

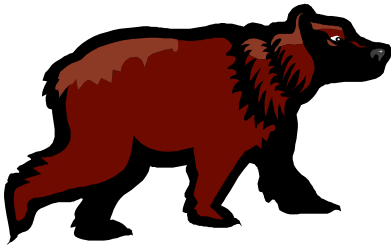
Revelstoke Bear Aware Program



2003 Annual Report

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1. Purpose Statement

The purpose of this document is to:

- Maintain continuity in the program by enabling subsequent Bear Aware Coordinators to build on the experience of previous work that has been done,
- Provide accountability to the Bear Management Committee and to the community of Revelstoke, and
- Present a detailed program description as a component of applications for funding.

2. Summary

Revelstoke is located in very high quality bear habitat. Historically, these bears often found their way into residential neighbourhoods.

In 1996, the Bear Aware program was developed to identify and reduce human behaviour that attracts bears to areas where people live. The results have been impressive. Before the program was implemented, an average of 27 bears was killed in Revelstoke each year. Now that average is around 5. The program has now been adopted in over 20 communities throughout the province.

However, in early October of this year, at the height of activity for bears, funding for the Bear Aware program was exhausted provincially and delivery was abruptly ended. In Revelstoke, by accessing a sum of grant money that had been committed but not yet dispersed, the program was able to continue for the remainder of the year. The future of the program in the rest of the province is uncertain.

2003 was an unusual year for bears and for the Bear Aware Program. A hot, dry summer yielded a very poor food source for bears. Also, some bears were driven from their usual habitats by forest fires. Throughout most of southern British Columbia, bear populations in urban areas were well above usual levels. This was definitely the case in the city of Revelstoke. The CO Service received 46 complaints resulting in 18 bears destroyed and 2 relocated. This got people's attention and Revelstoke was very receptive to the Bear Aware message.



The Bear Aware Program was delivered this year as follows

Volunteers	Volunteers were employed during door to door campaigns, for garbage tagging and at displays set up at community events.	19 individuals volunteered for a total of 230 hours of work.
Door to Door Visits	345 homes in the community were visited by me or a Bear Aware volunteer.	Personal contact was made at 217 homes. At the remaining 119, a brochure was left.
Information Displays	The Bear Aware public information display was set up at: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Beats and Blues festival (2 days) Revelstoke Timber Days (2 days) Farmers Market (twice) Bridge Creek Fish Festival At each location, the display was staffed by me or a qualified volunteer.	Approximately 420 contacts were made.
School Programs	The Bear Aware program was delivered to 6 school groups.	180 children were reached.
Media Presentations	The following media coverage was utilized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five newspaper articles, Four newspaper interviews, Four newspaper advertisements, Four public service announcements, 500 brochures, and 3200 flyers. 	
Garbage Tagging	Garbage raids were undertaken in 7 locations over 9 nights.	71 cans were tagged.
Fruit Picking	Ripe or fallen fruit was picked where homeowners were unable or unwilling to do so. Abandoned orchards were located, mapped and owners were contacted where possible to discuss their removal.	Fruit picked at 6 locations. Owners of 5 orchards contacted.
Business Surveys	Businesses were surveyed to determine how Bear Aware their operations were.	23 contacts
Fundraising	Fundraising efforts yielded a contribution of \$8335 from the Columbia Basin Trust, \$7800 from local businesses and agencies and \$100 from donation boxes.	\$16,235 raised.

As has been the case since this program began, fruit trees are by far the largest single bear attractant in the city of Revelstoke. The situation is exacerbated (particularly in the fall) by the fact that a concentration of old orchards, a spawning channel and several trailer parks are all located in the same area. If people would grow only the fruit that they intend to eat, aggressively prune trees that they grow for food and remove all trees that they are not using as a food source, local bear deaths would be significantly reduced.

Although the community is extremely well educated about garbage management compared to other locations, many people are still very sloppy with their garbage. They know what they should be doing, but have an excuse and an apology for not doing it. The Bear Aware program, with its strong emphasis on public education, does a lot to remind people of the importance of responsible garbage handling. However, there is much the municipality could do to help as well. Bylaw wording and enforcement could be a lot more effective and from a Bear Aware perspective, the city's garbage management could be improved.

Revelstoke has a lot to offer and people are moving here to experience it. Although this community created the Bear Aware program, most high profile recreation destinations in BC and Alberta have far surpassed us in terms of bylaws and facilities that are appropriate to a mountain town situated in bear habitat. While I recognize that these locations have long had access to more funding than Revelstoke, it will not get cheaper over time and, if we are serious about reducing avoidable bear deaths in our community, we are going to have to do it anyway.

For the Bear Aware program to be effective as it can be, we now must look at the bigger picture. Preaching to the converted will maintain the status quo and that is worth doing. It saves bears. However, to move to the next level of responsible coexistence with bears in our community, we need to affect change that will make it easier for people to do the right thing than to make an excuse for irresponsible actions.



Recommendations:

1. Work toward replacing all non bear proof garbage containers in public areas with bear proof ones.
2. Create incentives to encourage businesses and apartment complexes to replace existing dumpsters with bear proof ones.
3. Improve recycling facilities to make it easier for people to do all their recycling at one of two locations. (One downtown and one at the landfill) Continue to support Community Connections recycling efforts.
4. Develop and present workshops, distribute flyers and run newspaper advertisements to help people understand the importance of and techniques for:
 - a. Reducing the amount of waste they create;
 - b. Proper storage of garbage downtown; and
 - c. Managing fruit trees,
5. Ensure that trailer parks and townhouse developments within the city are serviced through centralized garbage collection facilities.
6. Adopt a bylaw requiring that new high density residential development includes accommodation for centralized garbage collection.
7. Over time, replace existing municipal equipment with equipment that will handle centralized garbage containers.
8. Develop a garbage collection schedule that would make it easier for people to comply with garbage related bylaws.
9. Create tax incentives to encourage residents to actively manage existing fruit trees.
10. Reword garbage related bylaws to include a requirement that garbage stored on private property is secure and odour free.
11. Enforce existing garbage related bylaws more vigorously, particularly in the spring and fall.
12. Aggressively enforce the sections of the Wildlife Act related to feeding dangerous wildlife.
13. Increase the Bear Aware Coordinator position salary to \$20/hr and make it a year round position.

Acknowledgements

The Revelstoke Bear Aware Program would like to thank:

- Each of the Bear Aware Coordinators that have implemented to program since it began in 1996. Because of the efforts of these people, the Revelstoke Bear Aware Program is truly a community based initiative that is respected and supported by everyone. The most significant factor in the success of the program this year is the fact that it is so well established in the community. Thank you Karen Bennett, Debby Robinson, Francis Maltby, Paula Couturier and Todd Arthurs
- All the volunteers that helped to deliver the program. Thank you to Tracy, Mason, Julie, Jamie, Sally, Hanna, Cam, Sandi, Shawn, Tracey, Greg, The Young Canada Works Crew, Anna, Christie and Courtney.
- The local businesses, agencies and individuals who believe in the importance and benefits of the program. Thank you to the Conservation Officer Service, Parks Canada, Revelstoke Times Review, Community Connections, Community Centre Staff, All the schools, The City of Revelstoke, Public Works, and everyone who took the time to call, write or comment.
- The local businesses and agencies that provided funding and/or technical support for the program. Thank you to:

BC Conservation Foundation
BC Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection
Bresco Industries
Canadian Mountain Holidays
City of Revelstoke
Columbia Basin Trust
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Downie Timber
Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks
Parks Canada
Revelstoke Credit Union
Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation
Thunder Ridge Bed and Breakfast

- The BC Conservation Foundation for its efforts to deliver the Bear Aware program as a province wide initiative.
- The Revelstoke Bear Management Committee for direction and support.

4. Background Information

Revelstoke is located at the confluence of five major valleys. The Columbia River Valley runs to the North and South. The Illecillewaet River Valley is located to the East. Jordan Creek flows from the Northwest, and Three Valley Gap is located to the West. These valley bottoms are all important travel corridors for bears. The surrounding mid and upper slopes provide excellent feeding and denning habitat. And Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks provide a large protected area of near perfect environment for bears as well as many other animals. All these factors add up to one thing: Revelstoke is located in bear country.

Before the municipal landfill was electrically fenced, it provided a major food source for bears, resulting in unnaturally high numbers of garbage conditioned grizzly and black bears residing in the area. These bears often found their way into residential neighbourhoods.

On average, forty bears were destroyed or relocated each year in the community during the period before 1994.

In 1994 the landfill was fenced, bears accustomed to feeding there had to find other sources of food. That year 62 bears were either destroyed or relocated. The following year, the berry crop failed and 23 bears were killed. 25 were relocated. The community was becoming increasingly uncomfortable with hazards related to bears in municipal neighbourhoods and frustrated by the overall ineffectiveness of continually killing bears.

In an effort to remedy the situation, local politicians and wildlife agencies founded the Bear Management Committee. The goal of the committee was to develop strategies that would reduce bear-human conflicts and the unnecessary destruction of bears. The result was the creation of the Bear Aware Program that we know today.

The concept is simple: identify and reduce human behaviour that attracts bears to areas where people live. The results are impressive. Before the Bear aware program was implemented, an average of 27 bears were killed in Revelstoke each year. Now that average is around 5.



Bear Mortality and Relocation in Revelstoke 1986 to 2002		
Year	Destroyed	Relocated
1986	40	1
1987	35	24
1988	55	12
1989	49	9
1990	5	1
1991	13	32
1992	3	6
1993	17	23
Revelstoke Landfill Fenced September 1994		
1994	33	29
1995	23	25
Start of Bear Aware Program		
1996	11	29
1997	1	0
1998	4	0
1999	12	0
2000	2	0
2001	2	0
2002	6	0

Now, after eight years of program delivery, the community of Revelstoke is very cognisant of the Bear Aware message. Most people are aware of what constitutes an attractant in their yard and are often apologetic for what they feel they could be doing better. People have forgotten what it was like when 40 bears were killed or trapped in their neighbourhoods each year and are pretty accepting of a bear passing through their yard. Many don't see a problem if it eats a little fruit on the way by. Due in part, to the success of the Bear Aware Program, the sense of urgency has passed. Bears have become an accepted part of the local landscape and people are becoming complacent.

5. Program Delivery

The Bear Aware program workload is high for a part time position. While the required objectives are attainable, it is very difficult to establish and maintain priorities due to the reactive nature of much of the work. To retain a focus on priorities and finish tasks, the coordinator has to be very organized. A detailed work plan helps and I encourage subsequent coordinators to use this tool. At the beginning of the season, I developed a document that lists the objectives to complete during the course of the year and identifies activities to be started and completed for each two week reporting period. I found it very useful and have attached a copy as an appendix to this report.

2003 was an unusual year for bears and for the Bear Aware Program. A hot, dry summer yielded a very poor food source for bears. Also, some bears were driven from their usual habitats by forest fires. Throughout most of southern British Columbia, bear populations in urban areas were well above usual levels. This was definitely the case in the city of Revelstoke. The CO Service received

46 complaints resulting in 18 bears destroyed and 2 relocated. This got people's attention and Revelstoke was very receptive to the Bear Aware message.

However, in early October, at the height of activity for bears, funding for the Bear Aware program was exhausted provincially and delivery was abruptly ended.

The program was able to continue in Revelstoke by accessing a sum of grant money that had been committed by the Columbia Basin Trust, but not yet dispersed. Further funding was then obtained from the City of Revelstoke, the Columbia Shuswap Regional District and the Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation. In fact, apart from the week spent quickly accessing the above referenced funding; there was no interruption of delivery.

The season progressed in much the same way it has been described in previous year end reports, in that the busiest periods for bear activity were spring and fall. The workload must be dispersed so that discretionary activities are undertaken in the summer and winter to free up time for "crisis management" during these busy periods.

Note also, that the Bear Aware computer actually belongs to the BC Conservation Foundation. If this organization is not able to continue it's involvement with the Bear Aware program, they may want it back.

5.1 Volunteer Activities

Volunteers were employed during door to door campaigns, for garbage tagging and at displays set up at community events. In total, 19 individuals volunteered for a total of 230 hours of work.

To successfully deliver the Bear Aware Program, the coordinator must delegate much of the workload. Since there is no staff, this means much of the work is performed by volunteers. This year, volunteers were recruited by:

- Newspaper advertisements,
- Public service announcements,
- Asking friends,
- Talking to the high school,
- Requesting volunteers at community events, and
- Contacts made with the food bank.

As was the case last year, Parks Canada provided the Young Canada Works crew for one day a week for four weeks. The crew was kept busy by performing Bear Aware assessments of the businesses on the Trans Canada Highway, inventorying and mapping abandoned orchards in town, identifying non bear-proof garbage containers in public areas and canvassing local businesses for assistance in purchasing bear proof containers.

Also, this year a volunteer was used to recruit and schedule other volunteers for fruit picking. This worked very well as fruit picking can be extremely time consuming. A weekly list of locations that required fruit picking was passed on to the volunteer, who then called other volunteers and met at the various locations to pick fruit. The fruit was then taken to the food bank on Friday mornings. This worked exceptionally well.

5.2 Door to Door Campaigns

Although time consuming and repetitive, the door to door campaign is a valuable tool which reaches a large part of the community. It is also a good way to involve volunteers in the program. Although it would be nice to talk to every household in town, and over a period of several years I'm sure we do, it is necessary to identify which neighbourhoods are a priority and when. Factors involved in this decision are:

- Traditional problem areas
- Complaints of bears in an area
- A request from the CO Service or neighbours
- Results from a garbage raid
- An area with a large concentration of natural and/or unnatural attractants.

I found that the easiest way to talk to people about the possibility that bears might be attracted to their neighbourhood was to visit neighbourhoods where bears had been reported. This is easy in Revelstoke because there are always bears somewhere and it keeps you focused on the areas that are a priority at that time. In the unlikely event that there is no bear activity in the community, you can go to an area that hasn't been visited in a while.

This year, 345 homes in the community were visited by myself or a Bear Aware volunteer. People were home at 217 of them. At the remaining 119, A brochure was left. A detailed description of the locations attended is attached as Appendix

5.3 Community Events

The Bear Aware public information display was set up at:

- Beats and Blues festival (2 days)
- Revelstoke Timber Days (2 days)
- Farmers Market (twice)
- Bridge Creek Fish Festival

At each location, the display was staffed by me or a qualified volunteer. Approximately 420 contacts were made.

Of these events, the Farmer's Market is the best event for making contacts within the community as it is attended largely by local people and is a very relaxed social event. People have the time to come over and talk. Note however, that as has been identified in previous reports, the display material should be updated as it is looking a little tired and most people in town have seen it before.

In addition, There is a Bear Aware exhibit in the kiosk in Grizzly Plaza and a small display in the Tourist information Centre which consists of a poster and a donation box.

I also discussed the principals of Bear Aware with the proponents of the new ski hill development to ensure that any residential as well as recreational development was undertaken in a way that does not create unnatural bear attractants or potentially hazardous

areas for bear/human contact. They appeared very receptive to the message and wanted to discuss it further prior to any definite facility design or construction.

5.4 School Presentations

This year, the Bear Aware program was delivered to 6 school groups and reached a total of 180 children.

The previous coordinator placed an emphasis on this aspect of the position and made it an objective to talk to every school child in Revelstoke from kindergarten to grade seven. Further, after 7 years of Bear Aware Program delivery, most school children have heard the Bear Aware message several times. For this reason, I decided to perform school presentations upon request only. I made sure all the schools knew that I was available, but didn't actively pursue it.

The programs that I did deliver supported this decision. The children were very conversant in the principals of Bear Aware and I'll have to admit that some of them rolled their eyes at me if I said anything too obvious. Everyone however, loves to touch the bear skin.

I still feel presenting the program to school kids is worthwhile. The kids completely appreciate the message and educate their parents and grandparents accordingly. For this reason, and because it creates a generation of Bear Aware people, it is an important part of the program and should continue. I intend to pursue it more vigorously next year and will revamp my delivery over the course of the winter.

On another note, the decision was made part way through the season to charge for programs. When I informed the schools of this, my bookings dropped to zero. Although Bear Aware coordinators in other, more populated parts of the province, were having good response to charging \$50/program, this was not the case in smaller, rural communities. It was definitely not the case in Revelstoke. I don't recommend charging a fee for this service. Spreading the message is more valuable than getting the \$50.



5.5 Media Coverage

This year the Bear Aware program utilized the following media coverage:

- Five newspaper articles,
- Four newspaper interviews,
- Four newspaper advertisements,
- Four public service announcements,
- 500 brochures, and
- 3200 flyers.

In addition, there were seven newspaper articles from the local CO Service, several letters to the editor and one editorial which discussed the dissolution and subsequent resurrection of the Bear Aware Program provincially.

There is strong support of and interest in the Bear Aware program in Revelstoke. This makes the media related part of the job easy. The newspaper gives priority to the Bear Aware articles and is happy to interview the coordinator regarding many bear related issues. In addition, the paper is well read and every article or commentary generates abundant discussion within the community. People talk to me about it all the time.

The Community Centre reads the public service announcements as part of their program so it is simple to get this information out. Also, Parks Canada provides a portion of their advertising budget to Bear Aware which makes it very affordable. This year, due to the emergent nature of the fall bear activity, the budget was spent almost entirely on the production and distribution of a flyer describing the current situation and requesting public assistance. A copy of this flyer is attached as appendix .

There are other forms of media coverage that I didn't take full advantage of this year, specifically local cable TV and radio spots. I'll make sure to utilize this resource more fully next season.

5.6 Garbage Raids

This year garbage raids were undertaken in 7 locations over 9 nights and 71 cans were tagged.

Garbage raids are an initiative developed by the Bear Aware program to encourage compliance with the municipal bylaw which forbids placement of garbage out on the street prior to 6:00 am on pick up days. In many communities, garbage is the leading attractant for bears which ultimately leads to their destruction.

The method is to choose a neighbourhood and check every street to see if people have left garbage out. This must be done as late as practicable (after 10:00 pm) to be effective as most people put garbage out just prior to going to bed. Garbage cans that are left out are tagged with a removable sticker that reads "Garbage kills bears".

People are generally pretty good at complying with the bylaw and folks that have their garbage tagged usually comply the following week. There are exceptions however, and these are followed up with a door to door visit. Neighbourhoods that have a lot of garbage cans left out are targeted for door to door visits within the following week.

This year, we also did an experiment to see if garbage tagging is useful. It's definitely fun and volunteers love it, but does it work? To determine the effectiveness of the activity, we chose a neighbourhood (most of Columbia Gardens) and divided it in half. At half the homes we did conventional garbage tagging. At the other half, we recorded the number of homes that left garbage out overnight, but didn't tag them. This was repeated for three consecutive weeks to see if there was an improvement in the tagged area. The results of the experiment are included in their entirety as appendix #4. The experiment showed that garbage tagging is worth doing. The "control" half of the neighbourhood remained the same, while the tagged half dropped from 11 homes with cans out to 3.

I would like to point out, however that a huge number of people are complying with the bylaw by keeping their garbage on their porch or in their carport which is of very little value from a Bear Aware perspective. Also, in most of the downtown area, garbage cans are kept in the alleys. Some are full and some are empty. All smell like garbage. I would like to see some changes made to the way the city handles garbage pick up and will address that under the heading of Municipal Concerns.

5.7 Fruit Trees

This year ripe or fallen fruit was picked at 6 locations in town. In addition, abandoned orchards were located, mapped and owners were contacted where possible to discuss their removal.

Fruit trees are by far the largest single bear attractant in the city of Revelstoke. The situation is exacerbated (particularly in the fall) by the fact that a concentration of old orchards, a spawning channel and several trailer parks are all located in the same area. Some of the factors that contribute to the extent of the problem are as follows:

- Fruit trees located on rental properties are unlikely to be picked,
- Fruit trees owned by elderly people are difficult to get picked,
- Abandoned fruit trees on vacant or "for sale" properties are often so unmanaged, they are difficult to pick,
- Fruit is attractive to bears before it is ripe from a human perspective,
- Apples, plums and pears are ripe and fragrant at the same time the spawning channel is attractive to bears, and
- Many orchards are located near the spawning channel.

The fruit picking initiative can be hugely time consuming for the Bear Aware coordinator. Organizing volunteers, contacting home owners and dealing with the resultant fruit takes a lot of time. Add to this the time required to actually pick the fruit and it becomes difficult to accomplish little else in the fall. This year, although I coordinated the activity, I didn't actually do most of it. I was able to recruit a volunteer to organize volunteers, pick the trees and distribute the fruit. I simply passed on the information to the volunteer. This worked

extremely well, largely due to the energy, commitment and organizational skills of the individual doing it. I hope she is available next year or at least someone of similar abilities.

Note that the number of locations picked was low because at the time most fruit was becoming a problem, the volunteer coordinator had to abandon the activity in order to have a baby. A happy and worthwhile occasion but, because this coincided with the collapse of the BC Conservation Foundation's involvement in Bear Aware, fruit picking stopped. I am still very optimistic about this approach and intend to pursue it in the same way next season.

Another initiative of the program this year was to locate and map the locations of all abandoned orchards in town. This was accomplished with the Young Canada Works crew supplied by Parks Canada who contributed two days to the project.

With this information transposed to a map containing lot descriptions, I was able to contact the owners responsible for the trees and discuss their removal or the harvest of the fruit. Response to this was extremely poor. Property owners either indicated that they were definitely not interested in cutting down any trees and/or said they would pick the fruit themselves. Of those who said they would pick the fruit, none did.

Should this project become feasible in the future, a good place to recruit volunteers for tree removal would be Revelstoke Timber Days.

5.8 Business Surveys

This year, 23 businesses were surveyed to determine how Bear Aware their operations were.

This was accomplished with the help of the Young Canada Works crew and was completed to follow up on Todd's work in this area last year and provide an introduction to the nature of the Bear Aware Program to the crew.

It seems that the success of the activity last year has largely been realized. Those businesses that were willing to change the way they operate in order to be more responsible from a Bear Aware perspective have done so. Those that have no interest in the project, still don't. From a business perspective, when it comes down to actually investing money in changing the operation, the problem is not worth it. The CO Service will deal with any dangerous animal in the area, so why spend the money?

In order to further convince those businesses that are reluctant to clean up their operation, municipal or provincial legislation would have to be exercised. Although some of these businesses are definitely sloppy in terms of attractant management, I would question how many bears are actually looking for food adjacent to this busy highway before recommending a heavy handed approach.

Another problem is restaurant grease barrels. There is only one style of grease barrel available locally and it is not bear proof. In order to make these facilities bear proof, a sturdy, preferably concrete or reinforced cinder block, enclosure would have to be built around the grease barrel

and garbage complex. Again for those operators that have not noticed bears in the grease barrels, this is an expensive proposal.

The campgrounds in the area, both public and privately operated all demonstrated a very responsible approach to garbage management. They either had strong clean storage facilities or exercised vigorous collection and cleaning programs (or both). Note also that Williamson Lake campground put in a new bear proof dumpster this year. Thank you to the city for doing this.

5.9 Fundraising

Fundraising efforts began this year with the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives Fund application that was submitted by Todd Arthurs in January. This resulted in a contribution to the program of \$8335. As well, the British Columbia Conservation Foundation had received a substantial contribution from the Provincial Government the previous year that was then dispersed over a two year period. Note that this funding was provided under the caveat that it would be the last subsidy Bear Aware would receive from the Provincial Government. I'm not sure how much of this provincial money was applied to the Revelstoke program, but these two funding sources made up the majority of our operating budget.

In addition, a number of local agencies and businesses traditionally contribute to the Bear Aware program, and did so again as a result of simply maintaining contact. This yielded financial support totalling \$7800.

This year, I attempted to broaden the base of local support for the program by initiating a vigorous letter writing campaign. I identified 130 businesses as potential contributors, made calls to 90 of them and send a letter to an additional 40. I then made follow up calls to anyone who had not definitely declined. The companies that received a phone call initially were given an option of contributing to the purchase of bear proof garbage containers as an alternative to a cash donation. I feel that the lack of bear proof containers in Revelstoke public areas is a significant concern and that by presenting this as an alternative; potential contributors would be able to:

- see something tangible for their money,
- advertise their business on the container, and
- write off the entire contribution as advertising in the current tax year.

I thought it would be an easier sell. However after an initial flurry of cautious interest from 20 of the 90 people contacted, when it came time to actually produce the money, only one was willing to commit.

The letter writing campaign also yielded a disappointing response. Again, only one request was successful. This approach is extremely time consuming to set up and resulted in a very poor return for the effort. I believe it is worthwhile however and, now that the form letters, mailing list and tracking tool is in place, will be easier to implement next year.

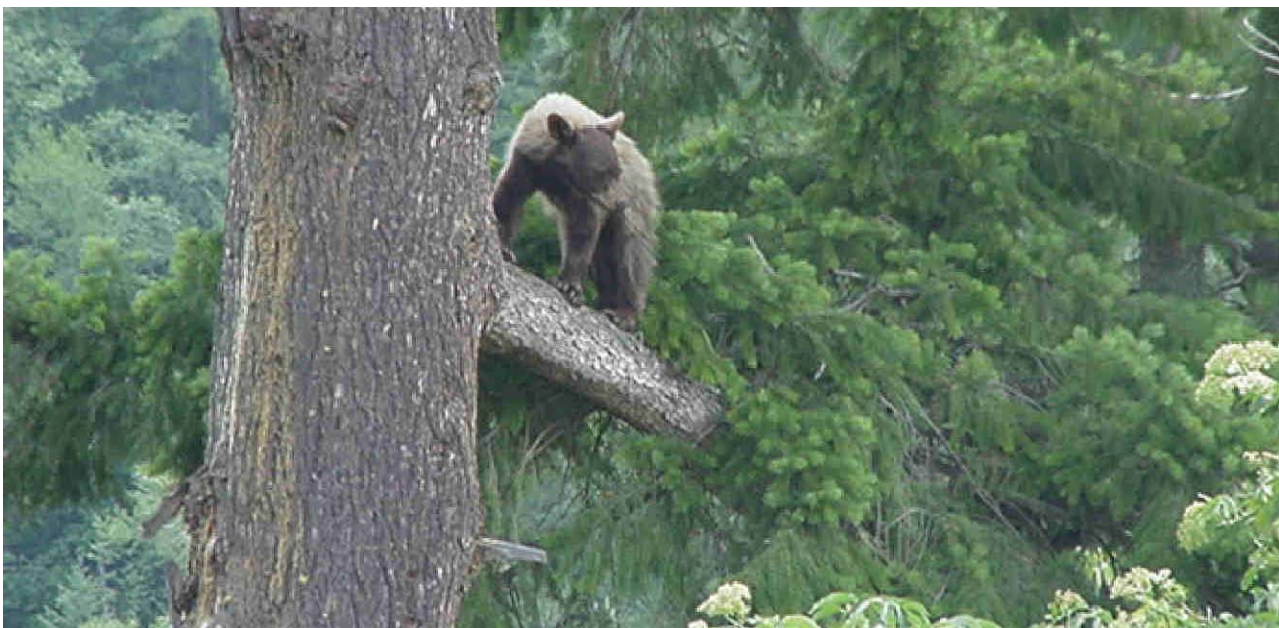
Based on the responses I received while pursuing funding from local sources, I feel that it was a difficult year for anyone attempting to obtain financial support in this, or any, small community. It appears that many organizations that traditionally received funding from provincial sources are now looking to their communities for help. There is only so much that local businesses and organizations can do and the “well” runs dry pretty quick. It takes a lot of effort to stay at the front of the line while maintaining a focus on the objectives of the program for which you are responsible.

The larger benefit of a “shotgun approach” to funding requests is that it establishes contact with a significant number of business people in the community. This group is then more responsive to requests for other goods in kind contributions in the future. Also, because the program is a community based initiative, it is worthwhile to present the opportunity to local people to demonstrate an affiliation with it.

Note also, that because fundraising is a labour intensive activity, it is difficult to accomplish effectively in the spring and fall when bear activity is highest. I recommend concentrating on the larger funding applications in the winter and community based requests in the summer.

I have included a distribution list, an example of a funding request letter and a copy of the spreadsheet I used to track this activity as appendix #8.

Two initiatives that were encouraged last year were charging for school programs and holding a major community fundraising event. I don’t recommend charging for school programs and have presented my reasoning for this under the heading of “School Presentations”. I feel that a major community event is a good idea to maintain a high profile in the community. While fundraising would be an ancillary benefit to the activity, the major goal would be to foster community pride in the program. I intend to do this next fall to coincide with fruit harvest, but will focus more on a festival atmosphere than funding and will accomplish the occasion with a volunteer event coordinator.



6. Municipal Concerns

As I mentioned in the “Program Delivery” section of this document, fruit trees are by far the largest single bear attractant in the city of Revelstoke. The situation is exacerbated (particularly in the fall) by the fact that a concentration of old orchards, a spawning channel and several trailer parks are all located in the same area. While the existence of fruit trees on residential properties is not really within the authority of the city to regulate, I feel that the problem is significant enough to warrant municipal involvement in the form of public education and incentives to encourage residents to more actively manage existing fruit trees.

Garbage is the second most important bear attractant in the community and there is much the city could do to help.

- The garbage tagging component of the Bear Aware program would be a lot more effective if the bylaw were more vigorously enforced. A couple of nights of enforcement resulting in fines in the spring and fall would give the Bear Aware tags more credibility. As it is now, the comment I hear when I “raid & sticker” cans is, “Oh. It’s just the Bear Aware people.” Also, had fines been assessed on the garbage cans I tagged, 5 bear proof containers could have been purchased with the resultant revenue.
- Garbage cans stored in alleyways are the norm in the downtown residential areas. People simply keep the cans near the back fence and add garbage to the container daily. I doubt they even know when garbage pick up occurs. I talked to the CO Service about this in the spring and it was noted that the downtown area is not a “hot spot” for bear activity, and therefore, not the highest priority. However since that discussion, three bears were shot or trapped downtown. It would be helpful to target this group with a public education campaign prior to following up with garbage tagging activities or enforcement of the bylaw.
- Garbage is routinely stored in carports, backyards and on sundecks. Although this complies with the city bylaw, it is not relevant to a bear. Stinky garbage in the carport is the same as stinky garbage on the curb. Other communities have by laws that are worded to ensure any garbage stored on private property is secure and odour free. I suggest rewording the bylaw.
- The timing of garbage pick up is difficult for many people. I understand that there are some significant challenges related to the number of retired people in town and the fact that two of the major local employers require shift work. However, it may be possible to do it better. If people had a more specific time that they could expect the garbage to be picked up, it would be a good start.
- There are several trailer parks in town that all have garbage pick up at each site and most of these units have no place to store garbage. During my visits to these places, I noticed bite marks on many of the garbage cans and abundant bear scat. Also, nearly everyone I have spoke to had seen a bear in their trailer park. I consider this situation inappropriate for a “Bear Aware” community, potentially dangerous and largely avoidable. These sites should have centralized garbage pick up. Also, any new high density residential construction in the community should not be permitted without centralized garbage pick up.

- Revelstoke public areas including the schools manage garbage with a combination of bear proof containers, open or covered 45 gallon drums and ornamental cans like the ones downtown. There is one bear proof dumpster at Williamson Lake. While I appreciate the cost involved, we should be moving toward bear proof garbage management as quickly as possible.

In the time that I have been in the Bear Aware coordinator position there has been a lot of talk about the community being poised on the edge of major residential and economic growth. The real estate activity that I have been aware of in the last 8 months supports this speculation. Also, and I have been following this one for two decades, the ski hill expansion may finally take place. In any event, this community has a lot to offer and people are moving here to experience it. Whether development takes place slowly or as a rapid boom, now is the time to plan for Revelstoke as an important, populated mountain destination in the same league as Banff, Jasper, Canmore and Whistler.

Although Revelstoke created the Bear Aware program, the above mentioned communities have far surpassed us in terms of bylaws and facilities that are appropriate to a mountain town situated in bear habitat. While I recognize that these places have long had access to more funding than Revelstoke, it will not get cheaper over time and if we are serious about reducing avoidable bear deaths in our community, we are going to have to do it anyway.

7. Discussion

As has been the case since the landfill was fenced almost 10 years ago, fruit trees are still the most significant attractant in this city. Although the Bear Aware program needs to keep reminding people about responsible garbage management, currently fruit trees kill more bears. If we could convince people to grow only the fruit that they intend to eat, aggressively prune trees that they grow for food and remove all trees that they are not using as a food source, we would reduce local bear deaths by an amount similar to that which resulted from the fencing of the dump.

Although the community is very well educated about garbage management compared to other locations, many people are still very sloppy with their garbage. They know what they should be doing, but have an excuse and an apology for not doing it. The largest problem, as I see it, is garbage stored in carports, sundecks and back yards. As well, people just make too much garbage. Two large garbage cans a week seems to me like a huge amount of waste, even for a large family, and yet I routinely speak to two and three person households who maintain that it isn't enough. When I go to the landfill and see what is being thrown away, it is very apparent that people don't sort their garbage or recycle any where near as much as they could. A large amount of public education is needed in this area.

Another area of concern is that people in Revelstoke are very tolerant of bears. It's nice to know that most people don't panic at the sight of them but, it translates as apathy. Many people think it's OK for bears to be in their yards and often think that it's fine for them to eat there, too (as long as it isn't garbage). Fruit and compost are considered by some to be a reasonable dietary supplement.

Older folks that have lived here for a long while remember a time bears when lived in your yard, ate your fruit and garbage and if it became too much of a nuisance, you shot them. Many don't understand why we are making such an effort to stray from this tried and true approach.

People who live in places with limited storage such as trailer parks and townhouses also have difficulty dealing with bear attractants. They simply don't have the ability to store garbage securely and are therefore, reluctant to accept responsibility for a problem they don't have the resources to solve.

The point of this discussion is that the people who are easy to reach, have been reached. A decade ago, when 60 bears a year were shot or trapped in local residential neighbourhoods, the Bear Aware program had people's attention. People were listening and were prepared to make lifestyle changes. Now, those who made changes are willing to keep up the work as long as they receive a friendly reminder from time to time but, the perception is that the crisis has passed. Those people who considered the Bear Aware program a flakey idea 10 years ago, still do. In short, the easy work has been done.

8. Recommendations

For the Bear Aware program to be effective now, we all need to work a lot harder. We also have to look at the bigger picture. Preaching to the converted will maintain the status quo and that is worth doing. It saves bears. However, to move to the next level of responsible coexistence with bears in our community, we need social change. We need facilities, infrastructure, public education, legislation and enforcement to make it easier for people to do the right thing than to make an excuse for irresponsible actions.

8.1 Facilities

Work more quickly toward replacing all non bear proof garbage containers in public areas with bear proof ones. Make it a priority.

Ensure that trailer parks and townhouse developments within the city are serviced through centralized garbage collection facilities.

Create incentives to encourage businesses and apartment complexes to replace existing dumpsters with bear proof ones.

Improve recycling facilities to make it easier for people to do their recycling. Continue to support Community Connections recycling efforts.

8.2 Infrastructure

Identify and eliminate the barriers to recycling all recyclable material at one location.

Over time, replace existing municipal equipment with equipment that will handle centralized garbage containers.

Develop a garbage collection schedule that would make it easier for people to comply with garbage related bylaws.

8.3 Public Education

Develop and present workshops, distribute flyers and run newspaper advertisements to help people to understand the importance of and techniques for:

- Reducing the amount of waste they create;
- Proper storage of garbage downtown; and
- Managing their fruit trees,

Create incentives to encourage residents to actively manage existing fruit trees.

8.4 Legislation

People in Revelstoke, particularly those with limited options for storage, often store garbage in carports, backyards, and on sundecks. Although this complies with the city bylaw, it does not help bears. I suggest rewording the bylaw to include a requirement that garbage stored on private property is secure and odour free.

- The City of Nelson has an unsightly premises bylaw which prohibits the accumulation of rubbish and litter on a residential, commercial or industrial property.
- The Resort Community of Whistler requires that “No domestic garbage and no food waste or other edible waste that could attract dangerous wildlife shall be stored outdoors, including on any patio, balcony or deck”. Note that the fine for failing to comply with the bylaw is up to \$2000 and/or 6 months imprisonment.
- The Village of Lions Bay has adopted the same bylaw wording as Whistler.

Recognizing that it would be simpler to build new facilities than to change old ones, and that there will be new residential construction in the city, I recommend that a bylaw be adopted requiring that new high density residential development includes accommodation for centralized garbage collection.

The Town of Canmore has adopted a communal garbage system and requires that people place garbage in bear proof dumpsters in their neighbourhood and bring recycling to central locations. There is no curb side garbage or recycling collection. The town has also come up with a very specific description of what a bear proof containment system means.

8.5 Enforcement

While the Bear Aware program contains a garbage tagging component and it is definitely fun to implement, it would be a lot more effective if it were backed up vigorous enforcement. A couple of nights of enforcement by the city resulting in fines would give the Bear Aware tags more credibility. This would be most effective in the spring and fall when bear activity is at it's highest.

This fall a man was charged under the wildlife act for feeding dangerous wildlife in Whistler. Although the process for successfully laying this charge was extremely involved, there is now a precedent for applying this section of the act. I would like to see this legislation applied in Revelstoke since some residents still feel it's appropriate to leave fruit out in the fall "for the bears"

To accomplish these objectives will take hard work, competent organization and adequate funding. Over the past decade, Revelstoke has been fortunate to have received outstanding contributions from very capable people filling the Bear Aware Coordinator position. By fortunate, I mean lucky. The position is part time and pays poorly. Most people who are willing to perform this work under these conditions will do so only until something better comes along. To do the job really well takes more than one year.

I recommend increasing the salary to \$20/hr and making it a year round position. This should be adequate to attract and hold a competent motivated person for a number of years. 21 hours a week is sufficient to implement the program as long as it is recognized that these hours are flexible. The spring and fall takes more than 21 hours a week; the winter, less.

Thank you to all involved in Bear Aware this year. I enjoyed the experience and felt effective and appreciated while delivering the program.

Steve Kent
Revelstoke Bear Aware Coordinator, 2003



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Appendix #1 – Workplan

Revelstoke Bear Aware Program **2003 Workplan Objectives**

Presentations:

- Present Bear Aware message to school groups prior to summer holiday and again in the fall.
- Write monthly newspaper article for both community papers accenting current Bear Aware message.
- Present Bear Aware message at campgrounds within the city and surrounding area. (Lampighter, Williamson Lake, KOA, Canyon Hot Springs, Base Power sports, Glacier House, Canada West, Smokey Bear, Martha Creek & Blanket Creek.) Use this as an opportunity to assess the operation for attractants.
- Set up Bear Aware display at community functions (Beats & Blues, Logger sports days, farmers market & spawning channel)
- Distribute all printed/promotional material.
- Upgrade display material. (including kiosk and Info center)
- Assess Bridge Creek Spawning Channel to determine how to make it safer for people and bears. Prepare action plan and funding request for CBFWC program to implement.
- Work with City to identify and locate all abandoned orchards. Present proposal to Property owners (BC Hydro, CP Rail, Private individuals), City & Suppression crew to remove trees using volunteer labour.
- Identify all non-bear proof garbage containers in city and develop strategy to replace them with bear proof ones. Present strategy to all affected organizations (City of Revelstoke, School board local businesses).
- Get digital mapping of city from city and enter bear “occurrences” on it. Parallel Jo-Anne’s work and present it to city council.
- Work with city to implement Bear Smart Community program.
- Work closely with C.O. Service to share information on bears and bear attractants.
- Prepare year end report.

Volunteer Activities:

- Recruit and employ a volunteer at each of the community events that the display is set up at.
- Recruit and employ volunteers for every door to door activity.
- Recruit and employ volunteers to implement the garbage experiment and all other garbage tagging activities.
- Employ suppression crew to implement the removal of abandoned orchards. Set up agreement with suppression crew to do majority of the work next spring.
- Include volunteer involvement in Bridge Creek spawning channel proposal.
- Recruit and employ volunteer crew to pick unwanted fruit in the fall. Donate to food bank.
- Include request for volunteers in all newspaper articles, advertisements and radio spots.

Fundraising:

- Contact all former contributors to program and request financial support again. (...and any other group I can think of)
- Sell Provincial fundraising raffle tickets.
- Set up donation box at Info center and at all community events attended with the display. Look for other appropriate locations.
- Include request for funding in all newspaper articles, advertisements and radio spots.
- Set up a fundraising event/contest in the fall that will use unwanted fruit picked from trees. Contestants will find donations of fruit, pick the fruit as volunteers and create their culinary masterpiece from the fruit. Format will be similar to "Iron Chef" in the level of silliness. Each submission will be judged by local dignitaries and subsequently sold by silent auction. Local musicians, jugglers and clowns will volunteer to contribute to festival atmosphere. Big, goofy (extremely lucrative) event.

Door to Door Contacts:

- Contact all new Revelstoke residents and present Bear Aware Message (Get contact list from Welcome Wagon)
- Go door to door in targeted neighborhoods to present Bear Aware message. (Columbia Gardens/CPR hill/Various Southside trailer parks/Ski hill/Big Eddy/rural areas esp. w/livestock feed)
- Contact targeted businesses and present bear aware message as it relates to commercial attractants (grease & garbage).
- Conduct garbage raids. Concentrate on areas where it has historically been a problem (trailer parks, dense condominiums, & neighborhoods bordering forested areas)
- Conduct the garbage experiment in the North Revelstoke (Columbia Park) and South Revelstoke (Moss Street and adjacent trailer park) areas.

Activities to be Completed Each Reporting period:

Reporting Period	Objectives			
	Presentations	Volunteer Activities	Fundraising	Door to Door Contacts
May 31 – June 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Assess Bridge Creek spawning channel to determine appropriate improvements for safety - Visit City to determine land status of abandoned orchards - Talk to city about getting digital mapping of city to use for plotting bear occurrences 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Work on strategy to develop supply of volunteers. - volunteer for door to door in Big Eddy Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prepare list of all potential contributors to the program & prepare letter to send to them - Set up donation box at Info Center. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Get list of new residents from welcome wagon. Visit these people. - Door to door visits in the Big Eddy area.
June 14 – June 27	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit newspaper article - Address school groups - Set up display at Beats & Blues festival - Identify all areas of non-bear proof garbage containers. Present strategy to responsible groups to change over to bear proof ones. - Share bear occurrence information with CO Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer to help staff display at Beats & Blues Festival - Volunteers for door to door in CPR Hill area - Volunteer for garbage raid in Ski Hill area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Send out letter requesting funding to all potential contributors. - Look for additional locations for donation boxes and get permission to set them up. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Door to door visits in CPR Hill area - Garbage raid in Ski Hill area
June 28 – July 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit Lamplighter campground - Set up display at Revelstoke Timber Days - prepare funding request for CBFWC for Bridge Creek spawning channel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer to help staff display at Revelstoke Timber Days - volunteers for door to door visits in Ski Hill Area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Follow up funding request letters with a phone call. Personal visit if appropriate. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Door to door visits in Ski Hill Area - Contact businesses along Highway 1 to discuss commercial attractants
July 12 – July 25	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit Williamson Lake & Glacier House campgrounds - Set up display at Farmer's Market - submit proposal to remove abandoned orchards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer to help staff display at Farmer's Market - Volunteers to help with garbage experiment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Send letter of thanks to respondents to request letter campaign. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Start garbage experiment in Southside and Columbia Gardens areas.
July 26 – Aug 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit newspaper article - Visit Blanket Creek & Canada West campgrounds - Share bear occurrence information with CO Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteers to help with garbage experiment 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue garbage experiment
Aug 9 – Aug 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit KOA & Smokey Bear campgrounds - Set up display at Farmer's Market 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruit and employ volunteer group to remove abandoned orchards - Volunteer to help staff display at Farmer's Market - Volunteers to help sell raffle tickets - Volunteers to help with garbage experiment - Volunteers for door to door visits 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sell raffle tickets for Provincial fundraising initiative. - Solicit support for Fruit cooking contest. Get donations for prizes, venue, advertising, promotion, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compile garbage experiment information and submit to Joanne - Door to door visits in Southside and Columbia Gardens areas

Reporting Period (Continued)	Objectives			
	Presentations	Volunteer Activities	Fundraising	Door to Door Contacts
Aug 23 – Sept 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit newspaper article - Visit Canyon Hot Springs & Martha Creek campgrounds - Share bear occurrence information with CO Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteers to help sell raffle tickets. - recruit volunteers to organize fruit cooking contest, including judges. - Volunteers for garbage raid in Southside area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Continue to sell raffle tickets for Provincial fundraising initiative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garbage raids in Southside area
Sept 6 – Sept 19	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Visit Base Power Sports campground. - implement improvements to Bridge creek spawning channel grounds - Set up display at Bridge Creek spawning channel 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruit & employ volunteer group to work on spawning channel grounds Volunteer to staff display at Farmer's Market - Volunteer to help staff display at spawning channel - Volunteers for door to door visits in Arrow Heights area 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Door to door visits in Arrow Heights Area
Sept 20 – Oct 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit newspaper article - Address school group - Set up Display at Mountain Arts Festival - Share bear occurrence information with CO Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteer to help staff display at Mountain Arts Festival - Volunteers for garbage raid in Golf Course area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advertise for fruit cooking contest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Garbage raids in Golf Course Area
Oct 4 – Oct 17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address school group - Present Bear Smart information to city 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruit and employ volunteer group to pick unwanted fruit. - volunteers for door to door visits in Golf course area 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Advertise for & organize fruit cooking contest 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Door to door visits in Golf Course area
Oct 18 – Oct 31	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit newspaper article - make recommendations on upgrades to display material - Share bear occurrence information with CO Service 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Volunteers to help hold fundraising event 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Hold fundraising event. Unwanted fruit cooking contest. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Contact businesses in town to discuss commercial attractants
Nov 1 – Nov 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Address school group - Complete digital mapping of bear occurrences and present information to city 			
Nov 15 – Nov 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Submit newspaper article - Share bear occurrence information with CO Service 			
Nov 29 – Dec 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Complete Year end report 			

Appendix #2 – List of Door to Door Contacts

Pearks Drive	19 contacts – 10 left brochure
Colbeck Road	12 contacts – 5 left brochure
Hiren Road	5 contacts – 1 left brochure
Dallas Road	4 contacts – 3 left brochure
Downie Street	6 contacts – 10 left brochure
Edward Street	5 contacts – 5 left brochure
Moss Street	8 contacts - 8 left brochure
Leach Street	4 contacts – 8 left brochure
Humbert Street	4 contacts – 4 left brochure
Nichol Road	12 contacts – 2 left brochure
Newlands Road	24 contacts – 9 left brochure
Park Street	15 contacts – 2 left brochure
Arrow Drive	6 contacts – 2 left brochure
Piotrowski Road	5 contacts – 8 left brochure
McKinnon Road	12 contacts – 4 left brochure
Tillen Road	4 contacts – 6 left brochure
Illecillewaet Road	4 contacts – 0 left brochure
Hideaway Trailer Park	25 contacts – 21 left brochure
City Trailer Park	31 contacts – 17 left brochure
River Bend Trailer Park	12 contacts – 9 left brochure

Specific “house calls” as directed by CO Service or in response to telephone calls 8 contacts

TOTAL personal contacts: 217
Left brochure: 119

Appendix #3 – Garbage Raid Locations

Date	Location	Number of Cans Tagged
June 17	Arrow Heights – Park Dr, Arrow Dr, Piotrowski Rd, Tillen Rd, McKinnon Rd, Dogwood Dr, Windsor Dr, Hiob Rd, & Prail Rd.	8
June 26	Downtown – 4 th , 5 th & 6 th , between Mackenzie and Victoria.	22
July 8	CPR Hill – Track St E, Track St W, Farrel Rd, Mullock St, Maple St, Tamarak St & Cedar St.	10
Aug 26	Farwell – 2 nd St, 3 rd St, Douglas St and Front St., between Wilson St and King St.	4
Sept 1	Southside – 4 th St, 5 th St, 6 th St & 8 th St, between E Railway Ave and Edward St.	6

Appendix #4 – Garbage Tagging Experiment

This year, we did an experiment to see if garbage tagging is useful. To determine the effectiveness of the activity, we chose a neighbourhood (most of Columbia Gardens) and divided it in half. At half the homes we did conventional garbage tagging. At the other half, we recorded the number of homes that left garbage out overnight, but didn't tag them. This was repeated for three consecutive weeks to see if there was an improvement. The results of the experiment are included here.

Garbage Tagging Experiment Results

Control Area:

Street	Number of homes	Homes w/ garbage out August 6	Homes w/ garbage out August 13	Homes w/ garbage out August 20
Colbeck Rd.	48	1	0	0
Bernard Nelson Cres.	24	0	0	0
Sanderson Mally	14	0	0	0
Fairway Rd.	19	0	0	0
Maddocks Rd.	18	0	0	0
Peterson Dr.	14	0	0	0
Veirs Crescent	47	0	1	0
TOTAL	184	1	1	0

Experiment Area:

Street	Number of homes	Homes w/ garbage out August 6	Homes w/ garbage out August 13	Homes w/ garbage out August 20
Pearkes Dr.	71	3	1	1
Hiren Rd.	7	0	0	0
Dallas Rd.	9	0	0	0
Cleland Rd.	2	0	0	0
Greely Cres.	16	2	1	1
Seymour Pl.	10	2	0	0
Echo Pl.	27	3	1	0
Jade Pl.	12	0	1	1
Corbin Pl.	17	1	1	0
TOTAL	171	11	5	3

Appendix #5 – Newspaper Articles

New Bear Aware Coordinator

Hello, Revelstoke. My name is Steve and I am your new Bear Aware coordinator. Until recently, I lived just south of here in Nelson and worked for BC Parks. But, like many new Revelstoke residents, I was attracted here by the city's outstanding scenery, abundant recreational opportunities and compelling sense of community. So far, my expectations have been exceeded on every level.

As I'm sure most people here know, the success of the Bear aware program in Revelstoke is widely recognized and copied in many places where bears and people co-exist. I first heard about it on CBC radio five years ago and the story immediately caught my attention. I listened intently to a description of a community that was uncomfortable with hazards related to bears in municipal neighborhoods and frustrated by the overall ineffectiveness of continually killing bears.

The solution was the Bear aware program. The concept is simple: identify and reduce human behavior that attracts bears to areas where people live. The results are impressive. Before the Bear aware program was implemented, an average of 27 bears were killed in Revelstoke each year. Now that average is 5.

As I explore this town, I get the sense that people are proud of this accomplishment. Rightly! It takes effort to be conscious of how our routines and habits affect wild animals.

Now that spring is here again, and hungry bears are roaming the woods looking for high protein food, it's time to renew that commitment. If you are hiking, mountain biking or enjoying some late spring ski touring, you are sharing space with them. Be alert and respectful. You are in someone's dining room.

In your own home, do what you can to keep bears from finding you interesting. Interesting to a bear means something that smells like food. Remember to keep your garbage inside until garbage day morning, feed your pets indoors, store livestock feed in a secure manner, clean your barbecue, manage your compost, and clean up under your bird feeder.

If you do find a bear in your neighborhood, call me at 837-5507 and I will help you decide what to do about it. If the bear is a problem, we now have two Conservation Officers in town and both can be reached through the call center at 837-9683 or 1-800-663-WILD. Also, note that we have a new garbage collection schedule. Garbage day in your neighborhood will advance by one day each week following a long weekend. For a more detailed explanation and a description of the collection guidelines, refer to the schedule posted on the City of Revelstoke website at www.cityofrevelstoke.com.

That's it for me. I'm looking forward to meeting you. Until then, remember to keep a clean camp. Like I said, I used to be a park ranger.

Opinions About Bears

It's July now and, as I'm sure people in many neighborhoods are aware, bears are out and wandering around. A familiar part of the Revelstoke landscape.

I've lived here for two months, and the new guy doesn't get to give a lecture, right? I accept that. So, I have an observation I would like to share with you. How's that for tactful? I admit that, as well as being a former park ranger, I also used to be a bureaucrat.

Here's my point.

I've talked to many people in Revelstoke now and heard a variety of opinions about bears and a range of ideas about how bears and people should interact. Basically, however, there are two camps.

Some people are very used to bears and happy to see them around. If they are eating in their yards, that's OK. "Bears have to eat too." Others are afraid of bears. They're big, scary and a threat to children. "Get the nasty things out of here."

From the bear's perspective however, there is only food and how to get it. Unless you are in the way, you are not very important to a bear.

When a bear gets food in your yard, it doesn't know that your tolerance for bears is higher than your neighbor's. It learns that a house, lawn, bicycle and the faint smell of people comes with an easy meal. It eats, learns and moves on. Eventually, it may find itself somewhere it is not welcome. When bears and humans are in conflict, the bear dies nearly every time. That's unfortunate.

It's also ineffective. As they say, "Nature abhors a vacuum" so, if a community provides a food source for bears, there will be bears at that food source. If a bear gets killed for being there, another bear will come.

From the point of view of the Bear Aware program, it doesn't matter if bears wander through your yard or frankly, whether you like it or not. It is very important, however, that bears aren't rewarded for being in your yard. If a bear gets a meal at your house, that bear's chance of survival is reduced.

And here's another perspective.

Under the Wildlife Act: "A person commits an offence [who] leaves or places in, on or about the land or premises food, food waste or any other substance that could attract... ..wildlife". That person is liable "to a fine of not more than \$50 000 or to a term of imprisonment not exceeding 6 months, or both".

The point is (Remember I said I had one.), that to be Bear Aware is a community commitment. If the City of Revelstoke wants to reduce bear deaths and the risks associated with bears in residential neighborhoods, we have to act as a community. My opinion is that it's worth it.

To become involved in the Bear Aware program, call 837-5507 and volunteer.

Your Fruit is not Bear Food

Greetings from Southside. That's where I live, and it's not hard to tell that this area used to be a productive orchard. In this hot weather, cherry, apple, plum and pear trees are quickly getting ripe in the yard. The trees look great and provide some welcome shade, but there are lots of them and they make more fruit than I can eat.

I've picked my cherries and given most of them to friends and neighbors. The apples and pears can go to the food bank, but I don't know what to do with five plum trees. That's a lot of plum sauce.

...and what are you going to do?

You can probably guess that I'm not going to suggest leaving the fruit for the bears. So, here's a couple of other ideas:

If you like fruit and have exactly the amount you want, you are doing great. Pick everything and eat it. Bon appetit.

You can make sure you have the exact amount of fruit next year by pruning the trees aggressively each spring to reduce the amount of buds and create a tree that is low enough to be easily picked. If you don't want any of the fruit, consider using a spray to reduce or eliminate the production of fruit. Alternatively, remove any trees you really don't want and replace them with non-fruit bearing species.

OK, I know. That's next year. If you have more fruit than you want this year, you can donate it to the Community Connections Food Bank. Either pick it yourself or have volunteers do it for you. Contact Patti Larsen at 837-2920, or me at 837-5507 to make arrangements or to volunteer.

Also, I have noticed several abandoned orchards and trees around town that show evidence of attracting bears. If you have such trees on your property, contact me at 837-5507 and I will find a volunteer crew to remove them for you.

If you are aware of any abandoned trees or orchards on other people's property, let me know and I will contact the owner.

On another note, the BC Day long weekend was a bad one for bears: three were killed on the highway, two shot in Arrow heights and one chased through town by the RCMP in the middle of the day. I'm not sure if I would have liked to have seen that or not. Apparently, many tourists did. Let's do our best to make sure we are not responsible for these events.

Pick your fruit. Clean up under your fruit trees. Manage your compost. Keep your garbage locked up until garbage day. Clean your barbeque. Feed your pets indoors.

Be bear aware. I'll give you a refrigerator magnet.

How to Save Bears

Last month, the Bear Aware Program exhausted it's funding, was dissolved provincially and then resurrected as a local initiative here in Revelstoke. It began as a local program nine years ago, so perhaps not much has changed.

However, if our hold on this program is based on funding, we should think about how to get along without it. In short, we need a contingency plan and since I'm the expert, I would like to suggest the following modest proposal:

To save bears, we need to stop analyzing our own behavior in search of our role in bear deaths. This flakey, pointless navel gazing detracts us from undertaking real action aimed at ending the immediate causes of bear mortality.

First off, it's important to know that it's the CO Service that kills bears. These people live to shoot bears but find the current licensing process too cumbersome. They have made career choices to satisfy their wicked bloodlust and we need to work toward sabotaging their efforts. Throw apples at them. Although largely ineffective, the irony is strangely satisfying.

Secondly, garbage kills bears. I know this is true because I have a bumper sticker that says that. Eliminate garbage by not throwing anything away.

Next, know that fruit trees kill bears. Cut them all down under cloak of darkness. This simple act of vandalism will save many bears.

Finally, understand that bears are malicious and inherently dangerous. Keep them appeased by feeding them. Leave piles of food in the forest, as you would make a primitive offering to an evil pagan god.

OK. I'm not serious. And, as is often the case when we run out of places to lay blame, we have to look in the mirror. Nearly every bear carcass rotting in the landfill is the end result of a chain of events that began with our personal choices. We decide whether to watch TV or pick fruit on a Sunday afternoon. We decide where to store our trash and when, where to feed our pets, how to compost, etc. You have heard this before.

The reason you have heard it before is that there is a Bear Aware program in Revelstoke. And, perhaps as a result of 9 years of hearing it, the community of Revelstoke is relatively good at making Bear Aware choices. Just over 20 bears have been killed this year in and around the city. That's a lot, but it was a difficult year for bears. In Kamloops, that total is around 90. In the Nelson/Castlegar/Trail area, 150. Your efforts are working. Keep it up. And, at least here in Revelstoke, let's keep the program going.

Squirrel Aware?

Once, on a chilly, spring morning on a beach at Christina Lake, a slight movement at the base of a tree caught my attention and I looked down. There, eyes closed and shivering, was a baby squirrel. It was less than a week old, freezing and helpless.

Without thinking of the implications, I picked it up and held it gently in my warm hands breathing on it and stroking its fur until it became still and calm. Then I looked around. The ground was frosty and cold in the shade but on a rock in the sun it looked warm. I noticed the rock was located under the keen eye of a raven and realized I had become responsible for the squirrel. I put it in my shirt pocket while I walked to a nearby campground.

At the campground I discovered that there was a woman in Grand Forks who took care of lost or injured animals. I called her, explained what had happened and arranged to come over. When I

arrived, I was greeted by the woman's daughter, a nine year old girl who loved the baby squirrel and wanted desperately to restore its health. I gave her the squirrel and left.

Some time later I learned that the girl had spent the day trying to coax the animal to drink warm milk from an eye dropper before it died. I learned that the girl had spent that evening and most of the following day crying. Actually, I learned a lot that day.

My intervention was at best short lived and pathetic, and at worst cruel. I had caused a small animal to suffer, had robbed a raven of a meal and made a little girl cry. When I tried to help, I only briefly got in nature's way. The animal should have died when it fell from the tree.

Now I read in the paper that there is a bear cub struggling to survive in the industrial area of our town. It has found some spilled grain on the railway tracks so it has enough calories to survive these cold, early January temperatures. It has enough to survive, but not enough to hibernate. The talk around town is that the CO Service is not trying hard enough to rescue it.

The Bear Aware program exists to identify and eliminate human behavior that results in dead bears, but not to intervene in natural processes. The cub you are talking about should have died because its summer food supply was too meager for it to prepare it for hibernation.

The problem is not the action of the CO Service. The problem is the grain on the railway tracks.

Appendix #6 – Public Service Bulletins

Revelstoke Bear Aware would like to remind people to be very careful this year with anything a bear may want to eat. The long, hot summer has dried out most natural food sources in the mountains and local bears are hungry. Don't feed them, though. A bear that has learned to associate people and food will not live long. Pick your fruit and keep your garbage stored indoors until pick up day. For more information about bears, the bear aware program or to volunteer, call 837-5507.

Revelstoke Bear Aware would like to remind people to pick their fruit as soon as it ripens. Forest fires and the hot, dry weather are forcing bears to look harder for food this year. If they look in your yard, make sure they don't find anything. Remember: "A fed bear is a dead bear." For more information about bears, the bear aware program or to volunteer, call 837-5507.

Revelstoke Bear Aware would like to remind people that fall is the time to be extra careful with your garbage, fruit and other attractants. Bears are very hungry now and looking hard for extra calories to help them through the winter. If you live near the Bridge Creek Spawning Channel, be aware that bears will soon be close to your neighborhood. Don't invite them over. They may be beautiful and interesting animals, but they make lousy house guests. For more information about bears, the bear aware program or to volunteer, call 837-5507.

Revelstoke Bear Aware is reminding people to be careful around bears this fall. It has been a difficult summer for them and they are looking very hard for food to help them through the winter. Don't get in the way. If you see a bear, go quietly indoors and wait until it leaves. Be sure that you have nothing in your yard for it to eat. For more information about bears, the bear aware program or to volunteer, call 837-5507.

CAUTION BEARS IN AREA



In Southern BC:

The hot, dry summer has resulted in a hot, dry forest: a poor food source for bears. Also, some bears are being driven from their usual habitats by forest fires. Throughout most of southern British Columbia, bear populations in urban areas are well above usual levels. Public safety is at risk and bears are getting killed.

In Revelstoke:

Between May and August this year, the CO Service, Bear Aware, the City of Revelstoke, the RCMP and Parks Canada have received as many bear related complaints as last year's 12 month total. And bear deaths are up:

	5 year average (1998-02)	May – August, 2003
Bears killed	5	9
Bears moved	0	2

Most bear activity occurs in September and October.

In your yard:

You may be inviting bears into “the neighborhood.” It isn't helping them. This is an exceptional year and it's a good year to help bears. Please do 3 things:

1. Pick up all your fruit that is lying on the ground and take it to the dump,
2. Pick all your fruit that is growing on trees and eat it, store it or give it away,
3. Keep your garbage in your house until garbage day.



Thank you

URGENT MESSAGE

From the Revelstoke Bear Management Committee

This fall is shaping up to be a difficult one for bears. Please read the information on the other side of this flyer. You can help make your neighborhood safer and reduce bear deaths in Revelstoke.

- **Sort your garbage.** Keep the stuff that doesn't smell (plastic, etc.) in a separate bag that you can store wherever you want. Put the really smelly stuff (fish, for example) in a bag in the freezer until you can put it out with the other garbage. Keep all other waste indoors until garbage day.
- **Reduce, re-use & recycle.** Reduce the amount of garbage you make by taking everything you can to the various recycling locations in town. (For \$5, Community Connections will pick up all your recycling at your home.) Don't buy things that come with a lot of packaging. Find another use for packaging you do buy.
- **Don't grow fruit you don't want.** Prune your fruit trees so they are the right size for your needs. If you like the trees but don't want fruit, spray them after they blossom with a product that inhibits fruit production. Alternatively, replace your fruit trees with other species.
- **Pick your fruit.** Don't let it rot on the ground. Pick it early and do something with it. Some fruit (apples, for example) will ripen fine indoors. Many fruits freeze well and can be used later. Any fruit makes a welcome contribution to the food bank.
- **Have someone else pick your fruit.** Volunteers are available to pick your fruit if you are unable to. Call Bear Aware or Community Connections if you have fruit to pick or would like to volunteer.
- **Be aware of other attractants.** Keep your barbeque clean. Turn your compost regularly. Feed pets and store pet food indoors. Use birdfeeders only in winter.
- **Report attractants in your neighborhood.** If you are aware of bear attractants in your neighborhood, or would like help managing bear attractants in your yard, call the Bear Aware coordinator.

Revelstoke Bear Aware	837-5507
Community Connections Food Bank	837-2920
Recycling Centre	837-5660
Conservation Officer Service	1-800 663-9453



The Revelstoke Bear Management Committee is:



Parcs
Canada

Parks
Canada

Revelstoke
Rod & Gun Club



Appendix #8 – Funding Request Tracking Tool

Bear Aware Contributors Contact List

Name of Contact	Action	Date	Result
Apex Rafting Co	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can
Alpine Inn	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can
Alpine Lanes			
Alpine Shell	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
Alpine Village Shopping Centre	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back
Ambience Gallery and Frames	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested
BDO Dunwoody LLP	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
Barton Insurance	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response
	Telephone Call	9-Sep	Left message
Best Western Inn	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response
	Telephone Call	9-Sep	Not interested
Black Forest Restaurant	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can
Body Sense Gym	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Bresco	Spoke to owner	30-Aug	Call back - will contribute
CAT Powder Skiing	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response
CIBC			
CJ's Trophies and Engraving	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested
CKCR Radio	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response
Cambium Forest Management			
Canada West Campground	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
Canadian Avalanche Centre	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response
Canadian Roadrunner Tours	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can
CMH	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response
	Telephone call	20-Aug	Call back in Sept
CPR	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested
Canyon Hot Springs	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
Canyon Motor Inn	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Chalet Bakery	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Probably not
Chalet Deli	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Probably not
City Furniture			
Classic Touch Jewellery	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
Columbia Chevron	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Maybe
Columbia Towing	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
Columbia Used Goods and Pawn	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Probably not
Columbia Mtn. Institute of Applied...	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No money
Columbia Valley Forest Consulting	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can
Community Futures			
Cooper's Foods	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response
Creative Flowers and Gifts	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
	Formal Funding		
Credit Union	Application	30-Jul	Processing
Crystal Glass	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested
Daspy Fashions	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Denny's Restaurant	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back
Dixie Lee	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested
Downie St. Sawmills	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response
	Telephone Call	20-Aug	Is considering request _ Call back in

			Sept
East End Auto Body Shop	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Emo's Pizza and Steak House	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested
First Impressions	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
Free Spirit Sports	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
Flowers From the Heart			
Frontier Family Restaurant & Motel	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back ask for Matt
	Sent Letter	8-Sep	
Glacier Building Supplies	Sent Letter	8-Sep	
Great Canadian Snowmobile Tours	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
Glacier House Resort	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Grizzly Book and Serendipity Shop	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested
Heather Hut Boutique	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Henry's Restaurant	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Don't speak english
Hillcrest Resort Hotel	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can
Home Building Centre	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Hong Kong Restaurant	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Inspiration Gifts	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Intense Audio Video	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested
	Sent Letter	8-Sep	
Red Cap Travel	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can
Jacobsen Ford	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Maybe
KOA Campground	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested
Kozek Joe Sawmills	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back
Kwik Service Janitorial Supplies	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
John McInnes Appliance Centre	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Magic Construction	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Manning's Restaurant	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
Medusa's Hair Desing	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested
Moberly Manor	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Mt. Begbie Auto Wreckers	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested
Mt. Begbie Brewing Company	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested
	Sent Letter	8-Sep	
Mount Begbie Machine Works	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested
Mountain View Motel			
Natural Escapes Kayak Tours	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Out of business
North Columbia Env. Society	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response
New Woods Forestry Consulting	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested
Nu-Trend Construction	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Paul's Appliance Service	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Peaks Lodge	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
Petro Canada	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message
Phoenix Office Supplies	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested
	Sent Letter	8-Sep	
Clearview Computor Service	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can
Pharmasave	Telephone Call	14-Aug	Call back in Sept. - Interested
The Photo House	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested
Pwder Springs Inn	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back
Powder Springs Resort	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
R Motel	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer
Regent Inn	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back
	Sent Letter	8-Sep	

Revelstoke Auto Centre	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can	
	Sent Letter	8-Sep		
Revelstoke Cable TV	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back	
Chamber of Commerce				
Revelstoke Community Forest Corp.	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response	
	Telephone Call	20-Aug	Call back in sept	
Revelstoke Community Foundation	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response	
	Telephone Call	20-Aug	Is considering request	
Community Carreer Centre				
Community Skills Centre	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message	
Economic Development Commission	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Maybe	
Revelstoke Equipment Rentals	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message	
Revelstoke Flooring Centre	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can	
Revelstoke Florists	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested	
Revelstoke Golf Club	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can	
Revelstoke Grizzlies Hockey Club	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message	
Revelstoke Health Food Store	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested	
Revelstoke Kayak Adventures	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Out of business	
Revelstoke Alpine Equipment	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response	
Revelstoke Insurance Services	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back	
Revelstoke Lodge	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Left message	
Revelstoke Outdoor Sports	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer	
Revelstoke Printing Company	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back	
Railway Museum	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response	
Revelstoke realty	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response	
Rod and Gun Club	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer	
Snowmobile Club	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer	
Revelstoke Snowmobile Tours	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back in Oct	
Revelstoke Times Review	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back	
Revelstoke Tire Service	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer	
Revelstoke Travel	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested	
Revelstoke Traveller's Hostel	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No answer	
Rick's Automotive Repair Servioece				
Rough Country Marine	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested	
Royal Bank				
RCMP	Sent Letter	21-Jul	e-mail (negative response)	
	requested letter of support	24-Jul		
Sandman Inn	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back	
Score Construction				
Scotty's Family Restaurant	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back	
Selkirk Graphics	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back	
Selkirk Mountain Helicopters				
Selkirk Realty	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response	
Selkirk Specialty Wood				
Selkirk Tangiers	Sent Letter	21-Jul		\$250
Shuswap Vetrenary Clinic				
Signs Ink	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No Answer	
	Sent Letter	8-Sep		
Southside Grocery	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response	
Siver Tip Aviation				
Studio 83 Photography (Alpine)	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Not interested	

Style Trend Clothing				
Super 8 Motel	Telephone Call	30-Jul	No Answer	
TD Bank	Sent Letter	21-Jul	No response	
Thunder Ridge Trail Rides and B&B	Sent Letter	21-Jul		\$50
Tony's Roma Restaurant	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can	
Treadstone Forestry Consultants				
Universal Footwear	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Interested - also garbage can	
Vic Van Isle Construction	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back	
	Sent Letter	8-Sep		
Video Express	Sent Letter	8-Sep		
W K Garden	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back	
Wendy's Plumbing and Heating	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back	
Zala's Steak and Pizza House	Telephone Call	30-Jul	Call back	

Appendix #9 – Examples of Funding Request Letters



Revelstoke Bear Aware Program c/o Box 8705 Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S2
revbear@telus.net (250) 837-5507

Address, etc.

Greetings:

I am writing to introduce you to the Revelstoke Bear Aware program and request your support in the form of a donation.

As you may be aware, the Bear Aware program began in Revelstoke in 1996 in response to unacceptable numbers of bears entering residential neighborhoods and subsequently being trapped, relocated or killed. The program is now widely recognized and copied in many places where bears and people co-exist. The concept is simple: identify and reduce human behavior that attracts bears to areas where people live. The results are impressive. Before the Bear Aware program was implemented, an average of 30 bears was killed in Revelstoke each year. Now that average is less than 4. I have enclosed a brochure describing our work in further detail.

In the city of Revelstoke, the Bear Aware program is an important part of our culture and image. By visibly taking responsibility for our actions as they relate to bears, we show visitors that we not only accept these animals as a part of our local landscape but are willing to go the extra steps to maintain a workable living arrangement with them. This contributes to the positive image tourists enjoy about Revelstoke.

Our funding is derived solely from grants, donations, and “goods in kind” contributions. The work is implemented largely through the efforts of volunteers. If you are able to donate to this worthwhile endeavor, it would be greatly appreciated, not only because it helps to fund our work directly, but also because it demonstrates a level of support within the community that is beneficial when applying for grants and other funding sources.

I sincerely hope you will be able to support our program and provide us with a donation this year. I am asking for a contribution in an amount comparable to what has been contributed by other local businesses (\$150 - \$500), but would greatly appreciate whatever sum you are comfortable offering. Note that contributors are acknowledged in all local Bear Aware display media and given a tax receipt if desired.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.



Revelstoke Bear Aware Program c/o Box 8705 Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S2
revbear@telus.net (250) 837-5507

Address, etc.

Greetings:

I am writing to introduce you to the Revelstoke Bear Aware program and request your support in the form of a donation.

As you may be aware, the Bear Aware program began in Revelstoke in 1996 in response to unacceptable numbers of bears entering residential neighborhoods and subsequently being trapped, relocated or killed. The program is now widely recognized and copied in many places where bears and people co-exist. The concept is simple: identify and reduce human behavior that attracts bears to areas where people live. The results are impressive. Before the Bear aware program was implemented, an average of 30 bears was killed in Revelstoke each year. Now that average is less than 4. I have enclosed a brochure describing our work in further detail.

In the city of Revelstoke, the Bear Aware program is an important part of our culture and image. By visibly taking responsibility for our actions as they relate to bears, we show visitors that we not only accept these animals as a part of our local landscape but are willing to go the extra steps to maintain a workable living arrangement with them. This contributes to the positive image tourists enjoy about Revelstoke.

The program is funded entirely by donations and grants and implemented largely by volunteers. If you are able to donate to this worthwhile endeavor, it would be greatly appreciated by me, Bear Aware, the community of Revelstoke and bears everywhere. The following page contains a description of what your contribution could mean:

- For \$50 - \$100 you will receive an attractive Bear Aware window sticker, a handy refrigerator magnet, recognition on all local Bear Aware display media and a strong sense of community pride.
- For \$100 - \$250 you will receive an attractive Bear Aware window sticker, a handy refrigerator magnet, recognition on all local Bear Aware display media and the knowledge that you have contributed generously to your community and to the well being of an important and impressive wild animal.
- For \$250 - \$500 you will receive an attractive Bear Aware window sticker, a handy refrigerator magnet, recognition on all local Bear Aware display media and the earned right to walk tall, secure in the knowledge that you have made a significant improvement to your town and to the surrounding ecosystem.

- For \$500 - \$1000 you will receive an attractive Bear Aware window sticker, a handy refrigerator magnet, recognition on all local Bear Aware display media and the sincere, heartfelt appreciation and respect of all the earth's denizen's.
- Contributions in excess of \$1000 are possible as well. However, the fortune and good will that would befall you at that point is beyond my ability (and authority) to properly express. Rest assured though, that you will still get the refrigerator magnet.

All donations are tax deductible. Please call me at 837-5507 if you are interested in making a donation, providing a letter of support for the program or volunteering.

Sincerely,

Steve Kent
Revelstoke Bear Aware Coordinator
revbear@telus.net 837-5507



Revelstoke Bear Aware Program c/o Box 8705 Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S2
revbear@telus.net (250) 837-5507

Address, etc.

Salutation:

The Revelstoke Bear Aware Program would like to thank you for your generous contribution last year. The support of local organizations like yours makes our success possible.

Now in our 8th year of operation, the Revelstoke Bear Aware Program has reduced the annual bear deaths in our community by nearly 90%, has achieved a high profile in the town and is recognized and copied in many places where bears and people co-exist throughout North America. We do this with an annual operating budget of less than \$18,000 per year.

As you are probably aware, our funding is derived solely from grants, donations, and “goods in kind” contributions. The work is implemented largely through the efforts of volunteers. The donation you provided us with last year was important, not only because it helped to fund our work directly, but also because it demonstrated a level of support within the community that was helpful when applying for grants and other funding sources.

I sincerely hope you will be able to continue to support our program and provide us with a donation this year. I am asking for a contribution in the same amount as last year (\$500), but would greatly appreciate whatever sum ---is comfortable offering. Note that --- will be acknowledged in all local Bear Aware display media and will be given a tax receipt if you wish.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Steve Kent
Revelstoke Bear Aware Coordinator
revbear@telus.net 837-5507