



NORTH SHORE BLACK BEAR SOCIETY

2016 Year-End Report

District of North Vancouver
District of West Vancouver
City of North Vancouver

Prepared by Christine Miller
November 1, 2016

The mandate of the North Shore Black Bear Society is to reduce human-bear encounters through education, cooperation and community support.


Highlights of 2016

Outreach to New Residents

New homeowners on the North Shore were mailed a welcome note from the North Shore Black Bear Society along with a Society rack card which outlines attractant management.

NORTH SHORE HOUSE SALES			
Municipality	Nov 1 – Dec 31 2015	Jan 1 2016 – Oct 31 2016	TOTAL
DNV and CNV	176	775	951
DWV	155	583	738
TOTAL SALES			1689

Community Events

<p>The North Shore Black Bear Society had displays at all major community events on the North Shore from Horseshoe Bay to Deep Cove. We had information displays at 19 events where we talked with over 3100 people.</p>	
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In addition to participating in community events in the three municipalities, the North Shore Black Bear Society organized the second annual International Bear Festival with Raincoast Conservation Foundation and Capilano University in April.

Presentations

As an important part of the ongoing education program, age-appropriate presentations were made to audiences of different ages.

Our presentations reached over **800 people**, including school classes (kindergarten – grade 5), Girl Guides, Boy Scouts, registrants at summer camps and the Ecology Centre, adults registered in classes at the North Shore Multicultural Society and seniors.

In November 2016, additional presentations are scheduled for six kindergarten classes, three grade 1 classes, a Girl Guide unit and two preschools.

Education and Enforcement Integration

The North Shore Black Bear Society conducted night-time curbside checks where there was bear activity or when requests were received from West Vancouver Bylaws Officer Service or from residents. Education follow-up with a mail-out was completed, and if that did not achieve the desired change, the information was passed on to the Bylaws Department of the municipality.

Canvassing in neighbourhoods and visits to individual homes were completed where bear activity was reported. At times, requests to canvass specific areas came from Conservation Officers or West Vancouver Bylaw Officers. In addition, the District of West Vancouver Bylaw Officers Service coordinated a joint educational outreach opportunity at Caulfeild Shopping Centre and scheduled a second one at Gleneagles Community Centre for November. It is beneficial for the West Vancouver community to see that we work together to reduce human-bear conflicts.

Signage

Bear-in-Area signs were placed in 117 locations in the District of North Vancouver. Four volunteers placed and removed signs when there was bear activity near residences, schools, parks and well-travelled pathways, and residents appreciated the notice of a bear sighting.

The North Shore Black Bear Society managed the City signs based on reports of bear activity from residents. **Signs were placed in 8 locations in the City of North Vancouver in 2016.**

Alex Charanin, West Vancouver Parks, and a Park Ranger placed **52 signs in the District of West Vancouver** where bear sightings were reported. A mother bear and her three cubs generated a significant number of the sightings.

Social Media

From November 1, 2015 to Oct 31, 2016, the Society's website had **384,590 hits**. The Society's Facebook page's popularity increased from 227 to **354 followers**. On November 1, 2016, our Twitter account had **153 followers** and our Instagram account had **56 followers**.

Research Project

Bear Feeding Behaviours Study

David Cook continued to complete bi-weekly analyses of the berry crop and bear scat in a North Vancouver study area during bear season. His research will help to determine if there is a direct correlation between the availability of natural bear foods and sightings of bears in residential areas eating unnatural foods.

Plans for 2017

The North Shore Black Bear Society will continue with its present education outreach programs that are outlined in this report.

In addition, the Society plans to:

- Expand the educational outreach via social media. We have a young volunteer who is keen to assist with this.
- Develop new interactive displays for community events.
- Develop new presentations and create an outline of our age-appropriate presentations available to the schools. Circulate the list to all North Shore elementary schools.
- Examine the new elementary school curricula and develop teaching units that teachers can use in their classrooms. This will involve discussions with the Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations in order to incorporate aboriginal content, a key element in the new curricula.

Acknowledgements

Funding Partners

- District of West Vancouver
- District of North Vancouver
- City of North Vancouver

Educational Outreach Partners

- Engineering Departments, Districts of North and West Vancouver
- Parks Departments, Districts of North and West Vancouver, City of North Vancouver
- Engineering, Parks and Environment, City of North Vancouver
- Bylaws Officer Service, Districts of North and West Vancouver, City of North Vancouver
- Communications Department, Districts of North and West Vancouver, City of North Vancouver
- North Shore Multicultural Society
- Block Watch Coordinators, North and West Vancouver
- North Shore Fruit Tree Project

Special Appreciation

We are grateful to the District of North Vancouver for providing the Society with space for our Board Meetings and Annual General Meeting. In addition, we appreciate the District Bearline [604-990-BEAR (2327)] which makes it easy for North Shore residents to report bear or attractant sightings and to request information or support with their attractant management challenges.

We appreciate the working relationships with Parks, Engineering and Bylaw Officers Service in the three municipalities, and acknowledge the importance of that support in the delivery of our education program.

Volunteers

The success of the Society's education program is dependent on the involvement of volunteers. We are fortunate to have committed people who contribute in a variety of ways. In 2016, **hundreds of hours of volunteer time** were provided to assist with the prevention and reduction of human-bear encounters on the North Shore.