



NORTH SHORE BLACK BEAR SOCIETY

2017 Year-End Report

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

Prepared by Christine Miller
November 1, 2017

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

Highlights of 2017

Bear activity and educational responses

The North Shore Black Bear Society (Society) was contacted more than **550 times** by North Shore residents to report bear sightings in 2017. Other calls or emails were also received about attractant sightings or to request information or support. Residents contacted us via cell phone, the District of North Vancouver's Bear Line, or the Society's website (northshorebears.com "REPORT IT"). This information enabled the Society to provide assistance in a variety of ways, including education by phone or email, home visits, community canvassing, and bear-in-area sign placement.

Bear-in-area signs

The reports made directly to the Society resulted in Bear-in-Area signs being placed in **193 locations in the District of North Vancouver** and **25 sites in the City of North Vancouver**, thanks to four dedicated volunteers. In addition, the **West Vancouver Parks staff placed signs in 65 locations** based on sightings submitted to the Society.

Database of reports

The Society maintained a database of all sightings of black bears and other wildlife made to the Society and the Conservation Officers Service (COS). (See APPENDIX 1 for summary.) The reports to the COS are from the Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP map), courtesy of WildSafeBC. The Society will use the database to strategically plan the locations for early pro-active education programs in 2018.

The breakdown of the bear sighting reports made to the Society are:

- District of North Vancouver – 444
At least 25 of these sightings are from the City of North Vancouver.
- District of West Vancouver – 113

The COS received bear sighting reports in these numbers:

- District of North Vancouver – 675
- District of West Vancouver – 509

Unfortunately, the educational responses that the Society can provide are limited to the reports made directly to us.

Attractant management

Many of the sightings (59.3%) reported to the Society and the COS were bears just passing through a neighbourhood with no attractant identified by the resident. In other cases, an attractant was identified, and as usual, garbage (26.9%) topped the list of attractants. (See the following table.)

Table 1: Attractants identified in bear sighting reports to the North Shore Black Bear Society and the Conservation Officers Service


Bear sighting reports 2017		
Attractants	Number	Percentage
No attractants; sighting report only	1033	59.3
Garbage	468	26.9
Fruit trees	66	3.8
Compost/Green Can	60	3.4
Bird feeders	58	3.3
Other, including: cut grass, fish fertilizer, paint, fish, water	34	2.0
Barbecues	7	.4
Fridges/Freezers	5	.3
Pet food	4	.2
Recycling	3	.2
Vegetables	2	.1
Pet	1	.1

As of October 18, 15 bears were killed on the North Shore – 8 in West Vancouver and 7 in North Vancouver. At least two additional bears were killed on Highway 1 in West Vancouver.

The Society will continue to assist North Shore residents to reduce attractants in residential areas and to work in partnership with Engineering, Solid Waste, Bylaws, Communications and Parks Departments in the three municipalities to provide consistent messaging about living in bear country.

Coordinated education

When the Society learns of bear activity, there is a coordinated approach to education with signs and door-to-door canvassing or email distribution to Block Watch areas at the request of the Captains.

	<p>In response to bear sightings, home visits in specific areas were organized when door hangers were distributed. In the District of North Vancouver, 1165 homes were reached in this way. In the District of West Vancouver, 140 homes were visited, and in the City of North Vancouver 7 blocks received bear-in-area door hangers.</p>
---	---

Education and Enforcement Integration

The Society mails information to residents who place their garbage and/or kitchen scraps at curbside before the morning of collection. In 2017, night-time checks were completed in response to requests from residents or bylaw officers, and in two areas, volunteers completed checks in their own neighbourhoods. In the **District of North Vancouver, 115 addresses** were contacted (Zone 1 - 62, Zone 2 - 9, Zone 3 - 12, Zone 4 – 24, Zone 5 – 8). **In the District of West Vancouver, 11 addresses** received mail outs from the Society. Repeat offenders are reported to the Bylaw Officer Service Departments for warnings and enforcement. No mail outs were sent to residents in the City of North Vancouver as their bylaw allows people to place household waste at curbside after midnight.

Pro-Active Education Components

Outreach to new homeowners

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

NORTH SHORE HOUSE SALES			
Municipality	Nov 1 – Dec 31 2016	Jan 1 2017 – Oct 31 2017	TOTAL
DNV and CNV	85	687	772
DWV	46	382	428
TOTAL SALES			1200

Community Events

The North Shore Black Bear Society had displays at all major community events on the North Shore. We had interactive displays at **17 events** where we talked with over **3000 people**.



Blueridge Good Neighbour Day



Canada Day

In addition to participating in community events in the three municipalities, the North Shore Black Bear Society organized the **third annual Bear Festival** with Raincoast Conservation Foundation and Capilano University in April.

It was a successful family event with entertainment, crafts & face painting, and educational walks & displays.



Presentations

An important part of the ongoing education program is age-appropriate presentations for audiences of different ages.

The Society's presentations reached **hundreds of people of all ages**, including elementary school classes, registrants at summer camps, North Shore Multicultural Society adult classes, adult organizations and seniors' groups.

Presentations are delivered throughout the year. The Society has accepted requests for 13 presentations to groups ranging in age from preschoolers to seniors in November 2017.

Presentations are available to people of all ages.



Media

Social Media - The Society maintains a website, Facebook page, and Instagram & Twitter accounts.

Traditional media – Interviews by reporters are opportunities for the Society to reinforce the messages about attractant management, and we seize every opportunity.

Plans for 2018

The North Shore Black Bear Society will be looking closely at the locations of the 2017 bear sightings (and bear deaths if we can obtain those from the COS) and brainstorm strategies for new and innovative pro-active educational outreach programs. The Society will continue with its present education outreach programs that are outlined in this report and continue to modify them for different audiences.

Acknowledgements

Funding Partners

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

Educational Outreach Partners

- Engineering and Solid Waste 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

The Society is grateful to the District of North Vancouver for providing spaces for our Board Meetings and Annual General Meeting. In addition, we appreciate the District Bear Line [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.

The Society appreciates the working relationships with Parks, Engineering, Solid Waste and Bylaw Officer Service Departments in the three municipalities.

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 2017, **hundreds of hours of volunteer time** were provided to assist with the prevention and reduction of human-bear encounters on the North Shore.

APPENDIX 1 (6 pages): Summary of reports of wildlife sightings – black bears, cougars, coyotes, and other species (deer and bobcats).

BLACK BEAR SIGHTINGS 2017												
North Shore Black Bear Society								Conservation Officers Service				
Month	Muni	BLM	Cell	Email	Web	People	Mth Total	Month	Muni	WARP	CO	Mth Total
Jan	NV		1				1	Jan	NV			
	WV								WV			
Feb	NV				1	1	2	Feb	NV			
	WV								WV			
Mar	NV		1					Mar	NV	1		
	WV		1				2		WV			1
Apr	NV		5			1		Apr	NV	9		
	WV	1	2	3	1		13		WV	1		10
May	NV		20	3	1			May	NV	32		
	WV		15	8	1		48		WV	57		89
June	NV	1	38	3	6			June	NV	60		
	WV		12	3	2		65		WV	152	2	214
July	NV	6	141	8	32	1		July	NV	291		
	WV		20	6	5		219		WV	110		401
Aug	NV	5	69	4	10			Aug	NV	165		
	WV		8	2			98		WV	71		236
Sept	NV	3	30	1	7			Sept	NV	58		
	WV		10	3			54		WV	61		119
Oct	NV	3	31	1	10			Oct	NV	59		
	WV		9	1			55		WV	55		114
TOTAL		19	413	46	76	3	557	TOTAL		1182	2	1184

Note: At least 25 sightings received by the NSBBS for NV were from CNV.

North Shore Black Bear Society Year-End Report – 2017

COUGAR SIGHTINGS 2017												
NSBBS								COS				
Month	Muni	BLM	Cell	Email	Web	People	Mth Total	Month	Muni	WARP	CO	Mth Total
Jan	NV							Jan	NV			
	WV								WV			
Feb	NV					1	1	Feb	NV	2		
	WV								WV	4		6
Mar	NV							Mar	NV			
	WV								WV	6		6
Apr	NV							Apr	NV	4		
	WV								WV	3		7
May	NV			1			1	May	NV	1		
	WV								WV	3		4
June	NV							June	NV	1		
	WV								WV			1
July	NV		1				1	July	NV	6		
	WV								WV	2		8
Aug	NV							Aug	NV	10		
	WV								WV			10
Sep	NV							Sep	NV	5		
	WV								WV	1		6
Oct	NV		2				2	Oct	NV	6		
	WV								WV	1		7
TOTAL			3	1		1	5	TOTAL		55		55

North Shore Black Bear Society Year-End Report – 2017

COYOTE SIGHTINGS 2017												
NSBBS								COS				
Month	Muni	BLM	Cell	Email	Web	People	Total	Month	Muni	WARP	CO	Mth Total
Jan	NV		1				1	Jan	NV			
	WV								WV			
Feb	NV							Feb	NV	8		
	WV								WV	1		9
Mar	NV							Mar	NV	2		
	WV								WV	2		4
Apr	NV							Apr	NV			
	WV								WV			
May	NV							May	NV	4		
	WV								WV	1		5
June	NV							June	NV	2		
	WV								WV	14		16
July	NV							July	NV	2		
	WV								WV	3		5
Aug	NV							Aug	NV	1		
	WV								WV	5		6
Sep	NV							Sep	NV	1		
	WV								WV	1		2
Oct	NV							Oct	NV			
	WV		1				1		WV	2		2
TOTAL			2				2	TOTAL		49		49

OTHER SPECIES SIGHTINGS 2017												
DEER												
NSBBS								COS				
Month	Muni	BLM	Cell	Email	Web	People	Total	Month	Muni	WARP	CO	Mth Total
Jan	NV		1				1	Jan	NV			
	WV								WV			
Feb	NV							Feb	NV	1		
	WV								WV			1
Mar	NV							Mar	NV	5		
	WV								WV			5
Apr	NV							Apr	NV			
	WV								WV			
May	NV							May	NV	2		
	WV								WV	3		5
June	NV							June	NV			
	WV								WV			
July	NV							July	NV	9		
	WV								WV	2		11
Aug	NV							Aug	NV	11		
	WV								WV			11
Sep	NV							Sep	NV	4		
	WV								WV			4
Oct	NV							Oct	NV	1		
	WV								WV			1
TOTAL			1				1	TOTAL		38		38

Note: 14 were reports of injured/distressed deer; presumably many were repeats of the same animal.

OTHER SPECIES SIGHTINGS 2017												
BOBCAT												
NSBBS								COS				
Month	Muni	BLM	Cell	Email	Web	People	Total	Month	Muni	WARP	CO	Mth Total
Jan	NV							Jan	NV			
	WV								WV			
Feb	NV							Feb	NV			
	WV								WV			
Mar	NV							Mar	NV			
	WV								WV	1		1
Apr	NV							Apr	NV			
	WV								WV			
May	NV							May	NV			
	WV								WV			
June	NV							June	NV			
	WV								WV			
July	NV							July	NV			
	WV								WV			
Aug	NV							Aug	NV			
	WV								WV			
Sep	NV							Sep	NV			
	WV								WV			
Oct	NV							Oct	NV	1		
	WV								WV			1
TOTAL								TOTAL		2		2

OTHER REPORTS	
Apr DWV WARP – unknown	August DNV WARP – unknown DNV WARP – skunk – WILDLIFE IN TRAP
May DWV WARP – raptor injured/distressed DWV WARP – species unknown; property damage	September DNV WARP – aggressive raccoon DNV WARP – aggressive raptor DWV WARP – wolf DWV WARP – raccoon
June DWV WARP – “other”; aggressive DNV WARP – “other”; aggressive DNV WARP – “other”	October DNV WARP – raccoon DNV WARP – dead raptor DWV WARP – skunk