



Annual Report

2022.



RBAS ANNUAL REPORT
From the Community Coordinator

It would not have been possible to deliver the Revelstoke Bear Aware program to so many members of the community without all of your support. Thank you.

We've had some big wins this year.

Becoming a Bear Smart community has been the goal of the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society for a long time and it is no small feat. Over the years we've worked diligently to ensure we are keeping our bears wild and community safe by developing Bear Smart initiatives:

1. **Prepare a bear hazard assessment.**
2. **Prepare a bear/human conflict management plan.**
3. **Revise planning and decision making documents.**
4. **Implement a continuing education program.**

This year, with the approval of a \$3 million project to implement bear resistant bins throughout the community we are on our way to completing the final phase of becoming a bear smart community.

5. **Develop & maintain a bear proof waste management system.**



A \$2.2 million grant was written on behalf of the City of Revelstoke to the Province of BC for this project leaving only \$800,000 as the City contribution. As of the end of 2022, we are still waiting on confirmation from the province on the grant. I would like to personally thank Councillor Rhind, our city liaison, for taking a firm stance in this initiative, as well as Steve Black, the Director of Engineering and Public Works at the City of Revelstoke for all of his hard work in making this happen. This is a huge win and I am grateful.

Garbage continues to be the greatest bear attractant in Revelstoke mostly due to garbage being stored in wildlife accessible areas such as on or under porches and near back doors. Many people do not have secure storage for their garbage and should keep all waste foodstuffs frozen until collection day. However, there is still a significant proportion of people leaving their garbage accessible to bears even though they have garages or sheds that could be used to secure it and even though the City of Revelstoke implemented a Wildlife Attractant and Garbage Bylaw No. 2178.

We've witnessed the positive effects of a bear resistant garbage solution in communities such as Golden who implemented theirs a few years ago and saw no bears killed this year in comparison to our 8.

Revelstoke Bear Aware is looking forward to officially applying for Bear Smart community status in the coming year.

In the last year we have also worked hard to provide education to both residents and visitors of Revelstoke. Providing up to the minute reports on bear sightings online, by going door to door, posting street signs and more. [The Gleaning Project](#) was also a success providing over 3413lbs of free fruit to the community.

It would not have been possible to deliver the Revelstoke Bear Aware program to so many members of the community without the support from volunteers, board members, community partners, funders, city councillors - all who care deeply about making Revelstoke Bear Aware the best that it can be in achieving our mission, to keep bears wild and our community safe.

Thank you.

Maggie Spizzirri
Community Coordinator

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MS', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Our Mission.

Revelstoke Bear Aware Society's mission is to reduce human / bear conflict through education, cooperation and active management initiatives in the community of Revelstoke and surrounding area.

Our Purpose.

Keeping Bears Wild & Our Community Safe

This means we are committed to:

1. Reducing bear mortality in Revelstoke
2. Reducing human/bear conflict
3. Engaging and empowering our community to protect the bears.



Our Values.

1. Purposeful Collaborators

We believe in collaboration that is authentic and results focussed. We hold ourselves and those with whom we collaborate to account when focus drifts. We address the issues with an open and solutions-based mindset. We believe in having fun and celebrate the wins -both big and small - with our partners and community.

2. Driven by Integrity

Our credibility is based in our integrity. We honour our responsibility to keep bears safe. We will act in a reliable and consistent matter to support this purpose.

3. Proud of Our Work

Bear Aware has made a substantial difference to the Revelstoke Community for the past 25 years. We are proud of the progress that has been made. It fuels our passion and energy to continue the work and help empower our community to "be the bear".



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

\$2.2 million

grant was applied for by the City of Revelstoke to implement bear resistant garbage and compost containers for all single family homes, bear resistant dumpsters for multi family and new trucks to pick up the containers.



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

189

**Bears
reported.**

356

**Volunteers
registered.**

8

**Bears
killed.**

3413

**lbs of fruit gleaned and
provided to volunteers,
the food bank and
local farmers.**

12

**Presentations
to schools
and the
public.**

2

**Conservation Officer job
openings are now available to be
applied for the 2023 season in
the Columbia Shuswap region.**

Conservation.

In 2022 there were 189 reports regarding bears made to the RAPP line and to Revelstoke Bear Aware. Eight black bears were killed throughout the season and was directly related to garbage.

Bears coming into town found garbage and fruit, and some lost their sense of caution around humans:

9 reports of bears breaking into vehicles.
19 reports of aggression towards humans.

Reports to RAPP line and RBAS:

Bears killed: 8
Percentage of bears killed due to garbage: 100%



189

Bears reported.

8

Bears killed.

100

**Percentage of
bears killed due
to garbage.**

Conservation continued.

There were instances of property damage, bears breaking down sheds, getting into garages and numerous reports of bears that appeared habituated to humans and were unconcerned in the presence of, for example, honking horns.

All instances of bears becoming aggressive or damaging property appeared to be associated with bears having accessed garbage and fruit on a regular basis. Over the last five years we have witnessed an increase in aggressive behaviour due to this access of garbage.

Revelstoke Bear Aware encourages the reporting of bears to the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) Line and / or to Revelstoke Bear Aware so that each situation can be monitored and the best solution provided for that bear or cub.

In the fall of 2022 the Conservation Officer Service has posted for two conservation officers to be station in Salmon Arm. We are hopeful that these positions will be filled by the Spring of 2023. These officers would be Revelstoke's contact for wildlife conservation.



Education.

In 2022, the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society undertook a project to better communicate bear awareness to the community which resulted in updated materials, the launch of a new camping program, the soon to be released Jr. Ranger program and updated website which better showcases available resources.

Bear In Area Signs

Door-to-Door and Garbage Tagging

Online Materials

Printed Materials

Local Events and Youth Program



EDUCATION .

Bear In Area Signs.

Bear in Area lawn signs were again deployed to areas where bear activity was reported. Signs were deployed at 34 locations during the season for an average of 5 days each. New bear in area signs were purchased this year.

Sign placement is decided by reports from the residents of Revelstoke to:

1. Let people know where bears are active.
2. Remind people to secure bear attractants in the immediate area of bear foraging.



EDUCATION .

Door-to-Door and Garbage Tagging.

Two major door-to-door campaigns were launched in the spring and fall along with a group of volunteers. Volunteers would go out two weeks in a row and put informational stickers on garbage cans put out the night before.



This program saw positive results with less garbage being put out the night before as we came into the fall and most active bear season.

Smaller strategic campaigns were conducted throughout the year as needed based on bear travelling patterns and high bear activity areas.

EDUCATION .

Online Materials.

Our online resources have been updated to encourage a better online user experience and ease of access to education materials and important community information. Through our partnership with WildSafeBC we will be able to promote and utilize their Bear Awareness educational lessons.

We also provide up to the minute reports of bear sightings through our social media channels and the [WARP map](#) on our website.



Revelstoke Bear Aware
Keeping bears wild and our community safe.

RESOURCES
Discover, learn and play.

Here you'll find everything you need to discover, learn, and play your way to being bear aware with our collection of resources, links and activities.

[Let's go](#)

BE BEAR AWARE
Living in bear country
Discover how to keep our community safe and Revelstoke's bears wild.
[Learn More](#)

TAKE ACTION
Get involved
Make a difference locally when you volunteer, donate or become a member.
[Learn More](#)

SIGHTINGS
Reporting a bear
Find out who to inform and what information to share when you spot a bear.
[Learn More](#)

25 Bear Sightings
Number of reported sightings to Revelstoke Bear Aware in 2022.
[Report a bear](#)

GET THE NEWSLETTER
Clawesome News
Signup for the Bear Aware Newsletter and stay upto date with what's going on in Revelstoke.
 [→](#)

Event title goes in here.
Learn how to do the thing that the event is about, like composting or something cool.
[Learn More](#)

Next Live Event
May 23rd, 2022.

Get involved.

EDUCATION .

Printed Materials.

Revelstoke Bear Aware was able to deliver its message through a variety of initiatives including letters and pamphlets at the information centre and roaming van, on notice boards, at B&Bs, new citizen's groups, and local businesses.

RBAS was also able to launch a new camping program to provide educational resources to campgrounds and campers who may not have camped in a location where wildlife frequents.



REVELSTOKE BEAR AWARE
revelstokebearaware.org
@revelstokebearaware

Be bear aware camping near Revelstoke.

Keep our campsites safe & our bears wild.

- Take your garbage to the campsite's bear resistant bins.
- Secure all food in bear resistant storage or in a locked vehicle.
- Secure toiletries & other scented products in bear resistant storage or a locked vehicle.
- Keep your distance if you spot a bear & respect their space.

For more information on being bear aware or to report a sighting, call Revelstoke Bear Aware at:
250-837-8624

To report a conflict with a bear, call the Conservation Officer Service at:
1-877-952-7277

Thank You To Our Sponsors:
Columbia Basin trust
BRITISH COLUMBIA

Food odour attracts bears to campsites

100m

A ZERO WASTE PROJECT.

The Gleaning Project.

The Gleaning Project gathers surplus fruits from the community, helping to reduce bear attractants. Residents with excess fruit can contact Revelstoke Bear Aware to arrange volunteers to harvest the fruit. The volunteers receive some of the fruit and much of the remaining fruit is donated to Community Connections Food Bank and Food Recovery Program. Partnered with the Community Connections Neighbourhood Kitchen the food donated can now be preserved for the Food Bank as well. The project also invites all residents to donate their extra harvested fruit, berries and vegetables directly to the Food Bank. Any rotten fruit collected from the ground is donated to local farmers for pig food. Making this a zero waste project.

THE GLEANING PROJECT.

REVELSTOKE BEAR AWARE

While you were out...

A Bear Aware representative came by to chat with you about our free Gleaning Program.

Feed Our Community.
Fruit goes to the Food Bank and volunteers.

Reduce Food Waste.
Fresh local food for local people. Less waste.

Protect Our Bears.
Less fruit to attract bears looking for food in town.

Free local service.
Register your tree for free gleaning.

250-837-8624
gleaning@revelstokebearaware.org
Revelstokebearaware.org
Revelstokefruitshare.org

REVELSTOKE BEAR AWARE

We know that tree fruits, nuts, and berries are a major attractant for bears in Revelstoke. Help us keep the bears wild and our community safe, while at the same time sharing your bounty.

Contact us if you need help picking fruit by email or message at g@revelstokebearaware.org

book.com/groups/fruitshare. We organize to glean and donate the volunteers, local food rotten fruit even farmers for mail us today!

REVELSTOKE BEAR AWARE

Fruit Gleaning Project.

Revelstoke

#NoApple LeftBehind

Join Revelstoke Bear Aware's community food share initiative. Volunteer or register your tree to be gleaned.

Free local service.
Register your tree for free gleaning.

Reduce Food Waste.
Fresh local food for local people. Less waste.

Feed Our Community.
Fruit goes to the Food Bank and volunteers.

Protect Our Bears.
Less fruit to attract bears looking for food in town.

Volunteer & Register Your Tree For Harvest:
Revelstokebearaware.org
Revelstokefruitshare.org

Thank You To Our Sponsors:
Columbia Basin trust
BRITISH COLUMBIA
REVELSTOKE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

46

Fruit and nut trees
were gleaned

1410

lbs of fruits went
to the food bank

793

lbs of fruit was shared
with volunteers

3413

lbs of fruit
harvested over
the season

28

volunteers worked
on the gleaning
project

41

hours of
work were
volunteered

1210

lbs of fruit went
to local farmers
for their livestock

Community Planning.

This year the community received a large win, the City of Revelstoke approved \$3 million to implement bear resistant garbage and compost containers for all single family homes, bear resistant dumpsters for multi family and new trucks to pick up the containers. A \$2.2 million grant was written on behalf fo the City of Revelstoke to the Province of BC for this project leaving only \$800,000 as the City contribution. As of the end of 2022, we are still waiting on confirmation from the province on the grant.



The CSRD also built their composting station with compost now being accepted at the landfill. At this time we are working on a bear resistant method for compost to be picked up from businesses.

Revelstoke Bear Aware would like to thank Councillor Rhind our city liaison for taking a firm stance in this initiative as well as Steve Black, the Director of Engineering and Public Works at the City of Revelstoke for all of his hard work in making this happen. This is huge win in taking this final step to become a Bear Smart community and in keeping bears wild and our community safe.

Revelstoke Bear Aware is looking forward to applying for Bear Smart community status in the coming year.



OUR FUNDERS

Columbia Basin **trust**

**John Polovick and the
Jeff and Jackie Polovick
Family Foundation**



**TD Friends of the
Environment
Foundation**

ZUZANA RIHA



Friends of Revelstoke Bear Aware.

Revelstoke Bear Aware agency
advisors: **Councillor Rhind** (City of
Revelstoke), **Karlee Hall** (Conservation
Officer Service), and **Tawnya Hewitt**
(Parks Canada)

Parks Canada for providing advice and
expertise and also assistance with
printing some of our materials

Bounce Radio, Stoke FM, the
Revelstoke Review, and Revelstoke
Mountaineer for their continued
support and promotion of the program

The Revelstoke Local Foods Initiative
for their continued in-kind support

Sheena Wells and Melissa Hemphill of
Community Connections for their
continued support of the Gleaning
Project through the Food Bank and
Food Security program

Local volunteers, for fruit picking,
bookkeeping, expert advice, and
IT help



Friends of Revelstoke Bear Aware.

School District 19 and the preschools of Revelstoke for inviting our program into their classrooms

Steve Black, Cindy Floyd, and City staff for their support, help and input

The Revelstoke Chamber of Commerce and the Visitor Information Centre staff



Columbia Shuswap Regional District, in particular David Brooks-Hill, Director of Area B, and Graham Casselman, from the Waste Reduction Operations Management

WildSafeBC, an independent bear awareness group with coordinators throughout BC for their ideas, support, and hard work throughout the season

Previous Revelstoke Bear Aware Coordinators in Revelstoke: Karen Bennett, Debby Robinson, Francis Maltby, Paula Couturier, Todd Arthurs, Steve Kent, Abby Pond, Penny-Page Brittin, Janette Vickers and Sue Davies

Concerned citizens of Revelstoke for their input, ideas, calls and emails of support and reports of bear activity.

Our Board.

Steve Kent, President

Glenn Westrup, Vice President

Liane Dorrius, Treasurer

Beverley Harding, Secretary

Lisa Longinotto, Director

Jen Crockford, Director

Stan Chorney, Director

Community Coordinator: Maggie Spizzirri

Gleaning Coordinator: Goldie Rich



RBAS ANNUAL REPORT
From the Community Coordinator

**Thank you for your
continued support.**

**Revelstoke Bear Aware
commits to keeping bears
wild and our community safe.**

Join Us and Make a Real Difference.

We are uniquely positioned in the system to observe the many factors that impact human/bear conflict in Revelstoke. Our broad line of sight gives us a deep understanding of the cause and effect of human behaviours, environmental factors and external trends that impact bear mortality in Revelstoke.

This insight allows us to inspire and influence the municipality, commercial businesses and the community to act upon our shared responsibility to keep bears wild and our community safe.



**Become a
Member or
Volunteer.**

Get in Touch.

PO Box 674, Revelstoke, BC, V0E2S0

250-837-8624

info@revelstokebearaware.org

revelstokebearaware.org

Follow us.

facebook.com/revelstokebearaware.org

IG: [@revelstokebearaware](https://www.instagram.com/revelstokebearaware)





**Thank
You.**

