for neighbourhood dumpsters to address this problem.
- Garbage is left piled in the depot while the compactors are hauled away to be emptied.
- Because the sites are not bear-proofed, bears still obtain food at them.
- Placing garbage compactors at recycling depots appears to be a viable option, provided the above mentioned problems are adequately addressed. This system may only be viable in new developments in the District of North Vancouver, however, because: (a) DNV is much larger than Whistler and siting centralised drop-off depots would be too large a challenge, and (b) residential pickup is too well established to change everyone's habits and expectations.