

BLACK BEARS



THE NORTH SHORE IS BEAR COUNTRY

Black bears evolved in forested areas and are excellent climbers. Their instinct is to hide from threats in trees. Black bears are naturally wary of humans and expel a lot of energy attempting to avoid us. As intelligent animals, they are adapting to increased human and dog activity in their environment. Bears may become more tolerant and this should not be mistaken for boldness or aggression. Female black bears are especially timid and a female black bear with cubs is statistically the least aggressive bear you will meet.

SIGNS OF BEAR ACTIVITY

When you're in the forest, look out for:

- Fresh scat/tracks
- Tree markings/fur on tree
- Natural bear foods, i.e. berry producing plants

Black bears are smart and recognize human voices. Avoid a surprise encounter by using your voice in the forest. Stay on trails. Never leave food unattended. Keep your dog on-leash. Over half of all negative wildlife encounters involve an off-leash dog. Never pressure bears by approaching them for photographs. Respect their space and leave no trace.

IF YOU MEET A BEAR

Take a deep breath and stay calm

Speak calmly to the bear (in any language)

Back away slowly to let the bear know you aren't a threat

WHAT BLACK BEARS EAT

Black bears are omnivores, consuming a small amount of meat: insects, rabbit, deer and fish. 80% of their diet is vegetation: grasses, dandelions, berries and fruits.

They will search extensively for food, led by noses 2,000 times more sensitive than ours. It is normal to see bears travelling through the North Shore neighbourhoods, but make sure you don't invite them to stay by providing food rewards. Bears can be active year-round if we allow them access to unnatural food sources.

- Keep garbage/organics secure. Place carts at curbside on morning of collection (as per bylaw) *DNU issued carts are not bear-proof
- Freeze odorous organics
- Keep garbage cans clean. Wrap organics in newspaper
- Prune fruit trees/collect fallen fruit regularly
- Take down bird feeders, esp. Mar-Dec
- Feed your pets indoors
- Keep BBQs clean
- Store fridges/freezers/coolers inside only



Den, late Nov-Mar
producing cubs in
Jan



Cubs of the year
emerge late April.
Yearlings dispersed,
May



Search for a mate
May-mid Jul. Mothers
teach cubs how to
forage



Excessive eating to
prepare for winter
denning Sept-Nov

EVERY YEAR BEARS ARE KILLED FOR FINDING FOOD IN THE NEIGHBOURHOOD. RELOCATION ISN'T AN OPTION

FOR MORE INFORMATION VISIT
WWW.NORTHSHOREBEARS.COM