



# Annual Report

2023



RBAS ANNUAL REPORT  
From the Community Coordinator

**Delivering bear awareness education across Revelstoke wouldn't have been possible without the collaborative spirit of this community. Your contributions, big and small, are what make this program a success.  
Thank you.**

# We've had some big wins this year.

This year, the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society (RBAS) made significant strides towards our long-held goal of becoming a Bear Smart community. These efforts ensure the safety of both residents and our wild bear population.

Key Achievements:

## **Securing Bear Resistant Bins:**

With the approval of a \$3 million project and recognition in the 2024 draft budget, Revelstoke is on track to implement bear-resistant bins throughout the community, a critical step towards Bear Smart certification.

## **Addressing Garbage Management:**

Addressing Garbage Management: Garbage remains a major attractant. The RBAS continues to educate residents on proper storage and encourages the use of garages and sheds for secure waste disposal. We commend the City of Revelstoke's Wildlife

Attractant and Garbage Bylaw No. 2178 and highlight the success of similar programs in neighboring communities.

## **Education and Outreach:**

The RBAS provided up-to-date bear sighting information online, door-to-door, and via street signs. This year's successful Gleaning Project diverted over 1920lbs of fruit from becoming bear attractants while offering it for free to the community.

## **Community Collaboration:**

The success of the RBAS programs is a direct result of the dedication of our volunteers, board members, community partners, funders, and city councillors. We thank everyone who shares our mission: keeping bears wild and our community safe.

## **Looking Forward:**

Revelstoke Bear Aware is excited to start the application process for becoming a Bear Smart community in the coming year.

Thank you.

**Maggie Spizzirri**  
Community Coordinator



# 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

**177**  
**Bears**  
**reported.**

**356**  
**Volunteers**  
**registered.**

**0**  
**Bears**  
**killed.**

**1920**  
lbs of fruit gleaned and  
provided to volunteers,  
the food bank and  
local farmers.

**12**  
Presentations  
to schools  
and the  
public.

**1**  
Conservation Officer job opening  
is now available to be applied for  
the 2023 season in the Columbia  
Shuswap region and 1 position is  
already filled.

# Conservation.

In 2023 there were 177 reports regarding bears made to the RAPP line and to Revelstoke Bear Aware. No black bears were killed this season.

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

7 reports of bears breaking into vehicles.  
14 reports of aggression towards humans.

**Reports to RAPP line and RBAS:**

Bears killed: 0 (1 killed outside City limits)  
Percentage of bears killed due to garbage: 100%

# 177

**Bears reported.**

# 0

**Bears killed.**



# 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.

The Conservation Officer Service had two conservation officers stationed in Salmon Arm. We are hopeful that these positions will continue to be filled for the future. These officers would be Revelstoke's contact for wildlife conservation.



# Education.

In 2023, the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society undertook a project to better communicate bear awareness to the community which resulted in updated messaging, the launch of our new website, the soon to be released Cub Crew program and updated Fruit Share website in partnership with the Revelstoke Local Food Initiative.

**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 33 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.

Four major door-to-door campaigns were launched throughout the season as well as numerous minor targeted campaigns based on high bear activity throughout the community.

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



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.

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. This coming season we're securing grant funding to add additional resources for school and summer groups readily available information to run their own education programs.



**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.  
 [→](#)

**NEXT LIVE EVENT**  
**May 23rd, 2022.**

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

**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  
REVELSTOKE COMMUNITY FOUNDATION  
BRITISH COLUMBIA

**Food odour attracts bears to campsites**

**100m**

EDUCATION .

# Local Events and Youth Program.

Revelstoke Bear Aware was able to attend 6 Farmer's Markets, host the Bear Aware Awareness Day educational event, and provide in-class presentations during the school year.

This year we also brought back the Revelstoke Burger Challenge.

Photos featured: Bear Aware Affair.

Art by local artist, Zuzanna Rhia.



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.

A postcard with a large orange apple graphic. The text is arranged in a circular pattern around the apple.

**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](mailto:gleaning@revelstokebearaware.org)  
[Revelstokebearaware.org](http://Revelstokebearaware.org)  
[Revelstokefruitshare.org](http://Revelstokefruitshare.org)

A postcard with a graphic of two cherries. The text is arranged in a circular pattern around the cherries.

**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](mailto:g@revelstokebearaware.org)

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

A postcard with a large orange apple graphic. The text is arranged in a circular pattern around the apple.

**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](http://Revelstokebearaware.org)  
[Revelstokefruitshare.org](http://Revelstokefruitshare.org)

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



## THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

**19**

Fruit and nut trees  
were gleaned

**560**

lbs of fruits went  
to the food bank

**668**

lbs of fruit was shared  
with volunteers

**1920**

lbs of fruit  
harvested over  
the season

**47**

volunteers worked  
on the gleaning  
project

**68**

hours of  
work were  
volunteered

**342**

lbs of fruit went  
to local farmers  
for their livestock



# Community Planning.

In a follow-up to the approved bear resistant garbage project, the City of Revelstoke is looking for additional funding to complete the funding requirements of implementing the bear-resistant compost and garbage collection for the community. The project is of priority on the final funding is put into place.

The CSRSD's compost station is now active and compost is being accepted at the landfill. Businesses are also able to sign up for bear-resistant compost collection.

Revelstoke Bear Aware would like to thank 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



# Friends of Revelstoke Bear Aware.

Revelstoke Bear Aware agency  
advisors: **Councillor Devlin** (City of  
Revelstoke), **Terry Myroniuk and Eric  
Tyukodi** (Conservation Officer Service),  
and **Jennifer Greenwood and Michel  
Beauchemin** (Parks Canada)

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**

**Liane Dorrius, Vice President**

**Stan Chorney, Treasurer**

**Beverley Harding, Secretary**

**Lisa Longinotto, Director**

**Jen Crockford, Director**

**Community Coordinator: Maggie Spizzirri**

**Gleaning Coordinator: Goldie Rich**

**Events Coordinator: Ashton Pollard**



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](mailto:info@revelstokebearaware.org)

[revelstokebearaware.org](http://revelstokebearaware.org)

**Follow us.**

[facebook.com/revelstokebearaware.org](https://facebook.com/revelstokebearaware.org)

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







**Thank  
You.**

