



## **2009 Annual Report**

**Revelstoke Bear Aware Society  
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The Columbia Basin Trust Community Initiatives program, a regional corporation created to deliver social, economic and environmental benefits to the residents of the Columbia Basin for provided \$13,000 toward the Revelstoke Bear Aware program in 2009.

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

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- Columbia Basin Trust
- Columbia Shuswap Regional District
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- EZ Rock Radio
- Parks Canada
- Reved newspaper
- Revelstoke Current
- Revelstoke Times Review
- Revelstoke Cable TV
- Video Express

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## Introduction

Revelstoke Bear Aware is a public awareness community education program, with the goal of reducing conflict between people and bears. The program is administered by the Coordinator, who works with residents and the City, to identify, and eliminate or reduce, bear attractants within the community.

This annual report is a detailed description of the Coordinator's activities and provides:

- A description of the current situation with regards to conflict between people and bears.
- Accountability to the community and financial contributors.
- A record, such that the program may be reviewed and new objectives addressed for the following year.

## Summary

The year 2009 was an excellent year for bears in and around the Revelstoke area. There were 34 calls made to the Provincial Problem Wildlife Occurrence phone line and the Revelstoke Bear Aware phone line compared with 162 calls last year. An abundance of natural food likely contributed to the decreased number of reported bear sightings in town. Only two bears were destroyed as a result of conflict with people, both were black bears that were food conditioned to garbage.

The focus of this seasons Bear Aware education program was the provincial Bear Smart Community Initiative, unmanaged fruit trees, and elementary school education.

Many positive steps were made this year towards becoming a Bear Smart community. These include the completing of a residential bear resistant garbage can pilot project and the creation of a Bear Hazard Assessment and Bear-Human Conflict Management Plan for Revelstoke. The Gleaning Project saw many volunteers picking fruit and a large donation made to the Community Connections Food Bank. Bear Aware education including information on bear biology, ecology and safety was presented to 83% of elementary students in Revelstoke.

## Community Profile

Revelstoke is located adjacent to the Columbia River at the north end of upper Arrow Lake. Five valleys join here: the Columbia River valley, the Illecillewaet River valley, the Jordan River valley and the Eagle River valley. The Monashee Mountains border the community to the west and the Selkirk Mountains, containing Mount Revelstoke National Park, lie to the East. Much of the surrounding mountain slopes provide prime black and grizzly food sources and shelter. Revelstoke is located in bear country!



**Figure 1:** A black bear crossing Victoria Road, photo courtesy of Leah Dillman 2009

### ***Historic Situation***

The relative isolation of Revelstoke and its proximity to bear habitat has contributed to a high number of bear-people conflicts in the past. Over the ten year period between 1986 and 1996, 15 grizzlies and 266 black bears were destroyed in or near Revelstoke. During the same period, 107 grizzlies and 54 black bears were relocated.

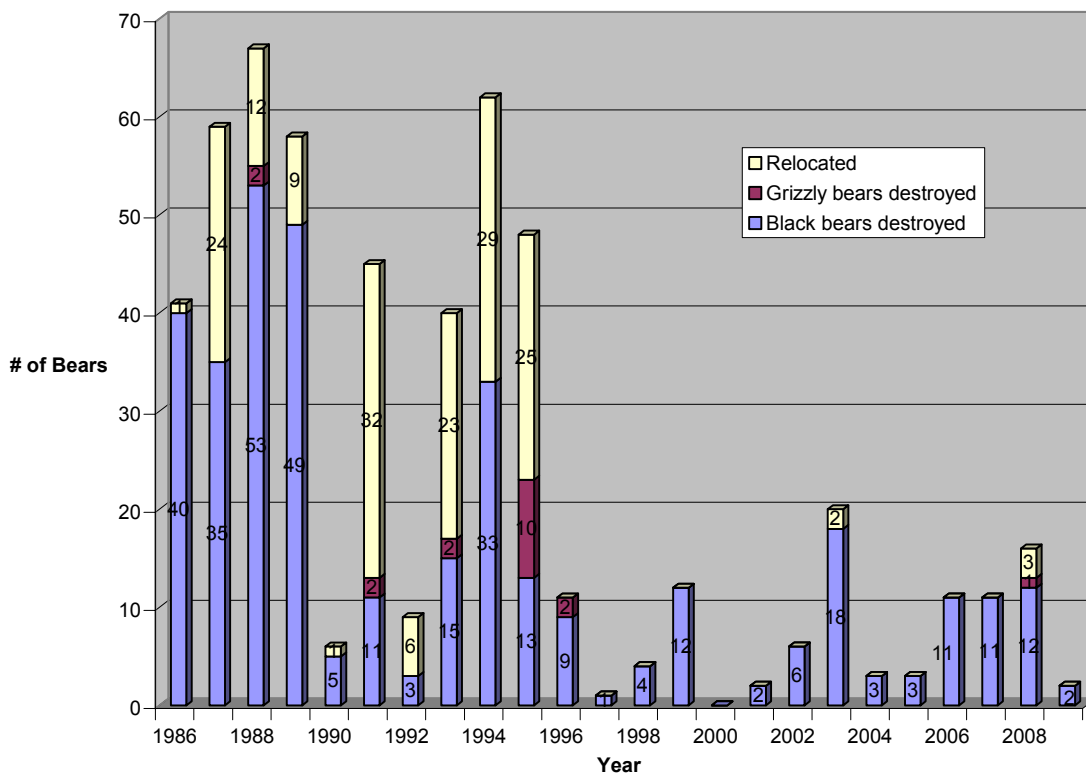
In September of 1994, the municipal landfill was protected with electric fencing. Prior to this, the garbage at the dump provided a major food source for bears, resulting in unnaturally high numbers of garbage habituated grizzly and black bears near Revelstoke. The bears, already accustomed to feeding on garbage at the landfill, started to access alternate food sources within the city. Groups of citizens voiced their concern about this situation and pressured the local governments to stop or reduce the destruction of bears within and around the city.

In an effort to remedy this situation, local residents, agencies, organizations and various levels of government created the Bear Management Committee. The goal of the committee was to develop strategies that would reduce bear-people conflicts and the unnecessary destruction of bears.

In 1996 the committee acquired funding and created the position of Bear Aware Program Coordinator. The role of the Coordinator is to educate the citizens of Revelstoke of their responsibilities and the importance of identifying and reducing or eliminating bear attractants on their property. In 2004 the Revelstoke Bear Aware program became a registered non-profit organization and now accepts donations, grants and in-kind contributions to achieve this goal.

The program has now been operating consistently in Revelstoke for 14 years and has proven to be very successful in reducing conflict between people and bears. The yearly average number of bears destroyed has been reduced from 27 to 7, since inception of the program.

### Bear Management in Revelstoke and Area 1986-2009



**Figure 1:** This table shows bear management in Revelstoke 1986-2009

Based on the success of the program, other communities in British Columbia began to show interest and similar programs have been initiated around the province. The British Columbia Conservation Foundation administers the province-wide program and provides financial support to a number of communities throughout the province including Revelstoke.

### Current Situation

The year 2009 was a year of very low bear activity in Revelstoke and surrounding area. There were only 34 complaint/sighting calls reported to the Provincial Problem Wildlife Occurrence line or the Revelstoke Bear Aware line, with all calls related to black bear activity. This is much lower than has been observed in recent years as seen in Table 1.

**Table 1:** The number of bear complaints received to the Provincial Problem Wildlife Occurrence line and Revelstoke Bear Aware, 2005-2009

<b>Year</b>	<b>Black Bear</b>	<b>Grizzly Bear</b>	<b>Total</b>
<b>2005</b>	48	2	50
<b>2006</b>	143	4	147
<b>2007</b>	136	7	143
<b>2008</b>	151	11	162
<b>2009</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>34</b>

The majority of the calls were received in late May and June, with no calls in July and August, and some activity again in the fall. Bears were reported to have gained access to bird feeders, garbage and pet food. The large number of calls received in previous years of bears accessing fruit trees was not observed this season.

Two bears came into conflict and were destroyed. Although it is preferable not to have any bears destroyed, two is much fewer than has been observed in the past few years, as can be seen in Figure 1.

In discussions with local residents, hikers, hunters, and berry pickers, it was indicated that there was a bumper berry crop in the surrounding mountains over a wide range of elevations. The abundance of natural food likely contributed to the decreased number of reported bear sightings in town.

The female grizzly bear and two cubs that were relocated last year appear to have remained out of the community. A young male grizzly that had been frequenting the summit of Mount Revelstoke National Park, and last season had also been sighted in Revelstoke also remained out of town.

The vast majority of residents contacted this season were very receptive of the Bear Aware message. Garbage continues to be of greatest concern, with individuals that do not store their garbage in a secure place or have limited ability to secure their garbage.

## **Program Delivery**

### ***Public Displays and Presentations***

The following table details the public Bear Aware displays and Bear Aware presentations that were delivered in 2009, including the number of people contacted. Presentations given to elementary schools and preschools are documented in the school programming section.

**Table 2: Public displays and presentations in 2009:**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>number of people attended</b>
March	CBT Community meeting	Bear Aware presentation	120
May	Farmer's Market	Bear Aware display	78
May	Chickadee Nature Festival	Bear Aware display, stories and games.	50
June	Revelstoke Mountain Resort	Presentation to contractors	42
June	BC Hydro – Mica Dam	Bear Aware power point presentation	42
August	Farmer's Market	Bear Aware display and bear hazard map	147
September	Kokanee Fish Festival	Bear Aware display, and game	125
September	Farmer's Market	Bear Aware display, Conservation Officer present, RAPP information given.	160
September	Two Compost workshops with the Columbia Shuswap Regional Waste Reduction Coordinator at Home Hardware	Bear Aware compost information	24
September	New Moon Over Mackenzie Festival	Bear Aware display and bear hazard map	80
October	Community Connections Adult individualized Inclusion Program	Bear Aware display, discussion regarding bear safety and attractants	15
November	City's OCP neighbourhood meetings – Lower town	Bear hazard map and discussion of potential bear hazard	8
November	City's OCP neighbourhood Meeting – Columbia Park	Bear hazard map and discussion of potential bear hazard	12
November	Revelstoke Community Futures meeting	Bear Aware presentation	14
November	City's OCP neighbourhood Meeting – Central residential and South Revelstoke	Bear hazard map and discussion of potential bear hazard	26
November	City Council meeting	Bear resistant garbage can pilot project	22
December	City's OCP neighbourhood Meeting – Arrow Heights and Big Eddy	Bear hazard map and discussion of potential bear hazard	24
Total			989



**Figure 2** - The Farmer's market in Revelstoke, showing the RAPP van display, Revelstoke Bear Aware and the Conservation Officer Service



**Figure 3** – Chickadee Nature Festival. What do you do when you see a bear?

## ***Door to Door Campaign and Information Brochures***

A Bear Aware brochure was distributed to 543 households. These households were identified from calls to the Revelstoke Bear Aware phone line, complaint calls to the Provincial Problem Wildlife line or RAPP line, and information from the Bear Hazard Map indicating areas of high or potentially high bear activity.

Seventy five “Composting in Bear Country” information sheets were distributed at the Revelstoke Home and Garden Show.

## ***Tourism***

When the 2008 Revelstoke Bear Aware annual report was presented to City Council in February of this year, concern was raised about the safety and awareness of the many tourists that visit Revelstoke each year. As a response to this concern, ways to reach the City’s visitors were addressed. All of the City’s hotels and motels, as well as a hostel and many bed and breakfasts received Bear Aware information brochures to make available to their guests. Brochures were also placed at the City’s two tourist information locations and an article was placed in the Arrow Lakes tourist guide (Appendix 1)

## ***The “Gleaning Project”***

The Gleaning Project, formally the Fruit Exchange Program was initiated with the Community Connections Food Bank through the Provincial Food Share program. In the Fruit Exchange Program, fruit is picked by volunteers, where the resident is unable to pick the fruit themselves. The volunteers receive some of the fruit and the remaining fruit is donated to the Community Connections Food Bank. The Gleaning Project took this program a step further, while still matching volunteers with people that needed their fruit picked; the project also invites all residents to share their extra fruit, berries and vegetables with the rest of the community through the food bank. This project helped to dispel the myth that the food bank would only accept non perishable food items.

The Bear Hazard map was used to identify “hot spot” areas of historic bear activity related to fruit. A letter inviting residents to take part in the program was distributed to 254 homes. The program was advertised through posters distributed throughout the community (Appendix 2), through public service announcements on the local radio station, and through a link on the online newspaper, Revelstoke Current. An interview was done on both the local radio and CBC Kelowna promoting the program. A local newspaper, The Reved, printed an article to promote the program and volunteerism (Appendix 3).

The program was very successful. It was a win win situation. The Community Connections Food Bank was pleased to receive nine large laundry baskets of plums and apples; volunteers received fruit; the fruit did not go to waste nor was it consumed by bears! The Community Connections Food Bank also saw an increase in the amount of fruit that was being donated, outside of the volunteer picking aspect of the project (Appendix 4). All of the volunteers involved in picking fruit and the Community Connections Food Bank received a Bear Aware Cookbook containing tasty ideas for plums and apples. Volunteers involved and time donated to the program is detailed in the Volunteer section of this report.



**Figure 4** – as seen on the Revelstoke Current, on-line newspaper, August 27, 2009  
**Picking with Penny**, Bear Aware Coordinator Penny Page-Brittin (left) gets a couple of helping hands from her son, Simon, (right) and Gwen Lips (center) as she toured through Lower Town today (Thursday) picking up apples and plums for the joint Bear Aware-Community Connections Gleaning Program. To find out more about this valuable contribution to community life please click the Bear Aware button or the Community Connections Big Box ad on the front of the Community News Section. David F. Rooney photo

### ***School Presentations***

In reviewing previous year's annual reports it became evident that while there have been a few Bear Aware presentations delivered to schools, school-wide presentations have not occurred in the past four years. In September a letter was delivered to all four of the elementary schools in Revelstoke. (Appendix 5) The letter detailed four different available presentations, each aimed at teaching the Bear Aware message, bear biology, ecology, and safety at a grade appropriate level. Presentations included songs, games, paw prints and a puppet show, for younger grades and a video, family Bear Aware checklist and review of the City's Bear Hazard Map to older grades. All of the grades were given the opportunity to view a bear hide, skull, claws and plastic moulds of paws and scat. The response was huge!

A presentation was given to all of the classes at Columbia Park, Arrow Heights, and Mount Begbie, and two classes at Mountain View Elementary school, resulting in a presentation being given to 83% of the elementary students in Revelstoke. The two schools Columbia Park and Arrow Heights, where all students received Bear Aware education, were schools identified in the Bear Hazard Assessment as being near or surrounded by heavily used bear corridors.



**Figure 5** - Grade 3 students at Mountain View Elementary school painting plaster paris paw prints.

A Bear Aware evaluation form was provided to each teacher to allow for improvements to be made in the program. The response was very positive, and when asked if they would be interested in a Bear Aware presentation again in the future, all responded yes. A couple of teachers have decided to incorporate the study of bears further into their curriculum, through art and science study. The table below documents which presentations were given to each grade. This table will allow for planning of school programming in the future to avoid duplication of activities.

**Table 3 – School Presentations**

<b>School</b>	<b>Grade</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Number of students</b>
<b>Arrow Heights</b>	K	puppet show/songs	15
	1	puppet show/songs	18
	2/3	board game/stories/paw prints	20
	3/4	board game/big 6 attractants	22
	4/5	video/family checklist	22
	6	video/family checklist	22
	7	video/BH map/family checklist	25
<b>Columbia Park</b>	K	puppet show/songs	17
	1 and 1/2	puppet show/songs	42
	2/3 and 3	paw prints/ big 6 attractants	42
	4 and 4/5	video/family checklist	43
	5/6	video/family checklist	23
	7	video/family checklist/BH map	24
<b>Mount Begbie</b>	K	puppet show/songs	15
	1/2	paw prints/big 6 attractants	22
	2/3	board game/big 6 attractants	20
	3/4	board game/big 6 attractants	19
	5/6 and 7	video/family checklist	39
<b>Mountain View</b>	1/2	paw prints/ big 6 attractants	18
	3	paw prints/ big 6 attractants	18
		Total	486

Bear Aware presentations were also given to the city's three preschools and to the Stepping Stones summer day program. The following table documents the presentation given and number of students involved.

**Table 4 – Preschool Presentations**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Preschool</b>	<b>Details</b>	<b>Number of students</b>
June	Community Center	Stories, and songs	20
July	Stepping Stones daycare	Stories, board game, songs	14
October	Jumping Jacks	Puppet show, songs and stories	18
November	Mountain View Strong Start	Puppet show, songs and stories	20
		Total	72



**Figure 5** – Bear Aware puppet show

### ***Garbage Tagging***

Currently the City of Revelstoke's Garbage Collection bylaw #1759, restricts garbage being placed on the curb to between the hours of 7am and 7pm on the day of collection.

To conduct a Garbage Tagging (formally "Garbage Raid"), the Bear Aware Coordinator and volunteers go out the night before garbage day and tag garbage cans that have been placed on the curb. A bright yellow sticker is placed on the can that states – "garbage attracts bears, store containers inside until collection day". A letter stating "this is a friendly reminder of the City's curbside restriction bylaw" was also included.

Earlier this year the City's Waste Collection Strategy committee and city staff drafted changes to the garbage collection bylaw to include secure storing of garbage outside of collection day. Since it was hoped that the bylaw would be brought to City Council early in the spring and the changes adopted, little emphasis was placed on education about the current bylaw this season. Only three garbage tagging were conducted in three different neighbourhoods. Compliance with the current bylaw appeared to be lower than seen in previous year's garbage tagging, but the sample size was small. After alerting the City's Bylaw Officer, the City ran a two week advertisement in the Revelstoke Times Review newspaper indicated the current bylaw and its curbside restrictions.

The draft of changes to the current bylaw is now expected to be reviewed by City Council early next year. If the bylaw is passed, an education campaign alerting residents of their new responsibility to secure garbage from bears can begin.

## ***New Residents***

While most long term residents have received the Bear Aware message, the Coordinator tried to identify ways to reach new residents. With the opening of Revelstoke Mountain Resort a couple of years ago and construction projects associated with the resort and BC Hydro, there has been an increase in new and temporary residents to the area. Many of the residents have come from other mountain communities and are aware of the Bear Aware message. Although this is the case with many newcomers, others are unaware of their responsibility to secure bear attractants, and how to behave in bear country.

Public displays at the farmer's market early in May, saw a large number of new residents coming to the market and proved to be a good opportunity to explain the importance of securing attractants and how to behave living in bear country.

A presentation given to construction contractors at Revelstoke Mountain Resort staff also proved to be an effective way of reaching many new residents. Many of the contractors were living temporarily in the area, to work on projects.

## ***Canadian Pacific Railway***

Grain that spills along the Canadian Pacific right of ways inside and outside of town has been identified as a bear attractant in the Revelstoke Bear Hazard Assessment. Grain spills in Revelstoke gained media attention this season after a widely circulated e-mail by Defenders of Wildlife Director Jim Pissot from Canmore, Alberta. The e-mail showing pictures of grain spills and bears on the rail tracks outside of Revelstoke resulted in an interview from the Coordinator with the Revelstoke Times Review and an article appearing in the newspaper (Appendix 6).

As a result of the article the Coordinator met with Breanne Feigel, Manager of Communications for Canadian Pacific, in July. Canadian Pacific should be commended for their investment in repairing grain hopper car gates and the reduction of berry bushes and other vegetation near railway tracks that attracts bears. The Revelstoke rail yard has a vacuum truck that is used to clean up spilt grain, but what the protocol is in terms of timing, and considerations for clean up when rail cars are parked on the tracks is unclear at this time. It is of utmost importance that all grain spills are cleaned up right away to prevent attracting bears. Revelstoke Bear Aware is looking forward to working more closely with Canadian Pacific Railway in the future.

## ***Revelstoke Bear Aware logo***

Early in 2009, a local artist Zuzanna Driediger was approached to create a logo for the program, which would capture Revelstoke and Bear Aware and be used in the future to symbolize Revelstoke Bear Aware Society. The logo created depicts Mount Begbie in a grizzly bear paw print and was used in all advertising in 2009, as well as a link to other information on the Revelstoke Current on line newspaper.



**Figure 6** – Newly created Revelstoke Bear Aware Society logo

## ***Bear-People Conflicts Workshop***

In November, the Coordinator attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Bear-People Conflicts workshop in Canmore, Alberta. The workshop was well attended by black and grizzly bear experts from all over North America. Topics discussed included bear behaviour, managing bears, attractant management, education and training, and community based programs. The workshop was very informative and valuable, and added to the Coordinator's knowledge and new ideas for the Revelstoke program in the future. The workshop also provided the Coordinator the opportunity to highlight some of the positive steps toward becoming Bear Smart that have occurred in Revelstoke.

## ***Media***

### **Radio**

Two live radio interviews were completed by the Coordinator on the local radio station EZ Rock, as well as an interview promoting the Gleaning Project was done with CBC Radio Kelowna. A public service announcements promoting the Bear Aware program and advertising the Gleaning Project ran throughout the bear season on EZ Rock radio.

### **Newspaper**

Seven newspaper articles were written by the Coordinator and appeared as a monthly column in the Revelstoke Times Review. Three articles were written for the online newspaper Revelstoke Current and one for the quarterly paper Reved. In addition there were two news stories and a letter to the editor where Revelstoke Bear Aware received media attention. An advertisement appeared in the City of Revelstoke recreation guide and on the Revelstoke Current. The ad on the Revelstoke Current contained a link to the Revelstoke Bear Aware website and the Gleaning Project poster.

## **Video**

The video “Staying Safe in Bear Country” was made available as a free overnight rental from the local video store. This allowed the Coordinator to direct residents with questions regarding bear safety to the video store. The video was taken out 48 times during the year.

## **Internet**

The Revelstoke Bear Aware website continues to be a popular source of information receiving 3486 visits at the end of November, a 31% increase from last year. A Revelstoke Bear Aware Society director and volunteer, designed and updates the website.

## **Television**

Six overlap ads appeared on Revelstoke cable TV advertising channel through out the bear season.

## **Volunteers**

In August, posters were placed around town indicating that Revelstoke Bear Aware was looking for volunteers for various program delivery roles. The “Gleaning Project” poster also indicated the need for volunteers to pick fruit. There was a huge response received from fruit pickers and a larger response than previous years of people unable to pick their fruit, but there were still more volunteer fruit pickers than needed to pick available fruit.

All volunteer’s that were involved in program delivery outside of fruit picking were provided with the Volunteer’s Handbook developed by The British Columbia Conservation Foundation. Volunteer fruit pickers received a Bear Aware Cook Book, developed by former Castlegar Bear Aware Program Delivery specialist Chrissy McIntyre. The cookbooks were very much appreciated by the volunteers. The “Gleaning Project” and its success this season would not have been possible without the invaluable support from volunteers. The volunteers of the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society provided support and guidance. Park’s Canada, GIS specialist provided invaluable volunteer support through help developing a bear hazard map for the community.

It would not have been possible for the program to deliver the Bear Aware message to so many members of the community without the support from volunteers that the program received this season. This support was also important to our large advances in completing the provincial Bear Smart criteria. An hourly wage was given to each volunteer activity, to calculate a value of in-kind support for the community program. The hourly wage was calculated from a Provincial Bear Aware Volunteer Program schedule (Appendix 7)

**Table 5 – Revelstoke Bear Aware Volunteers in 2009**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Total</b>
G. Lipps	Fruit picking	3	16.00	48.00
J. Vickers	Fruit picking	2	16.00	32.00
J. Vickers	Fruit picking	1	16.00	16.00
L. Vickers	Fruit picking	3	16.00	48.00
H. Vickers	Fruit picking	1	16.00	16.00
A. Brittin	Fruit picking	3	16.00	48.00
S. Brittin	Fruit picking	10	16.00	160.00
A. Brown	Fruit picking	3	16.00	48.00
S. Brown	Fruit picking	3	16.00	48.00
Yuko	Fruit picking	3	16.00	48.00
Bridgette	Fruit picking	2	16.00	32.00
Alex	Fruit picking	2	16.00	32.00
A. Page	Fruit picking	1	16.00	16.00
M. Page	Fruit picking	2	16.00	32.00
D. Brittin	Garbage tagging	2	15.79	31.58
Noah	Door to door	2	16.34	32.68
C. Kopp	Public display	5	15.44	77.20
N. Overwater	Door to door	5	16.34	81.70
	Meeting, RBAS	6	19.00	114.00
L. Peland	Door to door	2	16.34	32.68
	Public display,	8	15.44	123.52
	School programming	4	20.38	81.52
	Meeting, RBAS	6	19.00	114.00
L. Parker	Meeting, RBAS	6	19.00	114.00
M. Woods	Meeting, RBAS	6	19.00	114.00
A. Christie	Meeting, RBAS	6	19.00	114.00
J. Morris	Meeting, RBAS	6	19.00	114.00
	Website	4	23.48	93.92
	Bookkeeping	8	16.00	128.00
B. Gadbois	Meeting, RBAS	6	19.00	114.00
Councilor Welock	Meeting, RBAS	6	19.00	114.00
I. Brown	Meeting, RBAS	6	19.00	114.00
Parks Canada, R. Larson	GIS mapping	45	21.54	969.30
Z. Driediger	Artist, created logo			350.00
	<b>Total</b>			<b>\$3652.10</b>

# Moving Toward Recognition as a Bear Smart Community

Bear Smart is a voluntary provincial initiative aimed at encouraging communities to reduce the amount of conflict between people and bears by taking personal responsibility for change. For the City of Revelstoke to become a “Bear Smart” community it is necessary for individuals, the City, the Regional District and the provincial government to work together to address bear attractants in the community. The program focuses on six criteria that communities must complete in order to achieve Bear Smart status. Each of the criteria is listed below with a description of work that has been completed this year.

## **1. Bear Hazard Assessment**

Earlier this year the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society completed a Bear Hazard Assessment and Bear Hazard Map for Revelstoke and surrounding area, which can be viewed on our website [www.revelstokebearaware.org](http://www.revelstokebearaware.org). Non-natural and natural wildlife attractants are identified as well as commonly used wildlife corridors and locations that may have an increased risk for bear encounters.

Resources used to complete the Bear Hazard Assessment were:

- Provincial Problem Wildlife Occurrence reports (PWOR's) received from phone calls made to the Provincial Problem Wildlife phone line.
- Calls received to the Revelstoke Bear Aware phone line.
- Information provided by the local Conservation Officer regarding problem areas and the existence of bear travel corridors.
- Information provided from the Revelstoke Bear Management committee.
- A review of the Revelstoke Bear Aware annual reports dating back to the beginning of the program in 1996.
- A general survey of the community during the bear season to identify potential attractants and concerns.
- Information gathered from interviews with knowledgeable people.
- Information provided from the city and residents.
- A review of bear hazard assessments done for other communities.

The Bear Hazard Map was created using information collected from the Provincial Problem Wildlife Phone Line, information from our local Conservation Officer Adam Christie and valuable and much appreciated support of Parks Canada GIS specialist Ron Larsen.

The sites plotted on the map were from information collected between 2005 and 2008. Locations where the action taken was to destroy the bear are marked using a red bear. Sightings where an attractant was present are labeled using different colored bears; the number of incidents involving each attractant was noted on the map's legend as well as the number of incidents that resulted in a bear being destroyed.

A density analysis was done for garbage and fruit sightings. The relative bear observation density identifies areas where there have been multiple observations of bears feeding on fruit or garbage in the same or approximate location.

The map showed that bears have been sighted throughout the community. Areas of highest

concern are those that are adjacent to active wildlife interfaces and near commonly used bear travel corridors. Active wildlife interfaces occur in the neighbourhoods adjacent to Mount Revelstoke National Park, the Colombia River, the Illecillewaet River and Mount Mackenzie.

Mapping the location where bears feed on garbage and fruit allows for a better understanding of the problem areas in the community, and highlights where changes are needed and where to target education from the Bear Aware program.

The bear hazard map will be updated each year, allowing for a visual image of changes in availability of different attractants to bears over time.

## **2. Bear/Human Conflict Management Plan**

Earlier this year a Bear-Human Conflict Management Plan was compiled for Revelstoke and surrounding area. The document lays out recommendations and actions that will mitigate each of the hazards that were identified in the Bear Hazard Assessment including the group or groups required to carry out the action, a priority rating and, cost and timing required.

## **3. Revise planning and decision-making documents**

Criteria three requires that planning and decision making document are revised to be consistent with the Bear/Human Conflict Management Plan. The Official Community Plan for the City of Revelstoke and the Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Mount Revelstoke National Park Management Plan and the Mount Mackenzie Resort Master Plan all include “Bear Smart” practices consistent with the Bear-Human Conflict Management Plan. The Regional Solid Waste Management Plan was completed and approved in May 2009 and also takes into account “Bear Smart” practices.

## **4. Education Program**

Criteria four requires a community implement a continuing education program that is directed at all sectors of the community. The Revelstoke Bear Aware program itself is this program.

## **5. Develop and maintain a bear-proof municipal solid waste management system**

The Coordinator is currently representing Revelstoke Bear Aware, on the Regional Solid Waste Management Plan Monitoring Advisory Committee that was formed this year. The Coordinator is also sitting on the City’s Waste Collection Strategy committee which has been meeting since November of 2007. The mission statement of this committee is:

“To operate a solid waste management system with minimal impact for wildlife and the natural environment, providing a safe and healthy community”. One of the committee’s strategic initiatives is “To become Bear Smart”.

In the Bear Human Conflict Management Plan a number of recommendations were made with regards to changing open garbage cans to bear-resistant bins. Some of these actions have already been put in place. A bear-proof bin replaced an open bin in front of the community

center. The bin is located along a commonly used bear corridor and attracted bears last year (figure 7).

In addition, one of the City owned parks and campground, Williamson Lake, received bear proof garbage bins to replace the current open garbage cans. Three of the four elementary schools replaced all open garbage cans with bear proof garbage cans. This was the outcome of a conversation early this year with the School District Superintendent, addressing the concerns of open garbage cans in school yards. The schools that received the bear proof cans were identified in the Bear-Hazard Assessment as having the greatest potential for bear encounters. Open garbage cans at the schools have been identified as a concern for many years in Revelstoke Bear Aware annual reports. The change to bear proof garbage bins is great news to Revelstoke Bear Aware and for the safety of the children at these schools. A newspaper column was written by the coordinator to raise awareness of this School District initiative (see appendix 8)



**Figure 7**, (left) Open garbage can across from community center, Summer 2008. (photo courtesy of Francis Maltby) (Right), New bear proof garbage can across from the community center, Fall 2009.

### **Residential Bear Resistant Garbage Can Pilot Project**

In November, the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society and Waste Collection Strategy committee completed a pilot project studying the use of bear-resistant residential garbage cans in one of the City's mobile home parks. The pilot project began in October 2008 with the goal to determine the effectiveness of bear resistant bins as a means of creating a bear-resistant waste management system. The pilot project lasted a year to gain information about the use of a lifter on the City's garbage truck throughout the heavy snow winter months; the residents' opinions about the use of the cans; and the effectiveness at reducing the availability of garbage to bears.

The pilot project received wide support from the residents of Johnson Heights and was also an effective way of raising awareness of the Bear Aware program and the importance of securing garbage from bears. An article presenting a resident's perspective appeared on the Revelstoke Current (Appendix 9).

The Coordinator, on behalf of Revelstoke Bear Aware Society and City's Waste Collection Strategy committee presented the results of the pilot project to City Council on November 24.

They recommended that the bear resistant garbage containers (with the use of the lifter on the city's garbage truck) be implemented throughout the city. It was recommended that there be a phase-in period over a number of years time, where residents with limited ability to secure garbage receive the cans first. Whether City Council will adopt this recommendation should become clear early next year.

## **6. Implement "Bear Smart" bylaws**

Bear Smart bylaws prohibit the provision of food to bears as a result of intent, neglect or irresponsible management of attractants.

The City's Waste Collection Strategy committee has made amendments to the existing garbage bylaw to include secure storage of garbage outside of collection day. The City already has a curbside restriction bylaw that was put in place in 1996. The committee has also drafted a Wildlife Attractant bylaw that addressed other non natural attractants identified in the bear hazard assessment. Both bylaws are currently in the city administration office and are expected to go to City Council early next year.

## **Future of Revelstoke Bear Aware**

The Bear Aware education program has now completing its 14<sup>th</sup> year of operating in Revelstoke. The program has been very successful in raising awareness of bears and the attractants that bring bear into our community.

Over the past couple of years there have been many positive steps made toward achieving the provincial Bear Smart initiative. The City has become more aware and supportive of this initiative. Bear Aware is needed to advocate for completion of the actions and recommendations in the Bear-Human Conflict Management Plan and completion of the criteria required to become Bear Smart. There is also a need to continually raise public awareness and garner support for the initiative.

Education of the Bear Aware message continues to be very important. There will be an increase in disturbance to wildlife living on Mount Mackenzie and surrounding area as recreational development continues and Revelstoke Mountain Resort begins to include golfing, hiking and mountain biking during the summer months. Education is of utmost importance to ensure that bears do not find attractants, creating a high potential for conflict between people and bears.

Using the Bear Hazard Map completed this year, and updating the map yearly will provide valuable information on the locations where the Bear Aware message is needed most.

As the population of Revelstoke changes with an increase in new residents, visitors, and absentee owners or black window properties, it is important to continually seek out new and innovative ways to reach this segment of the population.

Although long time Revelstokians have been receiving the Bear Aware message for 14 years and the majority know how to behave in bear country, there are still others that have grown complacent to seeing bears. It is important to continue to educate about the importance of securing attractants.

The Bear Aware program has proven to be very successful and needed in our community where there is high potential for conflict between bears and people. The Revelstoke Bear Aware program has been very fortunate in past years to have received funding to allow this work to continue. It is of great concern that there is not sustainable funding available for the program and that other programs in the province have seen a significant decrease in funding this year. While the success of the Revelstoke program thus far and the future for continued success in reducing conflict is bright, there is a concern for the future for funding of the program given the current economic climate.

## **Recommendations for 2010**

The Revelstoke Bear Aware Society recommends the following actions for the upcoming year:

- The Coordinator continues to work with the City on the Waste Collection Strategy committee.
- The Waste Collection Strategy committee and the City develop a written plan guiding Revelstoke toward a bear proof solid waste management system.
- The City implements Bear Saver garbage cans throughout the city.
- All new development and subdivisions are required to design for and construct centralized bear proof garbage bins.
- The City re-examines the rotating garbage schedule and moves to a set day per area to lessen confusion.
- The City implements a wildlife attractant bylaw and adopts the changes to the city's garbage bylaw; requiring garbage is stored in a secure place outside of collection day.
- Provided the above bylaws are implemented, the Coordinator works with the City to provide education to the residents regarding the new bylaws.
- Provided the wildlife attractant bylaw is adopted, the Coordinator works with the City to add existing fruit trees to a GIS map, to allow for better monitoring.
- The Coordinator continues to sit on the Columbia Shuswap Regional District's Solid Waste Management Plan Monitoring Advisory committee.
- The Coordinator continues to target Bear Aware education to new residents, visitors and "black window" properties.
- Revelstoke Bear Aware offers an electric fencing education workshop to residents in the rural area surrounding Revelstoke.
- Revelstoke Bear Aware offers a fruit tree pruning education workshop to residents of Revelstoke and surrounding rural area.

- The Coordinator continues to work with the Wildfire Interface committee to identify areas within the city that have a high potential for both bear security cover and forest fires.
- The Coordinator continues to work in conjunction with the Community Connections Food Bank to expand the “Gleaning Project”.
- Revelstoke Bear Aware continues to foster a good relationship with the resort development team and work to make the development wildlife proof in terms of solid waste, recycling and other wildlife attractants.
- The Coordinator continues to educate and gain support for the “Bear Smart” provincial initiative.
- The Coordinator provides updates to the Bear Hazard Assessment and Bear Human Conflict Management Plan as an appendix to the annual report.
- Provided a written plan is in place to guide Revelstoke toward a bear proof solid waste system and the above mentioned bylaws are implemented, Revelstoke Bear Aware and the City apply to the province to be granted Bear Smart status.
- The Bear Management Committee, the City and the Coordinator continue to lobby the provincial government for long term program funding to provide for sustainability.

## Appendices

**Appendix 1: Tourist Guide** - Escape to the Arrow Lakes, Your Summer/Fall 2009 guide to Revelstoke, Nakusp and beyond, a supplement to Revelstoke Times Review and Arrow Lakes News.

### Revelstoke is Bear Country

By Penny Pogo-Britlin  
Revelstoke Bear Aware Coordinator

Welcome to Revelstoke. You are visiting Bear Country! Revelstoke is surrounded by prime black and grizzly bear habitat with wildlife corridors passing through town. Are you hoping to see a bear? Do you think they are cute and cuddly? Do you know what to do if you do see a bear? Bears are beautiful creatures that are naturally wary of people and in most cases will try and avoid us, but they are wild animals that can be very dangerous. They deserve our respect. If you see a bear, DON'T feed it. DON'T approach the bear and DON'T take the time to find your camera to take a picture. Pictures should only be taken from the safety of a building or car. Bears are fast, and can move up to 50 km/h. An Olympic sprinter at top speed will hit 43 km/h. Keep

a distance of at least 100 metres. The bear you are looking at may not be alone. You may be standing between a mother bear and her cubs. You may be threatening a food source, or have startled the bear. What should you do? Firstly, it's important to try and prevent bear encounters in the first place. While camping or hiking and biking in bear country, there are a few precautions you should take:

- Make noise, talk, sing, clap, let the bear know you are there, especially when travelling in dense vegetation, near loud running water or in an area of low visibility.
- Travel in groups.
- Avoid travelling in the early morning or late evening, when bears are more active.
- Keep children and pets at your side at all times.
- Keep your campsite clean. En-

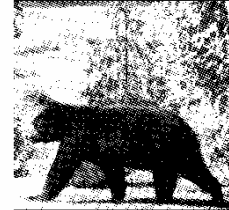
sure all food and garbage is secured.

- Don't bring food or toiletries into your tent.

Bears are naturally wary of people and will usually leave before we even know they were there. If you do encounter a bear:

- Remain calm.
- Immediately pick up small children and stay in a group.
- Back away slowly, without making eye contact, never run.
- Talk calmly in a firm voice.
- Leave the area and ensure you leave an escape route for the bear.

This information is a guideline only, and does not guarantee the safe outcome of an encounter with a bear. If you are going to Mount Revelstoke and Glacier National Parks during your visit, pick up further information on bear safety at Parks Canada in



Do you know how to avoid dangerous bear encounters?

Revelstoke or at the visitor's centre at Rogers Pass. If you see a bear, please report the sighting to Revelstoke Bear Aware at 250 837-8624 or the Provincial Wildlife Occurrence phone line at 1-877-952-7277. Have a safe and enjoyable visit in Revelstoke's mountain playground. [www.revelstokebear-aware.org](http://www.revelstokebear-aware.org)

## Appendix 2: The "Gleaning Project" poster



### Community Connections Food Bank and Revelstoke Bear Aware



### The Gleaning Project

What GLEANING means to the Food Bank:

*"To collect and gather surplus produce from the community to enhance food quality"*

An **EASY** way to share your extra fruits, berries and vegetables with the rest of the community!

Simply call **Community Connections Food Bank** at 250-837-2920 or **Revelstoke Bear Aware** at 250-837-8624 to arrange for a FREE pickup of any unwanted produce from your yard and garden and to arrange for your unwanted fruit to be picked or to volunteer to help pick fruit.

Volunteers are welcome to keep some fruit for their own use.

**Food will go to Community Connections Food Bank enhancing the nutritional value of our hampers!**

#### More Ways to Help

Drop off your surplus produce at the Food Bank  
#600 West 1<sup>st</sup> Street  
Downstairs in the Legion  
*Friday Mornings 8:00-11:00*



Keep your yard  
**CLEAN...**  
Let us  
**GLEAN!**

Spread the word of the Gleaning Project to anyone who is interested!

THE GLEANING PROJECT IS SOLEY USED FOR HARVESTING.  
NO PRUNING, WATERING, WEEDING ETC. IS OFFERED.

## Appendix 3: Newspaper article – Reved, Fall 2009

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Fall 2009 Reved  
**Volunteer Job-pick**  
*Volunteer opportunities in your community*

### **Fruit Pickers** *by Colin Titsworth*

Harvest season marks the opportunity for one of the best volunteer jobs of the year. Volunteer fruit pickers working for Bear Aware and Community Connections are gleaning Revelstoke to help people and bears. Gleaning is terminology for the act of collecting unwanted or unused food for the benefit of others. Centuries ago, gleaning was a way of life for peasants who would scrounge the fields for grain after the main harvest.

Modern-day gleaning distributes provisions from food outlets and plentiful gardens to grateful citizens. Berries and fruit are cleared from people's yards who may not have the time or means to do it themselves. Eliminating the backyard buffet for bears and bringing the fruit produce to Revelstoke Food Bank is working to help feed people and reduce bear conflicts within our city.

Gleaning just makes sense and being a volunteer gleaner does not mean you have to live in a tent by the river. Gleaners only need outdoor work apparel, volunteer spirit and an appetite for snacking while working.

The two bear statues at Grizzly Plaza symbolize we live in bear country but the real evidence is the claw-marked garbage cans, broken fruit trees and bear scat in our gardens. The arrival of a bear is usually signified by an outraged dog barking in the night.

This triggers other dogs to freak-out and sets off a chain reaction of motion lights throughout the neighbourhood. Once the bear has been detected it will find a place to hide, like the apple tree of your neighbours who are in Mexico. Bear Aware can help with these issues and your neighbours will be happy their fruit was eaten by humans and not the bears.

Bear Aware is a program that reminds us how to conduct ourselves with issues that affect the furry omnivores that surround Revelstoke. Their mission is to "reduce bear/human conflict in the community of Revelstoke." This is a challenging objective in a town that now has more seasonal people unaccustomed to living in bear country. Detecting and addressing concerns before they become a problem can often save these animals from getting killed and dumped in the woods. Harsh but true.

Revelstoke Bear Aware is a non-profit organization that relies on the support and actions of the community for its continued success. Local folk are welcome to sign up for picking duty by contacting Revelstoke Bear Aware at 250-837-8624 or Community Connections Food Bank at 250-837-2920.

## **Appendix 4: Letter of support – Community Connections**



COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS (REVELSTOKE) SOCIETY  
[www.community-connections.ca](http://www.community-connections.ca)

November 2, 2009

Revelstoke Bear Aware Society  
Box 674  
Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0

To Whom It May Concern:

I am pleased to provide this letter of support to the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society.

The Revelstoke Bear Aware Society has worked together with Community Connections Food Bank in past years on "The Gleaning Project". This program has become a very valuable asset to our Food Bank and encourages community members to contact Bear Aware or the Food Bank to collect and gather surplus fruit and produce from community members. This valuable program has greatly enhanced the quality and quantity of fresh food that we can provide in our food hampers and was much appreciated by everyone.

During this past season we have seen an increase in the number of community members participating with The Gleaning Project either in partnership with Bear Aware or simply by making their donations in person at the Food Bank. I look forward to working with the Revelstoke Bear Aware Society in the future and will be pleased to participate in collaborative efforts.

Sincerely,

*Patti Larson*

Patti Larson  
Program Manager  
Outreach Services

314 Second Street East, P.O. Box 2880, Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0  
Phone (250)837-2920 Fax (250)837-2909

## **Appendix 5: Letter to schools – Bear Aware education program**



Box 674 Revelstoke, BC V0E 2S0  
(250) 837-8624 [beaware@telus.net](mailto:beaware@telus.net)

September 17, 2009

Robert Wilson  
Mountain Begbie Elementary School

Dear Mr. Wilson,

Welcome back to school! Hope you and your staff had a wonderful summer holiday.

As Revelstoke Bear Aware Coordinator I would like to offer presentations to your students. September and October are traditionally a time when there are increased bear sightings in our community, and is an appropriate time to reinforce bear safety and bear proofing messages. Topics discussed include bear biology, ecology, safety, and importance of securing bear attractants in our community. Listed below are possible presentations that cover these topics that are appropriate for different grade levels. I am flexible on the activities used and time requirement and can gear this to the needs of each individual teacher.

### **Presentation 1: suggested age group: kindergarten and Grade 1**

Songs – difference between black bears and grizzly bears

Story – Bear behaviour

Puppet show - I can present this with the assistance of the teacher or an older student. If there are two older students that would like to present this. I can arrange to rehearse it with them.

Safety: How to avoid meeting a bear; what to do if you see a bear.

Time required: approximately 30-45 minutes

Equipment: table for puppet show

### **Presentation 2: suggested age group: Grade 2 and Grade 3**

Story – bear behaviour

Discussion – garbage bears, keeping bears out of garbage, fruit, etc.

Hides and skull – for students to examine

Activity – discussion about bear tracks and painting of individual plaster paris paw prints.

Safety: How to avoid meeting a bear, what to do if you meet a bear.

Time required: approximately 45 minutes to 1 hour

Equipment: paint brushes

### **Presentation 3: suggested age group Grade 4 and Grade 5**

Story – bear behaviour

Bear Aware Board game – teaches concepts of wildlife corridors, securing attractants

Hide and skull – for students to examine

Safety: How to avoid meeting a bear, and what to do if you do meet a bear

Time required : approximately 45 minutes

### **Presentation 4: suggested age group Grade 6 and Grade7**

Activity - video “Living in Bear Country” or Bear Aware Power Point presentation and Family Bear Aware checklist

Safety: How to avoid meeting a bear and what to do if you do meet a bear.

Time required: approximately 45 min

Equipment: ability to show a power point presentation or video

Please give me a call at 250-837-8624 or send an e-mail to [beaware@telus.net](mailto:beaware@telus.net) if you have any questions or would like to schedule a presentation.

Sincerely,

Penny Page-Brittin

Revelstoke Bear Aware Coordinator

# Appendix 6: Newspaper article – “CP Rail works toward bear awareness”

4 ■ TIMES REVIEW ■ WEDNESDAY, JUNE 24, 2009

## CP Rail works towards 'bear awareness'

BRANDON ADAMS  
Times Review

CP Rail has responded to a relatively widely circulated e-mail by Defenders of Wildlife Director Jim Pissot which called into question the company's 'bear awareness.'

In the e-mail, Pissot questioned CP Rail's management of grain spills along

son Breanne Feigel

responded by commending Pissot for his work with wildlife, but also outlining the steps the organization is taking to deal with bears and split grain.

"Jim does some really proactive work when it comes to wildlife management," said Feigel before explaining how the railway deals with split grain.

"CP, throughout the national park areas in Alberta and B.C., has vacuum trucks ... specifically to remove product that has been split," explained Feigel, saying, "We recognize that grain is an attractant to wild animals."

Feigel did acknowledge the potential for delays in reaching spill sites, stating, "We have to work around train operations ... but it's normally done in around 48 hours from when grain is reported."

As for the cause of the grain spills, Feigel pointed towards problems with the unloading gates found in the bot-

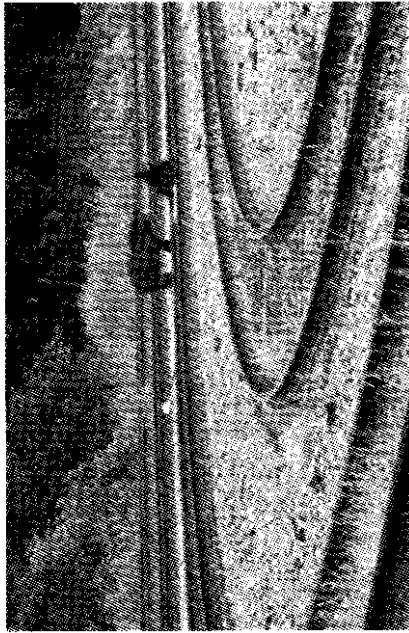


PHOTO COURTESY JIM PISSOT

Bears attracted to grain spilled on rail tracks just outside of Revelstoke.

tom of the railway's grain cars, problems which CP Rail is currently addressing.

"Since 2007, CP has invested \$20 million into a five year program ... to repair grain hopper car gates," said Feigel. "We're about 45 per cent done. It's supposed to be done by 2012, but we're ahead of schedule."

As for interaction between trains, people, and bears, Feigel pointed to CP Rail programs, such as the reduction of berry bushes and other vegetation near railway tracks, intended to reduce the num-

ber of bears killed by trains or drawn into rail yards.

Feigel also said that her organization is looking at working more closely with B.C.'s Bear Aware program. "We're looking to speak more with Bear Aware ... [and] we're looking into a variety of solutions to keep working on mitigating having animals on our tracks," said Feigel.

Revelstoke Bear Aware coordinator Penny Page-Brittin also acknowledged the importance of denying bears spilled grain and other at-

tractants. "It's important that when there is a grain spill, that CP identifies it and cleans it up," said Page-Brittin, who continued, "I have not been made aware of grain spills on the tracks this year."

Page-Brittin said that Revelstoke residents have done a "great job on securing attractants" and she also said her organization "would look forward to working with CP on mitigating the risks of bears at their facilities."

## Appendix 7: Bear Aware Volunteer Program

### Bear Aware Volunteer Program

#### Volunteer Activity management structure:

<b>Table 1</b>			
<b>Volunteer position descriptions</b>			
	Position	Position Description	Hourly Wage Value*
1.	Board and/or committee member (4162) <sup>1</sup>	Sit on the community public advisory committee, providing insight into the community structure and needs of the community in relations to bear-human conflict.	\$19.00
2.	Volunteer Manager (6216)	Manage all volunteers, ensuring they are briefed on their job description, hours of work, proper orientation and training. Record all volunteer hours and provide a report to the Program Delivery Specialist.	\$13.99
3.	Volunteer trainer. (4216)	Develop and deliver training to volunteers on bear-human conflict. The Bear Aware Program.	\$15.56
4.	Program Advisor (6481)	Provide guidance and advisement to the Bear Aware Program and the Program Delivery Specialist.	\$15.44
5.	Door-to-door canvasser (6411)	Either assisting the Program Delivery Specialist or working with another volunteer, conduct door-to-door visits in neighbourhoods within the community with reported bear-human conflict. Provide information to homeowners on how to manage bear attractants. Assist homeowners in finding solutions to attractant management through the identification of bear attractants, the proper management of attractants, recommending bear resistant products, deterrents and general safety information. Recording of all door-to-door visits to the Program Delivery Specialist. Assist the PDS with media releases informing the public on the problem with the various types of food attractants and the results this has on bears as well as the threat to public safety the presence of habituated bears pose.	\$16.34
6.	Garbage raid (7621)	Working with the Program Delivery Specialist or another volunteer for safety reasons, visit neighbourhoods during the evening hours to record the number of garbage cans placed at the curb the night before pickup. All cans to have affixed a "Bear Attractant" sticker. Provide written reports to the PDS of all evening garbage raids. Assist the PDS with media releases informing the public on the problem with garbage being placed at curb side the night before pickup and share that information on a one-to-one basis with members of the community.	\$15.79

#### *Volunteer job descriptions - continued*

<sup>1</sup> National Occupational Classification Code (NOC) - Human Resources Development Canada

7.	Public display (6481)	Assist with the creation of public displays for the purpose of educating people on bears and the dangers involved in allowing bears to access food attractants. Provide general information on bear biology and behaviour, safety around bears, human habituation and human food conditioning. Use props such as bear skull, hides, claws, teeth, photos, videos to assist with educating the public.	\$15.44
8.	Public presentations (4131)	Develop or use already available public presentations to meet the needs of educating members of the community through public presentations. This may involve the use of hands on props such as bear skulls, hides, claws, teeth, photos, videos, charts. The use PowerPoint or Presentations. These presentations are aimed at public audiences, such as service clubs, special groups, local clubs, NGO's, general public.	\$26.70
9.	School presentations (6472)	Develop or use already available public presentations to meet the needs of educating members of the community through public presentations. This may involve the use of hands on props such as bear skulls, hides, claws, teeth, photos, videos, charts. The use Powerpoint or Presentations. These presentations are aimed at school age children, child care facilities, youth clubs, etc.	\$20.38
10.	Researcher (4161)	Conduct research for the local Bear Aware Program and the local Program delivery Specialist on subject matter that is required for the improvement and betterment of the program delivery.	\$24.00
11.	Computer programming (2174)	Web page design for the local Bear Aware Program.	\$23.48
12.	Bookkeeping (1231)	Maintaining financial books for the Bear Aware Program	\$16.00
13.	Correspondence and report writing. (1452)	Writing letters or reports for the Bear Aware Program under the direction of the Program Delivery Specialist or Advisory Committee.	\$15.72
14.	Mapping (2255)	Taking raw data and entering it into GIS software or similar software to produce conflict maps, corridor maps, conflict areas, etc.	\$21.54
15.	Journalism (5123)	This person counsels or assists directly with the regular preparation of media releases, conducts research for news stories or personally writes media stories for the Bear Aware Program.	\$23.88
16.	Fruit Picker (8431)	Picking unwanted fruit and processing it.	\$16.00

\* Volunteer value has been calculated using the True Value Added to Personnel (TVAP).

**Reference:**

[http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca/standard.asp?ppid=60&lcode=E&prov=59&gaid=25564&occ=&job=&search\\_key=4](http://www.labourmarketinformation.ca/standard.asp?ppid=60&lcode=E&prov=59&gaid=25564&occ=&job=&search_key=4)

## Hourly value calculations

<b>Table 2</b>			
<b>Program Volunteer Contributions</b>			
<b>Job Classification</b>	<b>Hours</b>	<b>Value</b>	<b>Total</b>
Board Member (4162)		\$19.00	
Volunteer Manager (6216)		\$13.99	
Volunteer trainer (4216)		\$15.56	
Program Advisor (6481)		\$16.34	
Door-to-door canvasser (6411)		\$16.34	
Garbage raid 7621)		\$15.79	
Public display (6481)		\$15.44	
Public presentations (4131)		\$26.70	
School presentations (6472)		\$20.38	
Researcher (4161)		\$24.00	
Computer programming (2174)		\$23.48	
Bookkeeping (1231)		\$16.00	
Correspondence and report writing. (1452)		\$15.72	
Mapping (2255)		\$21.54	
Journalism (5123)		\$23.88	
Fruit Picking (8431)		\$16.00	
<b>Grand Total</b>			

\* Volunteer value has been calculated using the True Value Added to Personnel (TVAP).

## **Appendix 8: Newspaper article – School yard bear proof garbage cans**

### Bears not welcome in the school yard

The school board has purchased six bear proof garbage cans, with an additional two purchased by Park's Canada. "Parks Canada is pleased to be part of this project, which highlights environmental stewardship, and increases awareness of bear safety and ecology to the youth in Revelstoke", says Ian Brown, Manager of Resource Conservation.

The proactive move by the school district to address available garbage in the school yard is great news for the community and the safety of children at school. While bears will come into our community, they will keep on going if they don't find any available food or garbage. By removing available garbage at school yards, there is less chance of a bear being there.

The bear proof garbage cans are smaller "mini" than the usual ones seen along the River Trail pathway and at many city parks, making it easier for children to reach. The schools that have received the garbage cans are Arrow Heights, Columbia Park and Mount Begbie. These schools were chosen due to increased bear sightings in previous years.

Talk to your children about the new garbage cans. Stress the importance of making sure all



School children standing in front of one of the new bear proof garbage cans.

garbage after lunch and recess makes it to the cans. Although the cans are "mini", some of the youngest children are still unable to reach and open the lid. I have received reports that the older children have been helping the younger children. It's great to see they are working together. Keep up the great work!

I have only received a couple of reports of bear sightings in Revelstoke so far this bear season, but it is important to remember, bears are actively foraging for new spring vegetation. The possibility of running into a bear in our community, particularly in heavily forested areas, where bears travel under security cover, still exists. Please remind your children while traveling to school to avoid taking short cuts through heavily forested areas.

If they do travel through these areas, travel in groups and make lots of noise, so a potential bear will identify them as human.

Talk to your children about the importance of how to act around bears. Never approach or feed a bear. If you see a bear, remain calm and leave the area. Please report any bear sightings to the Provincial Problem Wildlife Occurrence phone line at 1-877-952-7277 or to Revelstoke Bear Aware at 250-837-8624. If you have any questions about bear safety, give me a call or visit Video Express and view "Staying safe in Bear Country", a free overnight rental. For questions on how to bear proof your property visit [www.revelstokebearaware.org](http://www.revelstokebearaware.org). Have a happy and safe spring!

## **Appendix 9 – Newspaper article, Residential bear resistant garbage cans pilot project**

### **Bear season: the Johnson Heights perspective**

Posted by [editor](#) on November 28, 2009 · [Leave a Comment](#)

#### **Editor's Note:**

*Johnson Heights was the area selected by City Council a couple of years ago for the City's pilot study of bear-proof trash cans. It was, for residents, and interesting experience as their neighbourhood has long been regarded as "bear central." This article, written by resident Miranda Murphy, appeared in the neighbourhood newsletter this autumn. I thought it would give other Revelstokians a unique perspective on the utility of the Bear Saver garbage cans.*

#### ***It's Bear Season!***



Miranda Murphy

Here in Johnson Heights, when October rolls around, we begin to see the faces of some of our most nosy neighbours come out of hiding. In the late summer of last year, we became the proud owners of a cozy new home on our wonderful lot beside the woods. Having grown up in a wooded area, I understood that bears are present, however I was not prepared for their intrusive effects on the neighbourhood. Throughout September and October, almost every day we would hear of another bear eating another residents' garbage, or at least poking around the place with a couple young cubs in tow. There were a few nerve racking occasions when we had to sneakily grab our young, black puppy from the lawn when a bear was nearby, all the while hoping the bear didn't think we were abducting one of her cubs!

After diligently storing our garbage in our newly built and newly stinky shed, we were relieved to hear about the current study being conducted by Revelstoke Bear Aware which provided us with these great, bear-proof garbage cans. They are actually bear-proof. We found this out in May of this year. Our first garbage can was stolen within the first week of the project last fall. After a few thorough searches of the nearby woods, we decided it was a lost cause, until this May, when we spotted the can leaning against the bank at the back of the house! It was covered in bear scratches, tightly sealed, and smelling exactly as six month old garbage should, which was most likely why the bears decided to return it.

Bears are a beautiful and amazing creature and our forests wouldn't be the same without them. Bears are also very quick learners, and can easily become a nuisance to people. If bears find food at your house, they will come back and check for more. It is at this point where they become a problem and threat to humans and themselves. Although they are not inherently vicious, they are very easily scared and threatened, especially when they are caring for cubs. It is very unfortunate when nuisance bears must be destroyed as a result of the ignorance of humans.

Programs such as Bear Aware are key to promoting bear safety, awareness and helping us to reduce the numbers of bears we encounter. We are very fortunate to be part of a study involving these innovative new garbage cans, but the cans and the study will not serve their purpose unless we all do our part to help. Revelstoke Bear Aware asked us to keep all of our garbage securely stowed out of reach of bears. If we succeed in doing this, the bears will not find any food in Johnson Heights, and therefore, Bear Aware should receive less reports of bears visiting our homes. However, as soon as we leave out one bit of food garbage, the bears will find it and will learn to come back. It is not a huge responsibility, but it is an important one, to help out Bear Aware, our community and the bears.

With our cooperation and fancy new garbage cans, we should be able to reduce the number of bears visiting our houses and keep our neighbourhood a safe playground.

If you have trouble getting all your garbage in one can:

- Do a double duty for the environment and try recycling! The bottle depot is a great way to motivate yourself – whoever sorts and takes the recycling gets to keep the money made! (This works best with roommates who drink a lot of beer or kids that drink a lot of juice) The only rule is when you go to the bottle depot, you also must take the rest of the recycling to the public works yard even though there is no money in it.
- Try cutting down on food waste, which will also save your grocery bill. Only cook what you can eat and don't buy what you don't need.
- Remember the large, locked dumpster is on your way out.
- Sneak over to your neighbours house at night and put your garbage in their can! (Just kidding!)

*Miranda Murphy is a resident of Johnson Heights and a contributor to the neighbourhood's newsletter, where this article originally appeared this autumn*