



Annual Report for 2018

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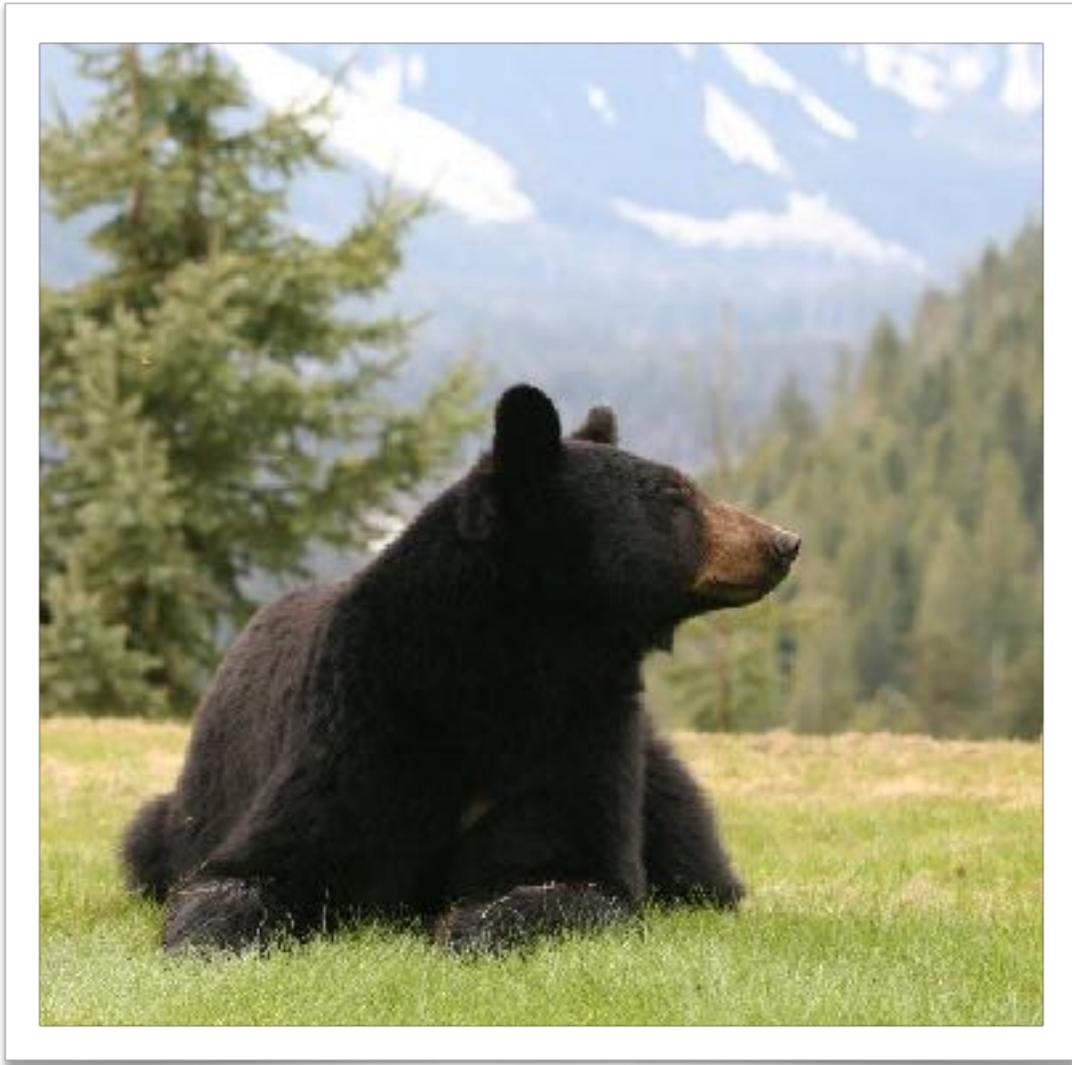


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1. Summary

2018 was a progressive year for Revelstoke Bear Aware. There were 181 reports concerning black bears made to Revelstoke Bear Aware and the conservation officer service. The Conservation Officer Service destroyed 5 black bears in 2018 as compared to 4 in 2017. There were 4 incidents where bears broke into houses and destroyed property. The first reported bear sighting in 2018 was on May 11 and the last reported bear sighting was on December 20.

Garbage continues to be the number one attractant for bears in Revelstoke with 66% of bear sightings being associated with garbage as an attractant. All of the destroyed bears were killed as a result of becoming conditioned to eating garbage. This year Revelstoke Bear Aware implemented a cost share program to remove barriers for residents looking to purchase a bear resistant bin. Bear resistant storage bins were offered at Revelstoke Home Hardware with a \$300 discount funded by Revelstoke Bear Aware.

Unmanaged fruit trees were another common attractant for bears in Revelstoke. Our Gleaning Project was very active this year. In 2018 people were encouraged to pick their own trees and donate their fruit to the project. Revelstoke Bear Aware harvested 2300 lbs of fruit, of which 565 lbs were donated to the Food Bank as either fresh or preserved fruit. This year Revelstoke Bear Aware implemented a Fruit Share Facebook group, <https://www.facebook.com/groups/revelstokefruitshare>, for the community to come together to chat and share their trees. A website, www.revelstokefruitshare.com, was also implemented for residents to list their trees available to pick and others to view to glean trees. This new outreach saw 98 members join.

Revelstoke Bear Aware delivered 12 class room presentations, contributed to 2 City Council meetings, and attended 8 public events. Through these events we reached a total 1,959 people.

Two door-to-door campaigns were conducted in conjunction with the Conservation Officer Service. Two door-to-door campaigns were conducted by Revelstoke Bear Aware to inform residents of a grizzly bears in the area. Revelstoke Bear Aware worked with the City of Revelstoke to increase bylaw compliance in areas of high bear activity.

The Revelstoke Bear Aware Facebook page was utilized and post views reached over 267,261 views. Numerous posts regarding attractant management and the Gleaning Project were made to the Stoke List. Revelstoke Bear Aware issued 3 press releases and gave 6 interviews.

Bear in Area lawn signs were deployed in areas where bears had been reported. Feedback continues to suggest that the signs are very effective at raising awareness and reminding people to secure attractants. Signs were deployed 16 times during the

season, for an average of around 5 days at a time giving a total of 80 sign/days in 2018. In addition, signs were loaned to several campgrounds and resorts so that staff could deploy signs when bears were seen in their area.

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. This year 81 volunteers gave a total of 141 volunteer hours to Revelstoke Bear Aware.

Included in this report are recommendations for 2018 on page 17.

2. About Revelstoke Bear Aware Society

Purpose of the Society

The purpose of Revelstoke Bear Aware Society is to reduce bear/human conflict in and around the city of Revelstoke by:

- Identifying and eliminating or reducing human related bear attractants;
- Educating Revelstoke residents, visitors and businesses about:
 - the importance of reducing bear attractants on their properties and in and around the community;
 - how to recognize bear attractants on their properties and within the community; and,
 - how to eliminate or reduce bear attractants for which they are responsible.

We achieve our purposes by operating a community education program, and by working in partnership with other agencies including City of Revelstoke, Parks Canada, Columbia Shuswap Regional District, the BC Conservation Officer Service, and other Revelstoke-based initiatives. Collectively, these agencies are called the “Revelstoke Bear Management Committee”. Revelstoke Bear Aware Society was founded in 2004, as a result of the Revelstoke Bear Management Committee recognizing that a registered non-profit society with charitable status would provide focus for the Committee, and allow fundraising in support of keeping our community safe and our bears wild. Although we are now independent of WildSafeBC, our Coordinator, Maggie Spizzirri, occasionally calls Frank Ritcey, Provincial WildSafeBC Coordinator, to discuss issues that he may have encountered before.

Board of Directors for 2018

In addition to the Annual General Meeting, the Board of Directors met 6 times.

List of Directors:

Jackie Morris, President
Sue Davies, Vice-President
Kari Martin, Treasurer
Cheryl Fry, Secretary
Steve Kent, Director
Lisa Longinotto, Director
Liane Dorius, Director

Community Coordinator in 2018



Our Community Coordinator is a part time contractor, who is responsible for planning and carrying out our programming, working with our partners as needed, and coordinating the functions of the society. Maggie Spizzirri is our Community Coordinator. We owe many thanks to Maggie for representing us so well in the community!

Gleaning Coordinator in 2018



Our Gleaning Coordinator is a part time contractor, who is responsible for planning and carrying out gleaning days to remove fruit from trees where people are unable to do so themselves. Ashton Pollard is our Gleaning Coordinator. We owe many thanks to Ashton for representing us so well in the community!

Operation of Our Society

In 2018 the Revelstoke Bear Aware updated its Constitution, which was approved at our Annual General Meeting on March 15, 2018.

Supporters of Revelstoke Bear Aware in 2018

Revelstoke Bear Aware benefits from the large number of volunteer hours contributed by Board of Directors and from representatives of agencies of the Revelstoke Bear Committee. It would not have been possible to deliver the Revelstoke Bear Aware message to so many members of the community without the support from volunteers. Community volunteers contributed time to the Gleaning Project, helped with garbage tagging and door-to-door visits. We estimate that in 2018 our volunteers contributed 141 hours.

The Revelstoke Bear Aware Society would like to express gratitude to the following organizations for financial contributions made to Revelstoke Bear Aware in 2018:



Revelstoke Bear Aware would also like to express gratitude to the following individuals and organizations for valuable in-kind support provided to the program:

- Revelstoke Bear Aware board members: Jackie Morris, Sue Davies, Kari Martin, Cheryl Fry, Steve Kent, Lisa Longinotto and Liane Dorrius;
- Revelstoke Bear Aware agency advisors: Councillor English (City of Revelstoke), Dan Bartol and Alex Desjardins (Conservation Officer Service), and Brianna Burley (Parks Canada);
- Parks Canada for providing advice and expertise and also assistance with printing some of our materials;
- Revelstoke Credit Union Insurance for providing their board room as a meeting space.
- The Revelstoke Current, StokeFM, EZ Rock Radio, the Revelstoke Review, Reved Quarterly, and Revelstoke Mountaineer for their continued support and promotion of the program;
- The Local Foods Initiative, and the North Columbia Environmental Society for their continued in-kind support;
- Patti Larson and Jenna Fraser of Community Connections Food Bank for their continued support of the Gleaning Project;
- Josh McLafferty of Monashee Distillery for their continued support of the Gleaning Project;
- Local volunteers, for fruit picking, bookkeeping, expert advice, and IT help;
- School District 19 and the preschools of Revelstoke for inviting our program into their classrooms;
- Darren Komonoski, Tina Miertsch, Teresa LeRose, Cindy Floyd, and City staff for their support, help and input;
- Visitor Information Centre staff and the Welcome Wagon;
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District, in particular Loni Parker, Director of Area B, and Carmen Fennel, from the Columbia Shuswap Region Solid Waste Management Department;
- Current WildSafeBC and independent bear awareness group 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;
- Jake Roos of Loki Tree Services for his help in putting on a pruning workshop;
- Concerned citizens of Revelstoke for their input, ideas, calls and emails of support and reports of bear activity.

3. Revelstoke Bear Aware activities in 2018

Personal contacts

In 2018 Maggie Spizzirri attended 8 public events including the community Farmers Market, and the Revelstoke Garlic Fest. We also delivered 12 classroom presentations and 12 small-group activity sessions to grade 1-2 children at the Kokanee Fish Festival. We continued our association with the Local Foods Initiative contributing bear aware messaging to their Garden Guru series of workshops throughout the summer. Revelstoke Bear Aware also presented our message to the international students at Revelstoke Secondary School. Revelstoke Bear Aware attended a public meeting and presented our 2017 annual report to the City Council.

Through these presentations and events a total of 1,959 people were reached. The table below provides some details of the presentations, events and festivals and the number of people who attended each event.



Date	Event	Details	People in Attendance
April	Pruning Workshop	Workshop	10

Date	Event	Details	People in Attendance
May	Farmers Market	Public display	217
May	International Students	Presentation	21
May	New Immigrant Group	Presentation	7
June	City Council Presentation	Presentation	15
July	Jr. Naturalist x2	Presentation	13
August	Railway Days	Public display	96
September	Farmer's Market	Public display	312
September	GarlicFest	Public display	560
September	Kokanee Fish Festival	12 small-group presentations	96
September	Farmer's Market	Public display	472
October	Cool Kids PreSchool x2	Presentation	24
October	International Students	Presentation	12
October	Arrow Heights Elementary x2	Presentation	34
October	Begbie View Elementary	Presentation	15
November	Rotary	Presentation	26
November	Columbia Park Elementary x2	Presentation	29
Total			1959

Media contacts

Social Media

During the season our Facebook page gained more than 314 new “likes” with 1,047 people following our page. Our new Instagram page gained 429 followers. Our posts during 2018 generated over 286,871 post views for the season. The fast growth of our social media pages, the number of times information has been shared by other users, and the high speed of information dissemination through this system makes Facebook and Instagram an excellent way to communicate almost real-time information about bear activity and conflicts in Revelstoke. Visit and follow our social media pages at: www.facebook.com/revelstokebearaware or <https://www.instagram.com/revelstokebearaware/>.

Website

The Revelstoke Bear Aware website (www.revelstokebearaware.org) continues to provide a strongly informative resource for Revelstoke residents. There were 3,169 separate users who visited the Revelstoke Bear Aware website over the season, with 7,176 page views. The website provides information on how to manage specific bear attractants as well as a link to the WildSafeBC WARP map to provide the most up to date information generated from both the Conservation Officer Service and Revelstoke Bear Aware.

Mass media

Revelstoke Bear Aware issued 3 press releases in 2018 (see Appendix 1). Local radio stations interviewed the coordinator 5 times during the season. This included live talkback shows on Stoke FM, and EZRock.

In 2018, Revelstoke Bear Aware purchased print advertisements in the Revelstoke Leisure Guide - summer and fall editions and the Revelstoke Times Review. Online advertisements in the Revelstoke Mountaineer and the Review were also purchased for the AGM in April and the Bear Necessities Workshops, the Cost Share Garbage Storage bin program and the Gleaning Project. Online social media ads were also purchased for the same events. StokeFM advertising consisted of ads running several times per day during the summer and also several opportunities for the coordinator to appear on the morning show discussing bear aware issues. Revelstoke Bear Aware also posted advertisements on the Stoke List and the Revelstoke Community Facebook page to promote particular events and general bear awareness.

A Revelstoke Bear Aware logo continues to appear on the City garbage schedule encouraging residents to secure their garbage during the months from April - November. Reminders about garbage and fruit as an attractant are also sent out on the new City of Revelstoke garbage app. The garbage truck also has Revelstoke Bear Aware signage on the side of the truck reminding residents to keep their garbage secure.

More ways we worked in the community

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. Any edible excess fruit that Community Connections is unable to take gets donated to the Monashee Craft Distillery. 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.

The Gleaning Project coordinated a volunteer workforce, used our door-to-door campaign and other advertising to seek out the properties that required gleaning and provided equipment such as ladders and picking poles. The gleaning coordinator managed the volunteers during harvest of the fruit. Revelstoke Bear Aware also purchased gleaning lawn signage to inform residents of Revelstoke about the program.

The Gleaning Project has been a very successful part of the Revelstoke Bear Aware program in Revelstoke:

- 22 properties were gleaned by the project in 2018,
- 2300 lbs. of fruit was harvested,
- 565 lbs. went to the Food Bank,
- the remainder of fruit went to the volunteers who harvested it, to the Monashee Distillery and to local farmers.
- 75 volunteers collectively donated 75 hours to the Gleaning project during the season.



Bear in area signs

Bear in Area lawn signs were again deployed to areas where bear activity was reported. Signs were deployed at 16 locations during the season for an average of 5 days each, giving a total of 80 sign days in 2018. New bear in area signs were purchased this year.

Sign placement is decided by reports from the Conservation Officer Service or residents of Revelstoke to: 1) let people know where bears are active, and 2) remind people to secure bear attractants in the immediate area of bear foraging. Feedback from school students during presentations suggests that the signs continue to be an effective way to do this.

Door-to-door and garbage tagging

Two major door-to-door campaigns were mounted in 2018 in conjunction with the BC Conservation Officer Service. All campgrounds and select businesses were visited. All houses in the Big Eddy, select houses in the downtown and southside area were canvased. These areas were chosen based on past data showcasing them as “problem” areas in Revelstoke. Residents received information about being bear aware and some residents received cautions and tickets about complying with the new Wildlife Attractant and Garbage Bylaw. Houses where fruit trees were evident also received information about the Gleaning Project and the necessity of harvesting fruit as soon as it is ripe. Two major location specific door-to-door campaigns were also completed near Bridge Creek and on 4th Street. This was due to a Grizzly Bear feeding on natural resources in the area.

Printed materials

Revelstoke Bear Aware was able to deliver its message through a variety of initiatives in 2018 including letters and pamphlets in the Welcome Wagon and at the information centre, on notice boards, at B&Bs, new citizen’s groups, and local businesses.

New info cards, stickers, and receipt books were printed. New bear in area signs and fruit gleaning signs were also printed.

4. Summary of bear activity in 2017

Overview of the season

In 2018 there were 181 reports regarding bears made to the RAPP line and to Revelstoke Bear Aware (Table 1). 5 black bears were killed throughout the season. The first reported bear sighting in 2018 was on May 11 and the last reported bear sighting was on December 20.

Anecdotally, local people reported an increase huckleberry crop at upper elevations especially later into the fall months, which indicates wild food resources may have been plentiful this year. However some bears did come into town and found garbage and fruit. Bears in town became habituated to this food and lost their sense of caution around humans. There were 4 reports of bears breaking into houses. 4 reports of bears breaking into vehicles. 6 reports of aggression towards humans. 1 instance where a school had to call the RCMP due to a bear not leaving school grounds.

Table 1. The number of reports concerning bears and bear mortality, between 2005 and 2018 in Revelstoke and surrounding area.

Year	Total Bear Sightings Reported	Bear Mortality
2005	50	3
2006	147	11
2007	143	11
2008	162	13
2009	34	2
2010	212	6
2011	221	10
2012	125	2
2013	41	2
2014	305	10
2015	104	3
2016	642	24

2017	154	4
2018	181	5

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.

Bear attractants and waste management in 2018

Each report to the RAPP line or Revelstoke Bear Aware details if it was a 'sighting only' or if a bear attractant was involved; garbage, fruit tree, livestock, pet food, outdoor freezers and fridges, compost, bird feeders, BBQ's, beehives, vegetable gardens, or spilled grain on the train tracks (Table 2).

Table 2. Bear attractants reported between 2009 and 2018 in Revelstoke and surrounding area.

Attractant Reported	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Garbage	76	70	28	10	69	29	225	53	56
Fruit & Nut Trees	20	19	1	5	57	6	104	22	29
Livestock/Chickens	5	4	1	0	4	4	4	2	7
Pet Food	2	0	0	2	3	1	0	0	0
Outdoor Freezers	2	2	1	0	3	1	2	2	1
Compost	3	5	3	0	2	1	1	2	3
Birdfeeders	1	3	0	1	2	0	0	3	1
BBQ	0	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
Beehives	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Vegetable Garden	2	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Grain on Train Tracks	3	0	0	0	4	1	0	3	0
Other	1	0	0	1	5	1	0	1	1
Sighting Only	99	112	72	22	143	57	306	66	83

Garbage continues to be the greatest bear attractant in Revelstoke mostly due to garbage being stored in wildlife accessible areas such as on porches and by back

doors. Many people do not have secure storage for their garbage and should keep all waste foodstuffs frozen until collection day. However, there are 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. Continued enforcement and door to door campaigns by the bylaw or conservation officer will continue to be required to enforce the new Wildlife Attractant and Garbage Bylaw, which states that garbage must be secured from wildlife. The online reporting system (See Click Fix: <https://revelstoke.ca/332/See-Click-Fix>) is helpful to monitor what is and is not being done and where. Revelstoke Bear Aware implemented a cost share program for bear resistant storage bins. Bins can be purchased at Revelstoke Home Hardware and receive a \$300 savings per bin. The goal is for residents who do not have a secure place to store garbage access to a more cost efficient solution.

Fruit trees and even nut trees caused concern again this year. The Gleaning Project provided relief to pro-active residents who were not able to glean their own tree this year. Revelstoke Bear Aware worked hard to ensure that all ripe fruit was harvested in a timely manner.

There were instances of property damage, including reports of bears breaking into 4 reported houses through basement windows and unlocked doors. 1 report of a bear demolishing a shed to gain access to garbage and 2 reports of bears bluff charging residents while garbage was being walked out to the curb on collection day. There were numerous reports of bears that appeared habituated to humans and were very unconcerned in the presence of, for example, honking horns.

Most instances of bears becoming aggressive or damaging property appeared to be associated with bears having accessed garbage and fruit on a regular basis. There is considerable concern that these sorts of conflicts may result in human injury if garbage continues to be accessible to bears in the future.

5. Future directions for reducing bear/human conflicts in Revelstoke

Future of waste management

Revelstoke Bear Aware will continue to request improvements to Revelstoke's waste handling system. We think that a substantial gain in reduction in bear attractants will occur simply by requiring all mobile home parks, campgrounds, undeveloped and new subdivisions and developments to install a centralized bear resistant dumpsters. This is evidenced by the reduction in human/bear conflict since the centralized dumpster in Johnson Heights was installed.

Rental housing, vacation rentals, and illegal suites are also in need of consideration due to the fact that often these short-term tenants are not familiar with local bylaws nor are they be able to adhere to garbage schedules or the securing of garbage. Owners should be held responsible for such management by purchasing a bear resistant storage bin and advising their guests how to secure their garbage. There is routinely a problem during the early winter months of new/short term renters leaving garbage out. Bears are active until the latter part of December and these bears will not go into hibernation if food is readily available to them, and unfortunately, as the winter continues into February and March, these bears will not be able to find enough food to survive on garbage alone.

The City of Golden has implemented a bear proof system handing out bear resistant bins to all residents. The City of Golden has had positive reviews of the garbage system and has had 0 bears killed in 2017 and only 3 in 2018. These 3 bears were a killed as a direct result to residents not latching the bins properly. Fernie has implemented centralized bins in problem areas within City limits and has also found that their human/bear conflicts have dropped dramatically per year as well.

The CSRD has mentioned a move toward centralized bins for organic food waste only. It is still unclear how this will unfold.

Conservation Officers for Revelstoke

The City of Revelstoke has requested that the Province of British Columbia station bring Conservation Officers permanently in this community. Revelstoke Bear Aware supports this request, but recognizes that this would be only a partial solution to reducing bear-human conflicts. Our residents and the City must do all they can to ensure bears are not attracted to our community.

6. Recommendations for 2019

In 2019 Revelstoke Bear Aware Society will continue to operate our program to educate area residents, visitors, and businesses about appropriate behaviours to reduce human-bear conflict. This will be accomplished by offering workshops, presentations, and other educational opportunities in person or through various media. We will work with other agencies and associations to expand the effectiveness of our program.

Specific focus points for our 2019 program will be garbage management and fruit tree management. This will include advancing community awareness of, and encouraging skills to comply with, the City's new wildlife attractant and garbage bylaw. We will continue to look for ways to help people take direct action to reduce their bear attractants.

Garbage management

- Follow the progress of the Columbia Shuswap Regional District's move to create an organic waste disposal system in Revelstoke. Investigate what this organic waste disposal program will mean for bear-resistant garbage disposal in town.
- Continue to promote communal garbage bins in trailer parks and new developments.
- Continue to offer the bear resistant storage bin cost share program as an option for home owners.
- Update the bear hazard assessment map.
- Implement a strategy to reach short-term renters and new arrivals to town.

Fruit Tree Management

- Continue to operate the Gleaning Project, to ensure unused fruit is available to our community and does not become a bear attractant.
- Promote the new online fruit share application so that gleaners and people with excess fruit can connect independently of the Gleaning Project.
- Continue to list unmanaged residential fruit trees, with the aim of assisting enforcement of the new City bylaw.
- Continue to identify unmanaged fruit trees on City property and lands managed by other agencies, and request removal of these fruit trees.
- Develop point-of-sale information directed to people buying fruit trees, so they recognize the long-term effort required to care for a fruit tree.
- Continue to offer our Bear Necessities workshops including fruit tree pruning and electric fence workshops.

7. Year End Financial Statement for 2018

Revelstoke Bear Aware Society - 2018

As of December 31, 2018

1 Shares account

Shares account, January 1, 2018	\$33.26
Shareholder dividend February 1, 2018	\$0.33
Total in Shares account	\$33.59

2 Term deposit

2 year redeemable 1.10%, matures Feb 7, 2019	\$15,000.00
interest as of Feb 7, 2018	\$197.22
Total in Term Deposit	\$15,197.22

3 Chequing Accounts

amount in Gaming account at start of year	\$0.00
amount in Organization chequing at start of year	\$28,763.49
<i>Total in both chequing accounts at start of 2018</i>	\$28,763.49
Income	
Membership income	\$125.00
Funding - Gov't sources	\$0.00
Funding - Grants	\$35,292.00
Donations	\$1,450.00
Other income	\$697.87
<i>Total income</i>	\$37,564.87
Expenses	
Ads and Marketing	\$4,011.90
Banking and PayPal	\$3.68
Bear Bin Cost Share	\$3,600.00
Contractor - Coordinator	\$27,313.39
Contractor - Gleaning	\$2,311.25
Dues	\$134.63
Insurance - liability & Directors and Officers	\$1,326.95
Phone	\$819.17
Supplies	\$526.02
Vehicle expenses - coordinator	\$346.94
Vehicle expenses - gleaning	\$261.82
Website-Fruitshare	\$3,463.95
Other expenses	\$31.50
<i>Total expenses</i>	\$44,151.20
Total amount left in chequing accounts	\$22,177.17

4 Funds in PayPal account

Expressed as the amount we will receive after their processing fee **\$0.00**

Summary of our cash holdings	
1. Rev CU Shares account	\$33.59
2. Term deposit	\$15,197.22
3. Chequing accounts, combined total	\$22,177.17
5 PayPal account	\$0.00
	\$37,407.98

Press Release: April 17, 2018

The bears are out - how to be prepared.

Last year Revelstoke Bear Aware and the residents of Revelstoke saw big progress in bear management in our community. We know that garbage is the number one attractant for bears, with fruit trees coming in a close second. We are getting better at reducing these attractants.

The City created the new wildlife attractant and garbage bylaw and set a great example by installing bear-resistant garbage cans downtown. In 2017 there were 154 reports of bear activity to both the BC Conservation Officer Service and Revelstoke Bear Aware, and only 4 bears were killed. It was great to see so many residents keeping their garbage secure and managing their fruit trees.

The Gleaning Project kept fruit away from bears and brought it into the community. Our amazing volunteers donated their time to harvest over 1700 pounds of fruit.

As the weather changes from winter to spring, wildlife becomes more active. Bears will be coming into the valley in the coming weeks. The City, BC Conservation Officers, and Revelstoke Bear Aware agree that keeping garbage and fruit from bears continues to be essential.

This year the Gleaning Project will be expanded to include an online platform. A Facebook group has been created for people to share their fruit or vegetables. Join the fruit share group at: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/392517164556454>. Revelstoke Bear Aware has partnered with the Community Connections Food Bank and Food Recovery program to ensure that all fruit is used in a positive manner. All inedible fruit will be donated to pig farmers making this a zero-waste project.

Revelstoke Bear Aware has a great workshop this month to help residents manage their fruit trees. A pruning workshop will be held April 17th with Loki Tree Services. A pruned tree yields better fruit, makes picking far easier, and increases the chances that the fruit will be used. Managing fruit trees results in a big reduction of a key bear attractant. Call 250-837-8624 for details.

Open and available garbage has been spotted throughout the city. If you spot any garbage, fruit on the ground for more than two days, or other wildlife attractants, the City of Revelstoke has a great reporting app called See Click Fix, <http://revelstoke.ca/332/See-Click-Fix>. A City Bylaw Officer will speak to the home owners. The wildlife attractant and garbage bylaw requires all residents to secure their garbage. Ideally this would be indoors or inside a garage or shed. For those without a secure place to store garbage, Revelstoke Bear Aware is working hard to find some solutions and make them easily available to Revelstoke residents.

Keep an eye on the Revelstoke Bear Aware Facebook page at www.facebook.com/revelstokebearaware for upcoming events, news about bear sightings, helpful information, and suggestions for keeping your garbage secured from bears.

Please visit www.revelstokebearaware.org for more information on managing bear attractants or contact Revelstoke Bear Aware at 250-837-8624.

To report bear sightings or conflicts with bears please call the BC Conservation Service 24-hour hotline at 1-877-952-7277.

To report a bear attractant to the City Bylaw Officers, contact 250-837-2911 during office hours or email to bylawenforcement@revelstoke.ca.

Tips for bear proofing your yard:

- Secure garbage from bears, either in a bear-resistant container or indoors. Don't put your garbage out before 6 a.m. on the day of collection.
- Harvest ripe fruit and pick up windfall fruit every day.
- Remove bird feeders during bear season (April - November) or use only small amounts of feed and bring in each night.
- Feed pets indoors. Store pet food and livestock feed indoors.
- Consider a properly installed and maintained electric fence to protect small livestock (such as chickens and beehives), fruit trees, and compost piles.
- Consider removing outdoor freezers and fridges or be sure they are locked shut.
- Do not put cooked food, meat, fish or cheese in compost. Keep compost piles working properly. Smelly compost attracts bears.
- Clean barbecues after each use.
- Do not feed wildlife.

Thank you to our sponsors who make the Revelstoke Bear Aware project possible: Columbia Basin Trust, LUSH Cosmetics, Bresco Industries, Revelstoke Community Foundation, Revelstoke Credit Union, Williamsons Lake Campground, Loki Tree Services and our wonderful members and volunteers.

Press Release: August 28, 2018

Garbage is everyone's challenge. Let's lock it up.

For years Revelstoke residents have seen bears coming into City limits. We know that garbage is the number one attractant for bears, with fruit trees coming in a close second. Since 2016, when 24 bears were killed within City limits, residents are getting better at reducing these attractants.

In 2017 Revelstoke Bear Aware received many questions about what residents could do to keep their garbage secure.

This year, Revelstoke Bear Aware is leading a hands on project to stop bears from accessing garbage. We have developed a cost sharing program for bear resistant storage bins for Revelstoke residents.

"We are excited to introduce this new bear resistant storage bin program. With the number of people requesting somewhere secure to store garbage on a daily basis, it only made sense that the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society put together a tangible solution for Revelstoke residents." says Revelstoke Bear Aware coordinator, Maggie Spizzirri.

These bear resistant storage bins can be purchased at Revelstoke Home Hardware. Revelstoke Bear Aware is offering \$300 off the original Tyedee bin price and the price in the store is the discounted price for the bins. The bin is certified bear resistant and meets all requirements by the City of Revelstoke's garbage and wildlife bylaw as well as the BC Wildlife Act.

These bins are a great solution to store garbage, compost, recycling, pet feed and any other bear attractant for people who do not have a closed garage or shed. The goal is to make it as easy as possible for residents to secure their garbage.

For more information about the project: <https://revelstokebearaware.org/be-bear-aware/cost-share-program/>

Keep an eye on the Revelstoke Bear Aware Facebook page at www.facebook.com/revelstokebearaware for upcoming events, news about bear sightings, helpful information, and suggestions for keeping your garbage secured from bears.

Please visit www.revelstokebearaware.org for more information on managing bear attractants or contact Revelstoke Bear Aware at 250-837-8624.

To report bear sightings or conflicts with bears please call the BC Conservation Service 24-hour hotline at 1-877-952-7277.

To report a bear attractant to the City Bylaw Officers, contact 250-837-2911 during office hours or email to bylawenforcement@revelstoke.ca. Or report a concern on their See Click Fix app <https://revelstoke.ca/332/See-Click-Fix>.

Tips for bear proofing your yard:

- Secure garbage from bears, either in a bear- resistant container or indoors. Don't put your garbage out before 6 a.m. on the day of collection.
- Harvest ripe fruit and pick up windfall fruit every day.
- Remove bird feeders during bear season (April - November) or use only small amounts of feed and bring in each night.
- Feed pets indoors. Store pet food and livestock feed indoors.
- Consider a properly installed and maintained electric fence to protect small livestock (such as chickens and beehives), fruit trees, and compost piles.
- Consider removing outdoor freezers and fridges or be sure they are locked shut.
- Do not put cooked food, meat, fish or cheese in compost. Keep compost piles working properly. Smelly compost attracts bears.
- Clean barbecues after each use.
- Do not feed wildlife.

Thank you to our sponsors who made this Revelstoke Bear Aware project possible: Columbia Basin Trust and LUSH Cosmetics.

Article for Revelstoke Mountaineer: December 2018

What Revelstoke needs to do to become a Bear Smart Community

Can Revelstoke live conflict-free with bears?

By Maggie Spizzirri, Revelstoke Bear Aware Community Coordinator

Bears and Revelstoke go hand in hand. Bears are part of the Revelstoke logo, they are the mascot as you drive through the town, and they are often seen wandering the streets looking for food. Some bears become conditioned to eating garbage and fruit, and are destroyed. So far in 2018, five bears have been killed in town by B.C. conservation officers.

Keeping bears out of our community has been a challenge; other cities across the province have met this challenge. Revelstoke can, too. We need to become a Bear Smart Community. What does that entail? This provincial program recommends activities and standards to reduce human/bear conflicts.

Revelstoke already has completed many of the necessary Bear Smart requirements. A bear hazard assessment and human/bear conflict management plan was completed in 2009, updated in 2013 and will be updated again in 2019. Planning documents have been revised to be consistent with the conflict management plan. In 2017 the City of Revelstoke implemented the new wildlife and garbage bylaw. This leaves the last item on the Bear Smart list: develop and maintain a bear resistant solid waste management plan.

Why does it matter if a bear comes into Revelstoke and eats our garbage and fruit? Let's first take a look at the history.

In 1994, our landfill was surrounded by electric fencing and bears were no longer able to feed there. Grown accustomed to garbage as a food source, local bears turned to garbage in the city. That year 62 bears were either killed or relocated. The following year, the berry crop failed and 23 bears were killed and 25 were relocated. In 1996, concerned citizens formed the Revelstoke Bear Management Committee, and in 2004 the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society was formed.

Things have improved. Now, an average of only six bears are killed each year. Revelstoke Bear Aware offers a community education program; the City of Revelstoke installed bear-resistant bins downtown and throughout the community; the city implemented a garbage and wildlife bylaw; Revelstoke Bear Aware coordinates the Gleaning Project, offering free services to pick fruit; Home Hardware partners with Revelstoke Bear Aware for a cost-share bear-resistant garbage storage bin program. But again, why does this all matter?

In 2018 alone, there were four reported instances of a bear breaking into a home. A bear demolished a shed to get to garbage. Bears have figured out how to open vehicle doors. And a bear was bluff-charging residents as they were putting their garbage to the curb on garbage day. The more food conditioned and habituated a bear becomes, the more aggressive it is about gaining easy access to accessible food. It is often difficult to understand how well bears can climb; they can easily scale any fence. It is also difficult to understand how strong they are. They can easily lift open the lid on any metal garbage bin or container that has not been certified as bear resistant.

The remaining step necessary for Revelstoke to become a Bear Smart community is creating a city-wide bear resistant garbage solution. This would alleviate the remaining issues. The Johnson Heights neighbourhood used to have the most human/bear conflicts. Now they have a centralized bin and the lowest number of human/bear conflicts in the city. Until the city is willing to implement a solution, it is up to individual citizens to take action to keep bears out of their garbage and fruit.

The more steps we take, and the more improvements we make, the more we reduce human/bear conflict. Let's keep working together to keep bears wild and our community safe!