

Annual Report

2025







RBAS ANNUAL REPORT
From the Executive Director

Reducing human–bear conflict begins with proactive outreach and education. At Revelstoke Bear Aware, we know that informed residents are key to promoting safe, long-term coexistence, and we are proud of the important work we do to support that goal.

The success of this work is a testament to the collaborative spirit of our community. We are deeply grateful for the continued financial and other support that makes this program possible.



Inspired by Community. United by Purpose.

This year has been one of growth, renewed energy, and expanded reach for the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society. I continue to be inspired by the deep care this community shows for wildlife and for one another. That shared commitment allows us not only to sustain our work but to strengthen and evolve it.

In 2025, we launched a new retail program, creating a sustainable revenue stream that also serves as an extension of our education efforts. Thoughtfully designed merchandise gives supporters a visible way to champion coexistence while directly investing in local programming.

Our fundraising events were highly successful and played an important role in diversifying our revenues. Strengthening financial resilience ensures we can remain responsive, strategic, and proactive in our work.

Community engagement remained central to everything we do. Bear Awareness Day welcomed over 1,000 attendees, demonstrating a strong and growing interest in practical tools for safe coexistence. We were also proud to bring Kokanee Fish Fest back to Revelstoke, reconnecting students and families with the vital relationship between salmon, bears, and healthy ecosystems. Through this initiative, we provided education to local Grade 2 students, helping build a bear-smart understanding at an early age.

Partnership remains one of our greatest strengths. By collaborating with like-minded organizations, we amplify our messaging, share expertise, and ensure our approach to coexistence is comprehensive and community-wide.

These milestones reflect an organization that is growing in capacity, stability, and impact. I am deeply proud of what we have accomplished together and grateful for the support that makes this work possible.

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 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

202

**Bears calls in
Revelstoke**

2

**Grizzly bear
reports**

5

**Bears
killed**

2093

lbs of fruit gleaned

18

**Presentations to youth
and the public**

4

**Farmer's
Markets
Attended**





annual comparison

	2023	2024	YOY Change	2025	YOY Change
Bear Calls	177	182	3%	202	11%
Grizzly Bear Reports	0	1	1	2	100%
Bears Killed	0	3	3	5	67%
Lbs Fruit Gleaned	1920	1118	-42%	2093	87%
Presentations	12	8	-33%	18	125%
Markets	6	12	100%	4	-67%

Conservation.

In 2025 there were 202 reports regarding bears made to the RAPP line and to Revelstoke Bear Aware. Five black bears were killed throughout the season and 4 were directly related to garbage. 1 was killed in February due to injuries.

23 reports involved food-conditioned bears accessing attractants, primarily unprotected garbage and freezers.

- 2 of these also involved property damage (bears breaking into freezers).

2 reports involved livestock or pets:

- 1 incident involving chickens killed.
- 1 incident where a bear swiped at a dog (no injury).

One yearling black bear was safely captured and short-distance relocated after becoming trapped in a secured recycling and garbage enclosure on Highway 23 North; a structural gap that allowed entry has since been sealed and a protection order was issued.

Revelstoke Bear Aware encourages residents to report bear activity to the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) Line and/or to Revelstoke Bear Aware so situations can be monitored and addressed early. RBAS continues working to dispel the myth that “a reported bear is a dead bear,” emphasizing instead that reporting is a preventative tool that supports proactive management and better outcomes for bears and the community.

202

Bears reported.

5

Bears killed.

80

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

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 Programs



Bear Awareness Day

In May 2025, RBAS hosted an extremely successful Bear Awareness Day in conjunction with the LFI Farmer's Market

- 1000+ visitors
- kids' activities
- bear spray demos
- "Are you bear smart?" quiz
- scavenger hunt
- Conservation Officer, Parks Canada, other community partners present
- funded by Tourism Revelstoke-thank you!
- **FUN!!!!!!**



Kokanee Fish Fest

In September 2025, RBAS co-Hosted Kokanee Fish Fest, educating all of Revelstoke's Grade 2s

- Engaged over 100 students from four local schools
- Collaborated with Wildsight and Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (CSISS)
- Delivered seven interactive educational stations
- Provided a full-class presentation focused on bear ecology and strategies for safe human–bear coexistence



EDUCATION.

Bear In Area Signs.

Bear in Area lawn signs were again deployed to areas where bear activity was reported. Signs were deployed at 18 locations during the season for an average of 5 days each.

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.

This initiative did not take place in 2025, but we plan to re-engage in 2026, particularly in spring and fall, just ahead of Revelstoke's peak bear seasons, and hope to involve local volunteers to bring the program directly into their neighbourhoods.



EDUCATION.

Online Materials.

Our website is continually updated with timely, relevant information. It features 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 partnered with Tourism Revelstoke to create a fun and engaging video demonstrating how to use bear spray safely.



Finally, we provided up-to-the-minute reports of bear sightings through our social media channels.

EDUCATION.

Printed Materials.

In 2025, Revelstoke Bear Aware delivered its message through a variety of initiatives. Letters and pamphlets were distributed at the Information Centre, on notice boards, in B&Bs and local businesses, and directly to households.

Other key outreach efforts included the ferry racking system, the Visitor Centre, and their roaming van, each featuring a wide variety of print materials, including magnets and information for both residents and visitors, covering residential and backcountry bear-smart practices.



EDUCATION.

Local Events and Youth Program.

In 2025, Revelstoke Bear Aware attended four Farmers' Markets and delivered 15 in-class and summer camp presentations throughout the school year.

We also presented at the Revelstoke Museum and Archives, sharing applied findings from a conference attended by our Executive Director in October 2025. This presentation highlighted how the insights relate to our work in Revelstoke, celebrating successes while identifying opportunities for improvement. Additionally, the Museum hosted a Brown Bag History presentation, delivered by Cathy English, exploring the history of bears in Revelstoke and the evolution of Bear Aware in our community.



EDUCATION.

Fundraising Events

In 2025, to diversify revenue and showcase community events, Revelstoke Bear Aware hosted:

- Burger Challenge
- Paint n Sip (2 events)
- Den Fundraiser

These events helped support our ongoing education and outreach programs.



BRAND AWARENESS

Retail Program

- Launched branded socks and hats and provided branded apparel for the Board of Directors and staff
- Promotes brand recognition while supporting efforts to diversify revenue streams
- Products are currently sold in two local stores and at markets and community events
- Positive feedback received; planning to expand the program in 2026



A ZERO WASTE PROJECT.

The Gleaning Project.

The Gleaning Project is a low-cost, highly effective program that Revelstoke Bear Aware is extremely proud of. It collects surplus fruit from the community to reduce bear attractants while supporting local food security.

Residents with excess fruit can contact RBAS to arrange volunteer harvesting. Volunteers keep a portion of the fruit, and the remainder is donated to the Community Connections Food Bank and the Food Recovery Program.

Residents are also encouraged to donate extra harvested fruit, berries, and vegetables directly to the Food Bank. Any fruit that is not suitable for consumption is composted at the City's facility, making this a zero-waste initiative. Through this program, we help prevent human–bear conflict while also feeding our community.



THE YEAR IN NUMBERS

18

Fruit and nut trees
were harvested

530

lbs of fruits went
to the food bank

510

lbs of fruit was shared
with volunteers

2093

lbs of fruit
harvested over
the season

20

volunteers
worked on the
gleaning project

30

hours of work
were volunteered



YOY Comparison

	2023	2024	YOY Change	2025	YOY Change
# Trees	19	16	-16%	18	13%
lbs to food bank	560	225	-60%	530	136%
lbs to volunteer	668	668	0	510	-24%
total lbs gleaned	1920	1118	-42%	2093	87%
volunteers	47	41	-13%	20	-51%
# volunteer hrs	68	53	-22%	30	-43%

Community Planning.

In 2025, community planning remained a key focus for Revelstoke Bear Aware.

The community continues to work toward becoming a Bear Smart Community, with progress made toward implementing a bear-resistant garbage solution. An update in early 2025 outlined the plan, with the timeline now anticipated for fall 2026 or spring 2027.

Our Executive Director has conducted extensive research and met regularly with subject matter experts to stay informed and prepared to advise the City, develop education programs, support bylaw changes, and provide recommendations.

RBAS has begun building partnerships to ensure our voice remains part of the process. Challenges have arisen at the provincial level due to the discontinuation of the Bear Smart Program.

Nevertheless, Revelstoke Bear Aware remains committed to advancing the same steps toward human-bear coexistence, regardless of official designation, and will continue to encourage the City of Revelstoke to do the same. RBAS is also dedicated to staying informed and advocating for the reinstatement of the Bear Smart Program.

This work reflects our ongoing dedication, persistence, and commitment to keeping both our community and wildlife safe, even in the face of systemic challenges.

Looking Forward...

- Adopting a new strategic plan
- Engaging with bear-resistant bin implementation
- Expanding community education programs
- Growing the gleaning project
- And more!

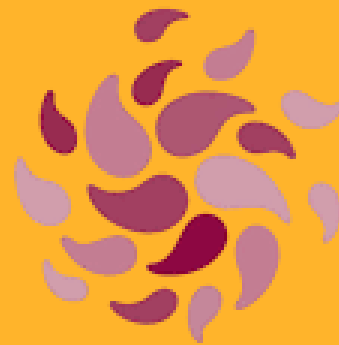




OUR FUNDERS



COMMUNITY
PROSPERITY
FUND



REVELSTOKE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION
all for community.



Yellowstone to Yukon
Conservation Initiative



FWCP
Fish & Wildlife
COMPENSATION PROGRAM



CITY OF
REVELSTOKE

**TOURISM
REVELSTOKE.**

Friends of Revelstoke Bear Aware.

Revelstoke Bear Aware agency advisors: Councillor Devlin (City of Revelstoke), Terry Myroniuk, Spencer Kunzli, Eric Tyukodi (Conservation Officer Service), and Jennifer Greenwood, Michel Beauchemin, and Cynthia Werier (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.

Beverley Harding, President

Maggie Spizzirri, Acting President

Tess Hulburd, Vice President

Stan Chorney, Treasurer

Evelyn Valge, Secretary

Lee Wisener, Director

Annie Pumphrey, Director

Executive Director: Kait Nicol

Gleaning Coordinator: Emma Beck





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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.

PO Box 674, Revelstoke, BC,
V0E2S0

250-837-8624

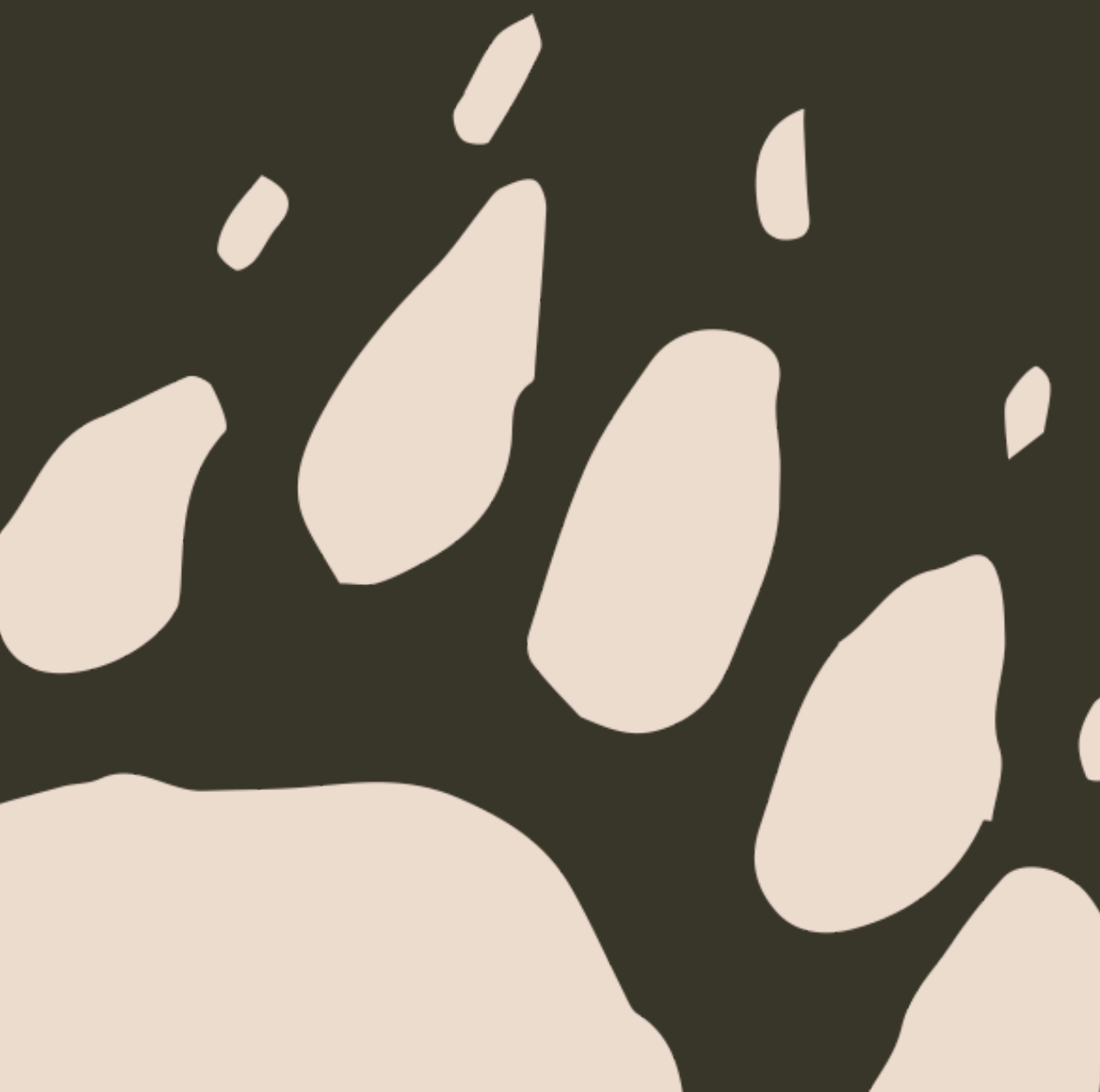
info@revelstokebearaware.org

revelstokebearaware.org

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**Thank
You.**