



Annual Report

2024.



RBAS ANNUAL REPORT
From the Executive Director

The success of bear awareness education throughout Revelstoke is a true testament to the collaborative spirit of this remarkable community. Each and every contribution, no matter the size, has helped bring this program to life. With heartfelt gratitude, thank you.



Having purpose inspires and unites us.

Purpose gives us energy. Being clear about our ambition helps turn that energy into positive results for the bears and the community. In 2024, we continued to implement the current Strategic Plan while focusing on providing education in a variety of ways. The Gleaning Project, for example, educated fruit tree owners about fruit as a bear attractant and provided over 1,100 lbs of fruit to the community. Additionally, we were able to engage with residents through events such as Bear Awareness Day and the Farmers Markets, reaching a large audience with valuable education.

There were instances of property damage and numerous reports of bears exhibiting habituated behaviors like showing little fear of humans or their honking horns. Most of these incidents of aggressive interactions and property damage, were linked to bears having easy access to garbage, compost, or fruit.

In 2024, the City of Revelstoke ordered new garbage trucks to handle residential compost material marking a significant step forward in our goal to implement bear-resistant garbage and compost bins in Revelstoke. As this initiative takes shape, we will continue collaborating with the City to ensure the proper use of these bins and provide ongoing education.

2024's major focus was continuing to provide education to the residents and visitors of Revelstoke. Revelstoke Bear Aware's education program continues to evolve as we work to become a Bear Smart Community.

Thank you.

Kait Nicol
Executive Director



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 Collaborations

We believe in authentic and results focussed collaborations. We hold ourselves and our collaborators accountable when focus drifts. We approach issues with an open and solutions-based mindset. We believe in having fun and celebrating all wins, big and small, with our partners and community.

2. 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. Pride in 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 become a Bear Smart Community.





THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

182

**Bear sightings
or encounters
reported.**

343

**Volunteers
registered.**

3

**Bears
killed.**

1118

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

8

**Presentations
to schools
and the
public.**

12

**Farmer's
Markets
Attended**



Conservation.

In 2024, there were 182 reports regarding bears made to the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) hotline or to Revelstoke Bear Aware.

3 black bears were killed as a result of habituation to garbage.
9 reports of damage to property.
5 reports of aggression towards humans.
4 reports of livestock/pets killed or injured.
1 report of a Grizzly Bear in a residential area.

Revelstoke Bear Aware encourages reporting of all bear sightings or encounters to the RAPP hotline and / or to Revelstoke Bear Aware so that measures can be taken to reduce bear attractants in the areas and those bears can be monitored.
Reporting a bear can save that bear.



182

Bears sightings or encounters reported.

3

Bears killed.

100

Percentage of bears killed because of habituation to humans.

Education.

Bear Aware is committed to providing valuable and relevant information to the community through:

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 35 locations during the season for an average of 5 days each.

Sign placement is based on 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.

In 2024, Revelstoke Bear Aware focused door-to-door and garbage tagging on small localized problem areas around the city.



Volunteers, working with the Education Coordinator, placed informational stickers on garbage cans left out the night before garbage pickup days. There were eight garbage tagging initiatives during the 2024 bear season.

The program showed positive results with a noticeable decrease in the amount of garbage left out as the fall season approached, when bear activity typically increases.

EDUCATION.

Online Materials.

Our website is continually updated to provide timely and relevant information. You'll find details on upcoming RBAS events, a variety of educational resources, and a wealth of Revelstoke-specific content—all designed to support and inspire ongoing bear-smart engagement within our community.



We also provide up to the minute reports of bear sightings or encounters through our social media channels.



EDUCATION.

Printed Materials.

Revelstoke Bear Aware delivered its message through a variety of initiatives in 2024, including letters and pamphlets at the Revelstoke Visitor Information Centre, notice boards, at B&Bs, local businesses, and distributed directly to households.

A major highlight of 2024, was the completion of a RBAS-specific illustrated activity book for the Cub Crew program.



EDUCATION.

Local Events and Youth Program.

Revelstoke Bear Aware personnel attended 12 Farmer's Markets and provided 8 in-class and summer camp presentations in 2024.

Bear Awareness Day was held in September 2024. It was fun and educational for residents and visitors alike.

We continued to run the Burger Challenge, too.



A ZERO WASTE PROJECT.

The Gleaning Project.

Through the Gleaning Project, surplus fruit and nuts are removed from the community to help reduce bear attractants. Residents with excess fruit or nuts on their trees are encouraged to contact Revelstoke Bear Aware to arrange for volunteers to harvest it. Volunteers may keep a portion of the fruit, and the rest is donated to the Community Connections Food Bank and the Food Recovery Program. Any rotten fruit collected from the ground is given to local farmers for pig feed, making this a zero-waste initiative.





THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

16

Fruit and nut trees
harvested

225

lbs of fruits went
to the food bank

668

lbs of fruit was shared
with volunteers

1118

lbs of fruit
harvested over
the season

41

volunteers
worked on the
gleaning project

53

hours of work
were
volunteered



Community Planning.

In 2024, there continued to be a focus on community planning. Revelstoke remains committed to becoming a Bear Smart Community. Part of that goal requires implementation of a bear-resistant garbage solutions.

Revelstoke Bear Aware would like to thank Steve Black, the Director of Engineering and Public Works at the City of Revelstoke for his hard work in advancing this important initiative.

In 2024, the City of Revelstoke ordered new garbage trucks, that will accommodate residential bear-resistant compost and garbage bins. This is a significant step towards preventing human-bear conflicts. Revelstoke Bear Aware is optimistic that this program will roll out in the fall of 2026.

Communities with bear-resistant waste programs have seen remarkable reductions in human-bear conflicts. The Revelstoke Bear Aware Society is excited to see similar success here. We look forward to working closely with the City of Revelstoke to provide education on the new system as the program rolls out.





OUR
FUNDERS



COMMUNITY
PROSPERITY
FUND



REVELSTOKE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
all for community.



TD Friends of the
Environment Foundation



CITY OF
REVELSTOKE

**TOURISM
REVELSTOKE.**

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 Tawnya Hewitt** (Parks Canada)

StokeFM, the Revelstoke Review, and
Revelstoke Mountaineer for their
continued support and promotion of
the program.

The Revelstoke Local Food Initiative
for their continued in-kind support.

Community Connections for their
continued support of the Gleaning
Program through the Food Bank and
Food Security Program.

Local volunteers, for fruit picking, and
expert advice.



Friends of Revelstoke Bear Aware.

School District 19, the preschools, and summer camps of Revelstoke for inviting our program into their classrooms and programs

Steve Black and City of Revelstoke 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 Ben Van Nostrand from the Environmental and Utility Services.

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: Maggie Spizzirri, Sue Davies, Janette Vickers, Penny-Page Brittin, Abby Pond, Steve Kent, Todd Arthurs, Paula Couturier, Francis Maltby, Debby Robinson, Karen Bennett

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



Our Board.

Steve Kent, President

Beverly Harding, Vice President

Stan Chorney, Treasurer

Evelyn Valge, Secretary

Lee Wisener, Director

Tess Hulburd, Director

Jen Crockford, Director

Community Coordinator: Maggie Spizzirri

Executive Director: Kait Nicol

Education Coordinator: Kendall Stephan

Gleaning Coordinator: Goldie Rich

Events Coordinator: Melissa Dawn





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From the Executive Director

**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.

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





**Thank
You.**

