

Revelstoke Bear Aware Program

2004 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 less than 7. The program has been adopted in many communities throughout the province.

In 2004, there was very little bear activity for Revelstoke. Although there has been much speculation as to why this is, the effect on the Bear Aware program was as follows:

- People are once again becoming complacent about managing attractants on their properties so the need for continuing the public education campaign is very important (even in the relative absence of bears);
- The neighbourhoods targeted for Door to Door program delivery has historically been determined by bear activity. This year, we visited areas not usually attended and in the fall, concentrated on neighbourhoods with concentrations of fruit trees.
- Having fewer bears in town takes some pressure off of the public education component of the program. While it is important that the message is maintained, the air of “crisis management” is not there and other program priorities can be attended to. This was very useful this year because:
 - The structure of the Bear Aware program in Revelstoke changed from being coordinated by the BCCF as part of a provincial initiative to being delivered locally by a society;
 - Money was provided to pursue “Bear Smart Community” status for Revelstoke ;
 - Due to the dissolution of the Bear Aware program provincially, the Revelstoke program had to address bear/human related concerns from many other areas of the province; and
 - Funding was sufficient this year to address some long standing deficiencies in program delivery tools and equipment.

2004 was a very good year for the Revelstoke Bear Aware program. We are now set up to deliver services effectively and economically for many years to come.

The Bear Aware Program was delivered this year as follows

Volunteers	Volunteers were employed during door to door campaigns, for garbage tagging, at displays set up at community events and to develop a "Fruit & Bears" brochure.	14 individuals volunteered for a total of 660 hours of work.
Door to Door Visits	362 homes in the community were visited by the coordinator or a Bear Aware volunteer.	Personal contact was made at 226 homes. At the remaining 136, a brochure was left.
Information Displays	The Bear Aware public information display was set up at: <div style="text-align: center;">Revelstoke Timber Days (2 days) Farmers Market (twice)</div> <p>At each location, the display was staffed by the coordinator or a qualified volunteer.</p>	Approximately 220 contacts were made.
School Programs	The Bear Aware program was delivered to 3 school groups.	40 children were reached.
Media Presentations	The following media coverage was utilized: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five newspaper articles, Two newspaper interviews, Five radio interviews, Five radio advertisements, Three newspaper advertisements, Four public service announcements, and 300 brochures. 	
Garbage Tagging	Garbage raids were undertaken in 5 locations over 5 nights.	53 cans were tagged.
Fruit Picking	No fruit was picked. This year's focus was on public education instead.	46 people were contacted directly to discuss fruit trees on their property. 2 unwanted trees were removed. 40 brochures were distributed.
Fundraising	Fundraising efforts yielded generous contributions from a number of sources.	\$48,250 raised.
Other	The organizational structure of the program was changed in response to the end of our association with the BC Conservation Foundation.	Revelstoke Bear Aware was formed as a Society and as a Registered Charitable Organization. The community applied for Bear Smart Community Status.

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.

Since the provincial government announced approval of the Mount Mackenzie ski resort development, there has been much talk of imminent, major expansion of our community. Irrespective of the scale or how rapidly this development occurs, from a bear/human conflict perspective, Revelstoke perhaps now faces its largest challenge since the inception of the Bear Aware program: growth. To remain effective, we need to work hard to keep the tenets of Bear Aware a priority in all discussion, planning and implementation of development within our community. Other mountain communities that have been (or become) developed in response to demand for outdoor recreation, have experienced a broad spectrum of successes and failures regarding their coexistence with wild animals, specifically bears. As a result, there are many examples to look at to ensure that, to the best of our collective ability, our experience replicates only the successes.

Recommendations:

1. Work toward replacing all non bear proof garbage containers in public areas with bear proof ones.
2. Create incentives to encourage businesses, condominiums and apartment complexes to replace existing dumpsters with bear proof ones.
3. Ensure that the tenets of Bear Aware are a priority in all discussion, planning and development within the community.
4. 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.
5. 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,
6. Ensure that trailer parks and townhouse developments within the city are serviced through centralized garbage collection facilities.
7. Adopt a bylaw requiring that new high density residential development includes accommodation for centralized garbage collection.
8. Over time, replace existing municipal equipment with equipment that will handle centralized garbage containers.
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. Give authority to the Bear Aware Co-ordinator to enforce garbage related city bylaws.
13. Aggressively enforce the sections of the Wildlife Act related to feeding dangerous wildlife.

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 Mason, Bremner, Reka, Catherine, Kago, The Young Canada Works Crew, Greg, Jen and Dave.
- 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
BC Hydro
Canadian Mountain Holidays
City of Revelstoke
Columbia Basin Trust
Habitat Conservation Trust
Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Downie Timber
Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks
Parks Canada
Revelstoke Credit Union
Revelstoke Community Forest Corporation

- The BC Conservation Foundation for its continuing 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.

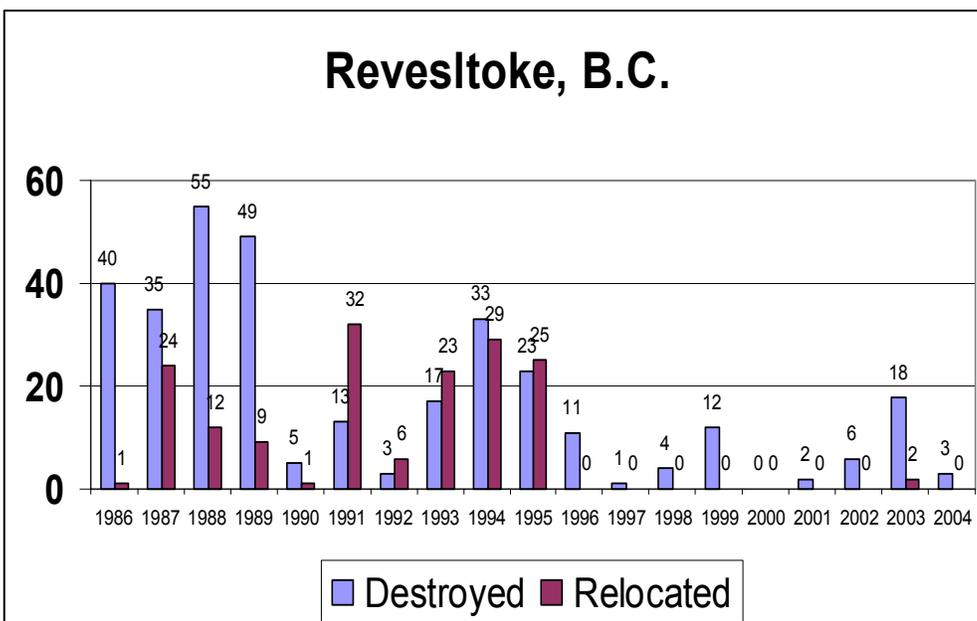
Before the municipal landfill was electrically fenced, it provided a major food source for bears, resulting in unnaturally high numbers of garbage conditioned grizzly and black bears residing in the area. These bears often found their way into residential neighbourhoods.

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 less than 7.



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
2003	18	2
2004	3	0

Now, after nine 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.

2003 however, was different. 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 one again, very receptive to the Bear Aware message.

Also, in early October 2003, 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 however, by accessing Columbia Basin Trust funding as well as other local grant sources. As a result, there was no interruption of program delivery. This is a strong testament to the level of support the Bear Aware program has within the community of Revelstoke.

In contrast, last year (2004), there was very little bear activity for Revelstoke. Although there has been much speculation as to why this is, the affect on the Bear Aware program was as follows:

- People are once again becoming complacent about managing attractants on their properties so the need for continuing the public education campaign is very important (even in the relative absence of bears);
- The neighbourhoods targeted for Door to Door program delivery has historically been determined by bear activity. This year, we visited areas not usually attended and in the fall, concentrated on neighbourhoods with concentrations of fruit trees.
- Having fewer bears in town takes some pressure off of the public education component of the program. While it is important that the message is maintained, the air of “crisis management” is not there and other program priorities can be attended to. This was very useful this year because:
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5. Program Delivery

In previous years, the program co-ordinator has been hired as a salaried position paid under the administrative management of a separate organization. This year, the Revelstoke Bear Aware program was delivered under contract. In terms of delivery, these two approaches are very similar. (A copy of the workplan for 2004 is included as Appendix 1.) The contracted service provider is paid to deliver the Bear Aware program in the same manner as a salaried person would deliver it. The difference in terms of management and administration however, is more significant:

- Bear Aware does not pay for WCB, vacation pay or other costs associated with administrating a payroll;
- Bear Aware does not have to provide an office space or pay for many of the costs of maintaining an office;
- Although the work, workload and cost is based on the same number of hours and rate of pay, service delivery is measured in terms of results achieved rather than hours of work.

Also of note, this year is that the Bear Management Committee undertook the initiative of registering the Bear Aware program as a society under the Provincial Societies act and as a

charitable organization under the Federal Income Tax Act. Although the application has not yet been approved at the time of this writing, approval, if granted, will enable the program to operate and pursue funding independent of other organizations. The advantages of this decision are as follows:

- Decreased cost of delivery by avoiding the administrative fees associated with other organizations,
- Reduced reporting structure by eliminating the need to report to an outside administrative agency, and
- Increased number of available funding sources by being a charitable organization.

As part of the application process, Revelstoke Bear Aware developed a constitution and set of bylaws to guide our activities as a society. These documents are included as Appendix #9

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, 14 individuals volunteered for a total of 660 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, and
- Requesting volunteers at community events.

Similar to last year, Parks Canada provided the Young Canada Works crew for two days a week for four weeks. The crew was kept busy by developing a brochure devoted to fruit tree management in Revelstoke. Due to problems related to a strike by Parks Canada for much of the summer, the crew was unable to bring the project to completion. However, they provided the research and background work that a subsequent volunteer group of Canada World Youth participants was able to utilise and complete the brochure.

Canada World Youth provided to participants to the Bear Aware program this year. These people completed the work initiated by the Young Canada Works crew and created a brochure which is included in Appendix 7. In addition, they constructed two tables used to support the Bear Aware display, conducted door to door visits to discuss attractant management with local residents and conducted research into historic areas of bear/human conflict which will be used to support the work we are doing on our Bear Smart Community application.

Volunteers were also used to assist with displays set up at public events, during garbage tagging activities and door to door visits.

In previous years, a large amount of volunteer effort was devoted to picking fruit for people and then donating it to the food bank. While this does generate a lot of good will for the program, it doesn't really solve any problems. We have found that when we pick people's fruit, they are not interested in managing (pruning; regular, ongoing picking; or removal) the fruit trees they are responsible for. We have "solved" the immediate problem by removing the attractant, but have not motivated the people who own the tree to do anything about it. This year we focused on education.

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.

Although the easiest way to talk to people about the possibility that bears might be attracted to their neighbourhood is to visit neighbourhoods where bears have been reported, this was not so easy this year. There were relatively few instances of bear/human conflict in the city this year so we were able to visit areas that hadn't been visited in a while. We also concentrated on neighbourhoods where there are concentrations of fruit trees.

This year, 362 homes in the community were visited by me or a Bear Aware volunteer. People were home at 226 of them. At the remaining 136, a brochure was left. A detailed description of the locations attended is attached as Appendix 2.

5.3 Community Events

The Bear Aware public information display was set up at:

- Revelstoke Timber Days (2 days)
- Farmers Market (twice)

At each location, the display was staffed by me or a qualified volunteer. Approximately 220 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. This winter, the display will be updated to make it more local and change some references that have become out of date. Also, the current material has been seen many times by local residents. An update would draw people in a little better and give us an opportunity to present the message more effectively.

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.

5.4 School Presentations

This year, the Bear Aware program was delivered to 3 school groups and reached a total of 40 children.

Although all the local schools were made aware of the opportunity to have Bear Aware presentations in the classrooms, there was very little take up on it. Perhaps after 8 years of Bear Aware Program delivery, teachers feel that most school children have heard the message.

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. This winter I will contact the schools and find out why the program was not utilized. Perhaps it too, needs to be updated.

5.5 Media Coverage

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

- Five newspaper articles,
- Two newspaper interviews,
- Three newspaper advertisements,
- Five public service announcements,
- Five radio interviews, and
- 500 brochures.

In addition, there were two newspaper articles from the local CO Service, and several letters to the editor. A newspaper interview was also given to the Kamloops newspaper in response to that city's resistance to adopting the garbage related by-laws that are in place in Revelstoke.

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 about it all the time. (A copy of this year's newspaper articles is included as Appendix 5.)

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, the Bear Aware message was also presented as live radio interviews on the local radio station. This time was spent primarily on reminding people about their responsibility for fruit trees on their properties and was timed to coincide with the ripening of the various species of fruit present in the community. A radio interview was also given on a Salmon Arm radio station after a bear had broken into a cabin in that area.

5.6 Garbage Raids

This year garbage raids were undertaken in 5 locations over 5 nights and 53 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". A list of locations visited as part of this initiative is included as Appendix 3.

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.

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, the Bear Aware program did not pick fruit for anyone in town. It was felt that picking people's fruit was contrary to the message that people must take responsibility for their own fruit trees. If we pick the fruit, there is no problem. We focused on public education, instead.

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.

In previous years, the Bear Aware program has organized a fruit picking initiative in the Community. It 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, we focused on public education instead.

The Young Canada Works crew supplied by Parks Canada started a project to research, develop, print and distribute a brochure intended to educate people about their responsibilities and options related to domestic fruit trees on their properties. Two participants from Canada World Youth picked up the project where the YCW crew left off and finished the project. A copy of the brochure is included as Appendix 7.

This brochure was distributed to 40 households that had fruit trees in the yards. In addition, the Canada Word Youth crew conducted door to door visits of about 150 homes to talk to people about their fruit trees. The purpose of this exercise was to educate people about fruit trees as a bear attractant and to find out what their concerns were related to managing these trees. The brochure is intended to address these concerns.

Also, all the advertising that was run in the newspaper and every radio interview was related to fruit tree management this year.

It is often difficult to convince people that fruit trees are a problem. Many people are reluctant to accept that it is wrong for a bear to eat fruit in their yards because, unlike garbage, it is good healthy food and a bear has to eat. It will take time for the program to educate people on this regard. The next step is to encourage folks to take action. Picking fruit every day and keeping on top of a vigorous pruning regimen is a lot of work. So, like the success we have had with garbage management, the Bear Aware program has to keep delivering the message until it gains public acceptance. People must understand that, when you live in bear country, having a fruit tree is a big responsibility. If you are unable to meet this responsibility, you shouldn't have the tree. Also, people are extremely resistant to removing a fruit tree from their yard because they don't want to kill a tree or they have developed an emotional attachment to it. There is much work to be done in the area of fruit tree management in Revelstoke.

5.8 Business Surveys

This year, the business survey component of the Bear Aware program was not performed.

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.

The situation with restaurant grease barrels remains the same. 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.

Campgrounds in the area that were surveyed last year 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). The program should continue to monitor these operations in future years to ensure that this responsible approach continues.

5.9 Fundraising

Fundraising efforts this year were aggressive and successful. When the British Columbia Conservation Foundation ended their association with Bear Aware in October 2003, it became apparent the Revelstoke program would have to obtain its own sources of funding very quickly in order to remain active in the community. It also became apparent that the program was very important to the community.

Funding requests were written to describe the reality that the program was no longer being delivered as a provincial program and would have to be funded as a local initiative for it to continue. Provincial and local agencies and businesses responded to this information by providing the funding necessary to keep the program running. We received:

- \$15,500 from the Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives program,
- \$3,500 from the Columbia Basin Trust Environmental Education and Awareness Program,
- \$8,000 from the Habitat Conservation Trust,
- \$5,000 from the Ministry of Water Land and Air Protection,
- \$7,000 from the British Columbia Conservation Foundation,
- \$3,000 from BC Hydro
- \$1,500 from the City of Revelstoke,
- \$1,500 from the Columbia Shuswap Regional District,
- \$1,500 from the Friends of Mount Revelstoke and Glacier,
- \$500 from Canadian Mountain Holidays,
- \$250 from Selkirk Tangiers Heli-skiing,
- \$500 from Downie Street Sawmills, and
- \$500 from the Revelstoke Community Forest Foundation

As a result, we were funded to a level where we were able to catch up on some outstanding maintenance items related to the condition of our interpretive and educational materials and return a portion of the Columbia Basin trust money that could be re-distributed within the community.

As indicated in last year's report, it is felt that a large scale fundraising campaign based on letters written to local businesses yields too little result for the amount of time invested. The greater benefit to this activity is to establish 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.

Also, as indicated last year, charging a fee for delivering the Bear Aware message in schools is not recommended. It limits the number of people who are interested in participating in the program.

6. Municipal Concerns

As 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.” If the Bear Aware Co-ordinator were given authority to enforce garbage related bylaws, fines could be levied without creating an additional workload for municipal staff.
- 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, three bears were shot or trapped downtown in 2003. 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.
- 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 the cost involved is appreciable, we should be moving toward bear proof garbage management as quickly as possible.

Since the provincial government announced approval of the Mount Mackenzie ski resort development, there has been much talk of imminent, major expansion of our community. Irrespective of the scale or how rapidly this development occurs, from a Bear Aware perspective, it is important that construction of new neighbourhoods or expansion of existing neighbourhoods take place in a manner that is sensitive to the following facts:

- Revelstoke is situated in provincially significant bear habitat,
- The mid and lower slopes of Mount Mackenzie are home to a number of black bears, and
- The community has a history of responsibly and effectively addressing bear/human conflict.

If we take the time now to ensure that the community grows in a way that is consistent with the objectives of the Bear Aware program, we will not have to undertake the difficult task of changing people's behaviour in the future. Also, by insisting that new development supports objectives intended to reduce bear/human conflict, we will develop a model to serve as a target for changing existing residential behaviour and an example to point at as something that works.

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. If residential growth involves major condominium development in the vicinity of the ski hill, this situation could become more significant.

It appears that Revelstoke is poised on the brink of change and that much of this change will take place in the form of residential and commercial development. While living with respect for wild animals can be expressed in financial terms, the correlation is neither simple nor immediate. For the community to accommodate rapid growth while maintaining the level of responsibility for bear/human conflict that it has shown in the past, it will have to make a deliberate effort.

8. Recommendations

From a bear/human conflict perspective, the community of Revelstoke now faces its largest challenge since the inception of the Bear Aware program: growth. To remain effective, we need to work hard to keep the tenets of Bear Aware a priority in all discussion, planning and implementation of development within our community. Other mountain communities that have been (or become) developed in response to demand for outdoor recreation, have experienced a broad spectrum of successes and failures regarding their coexistence with wild animals, specifically bears. There are many examples to look at to ensure that, to the best of our collective ability, our experience replicates only the successes. We need to ensure that facilities, infrastructure, public education, legislation and enforcement all continue to support the objective of eliminating avoidable bear/human conflict.

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, apartment complexes and townhouse developments within the city are serviced through centralized garbage collection facilities.

Create incentives to encourage businesses, townhouses 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.

Ensure that the tenets of Bear Aware are a priority in all discussion, planning and implementation of development within the community.

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.

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, it is recommend that a bylaw be adopted requiring new high density residential development include 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 its highest. This could be achieved by giving the Bear Aware Co-ordinator the authority to enforce garbage related municipal bylaws.

Last 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”

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, 2004

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Appendix #1 – Workplan

Revelstoke Bear Aware Program **2004 Workplan Objectives**

Presentations:

- Present Bear Aware message to school groups prior to summer holiday and again in the fall.
- Write monthly newspaper article for community papers accenting current Bear Aware messages.
- Set up Bear Aware display at community functions (Logger sports days, farmers market & spawning channel)
- Distribute all printed/promotional material.
- Upgrade display material. (including kiosk and Info center)
- 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).
- 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.
- Recruit and employ volunteers crew to develop brochure describing bear/human related problems associated with domestic fruit tree management in the community of Revelstoke.
- Include request for volunteers in all newspaper articles, advertisements and radio spots.

Fundraising:

- Contact all former contributors to program and request financial support.

- Apply for funding from all major provincial sources.
- Set up donation box at Info center and at all community events attended with the display. Look for other appropriate locations.

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)
- Conduct garbage raids. Concentrate on areas where it has historically been a problem (trailer parks, dense condominiums, & neighborhoods bordering forested areas)

Other:

- Obtain society status for the Revelstoke Bear Aware program.
- Obtain charitable organization status for the Revelstoke Bear Aware program.
- Respond to provincial requests for information related to the Bear Aware program
- Apply for Bear Smart Community status for the City of Revelstoke.
- Work with CPR to alleviate grain car maintenance concerns.

Appendix #2 – List of Door to Door Contacts

Nichol Road	8 contacts – 4 left brochure
Hay Road	6 contacts – 2 left brochure
Pratico Road	11 contacts - 3 left brochure
Newlands Road	16 contacts – 6 left brochure
Bernard Nelson Crescent	5 contacts - 6 left brochure
Colbeck Road	6 contacts – 4 left brochure
Arrow Drive	14 contacts – 7 left brochure
Piotrowski Road	6 contacts – 4 left brochure
McKinnon Road	10 contacts – 5 left brochure
Tillen Road	5 contacts – 3 left brochure
Track Street	8 contacts – 2 left brochure
Nixon Rd	8 contacts – 2 left brochure
8th Street	16 contacts - 6 left brochure
Lundell Rd	12 contacts – 8 left brochure
Barry Rd	4 contacts – 4 left brochure
Simpson Street	8 contacts – 4 left brochure
Pearks Dr	17 contacts – 12 left brochure
Moss Street	12 contacts – 12 left brochure
5 th Street	4 contacts – 5 left brochure
6 th Street	3 contacts - 4 left brochure
Maple St.	8 contacts - 4 left brochure
Mulock St.	2 contacts - 3 left brochure
Downie St.	14 contact – 10 left brochure
Edward St.	15 contacts – 8 left brochure
Temple St	8 contacts – 8 left brochure

TOTAL personal contacts: 226
Left brochure: 136

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 – Newspaper Articles

Community Bear Aware

Where are the bears?

I have heard this question often over the past month and I know the people of Revelstoke genuinely care about these animals. So, here is an update:

The reports I have been getting have been largely from mountain bikers, hikers and forest industry folks, who report bear sightings in wild, natural environments. People who are knowledgeable in this area also speak of an abundance of early season food in the forest. For the most part, local bears are wandering around the woods, eating. For bears (and for us) it rarely gets better than that.

Having said that, there has been one small bear shot in the Arrow Heights/Ski hill area. This bear had found a supply of garbage early in the spring and was looking for more. Please consider this as a reminder of the importance of our commitment to being a Bear Aware community. Bears are around even when we don't see them and garbage is a powerful enticement to these keen sensed animals.

On another note, there have been some changes to Bear Aware. As you may know, program delivery stopped provincially last year. In Revelstoke however, we were able to keep working with some help from the Columbia Basin Trust and from within the community. While it is unfortunate for bears that the public education provided by our program will not be available throughout the province, it is encouraging to see the support we have here in Revelstoke. And, as is often the case, this set-back has provided us with an opportunity.

Now that the program is again a local initiative, we have an opportunity and a responsibility to decide what is important and what we will do about it. In general terms, the Bear Aware program exists to reduce or eliminate human/bear conflict in the community. This serves to decrease the number of avoidable bear deaths and improve public safety. Our work is focused on educating people about what they can do to keep from inviting bears onto their property, places of work and public areas.

If you have any thoughts on how we could do this better or on the Bear Aware program in general, let me know. Call 837-5507 or stop and chat at the farmers market or wherever you see the Bear Aware display.

HUMAN BEHAVIOUR IS THE PROBLEM

When there is conflict between bears and the people Revelstoke, bears are usually on the losing end. Now and then a bear is killed because someone is not comfortable with it in his/her yard and has reported its presence to the Conservation Officer Service. Canada World Youth (CWY) and Revelstoke Bear Aware do not think it is the bears that are to blame. Rather, these two organizations have identified the behavior of people as the main cause of this conflict.

CWY and Revelstoke Bear Aware think it is time people should reduce human behavior that attracts bears to areas where people live. They should take care of their garbage by storing it inside their houses until the morning of collection day. Storing garbage outside is a way of inviting bears to areas where they are in danger. People should remember that being comfortable with a bear in your neighborhood does not mean your neighbor is necessarily comfortable with that too.

The leading cause of human/bear conflict in Revelstoke is unmanaged fruit trees. Fruit is not a natural bear food. People should pick their fruit before the bears do and not let fruit fall and rot. That can only attract more bears to their homes. Unwanted fruit trees should be removed. Pruning the fruit trees can also help by ensuring that trees do not produce more than people can consume. People can have volunteers pick up their fruits and leave them a portion. CWY participants in Revelstoke are prepared to help anybody who needs help with picking of fruits and cutting of fruit trees. If someone has more than she/he needs, they are encouraged to donate some of the fruit to the Food Bank (Community Connections).

Approached for advice to the Revelstoke community about living positively with bears, Joe Jackalas Jr, the CWY Revelstoke project supervisor said it is important for people to always remember the impacts of their actions on wildlife habitats. "Each one of us has an obligation to provide an enabling environment, not only for the bears, but for every species we live with", said Jackalas Jr.

Surely, if we exercise more consciousness in the way we dispose of our garbage and look after our fruit trees, it will make a positive difference. And, it makes our space much safer. Perhaps killing bears is not the best way of solving a problem.

The Revelstoke Bear Aware program receives funding from a variety of businesses and organizations within the community including the Columbia Basin Trust.

Canada World Youth Helps Local Bears

Canada World Youth participants arrived on September 19th in Revelstoke. This group of young adults between 17 and 24 years old will live in the community for about three months before leaving for Botswana. The project in Revelstoke is an Eco-Leadership program, so participants will get involved with local and environmental issues.

Catherine Halle, from Montreal, and Kago Moakofhi, from Botswana, are now working with Bear Aware and the Illecillewaet Green Belt Society. Until December, they will look at decisions that everybody can make to not attract bears to their yards and community. The Bear Aware program, as part of it's efforts to promote public safety and respect for wild life, is working to educate the people of Revelstoke about domestic fruit tree management in the city. This will help to reduce the number of bears entering in the city this fall.

Catherine and Kago will also be working on a new Bear Aware brochure to help residents understand their responsibilities and options related to fruit trees as a bear attractant. They will be going door to door to discuss individual bear attractants and to get input to this project. The brochure will then answer the most common questions people have about fruit trees in their yards.

To further help the community, Canada World Youth participants will help pick fruit or prune trees for people who would like assistance in this area. Call Bear Aware at 837-5507 if you would like some help with your fruit trees.

Another bear related project Canada World Youth will be involved with is clearing trails along the Illecillewaet River Greenbelt to improve the line of sight. This work will make it easier for bears and humans to see each other from a safe distance and hopefully, avoid unexpected surprises.

In addition, the Illecillewaet Green Belt Society, will be working with Catherine and Kago to conduct a public survey of local knowledge about migratory waterfowl habitat use and habitat values in Revelstoke. It will be a pre-implementation survey to help the society develop measures to raise public awareness of local wetland values and waterfowl habitat use.

These, and other volunteer projects, will benefit the community, and help Canada World Youth participants learn about various environmental issues in Revelstoke. Participants will also develop skills that they can use for the benefit of their home communities after the program.

The Revelstoke Bear Aware program is funded in part by the Columbia Basin Trust Fund.

Trash Talk

Arguably, the Revelstoke Bear Aware program was born of garbage. In 1994, when the local landfill site was electrified, 62 bears were relocated or destroyed. In the following year, that number was 48. These were bears that had become accustomed to the fare offered at the dump and were looking for a similar meal in people's yards.

That's the history. When the Bear Aware program was created in 1996, it was in response to garbage. Today, when I set up the Bear Aware display at any local event, the topic people want to talk about the most is still garbage. OK, fair enough. Let's talk about garbage.

Garbage stinks. You don't want it in your house and pick up occurs once a week. What do you do?

First, reduce the amount of garbage you create. This is the single most important thing you can do to manage your garbage. If you have two large bags of trash in your kitchen at the end of every week, you have a problem. Here are a few suggestions that will help.

- 1) Stop buying garbage. Choose goods that have the least amount of packaging and don't purchase "disposable" products.
- 2) Decide if it is actually garbage or something you can use again. For example, don't throw out margarine containers and buy Tupperware.
- 3) Don't discard recyclable items. Yesterday, I walked past a home the morning of garbage pick up and saw two full cans, a pile of cardboard and two cases of beer bottles on the curb. If you don't want to bother recycling, call Community Connections. For a small fee, they will pick up and sort your recyclables.
- 4) Compost. In most Revelstoke locations, actively managed compost will not attract bears.

Second, sort your garbage. After you have done all you can to reduce your volume of waste, separate the stinky stuff from the other stuff. Plastic, pieces of wood, dust balls, broken toys, etc. don't smell. Put them in a different container than the fish heads.

Third, deal with the stinky stuff. I put mine in the freezer until pick up day. It's about a quarter of a grocery bag a week. If you are uncomfortable putting garbage in your freezer, remember that it was food right up until the point when you stopped eating it.

To summarize: Reduce Re-use & Recycle. Incidentally, your cherries are ripe.

Good Night Bears

It's late November and time for bears and the Bear Aware program to hibernate, right?

Well, not exactly. Bears don't actually hibernate. An animal that hibernates slows down its breathing and heart rate, drops its body temperature to nearly that of the surrounding environment and cannot be woken up. You could poke, yell at or otherwise bother a hibernating animal and it would not respond in any way. A hibernating animal appears dead. Animals that hibernate are bats, marmots, mice, frogs, lizards and creatures like that.

Bears go into a state of torpor for the winter months. Torpor means that they slow down their breathing and heart rate and lower their body temperature like a hibernating animal, but not to the same extent. Also, and this is important, they can wake up. Do not poke a sleeping bear at any time of the year.

Here's an interesting, but sort of disgusting fact you can tell your children: Bears do not go to the bathroom when they are in torpor. Urine is broken down and reabsorbed by their bodies as protein in order to maintain muscle mass over the winter. They don't defecate because prior to entering torpor, bears eat a big wad of hair and twigs in order to plug up their digestive tracts until spring. Do not try this at home.

The Bear Aware program doesn't hibernate over the winter, either. We create an annual report of the year's activities that is used to let our many funding sources know what we did with their money; we apply for funding to deliver next year's program; and we do what we can to improve the program. This winter we are:

- Establishing a Revelstoke Bear Aware Society so we can obtain funding without going through another organization. This will make the program cheaper and more efficient to deliver;
- Updating our display material so that it will be more current, local and interesting; and
- Pursuing "Bear Smart Community" status for the community so that the Conservation Officer Service will have more options for managing bear/human conflict within the city.

We are also available all winter for school programs or presentations to any other interested group of people. To request such a presentation, call Bear Aware at 837-5507.

The Revelstoke Bear Aware program is funded in part by the Columbia Basin Trust.

Appendix #5 – 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.

Appendix #6 – Bears & Fruit Brochure

Appendix #7 – Examples of Funding Request Letters



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

Address, etc.

Salutation:

Thank you for your contribution last year. Local support of the Bear Aware program is important not only because it helps to fund our work, but because it demonstrates that the program is important to the community. This gives us credibility when we deliver our message to local residents and when we request funding from other sources.

As you may be aware, last year was a difficult one for bears. The hot, dry summer provided a poor natural nutrient source, and many bears came to town looking for food. As a result, 18 were shot, 3 were killed on the highway or railway and 2 were relocated. In other communities however, bear deaths were far higher.

Also, the organization that administered Bear Aware provincially ended its association with the program and we had to quickly find the resources to continue operating as a local initiative. It is unfortunate for bears that the public education provided by the Bear Aware program is no longer available in communities throughout the province. However, from a Revelstoke perspective, due to tremendous community support, it will continue much as it did when it began 9 years ago. People will be encouraged to actively manage bear attractants and local bear deaths will continue to be lower than in neighboring communities.

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.



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.



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.

Appendix #8 - Constitution and Bylaws

SOCIETY ACT

Constitution

1. The name of the society is Revelstoke Bear Aware
2. The purpose of the society is to reduce bear/human conflict in and around the city of Revelstoke by:
 - (a) Identifying and eliminating or reducing human related bear attractants, and
 - (b) Educating Revelstoke citizens about;
 - i) the importance of reducing bear attractants on their properties and in and around the community,
 - ii) how to recognize bear attractants on their properties and within the community, and
 - iii) how to eliminate or reduce bear attractants for which they are responsible.
 - (c) Accepting donations, grants and in-kind contributions to achieve the purpose of the Society.

Bylaws

The bylaws of the society are those set out in Schedule B to the Society Act.

Dated: _____ (mm/dd/yy).

Witness _____ Applicants for Incorporation

Signature: _____

Steve Kent
701 Downie Street
Revelstoke, BC

Signature: _____

Loni Parker
1841 Mychulac Road
Revelstoke, BC

Signature: _____

Susan Hall
1899 Echo Place
Revelstoke, BC

Signature: _____

Jackie Morris
64 Jordan Drive
Revelstoke, BC

Signature: _____

Maureen Weddell
219 East Track Street
Revelstoke, BC

Signature: _____

Brian Gadbois
1873 Beruschi Road
Revelstoke, BC

Schedule B
SOCIETY ACT

Bylaws of Revelstoke Bear Aware

Part 1 — Interpretation

1 (1) In these bylaws, unless the context otherwise requires:

"**directors**" means the directors of the society for the time being;

"**Society Act**" means the Society Act of British Columbia from time to time in force and all amendments to it;

"**registered address**" of a member means the member's address as recorded in the register of members.

(2) The definitions in the Society Act on the date these bylaws become effective apply to these bylaws.

2 Words importing the singular include the plural and vice versa, and words importing a male person include a female person and a corporation.

Part 2 — Membership

3 The members of the society are the applicants for incorporation of the society, and those persons who subsequently become members, in accordance with these bylaws and, in either case, have not ceased to be members.

4 A person may apply to the directors for membership in the society and on acceptance by the directors is a member.

5 Every member must uphold the constitution and comply with these bylaws.

6 The amount of the first annual membership dues must be determined by the directors and after that the annual membership dues must be determined at the annual general meeting of the society.

7 A person ceases to be a member of the society

(a) by delivering his or her resignation in writing to the secretary of the society or by mailing or delivering it to the address of the society,

(b) on his or her death or, in the case of a corporation, on dissolution,

(c) on being expelled, or

(d) on having been a member not in good standing for 12 consecutive months.

- 8 (1) A member may be expelled by a special resolution of the members passed at a general meeting.
- (2) The notice of special resolution for expulsion must be accompanied by a brief statement of the reasons for the proposed expulsion.
- (3) The person who is the subject of the proposed resolution for expulsion must be given an opportunity to be heard at the general meeting before the special resolution is put to a vote.
- 9 All members are in good standing except a member who has failed to pay his or her current annual membership fee, or any other subscription or debt due and owing by the member to the society, and the member is not in good standing so long as the debt remains unpaid.

Part 3 — Meetings of Members

- 10 General meetings of the society must be held at the time and place, in accordance with the Society Act, that the directors decide.
- 11 Every general meeting, other than an annual general meeting, is an extraordinary general meeting.
- 12 The directors may, when they think fit, convene an extraordinary general meeting.
- 13 (1) Notice of a general meeting must specify the place, day and hour of the meeting, and, in case of special business, the general nature of that business.
- (2) The accidental omission to give notice of a meeting to, or the non-receipt of a notice by, any of the members entitled to receive notice does not invalidate proceedings at that meeting.
- 14 The first annual general meeting of the society must be held not more than 15 months after the date of incorporation and after that an annual general meeting must be held at least once in every calendar year and not more than 15 months after the holding of the last preceding annual general meeting.

Part 4 — Proceedings at General Meetings

- 15 Special business is
- (a) all business at an extraordinary general meeting except the adoption of rules of order, and
 - (b) all business conducted at an annual general meeting, except the following:
 - (i) the adoption of rules of order;
 - (ii) the consideration of the financial statements;
 - (iii) the report of the directors;
 - (iv) the report of the auditor, if any;

(v) the election of directors;

(vi) the appointment of the auditor, if required;

(vii) the other business that, under these bylaws, ought to be conducted at an annual general meeting, or business that is brought under consideration by the report of the directors issued with the notice convening the meeting.

- 16 (1) Business, other than the election of a chair and the adjournment or termination of the meeting, must not be conducted at a general meeting at a time when a quorum is not present.
- (2) If at any time during a general meeting there ceases to be a quorum present, business then in progress must be suspended until there is a quorum present or until the meeting is adjourned or terminated.
- (3) A quorum is 3 members present or a greater number that the members may determine at a general meeting.
- 17 If within 30 minutes from the time appointed for a general meeting a quorum is not present, the meeting, if convened on the requisition of members, must be terminated, but in any other case, it must stand adjourned to the same day in the next week, at the same time and place, and if, at the adjourned meeting, a quorum is not present within 30 minutes from the time appointed for the meeting, the members present constitute a quorum.
- 18 Subject to bylaw 19, the president of the society, the vice president or, in the absence of both, one of the other directors present, must preside as chair of a general meeting.
- 19 If at a general meeting
- (a) there is no president, vice president or other director present within 15 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, or
- (b) the president and all the other directors present are unwilling to act as the chair,
- the members present must choose one of their number to be the chair.
- 20 (1) A general meeting may be adjourned from time to time and from place to place, but business must not be conducted at an adjourned meeting other than the business left unfinished at the meeting from which the adjournment took place.
- (2) When a meeting is adjourned for 10 days or more, notice of the adjourned meeting must be given as in the case of the original meeting.
- (3) Except as provided in this bylaw, it is not necessary to give notice of an adjournment or of the business to be conducted at an adjourned general meeting.
- 21 (1) A resolution proposed at a meeting need not be seconded, and the chair of a meeting may move or propose a resolution.

(2) In the case of a tie vote, the chair does not have a casting or second vote in addition to the vote to which he or she may be entitled as a member, and the proposed resolution does not pass.

22 (1) A member in good standing present at a meeting of members is entitled to one vote.

(2) Voting is by show of hands.

(3) Voting by proxy is not permitted.

23 A corporate member may vote by its authorized representative, who is entitled to speak and vote, and in all other respects exercise the rights of a member, and that representative must be considered as a member for all purposes with respect to a meeting of the society.

Part 5 — Directors and Officers

24 (1) The directors may exercise all the powers and do all the acts and things that the society may exercise and do, and that are not by these bylaws or by statute or otherwise lawfully directed or required to be exercised or done by the society in a general meeting, but subject, nevertheless, to

(a) all laws affecting the society,

(b) these bylaws, and

(c) rules, not being inconsistent with these bylaws, that are made from time to time by the society in a general meeting.

(2) A rule, made by the society in a general meeting, does not invalidate a prior act of the directors that would have been valid if that rule had not been made.

25 (1) The president, vice president, secretary, treasurer and one or more other persons are the directors of the society.

(2) The number of directors must be 5 or a greater number determined from time to time at a general meeting.

26 (1) The directors must retire from office at each annual general meeting when their successors are elected.

(2) Separate elections must be held for each office to be filled.

(3) An election may be by acclamation, otherwise it must be by ballot.

(4) If a successor is not elected, the person previously elected or appointed continues to hold office.

27 (1) The directors may at any time and from time to time appoint a member as a director to fill a vacancy in the directors.

(2) A director so appointed holds office only until the conclusion of the next annual general meeting of the society, but is eligible for re-election at the meeting.

- 28 (1) If a director resigns his or her office or otherwise ceases to hold office, the remaining directors must appoint a member to take the place of the former director.
- (2) An act or proceeding of the directors is not invalid merely because there are less than the prescribed number of directors in office.
- 29 The members may, by special resolution, remove a director, before the expiration of his or her term of office, and may elect a successor to complete the term of office.
- 30 A director must not be remunerated for being or acting as a director but a director must be reimbursed for all expenses necessarily and reasonably incurred by the director while engaged in the affairs of the society.

Part 6 — Proceedings of Directors

- 31 (1) The directors may meet at the places they think fit to conduct business, adjourn and otherwise regulate their meetings and proceedings, as they see fit.
- (2) The directors may from time to time set the quorum necessary to conduct business, and unless so set the quorum is a majority of the directors then in office.
- (3) The president is the chair of all meetings of the directors, but if at a meeting the president is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the vice president must act as chair, but if neither is present the directors present may choose one of their number to be the chair at that meeting.
- (4) A director may at any time, and the secretary, on the request of a director, must, convene a meeting of the directors.
- 32 (1) The directors may delegate any, but not all, of their powers to committees consisting of the director or directors as they think fit.
- (2) A committee so formed in the exercise of the powers so delegated must conform to any rules imposed on it by the directors, and must report every act or thing done in exercise of those powers to the earliest meeting of the directors held after the act or thing has been done.
- 33 A committee must elect a chair of its meetings, but if no chair is elected, or if at a meeting the chair is not present within 30 minutes after the time appointed for holding the meeting, the directors present who are members of the committee must choose one of their number to be the chair of the meeting.
- 34 The members of a committee may meet and adjourn as they think proper.
- 35 For a first meeting of directors held immediately following the appointment or election of a director or directors at an annual or other general meeting of members, or for a meeting of the directors at which a director is appointed to fill a vacancy in the directors, it is not necessary to give notice of the meeting to the newly elected or appointed director or directors for the meeting to be constituted, if a quorum of the directors is present.

- 36 A director who may be absent temporarily from British Columbia may send or deliver to the address of the society a waiver of notice, which may be by letter, telegram, telex or cable, of any meeting of the directors and may at any time withdraw the waiver, and until the waiver is withdrawn,
- (a) a notice of meeting of directors is not required to be sent to that director, and
 - (b) any and all meetings of the directors of the society, notice of which has not been given to that director, if a quorum of the directors is present, are valid and effective.
- 37 (1) Questions arising at a meeting of the directors and committee of directors must be decided by a majority of votes.
- (2) In the case of a tie vote, the chair does not have a second or casting vote.
- 38 A resolution proposed at a meeting of directors or committee of directors need not be seconded, and the chair of a meeting may move or propose a resolution.
- 39 A resolution in writing, signed by all the directors and placed with the minutes of the directors, is as valid and effective as if regularly passed at a meeting of directors.

Part 7 — Duties of Officers

- 40 (1) The president presides at all meetings of the society and of the directors.
- (2) The president is the chief executive officer of the society and must supervise the other officers in the execution of their duties.
- 41 The vice president must carry out the duties of the president during the president's absence.
- 42 The secretary must do the following:
- (a) conduct the correspondence of the society;
 - (b) issue notices of meetings of the society and directors;
 - (c) keep minutes of all meetings of the society and directors;
 - (d) have custody of all records and documents of the society except those required to be kept by the treasurer;
 - (e) have custody of the common seal of the society;
 - (f) maintain the register of members.
- 43 The treasurer must
- (a) keep the financial records, including books of account, necessary to comply with the Society Act, and

(b) render financial statements to the directors, members and others when required.

44 (1) The offices of secretary and treasurer may be held by one person who is to be known as the secretary treasurer.

(2) If a secretary treasurer holds office, the total number of directors must not be less than 5 or the greater number that may have been determined under bylaw 25 (2).

45 In the absence of the secretary from a meeting, the directors must appoint another person to act as secretary at the meeting.

Part 8 — Seal

46 The directors may provide a common seal for the society and may destroy a seal and substitute a new seal in its place.

47 The common seal must be affixed only when authorized by a resolution of the directors and then only in the presence of the persons specified in the resolution, or if no persons are specified, in the presence of the president and secretary or president and secretary treasurer.

Part 9 — Borrowing

48 In order to carry out the purposes of the society the directors may, on behalf of and in the name of the society, raise or secure the payment or repayment of money in the manner they decide, and, in particular but without limiting that power, by the issue of debentures.

49 A debenture must not be issued without the authorization of a special resolution.

50 The members may, by special resolution, restrict the borrowing powers of the directors, but a restriction imposed expires at the next annual general meeting.

Part 11 — Notices to Members

58 A notice may be given to a member, either personally, by mail to the member at the member's registered address, by e-mail or by telephone.

59 A notice sent by mail is deemed to have been given on the second day following the day on which the notice is posted, and in proving that notice has been given, it is sufficient to prove the notice was properly addressed and put in a Canadian post office receptacle. A notice sent by e-mail is deemed to have been delivered if no e-mail rejection notice is received within two days. A telephone message is considered delivered if a message is left on an answering machine or voice mail messaging system.

60 (1) Notice of a general meeting must be given to

(a) every member shown on the register of members on the day notice is given, and

(b) the auditor, if Part 10 applies.

(2) No other person is entitled to receive a notice of a general meeting.

Part 12 — Bylaws

61 On being admitted to membership, each member is entitled to, and the society must give the member without charge, a copy of the constitution and bylaws of the society.

62 These bylaws must not be altered or added to except by special resolution.