



NORTH SHORE BLACK BEAR SOCIETY

2018 Year-End Report

Prepared by Christine Miller
November, 2018

Introduction

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

This report covers the work that was completed between January 1 and October 31, 2018 with the exception of new home sales which includes the outreach numbers for November and December, 2017.

The Society's outreach on the North Shore involved having interactive displays and/or making presentations at:

- Community events
- Elementary schools, preschools, and summer day camps
- Mosaic adult English Language Learner (ELL) classes
- Adult group meetings: seniors, newcomers, community associations
- Block Watch meetings

In addition, the Society:

- Responded to residents who requested information, bear-in-area signs, night-time checks in their area or canvassing
- Mailed information to new homeowners in the three municipalities
- Provided information and fulfilled requests for information, home visits, signage and/or canvassing through our website, DNV Bear line, cell phone and social media
- Maintained a website and social media platforms: Facebook, Instagram and Twitter
- Canvassed neighbourhoods where there was bear activity
- Completed night-time checks for garbage at curbside before the morning of collection in the Districts of North and West Vancouver and mailed information to addresses that were not in compliance of their bylaw. We forwarded files of addresses that continued to be non-compliant to the Bylaw Department in their municipality
- Participated in the newly formed North Shore Working Group
- Worked in partnership with Bylaw, Solid Waste, Engineering and Parks Departments and the Conservation Officer Service

The Society's outreach in 2018 was expanded significantly due to the addition of Luci Cadman to the organization. Luci worked with with Christine Miller and expanded the educational outreach programs.

Highlights of 2018

Bear encounters

The North Shore Black Bear Society was contacted **298 times** by North Shore residents who called to document a bear sighting and often to request signage and/or canvassing, information and support with challenges on their property, or to provide information about attractant sightings in their neighbourhood.

| Municipality | Cell & Bear Line | Website & Email | Social Media |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------|
| CNV | 136 | 3 | - |
| DNV | 32 | 79 | 5 |
| DWV | 12 | 29 | 2 |
| TOTAL | 180 | 111 | 7 |

The Conservation Officer Service received **939 calls** from the North Shore:

- North Vancouver – 405
- West Vancouver – 534

Database of wildlife sighting 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) in 2017 and 2018. The reports to the COS were taken from the Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP) map, courtesy of WildSafeBC. The complete summary of the monthly sighting reports for each species is available on request.

Black Bears

The Society used the 2017 database to strategically plan the locations for a pro-active education initiative this year.

Coyotes

In addition to bear sightings, the spreadsheet shows that **123 calls** to the Conservation Officer Service's RAPP line were made **from District of West Vancouver residents** and **23 reports from the District of North Vancouver** about coyote sightings, and District of North Vancouver residents reported **9 coyote sightings** to the North Shore Black Bear Society.

Cougars

In 2018, **112 cougar sightings** were reported on the North Shore: **District of North Vancouver – 76; District of West Vancouver – 33; City of North Vancouver – 3.**

Other species

In addition, **98 sighting reports** were made by North Shore residents about other species; **38 of those reports were bobcats.**

Expanding content of outreach

As a result of the increasing number of reports of species other than bears, Luci Cadman created a **wildlife education package** which was distributed by some school principals to the parents of the students and by Block Watch groups. The Society also emailed it to interested or concerned residents. This information about other species was built into PowerPoint presentations.

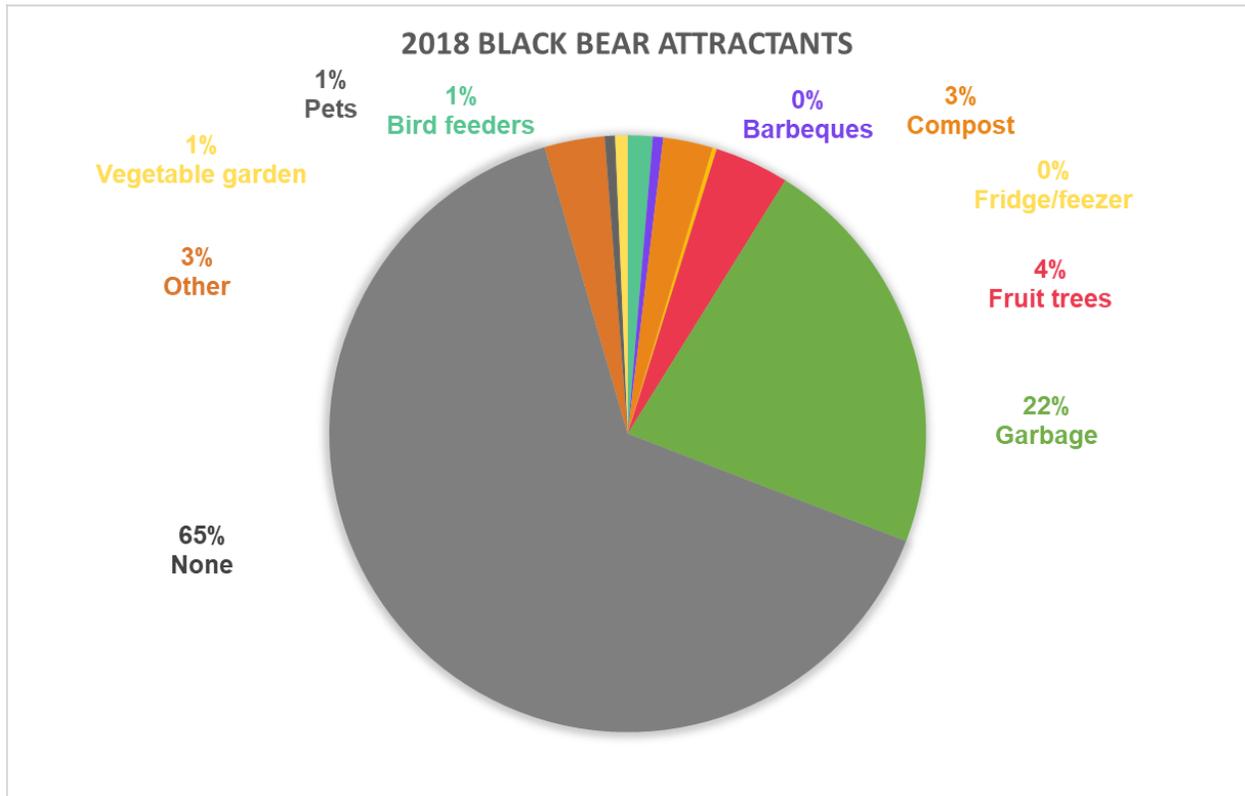
Attractant management

Many of the 891 bear sightings reported to the Society and the Conservation Officers Service were bears just passing through a neighbourhood with no attractant identified by the resident – 65%. In other cases, an attractant was identified, and as usual, garbage (22%) topped the list of attractants.

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

| Bear sighting reports 2018 | | |
|--|---------------|-------------------|
| Total 891 | | |
| Attractants | Number | Percentage |
| No attractants; sighting report only | 576 | 65 |
| Garbage | 196 | 22 |
| Fruit trees | 36 | 4 |
| Vegetables | 6 | .7 |
| Pet | 5 | .6 |
| Compost/Green Can | 24 | 2.7 |
| Bird feeders | 12 | 1.3 |
| Other, including: cut grass, fish fertilizer, paint, fish, water | 29 | 3.3 |
| Barbeques | 5 | 0.6 |
| Fridges/Freezers | 2 | 0.2 |
| Pet food | 0 | 0 |
| Recycling | 0 | 0 |

Graphically, the bear sighting reports (in relation to reported attractants) look like this:



Canvassing

Proactive canvassing

Pro-active canvassing work was done in **4 areas** that were identified as “hot spots” for black bear sightings; namely, Keith Lynn, Braemar, Caulfeild, British Properties. In summary, “**hot spot**” letters were delivered to:

- **679 residents in North Vancouver**
 - Braemar (386)
 - Keith Lynn (293)

In the District of North Vancouver, **572 addresses** also received the District’s Green Can card with the “hot spot” letter.

- **634 addresses in West Vancouver**
 - British Properties (71)
 - Caulfeild (563)

Canvassing during the season

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.



District of North Vancouver



District of West Vancouver

A total of **2272 residences** were canvassed in 2018. These addresses received door hangers (shown in pictures), and some areas received letters and/or Green Cards (DNV only) also:

District of North Vancouver (1794 addresses)

- Blueridge: **172**
- Braemar: **110**
- Capilano: **192**
- Cleveland: **211**
- Delbrook: **75**
- Grousewoods: **124**
- Highlands: **93**
- Kirkstone: **51**
- Lions View: **104**
- Lower West Lynn: **15**
- Lynn Canyon: **65**
- Lynnmour: **17**
- Riverside East: **98**
- Upper Lynn: **137**
- Upper West Lynn: **35**
- Valley Centre: **46**
- Windsor Park: **249**

District of West Vancouver (256 addresses)

British Properties: **20**

Caulfeild: **44**

Glenmore: **32**

Chartwell: **52**

West Bay: **31**

Cedardale: **77**

City of North Vancouver (222 addresses)

Keith Lynn: **87**

Kirkstone: **135**

Bear-in-area signs

The reports made directly to the Society resulted in **168 Bear-in-Area signs** being placed in **119 locations in the District of North Vancouver** and **9 sites in the City of North Vancouver**, thanks to dedicated volunteers. In addition, the **West Vancouver Parks staff placed signs in 40 locations** based on bear sightings reported to the Society.

Education and Enforcement Integration

The Society mailed information to residents who placed their garbage and/or kitchen scraps at curbside before the morning of collection. In 2018, night-time checks were completed in response to requests from residents or bylaw officers, and in two areas, volunteers completed regular checks in their own neighbourhoods

In the **District of North Vancouver**, **199 addresses** were contacted:

- Zone 1 – 65
- Zone 3 – 7
- Zone 4 – 33
- Zone 5 – 94

Twenty of those addresses became repeat offenders and their files were sent to the Bylaw Department.

It was clear that a large number of District of North Vancouver residents do not understand that they cannot place their new lockable Green Cans at curbside on the night before, even if they only contain yard waste. Consequently, the Society partnered with the District Bylaw and Solid Waste Departments in a pilot project in Zones 1 and 4. The results of the coordinated education approach were very positive. In 2019, we will continue to partner with the staff to help to educate the public that no carts – even though they might only contain yard trimmings – can be placed at curbside until the morning of collection.

In the **District of West Vancouver, 60 addresses** received mail outs from the Society:

- Yellow Zone – 29
- Pink Zone – 31

Four repeat offenders were 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.

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 2017 | Jan 1 2018 – Oct 31 2018 | TOTAL |
| DNV and CNV | 116 | 486 | 602 |
| DWV | 60 | 254 | 314 |
| TOTAL SALES | | | 916 |

Community Events

The North Shore Black Bear Society had displays at all major community events on the North Shore. Interactive displays were at **11 events** where we talked with over **2600 people**.

- DWV: 3 events - 595 people
- DNV : 5 events - 1421 people
- CNV: 3 events - 597 people

Other events that attracted people who live or recreate on the North Shore were attended by the North Shore Black Bear Society: Burnaby Village Museum (Rivers Day), Science World, Vancouver Museum, Critter Care Open House: **7 events, 1945 people**



In addition, the North Shore Black Bear Society organized the **fourth annual Bear Festival** with Raincoast Conservation Foundation and Capilano University in April. It was a family event with entertainment, crafts & face painting, and educational walks & displays. The organizers acknowledge that in 2019, the event should be held in a more central location so that more people will attend.

Presentations

An important part of the ongoing education program are 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, Block Watch meetings, adult organizations and seniors' groups.

This year **14 elementary schools** invited the Society to make presentations and over **3100 students** attended. The schools that held presentations were: 12 in DNV, 1 in Lions Bay, and 1 Burnaby. Four additional presentations have been booked for November 2018.

Other special outreach opportunities included:

- District of West Vancouver
 - 7 SPCA camps (approximately 100 participants)
 - 2 Block Watch meetings and 1 Block Watch forum (approximately 85 adults)
 - 2 seniors' groups
- District of North Vancouver
 - 3 bear safety presentations to staff of Capilano Suspension Bridge (approximately 35 adults)
 - 2 Beehaven Day Care/Preschool groups (about 42 children and caregivers)
- City of North Vancouver
 - 11 MOSAIC adult classes (approximately 220 English Language Learners and instructors)
 - 2 Harry Jerome summer day camps (64 campers)
 - 1 seniors group

Media

Social Media – The Society maintains a website, Facebook page, and Instagram & Twitter accounts. This year our social media outreach increased significantly. In January, the Society had 415 Facebook followers which increased to 852. Instagram followers grew from 115 to 981.

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

Bear management

According to the Conservation Officer Service, they received 939 calls from the North Shore.

Two bears were killed due to conflicts in the community, one in North Vancouver and one in West Vancouver. The two cubs from the North Vancouver bear were sent to Critter Care in Langley.

There were two short-distance relocations, one in North Vancouver and the other in West Vancouver.

The number of bears at the beginning of the season on the North Shore had been reduced in 2017 when 18 were killed due to habituation and food-conditioning (10 in North Vancouver and 8 in West 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 North Shore municipalities and the Conservation Officer Service to provide consistent messaging about living in bear country.

New Collaboration

The Society are active participants in the **North Shore Working Group** that formed in 2018. The group includes staff from the three municipalities and representatives from the RCMP, West Vancouver Police Department and Conservation Officer Service.

Plans for 2019

The North Shore Black Bear Society will be looking closely at the locations of the 2018 bear sightings and bear deaths, identify “hot spots” for bear activity, and brainstorm strategies for new and innovative proactive educational outreach programs.

Other plans are for the Society to update print materials, enhance the website, and continue to increase outreach on social media.

The Society will continue with its present education outreach programs that are outlined in this report and modify them for different audiences and the changing needs of the communities.

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.

In 2018, **the Conservation Officer Service** identified areas in North Vancouver that needed educational outreach (canvassing, signage), and this information helped us to fulfil our mandate of providing education and support to reduce human-bear encounters.

Volunteers

And, as with every other year, volunteers contributed to the success of the Society's education programs. The Society is fortunate to have committed people who contributed in a variety of ways; in particular, locating bear-in-area signs, canvassing, doing night-time checks, and working at community events. In 2018, the work of volunteers assisted with the prevention of human-bear encounters on the North Shore.