



Bear in Mind

Black bears live here too!



The North Shore Black Bear Society supports the coexistence of people and wildlife

這份市政通告很重要，請找人翻譯。 이것은 시청에서 보내는 중요한 통지입니다. 다른 사람에게 번역을 부탁하여 읽으십시오. این یک اطلاعیه مهم شهری است. لطفاً از کسی بخواهید که آنرا ترجمه کند.



Tony Joyce

The North Shore is a diverse ecosystem rich with wildlife – including black bears. Coexistence with these peaceful animals is possible if we learn about their behaviour and their reasons for being in urban areas. Black bears live, rest and raise their young in the North Shore forests; however, it is common for them to pass through neighbourhoods. The vulnerable population (females and their cubs, young, old or injured bears) seek safety from dominant male bears by occupying areas closer to people. Expect to see bears on trails, crossing roads, at the beach and in residential areas. Bears are most active from early March to late December. It is normal to see them during the day. We have a responsibility to secure food from wildlife. Bears that find unnatural food from humans are often killed – including cubs. Relocation is rarely an option, and it is not the solution. If a bear is removed from an area, another will soon take their place. The North Shore Black Bear Society supports responsible coexistence through education.

With a few simple actions, we can dramatically reduce a bear’s reason for staying close to homes. These are some of the most frequently reported bear attractants and some preventative practises:

- **Garbage and organics:** Keep in a secure location (closed garage, sturdy and locked enclosure/shed) at all times, unless out for collection. Container lids should be closed and secured at all times. Lockable carts are bear-resistant, *not* bear-proof. Contact provider for repair immediately if faulty or broken. Wrap organics in newspaper and freeze odorous food scraps until collection morning to reduce smell. Keep garbage area clean. Wash carts/containers regularly with a water and vinegar solution.
- **Fruit trees:** Pick all fruit early, allow to ripen inside. Collect fallen fruit daily and store in a secure area. Install and maintain electric fencing around trees. If fruit trees cannot be managed, we strongly encourage removing them.
- **Bird seed, suet and hummingbird feeders:** Black bears are agile climbers with a long reach; it is almost impossible to hang a feeder they cannot access. Plant to encourage birds or feed very small amounts in the late winter months when you are home to enjoy them. Bears are active during the day – bringing feeders in at night is not the solution.
- **BBQ grills and grease traps:** Clean grill on a high heat after each use. Empty and clean grease trap after each use. Never leave food unattended.
- **Recycling:** Wash milk jugs, food containers, cans and jars. Rinse beverage bottles and cans. Store recyclables in a secure area. Find out more at: recyclebc.ca.
- **Beehives and backyard chickens:** Install and maintain electric fencing. Keep feed in a secure area.
- **Other attractants:** Pet food, outdoor fridges and freezers and petroleum products should all be kept in a secure area.
- **Vehicles:** Keep vehicles free of all food and garbage. Keep windows closed and all doors locked. If you notice a bear on your property or close to your vehicle, trigger the vehicle’s alarm.
- **If a bear visits your property:** It is important that you set boundaries. As soon as you notice the bear, go to a safe place (deck/open window), make eye contact and use a firm tone. Be persistent and encourage the bear to move on. Bears are intelligent and understand, by our tone, when they are not welcome (providing you are not tempting them with food).

Feeding bears, even unintentionally, is against the law.



Dylan Monteith

Bears can be active year-round, especially if they have access to unnatural foods. Do not expect bears to run away when they see you or your pet. Bears are not fearful of people and we do not want them to be. They are adapting to increased activity and aim to avoid close encounters, but running away wastes energy. Never intentionally approach bears (especially for a photograph) – you could pressure defensive behaviour or push them into the path of another bear or vehicle. It is exceptionally rare for black bears to make contact with humans, but we must respect their personal space. Be prepared to see a bear on the North Shore:

- Use your voice to alert wildlife of human presence when travelling on trails and if travelling anywhere at night.
- If you encounter a bear: stay calm, speak to them in a calm voice (in any language) and slowly back away.
- Off-leash dogs are involved in many negative encounters between humans and wildlife. We advise leashing dogs on trails. Always adhere to leash requirements, which are in place to protect people, pets and wildlife.

Help us to target education and collect valuable data by reporting all North Shore bear sightings to us:

northshorebears.com nsbbsociety@gmail.com call or text 604 317 4911