



NORTH SHORE BLACK BEAR SOCIETY



Tony Joyce

2021 Annual Report
Prepared by Executive Director,
Luci Cadman

The North Shore Black Bear Society supports the coexistence of people and bears through education!

Introduction

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

The Society focuses on:

- Reducing the accessibility of unnatural food sources to wildlife in residential areas;
- Forming and maintaining working relationships with staff of the three North Shore municipalities, organizations that work to reduce wildlife attractants in the community or protect and enhance natural wildlife habitat, groups who work or recreate in or close to wildlife habitat, and the Conservation Officers Service;
- Preventing the unnecessary deaths of bears which can result from bears accessing unnatural food sources in residential areas and spending too much time near houses and roadways; and
- Promoting and fostering the public's understanding and awareness of, and participation in, the respect and preservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat.

This report covers the work that was completed between November 1, 2020, and October 31, 2021.

As of January 1, 2021, Luci Cadman is the Executive Director and is currently the only paid staff member of the Society.

Wildlife Sighting Reports

North Shore residents and visitors have several options for reporting sightings and encounters with wildlife. One option is to file a report to the BC Conservation Officer Service (BC COS) through the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line in Victoria (1-877-952-7277). These calls are shown on the Wildlife Alert Reporting Program (WARP) map – available on the WildSafeBC website. Society Executive Director, Luci Cadman, receives alerts via the WARP daily. Another option is to contact the North Shore Black Bear Society through the Bearline (604-990-BEAR, press 2) or cell phone, call or text (604-317-4911). This year, the Society responded to 826 calls from residents and visitors. Further reports were received via Facebook Messenger, Instagram, website (northshorebears.com), email (nsbbsociety@gmail.com) and in-person. Residents contact the Society to:

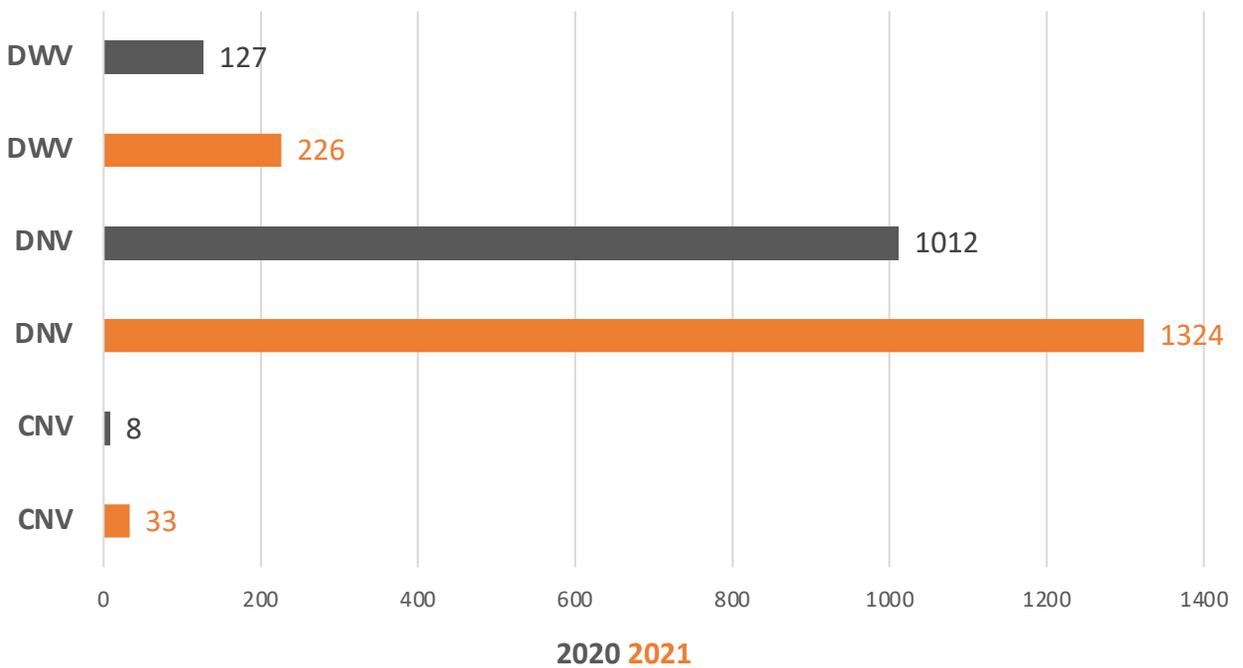
- Report a wildlife sighting
- Request signage
- Report attractants in their neighbourhood
- Request canvassing
- Obtain Information or support with wildlife challenges

The following statistics summarize the reports received between November 1, 2020 and October 31, 2021.

The Society compiled the following data by maintaining a spreadsheet of the reports made to the Society.

Black Bears

BEAR REPORTS TO NORTH SHORE BLACK BEAR SOCIETY
2020 1147 & 2021 1583



DNV: 9
 DWV: 2



CNV: 4
 DNV: 16
 DWV: 10

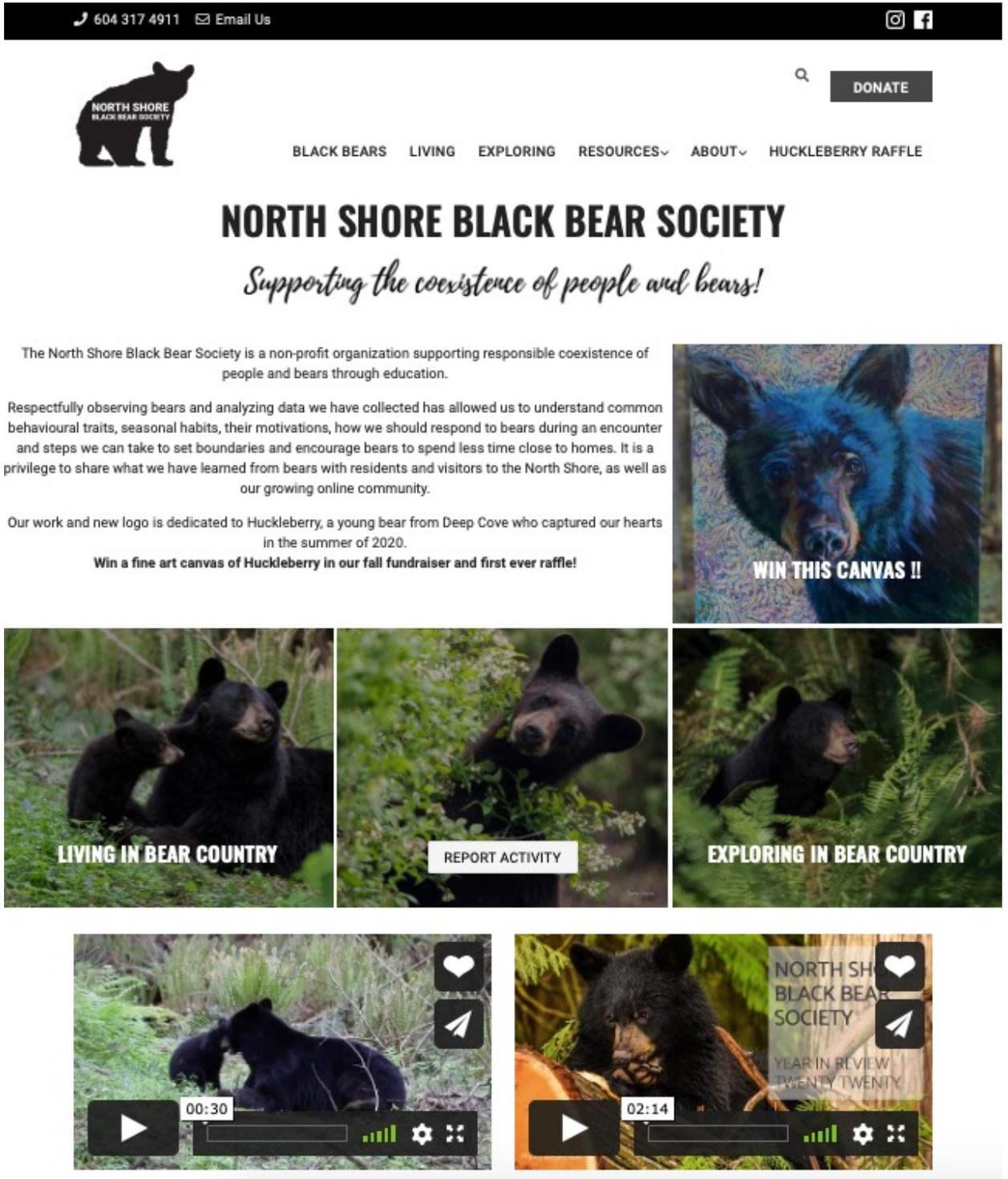


Other wildlife
 (deer, bobcat, skunk, raccoon)
 DNV: 12
 DWV: 16

Educational Resources

Our biggest project of 2021 was the creation and launch of a new website. Graphic designer, Sean Herschmiller, donated his time to assist Luci Cadman who created all the content. New features include a donate button, workshop request forms, prompt to share our 'Bear in Mind' information to everyone who makes a bear report and extensive information on the best practices for living and exploring in areas where bears live.

We are proud to share that our website has received over 10,000 visits since being launched on August 23, including 465 visits on launch day. We will continue to expand and improve our website and winter 2021 plans include introducing a 'Cubs Corner' to the site, which will be an engaging educational resource for young people.



This year, we decided to retire our original logo (right) and we reached out to our community to see if someone would volunteer their skills to design the new logo we had in mind. Squamish artist, Monica Lovenmark, who we knew from a previous collaboration when she worked with Metro Vancouver, offered to help. Our new logo (left) was inspired by a photograph of a young male bear, Huckleberry, who was killed in the summer of 2020. His story captured the hearts of the community, and it was only fitting for this special Deep Cove bear to be immortalized through our logo.



Educational Resources

Over the winter, Executive Director, Luci was asked to do several media interviews on coyotes and cougars, which prompted a redesign of our one-page guides. These resources are based on the best practices for sharing the space with these animals and promote responsible coexistence. The Society offers coyote and cougar workshops, and these two resources are also available in Mandarin on our website.

We keep our social media accounts active over the winter by sharing information on coyotes and cougars, as sightings typically increase over fall and winter.

THE NORTH SHORE IS COYOTE COUNTRY

The North Shore Black Bear Society Supports Coexistence Through Education northshorebears.com

Coyotes are intelligent, family oriented and incredibly adaptable; they can survive in almost any terrestrial environment in North America. Coyotes live, play, rest and raise their young in the green spaces around our neighbourhoods. They can be distinguished from domestic dogs by their large pointed ears, bushy, downward-pointed tails and yellow eyes. Coyotes are active year-round. They are typically more visible in late winter during mating season and in the late spring and summer months when the family is busy teaching new offspring survival skills. An average of 6 pups are born inside a den in the spring, though the number of pups can vary widely depending on what their environment can support. Coyotes use vocalizations to bond with their family and to communicate with other coyotes. Dispersal of juvenile coyotes begins during their first fall. At this time of year, some young coyotes will leave home to live independently, whilst others will remain with their family. Many coyotes will not survive their first year, with vehicle collisions being the primary cause of death. Coyotes are most active between dusk and dawn; however, daytime activity in urban areas is not uncommon. Coyotes are not nocturnal; they have adapted their behaviour to minimize encounters with humans. These canines play a vital role in maintaining a healthy and balanced ecosystem. Coexisting with coyotes is possible if we make efforts to learn about their behaviour, take steps to minimize food opportunities and set boundaries during encounters.

Help to keep pets and coyotes safe

Encounters between coyotes and domestic dogs typically increase in the spring and summer months when the coyote family is responsible for raising young. During this time, coyotes are more assertive and may follow you and your dog to push you away from an area. Your dog, however friendly and playful, will be seen as a risk to coyotes who are not domesticated. To a coyote, your dog is a threat to food, their safety and their family. Pressure from dogs (especially those off-leash) can cause defensive behaviour from coyotes, who may signal to their family for help. Most encounters between coyotes and our family dogs are defensive in nature. It is not common for coyotes to seek dogs as a food source, but efforts should be made to protect both pets and coyotes from injury.



- Feed pets inside
- Store excess pet food securely indoors
- Install lighting outside your home
- Scan your property before allowing pets outside
- Supervise dogs closely if off-leash around your home
- Keep dogs on a close leash on trails
- Always leash pets if signage indicates to do so
- Leash your dog and carry a flashlight if you are anywhere outside with your dog between dusk and dawn. Carry a small airhorn if you live in an area with lots of coyote activity

Outdoor cats encourage coyotes, cougars and birds of prey to seek opportunities close to our homes. Roaming cats are vulnerable year-round, at any time of day or night. We encourage raising cats indoors with outdoor time on a harness or in a supervised and secure outdoor area. Whilst coyotes receive much of the blame for missing cats, studies have shown that domestic pets make up less than 2% of their diet. Pets are not a reliable food source, but these canines have a natural chase instinct. Outdoor cats are at higher risk from vehicles, other cats, dogs, raccoons, disease and poisons.

Smaller pets, chickens and livestock

Ensure enclosures are sturdy and secure with heavy mesh wire. Regularly check for access points. Store excess food in a secure location. Properly maintained electric fencing will help to deter an array of wildlife, including bears.

Help to reduce activity close to homes

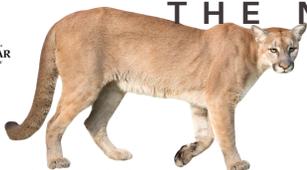
From fruit to frogs and rats to rabbits, these opportunistic omnivores eat most things. Coyotes eat mice, squirrels, hares, deer, insects, fish, eggs, garbage, and occasionally, pets. Much of their diet is rodents, making them a great natural pest control. By managing rodent attractants on your property, you reduce important food sources for coyotes and their reason for staying close to homes.

- Seeds, nuts and suet: bring a variety of wildlife into the neighbourhood. Instead, plant to encourage birds. Never intentionally feed any wildlife
- Keep garbage, organics and recycling as odour free as possible. Keep in a secure area until morning of collection
- Pick fruit early and allow to ripen indoors. Collect fallen fruit daily and store in a secure area. If you cannot commit to managing fruit trees, please remove them
- Secure chickens and livestock
- Raise cats indoors and supervise dogs on your property
- Wildlife and pets are suffering and dying from rodenticides. Remove rodent attractants or use humane methods. Never use poison!
- Secure spaces under decks/sheds and clear overgrown areas often to reduce denning opportunities on your property

If you encounter a coyote

Coyotes are naturally timid and wary of people. It is important that we encourage them to remain that way. We can set clear boundaries by never intentionally feeding or approaching them and by communicating when they enter our personal space or property. Coyotes are curious animals who are alert to threats and may observe your movements to ensure you are not a danger. Coyotes may follow you and your dog to escort you away from their area - this is not aggressive behaviour. Ensure your dog is leashed and calmly leave the area. Coyotes, and many other wild animals, have a natural chase instinct and it is important not to run. If you have a close encounter and the coyote does not leave:

- Pick up small children and pets
 - Intimidate the coyote by making yourself look big and maintaining eye contact
 - Use a firm, assertive tone and tell the coyote to leave. Clap your hands and be persistent
- Using these methods to set boundaries will teach coyotes to avoid us.



THE NORTH SHORE IS COUGAR COUNTRY

The North Shore Black Bear Society Supports Coexistence Through Education northshorebears.com

We share British Columbia with an estimated 3500 cougars. Coexistence with these big cats is possible if we learn more about their behaviour, their reasons for being in urban areas, ways to reduce attracting cougars to our homes and our responsibilities when out enjoying their home. Reports of cougar activity are increasing due to habitat fragmentation and loss, which often gives them no choice. Increase in home surveillance are capturing activity that previously went unseen. As we spend more time outdoors, sightings and encounters may increase. Most urban sightings are independent of their mother, and old or injured cougars, who are struggling to survive. Cougar and human encounters are rare. Cougars have survived by being predominantly nocturnal. Cougars travel extensively and have large home ranges: it is normal for us to see cougars at elevations and closer to people.



Help to keep pets and cougars safe

- Feed pets inside and store excess food indoors
 - Supervise dogs closely if off-leash on your property
 - Keep dogs leashed and carry bear spray and a flashlight if you are outside with your dog between dusk and dawn
- Outdoor cats encourage increased coyote and cougar activity. Roaming cats are at risk year-round, at any time of day or night. We encourage raising cats indoors with outdoor time on a harness or in a supervised and secure catio.

Off-leash dogs are involved in more than half of all negative wildlife encounters. Keeping your dog on a short leash on trails and in wilderness areas greatly reduces the risk to everyone. A cougar could see your pet as a food and harassment from off-leash dogs can pressure a cougar to act defensively. Cougars may seek safety in a tree. Leave the area and do not corner them.

Exploring in cougar country

Cougar attacks on humans are exceptionally rare. Cougars regularly travel through urban areas and local trail systems without incident. To help further reduce risk to people, pets and wildlife, follow these best practices when exploring in cougar country:

- Travel in groups. Avoid exploring alone
- Be aware of your surroundings, making sure to observe in all directions
- Avoid wearing headphones
- Never approach wildlife intentionally
- Make noise to alert wildlife of human presence. Be louder on low visibility trails and by water sources
- Keep children close and in sight. Their small size and erratic movements make it harder for cougars to identify them as human
- Avoid hiking between dusk and dawn when cougars are most active
- Keep dogs on a close leash
- Be alert for sign (tracks/scat) or food sources, such as deer in the area
- Cougars cache their food. If you find dead wildlife, slowly leave the area
- Cougar kittens are well hidden, but if you happen to find their hiding spot, leave the area as females may defend their young
- Carry bear spray. Have it immediately accessible and know when and how to use it. Practice with inert spray

Cougars play an important role in maintaining a healthy and balanced ecosystem. See distance) is something few of us will ever experience. Understanding your responsibility help to keep people, pets and wildlife safe and reduce the number of human-caused collisions.



北岸是美洲狮的家园

北岸黑熊协会致力于通过教育促进人与野生动物和平共处 请访问网站: northshorebears.com

在卑诗省我们与3500只美洲狮比邻而居,了解这些大型猫科动物的习性,它们在都市区出没的原因,如何减少令其靠近我们家园的因素,我们就能与它们和平共处。这也是我们在它们的家园定居应尽的责任。由于栖息地流失和碎片化,美洲狮有时不得不穿越都市。关于其活动的目击报告因此增加。广泛使用野外摄像头和家居安防系统也使它们能捕捉到以前无法拍摄到的活动影像。由于我们继续在它们的栖息地进行房产开发、工业发展及娱乐活动,遇见美洲狮的机会不断增加。许多时候,在都市地区能遇见的美洲狮往往是刚脱离母亲独自寻求生计的幼狮,或者由于衰老或受伤在野外存活艰难成年狮。由于美洲狮天性机警,近距离遇见的概率非常小,美洲狮主要是夜行动物,但是也有可能在任何季节任何时段活动。它们能进行长途跋涉,活动区域很广。冬天气候下美洲狮更多在低纬度地区进行捕食,会离人类定居点更近,遇见概率会增加。



保护宠物及美洲狮安全须知

- 只在室内喂宠物,宠物食品储存在室内
 - 在自己的物业内,如果狗没有牵绳,也需要有人看管
 - 请锁紧和锁好外出,狗需牵绳,带好防熊喷雾和手电筒
- 猫在室外会吸引郊狼和美洲狮光顾。散养猫全年日夜都可能面临被捕食的危险。建议不要散养,或者带上牵绳,或只放在猫窝里。

半数与野生动物的冲突是由未牵绳的狗引起的。在野外或步道散步时给狗带好牵绳能大大降低此类危险。美洲狮可能会把宠物看作食物,未牵绳狗也会骚扰它们,令其反击。有时美洲狮会爬到树上。这时请立即离开,不要阻碍其退路。

探索美洲狮领地

美洲狮攻击人类的案例非常罕见。通常其在都市地区或步道系统出没都不会引起事故。为了减少对人类、宠物及野生动物的危害,在探索美洲狮领地时请遵循下列指导:

- 团队行动,不要独自徒步
- 保持警觉,四处观望
- 不要带着耳机
- 不要主动接近野生动物
- 制造声响提醒野生动物人类的存在,在视线不佳的步道上或者水边多发出声响
- 小孩应留在身边,他们身形小又好动,美洲狮会误以为是小动物。
- 美洲狮在清晨及黄昏最活跃,避免此时徒步
- 狗要牵绳
- 注意观察附近是否有活动迹象(足印、粪便)或食物,比如熊等
- 美洲狮会偷藏食物,发现死亡的野生动物,应慢慢离开现场
- 美洲狮幼兽一般会隐藏起来,如果意外发现其藏身之处,应离开现场,避免引起母兽护仔
- 带好防熊喷雾。放在伸手可及之处,了解使用的时机与方法,可使用过期喷雾进行练习

减少美洲狮进入都市区活动

在物业附近整理清理,不留食物。如果小型动物没有被吸引到您的物业,可以大大降低美洲狮在坊间出没的几率。美洲狮在都市区逗留可能遭遇车祸或被居民发现引起恐慌。美洲狮主要捕食鹿,成年雄鹿大概三周消耗一只鹿,郊狼、野兔、浣熊、松鼠和老鼠(都市区常见野生动物)也是美洲狮的食物,需要防止引诱这类动物光顾。

- 喂鸟的种子、坚果和糖水也会吸引各种野生动物。喜欢鸣叫可以种植各种植物来代替喂食,任何时候都不应喂食。
- 减少垃圾及厨余的气味,并收集目前安全存放。
- 每天收拾掉落的果实并安全存放。
- 如果养鸡或其他牲口,需安装电网并及时使用。
- 毒鼠药会无差别杀死野生动物和宠物,请不要使用鼠药。清理残留食物,采用人道手段灭鼠。

遇见美洲狮

- 保持镇静,直视美洲狮
 - 如有小孩或宠物可以抱起他们
 - 缓慢后退
 - 思想集中在当下,不要看手机
- 如果美洲狮显示出对好奇或试图接近:让自己显得高大凶猛,显示你不是美洲狮的食物。用低沉的声音显示你是人类并主导局势。情况允许时还可以投掷石块或树枝,但不要长久蹲下寻找。保持视线接触,拿出防熊喷雾备用。继续用低沉的声音说话并缓慢拉开距离。确保美洲狮有撤退的空间。防熊喷雾(也称为野生动物喷雾)是非致命性工具,可以警示野生动物不要进入我们的个人空间,可以保护我们。美洲狮不愿离开的情况很少,一旦发生,使用喷雾自卫。野生动物喷雾只在紧急情况下负责使用。如果美洲狮靠近到以触及的距离可以全力反击。集中攻击它们的眼睛和脸部。请与家人分享这个信息并进行演习。

美洲狮对于保持健康平衡的生态环境意义重大。在自然环境中(保持合适的距离)观赏到这种奇妙的动物是非常难得的体验,记住在观看,作为美洲狮领地的住户和访问者你有责任听取建议,保护个人、宠物及野生动物的安全,减少由于和人类冲突引发的美洲狮伤亡。

Educational Resources





Bear in Mind...

You live in a hotspot community for black bear activity!

The North Shore Black Bear Society supports responsible coexistence through education.

این یک منطقه مهم شهون است لطفاً از کسی خواهیده که از ارجحه کند. BLACK BEAR SOCIETY



Black bears live, rest and raise cubs in the forest; however, it is common for them to pass through neighbourhoods. Coexistence with these peaceful animals is possible if we learn their reasons for being in urban areas and if we take steps to minimize food opportunities around homes. The vulnerable population (females and their cubs, young, old or injured bears) seek safety from dominant male bears by occupying areas closer to people. Increased human and dog activity allows little time for bears to forage and rest without interruption in their home. Residents living close to forests, parks and trails may see increased daytime activity, as bears seek quiet gardens to avoid people and pets. Bears are most active from March to late December; daytime activity is normal. We have a responsibility to make sure we are not inviting bears to our home. Bears that find food from humans are often killed – including cubs. Relocation is rarely an option, and it is not the solution. If a bear is removed from an area, another will soon take their place.

With a few simple actions, we can dramatically reduce a bear's reason for staying close to homes. These are some of the most frequently reported bear attractants and some preventative practices:

- **Garbage and organics:** Keep in a secure location (closed garage, sturdy and locked enclosure/shed) at all times, unless out for collection. Lockable carts are bear-resistant, not bear-proof. Wrap organics in newspaper and freeze odorous food scraps to reduce smell and keep carts clean. Wash carts regularly with a water and vinegar solution. If you have a carport, we advise investing in a secure enclosure or using bungee cords to attach bins/carts to a secure structure to prevent them from being tipped (which is typically how bears gain access). Garbage, organics and recyclables are not permitted at curbside until the very morning of collection, as per bylaw in the District of West Vancouver, the City of North Vancouver and the District of North Vancouver. Visit your municipal website for specific set-out instructions. Download the collection schedule app to receive important service alerts and reminders.
- **Fruit trees:** Pick all fruit early, allow to ripen inside. Collect fallen fruit daily and store in a secure area. Install and maintain electric fencing. If you cannot commit to managing fruit trees, we strongly encourage removing them.
- **Bird seed, suet and hummingbird feeders:** Black bears are agile climbers with a long reach; it is almost impossible to hang a feeder they cannot access. Plant to encourage birds or feed very small amounts in the late winter months only when you are home to enjoy the birds. Bears are active during the day – bringing feeders in at night is not the solution.
- **Recycling:** Wash milk jugs, food containers, cans and jars. Rinse beverage bottles and cans. Store recyclables in a secure area until collection morning. Find out more at: recyclebc.ca.
- **Garage doors:** Bears may enter an open garage out of curiosity or in search of food or shelter. Keep garage doors closed at all times, unless you are in the immediate area.
- **Beehives and backyard chickens:** Install and maintain electric fencing. Keep feed in a secure area. A permit, inspection and electric fencing may be mandatory. Visit your municipal website for further information.
- **Other attractants:** Pet food, Dirty BBQ grills and grease traps, Outdoor fridges and freezers, Petroleum products.
- **Vehicles:** Keep vehicles free of all food and garbage. Keep windows closed and all doors locked. If you notice a bear on your property or close to your vehicle, trigger the vehicle's alarm.
- **If a bear is spending time on your property:** Remove and secure any food sources. Bears return to areas where they have been rewarded; ensure all attractants are removed and they will learn to change their route. It is important that we set boundaries and teach bears not to become comfortable on our properties. If you notice a bear, go to a safe place (deck/open window), make eye contact and use a firm tone. Be persistent and tell the bear to move on. Bears understand tone, keep encouraging them to leave.

Feeding bears, even unintentionally, is against the law.

Bears can be active year-round, especially if they have access to unnatural foods. Never approach a bear intentionally.

- Use your voice to alert wildlife of human presence when travelling on trails and if travelling anywhere at night.
- If you encounter a bear: stay calm, speak to them in a calm voice (in any language) and slowly back away.
- Off-leash dogs are involved in many negative encounters between humans and wildlife. We advise leashing dogs on trails. Always adhere to leash requirements, which are in place to protect people, pets and wildlife.

Help us to target education and collect valuable data by reporting all North Shore bear sightings to us:
northshorebears.com nbsociety@gmail.com call or text 604-317-4911

Bear in Mind

This year, the Society updated its guide to black bears. This PDF is shared with everyone who makes a report to us through our website or via email or text. We share this resource with Block Watch captains, schools and other groups and we always encourage others to share. This guide details the best practices for living and exploring in bear country, bear behaviour and how to respond during an encounter.

Our 'Bear in Mind' resource also has a note in Mandarin, Korean and Farsi asking residents to translate the information. We are pleased to offer a full translation of this resource in Mandarin on our website.

Outreach to New Homeowners

To increase sustainability, we redesigned our new homeowner outreach, which meant we could omit the additional rack card. In 2021, we increased our new homeowner project – our 'Welcome to Bear Country' letters are now tailored to attached and detached homes. New homeowners on the North Shore are mailed a copy of this letter which shares information on bear behaviour and some of the best practices for living and exploring in bear habitat.

A note was added in Mandarin, Korean and Farsi to let residents know the information is important and they should have it translated. This was the first step in making our resources more accessible to North Shore residents.

'Welcome to Bear Country' mailout:

North Vancouver: 796

West Vancouver: 522





Welcome to Bear Country

The North Shore Black Bear Society supports the coexistence of people and wildlife.

این یک منطقه مهم شهون است لطفاً از کسی خواهیده که از ارجحه کند. BLACK BEAR SOCIETY



Welcome to the North Shore, a diverse ecosystem rich with wildlife – including black bears. Coexistence with these peaceful animals is possible if we learn about their behaviour and their reasons for being in urban areas. Black bears live, rest and raise their young in the North Shore forests; however, it is common for them to pass through neighbourhoods. The vulnerable population (females and their cubs, young, old or injured bears) seek safety from dominant male bears by occupying areas closer to people. Expect to see bears on trails, crossing roads, at the beach and in residential areas. Bears are most active from March to late December. It is normal to see them during the day. We have a responsibility to secure food from wildlife. Bears that find unnatural food from humans are often killed – including cubs. Relocation is rarely an option, and it is not the solution. If a bear is removed from an area, another will soon take their place. The North Shore Black Bear Society supports responsible coexistence through education.

With a few simple actions, we can dramatically reduce a bear's reason for staying close to homes. These are some of the most frequently reported bear attractants and some preventative practices:

- **Garbage and organics:** Keep in a secure location (closed garage, sturdy and locked enclosure/shed) at all times, unless out for collection. Container lids should be closed and secured at all times. Lockable carts are bear-resistant, not bear-proof. Wrap organics in newspaper and freeze odorous food scraps to reduce smell and keep garbage area clean. Wash carts/containers regularly with a water and vinegar solution.
- **Fruit trees:** Pick all fruit early, allow to ripen inside. Collect fallen fruit daily and store in a secure area. Install and maintain electric fencing. If fruit trees cannot be managed, we strongly encourage removing them.
- **Bird seed, suet and hummingbird feeders:** Black bears are agile climbers with a long reach; it is almost impossible to hang a feeder they cannot access. Plant to encourage birds or feed very small amounts in the late winter months when you are home to enjoy them. Bears are active during the day – bringing feeders in at night is not the solution.
- **Recycling:** Wash milk jugs, food containers, cans and jars. Rinse beverage bottles and cans. Store recyclables in a secure area. Find out more at: recyclebc.ca.
- **Garage doors:** Bears may enter an open garage out of curiosity or in search of food or shelter. Keep garage doors closed at all times, unless you are in the immediate area.
- **Beehives and backyard chickens:** Install and maintain electric fencing. Keep feed in a secure area. A permit, inspection and electric fencing may be mandatory. Visit your municipal website for further information.
- **Other attractants:** Pet food, Dirty BBQ grills and grease traps, Outdoor fridges and freezers, Petroleum products.
- **Vehicles:** Keep vehicles free of all food and garbage. Keep windows closed and all doors locked. If you notice a bear on your property or close to your vehicle, trigger the vehicle's alarm.
- **If a bear visits your property:** It is important that you set boundaries. As soon as you notice the bear, go to a safe place (deck/open window), make eye contact and use a firm tone. Be persistent and encourage the bear to move on. Bears are intelligent and understand, by our tone, when they are not welcome (providing you are not tempting them with food).

Feeding bears, even unintentionally, is against the law.

Bears can be active year-round, especially if they have access to unnatural foods. Do not expect bears to run away when they see you or your pet. Bears are not fearful of people and we do not want them to be. They are adapting to increased activity and aim to avoid close encounters, but running away wastes energy. Never intentionally approach bears (especially for a photograph) – you could pressure defensive behaviour or push them into the path of another bear or vehicle. It is exceptionally rare for black bears to make contact with humans, but we must respect their personal space. Be prepared to see a bear on the North Shore:

- Use your voice to alert wildlife of human presence when travelling on trails and if travelling anywhere at night.
- If you encounter a bear: stay calm, speak to them in a calm voice (in any language) and slowly back away.
- Off-leash dogs are involved in many negative encounters between humans and wildlife. We advise leashing dogs on trails. Always adhere to leash requirements, which are in place to protect people, pets and wildlife.

Help us to target education and collect valuable data by reporting all North Shore bear sightings to us:
northshorebears.com nbsociety@gmail.com call or text 604-317-4911

Canvassing

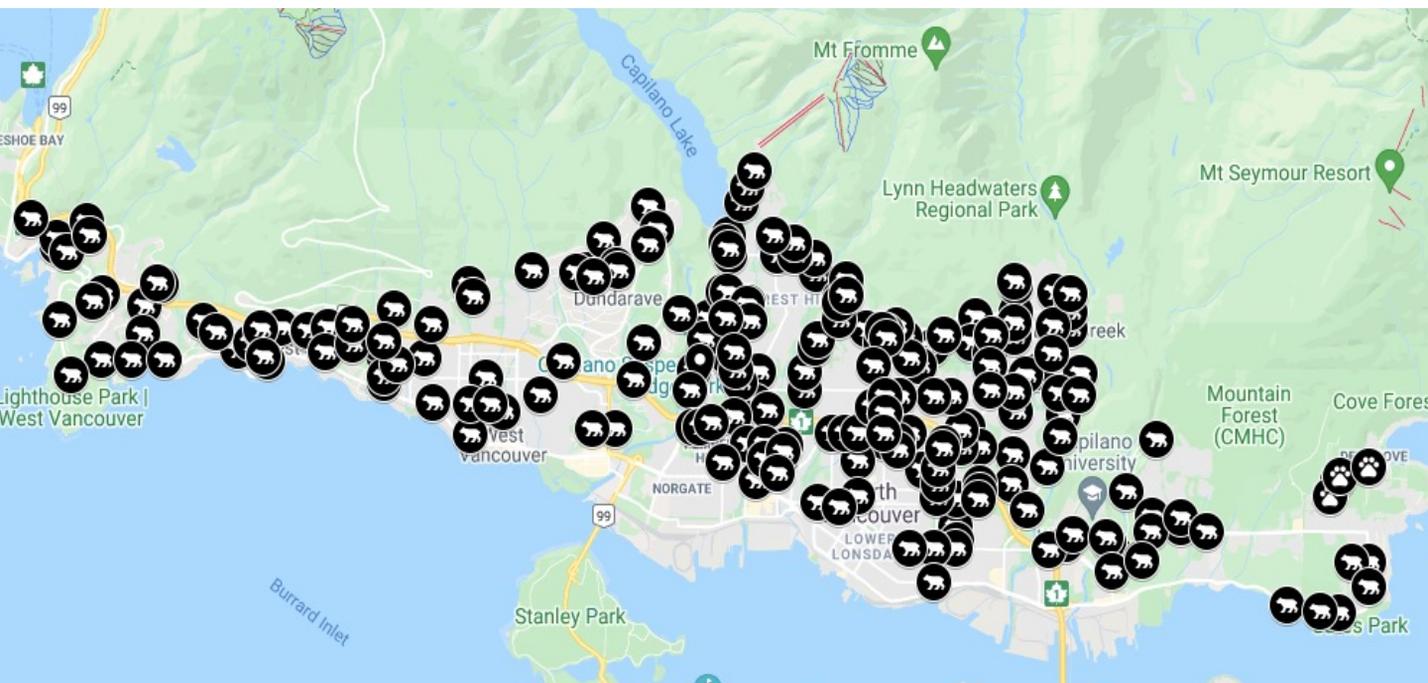
With the help of volunteers, we distributed educational information to homes in all 3 municipalities. Residents living in hotspot communities may have received a copy of our 'Bear in Mind' letter, which offers more solutions for securing carts and further information on bear behaviour. Executive Director, Luci, also did 5 home visits, one strata visit to advise on improvements to their garbage enclosure and presented an outdoor workshop to a strata community in Lynn Valley.



Bear-in-area hangers

CNV: 452
DNV: 2232
DWV: 653

When the Society learns of bear activity, there is a coordinated approach to education with signs and door-to-door canvassing and/or email distribution to Block Watch and anyone reporting to us via email or text. We also responded to active reports to observe bear behaviour and provide education to those in the area.



Bear-in-Area Signs

CNV: 33
DNV: 174
DWV: 75 (placed by West Vancouver District Park staff)

Traditional Media

Interviews by reporters provide opportunities for the Society to reinforce the messages about attractant management, bear behaviour and and best practice for living, working and exploring in bear country.

Media provided these opportunities:

TV: 7 – Global BC, CTV Vancouver, CTV Morning Live Vancouver,

Radio/podcast: 11 – Jill Bennet Show, CKNW, Fur-Bearers Defender radio, News1130, CBC Radio, First Nations Radio Vancouver, Sterling Moss Show, Mike Smith Show, Global BC

Print Articles: 23 – Featured in at least 23 print/internet articles – North Shore News, Global BC, News 1130, CTV Vancouver, North Shore Daily Post, Vancouver Sun, Daily Hive News

Executive Director, Luci, writes regular columns for local news media throughout the season. Pique Newsmagazine: 3, North Shore Daily Post: 3

'Terrible time': North Shore bear advocate bemoans death of seven bruins in July despite education efforts

2021 has been a 'terrible' summer for bears, society says

Aug 12, 2021 3:37 PM By: Brent Richter

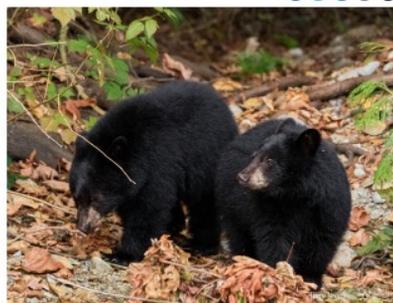


A bear eats berries in a North Vancouver backyard in July 2020. | Fabio Mortari

The Bear Facts: Give B.C. bears a break

Luci Cadman urges people to give bears some space as they get ready to hibernate

Oct 23, 2021 8:00 AM By: Luci Cadman



Feeding bears, even unintentionally, can lead to hefty fines. | Photo courtesy of the North Shore Black Bear Society

Bearly Awake but Already Active on North Shore

We are aware of 10 bears that are active across the District of North Vancouver and District of West Vancouver, writes Luci Cadman.



With the exception of Central and Lower Lonsdale (in detail), you can encounter a black bear anywhere on the North Shore, at any time of day or year. Photos: Dylan Monteth

LUCI CADMAN
MARCH 17, 2021 5:20PM

Social Media

We continued to increase our social media outreach by creating educational and engaging content. Social media followers and engagement has steadily increased, thanks to many sharing our content. One post regarding orphaned cubs in West Vancouver was shared 3.4k times on Facebook alone and the information was exposed to over 250,000 people.

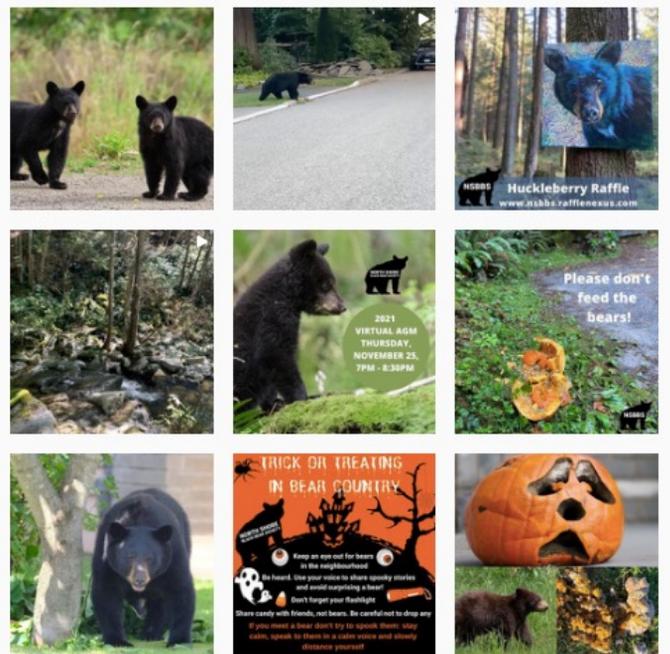
We also created educational content for our YouTube channel with Ellie Lamb.

Online Community:

7035 Instagram

7928 Facebook

426 Twitter

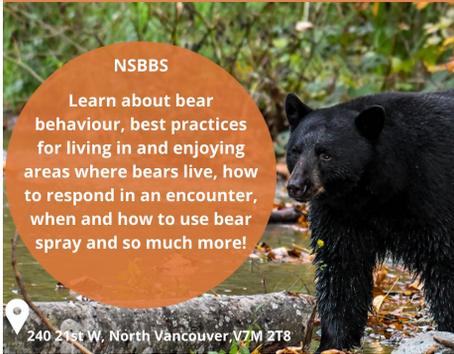


Community Events

COVID restrictions continued to impact most of our regular community events, but we set up independently at parks and trailheads throughout the season.

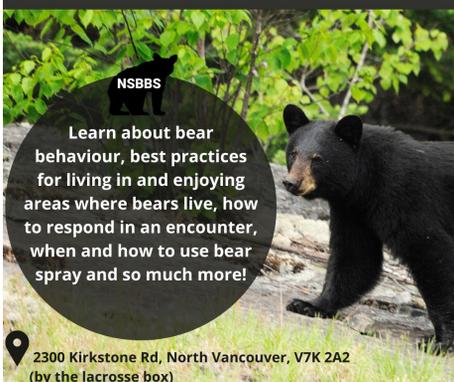
Over the summer, we teamed with AdventureSmart BC for two events at Regional Parks in North Vancouver, Co-hosted 'Bear Day' with Elders Council for Parks at BC Heritage House and visited Rice Lake to host two guided trail walks with NatureKids Vancouver.

Find us celebrating River's Day at
Wagg Creek Park
Sunday September 26th, 10am-2pm



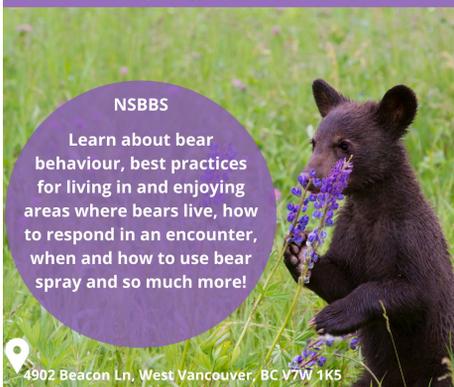
City North Vancouver
2

Find us at Kirkstone Park
Sunday September 26th, 2:30pm-5pm



District of North Vancouver
11

Find us at Lighthouse Park
Monday August 9th, 10am-2pm



District of West Vancouver
3



AdventureSmart



Community Projects

We presented our bear workshops to all students at Eastview Elementary in North Vancouver. Society volunteer and Eastview Grade 2/3 teacher, Danielle Herschmiller, embraced the curiosity and advocacy of her students by designing a literacy lesson plan to create educational posters on attractants and bear encounters. We shared the students' posters on our social media channels over the summer and our community loved them. Engaging young minds is an important part of our outreach and we are grateful to have strong relationships within the two North Shore School Districts.



Brockton School in North Vancouver surprised us in late 2020, by generously donating a tree for us to decorate at the Lynn Valley Parade of Trees. With only a few days to source decorations, we reached out to the community. One local artist painted baubles of well-known North Shore bears and a knitted and wooden bear were kindly donated. We really enjoyed contributing to this magical community event.



Bear Management and Community Partnerships



North Vancouver, July 2021. Photo: Fabio Mortari

North Vancouver, July 2021. Photo: Luci

We are aware of 9 black bears losing their lives on the North Shore this season. Seven bears were killed by the BC COS as of October 31st 2021 – 3 in the District of North Vancouver and 4 in the District of West Vancouver. In addition, a female bear was hit by a vehicle on the highway in West Vancouver and was euthanized by BC COS, and a male bear was killed on the highway in West Vancouver.

A 5-month-old cub was orphaned by BC COS in July and was not captured. We made efforts to assist the BC COS and engage Critter Care to help with capture, but it was decided by the Provincial Wildlife Biologist and Provincial Veterinarian that no action would be taken unless the cub's behaviour or condition changed, or if the cub was reported getting into conflict. The North Shore Black Bear Society does not agree a residential area next to the highway is a suitable location and the BC COS failed to execute the duty of care to the cub they orphaned. We presume the cub starved or succumbed to predation as no reports of them were received since the summer, despite huge efforts from the community to locate the orphan.

The body of the male bear who was killed by a vehicle on Highway 1, close to Exit 4 in West Vancouver was moved to Cypress Provincial Park by highway maintenance company, Miller Capilano. The body was clearly visible from a parking lot. Despite extensive efforts to engage BC COS to remove the decaying carcass, BC COS failed to respond to this public safety risk. The NSBBS shared education with Cypress Mountain staff and a Miller Capilano manager regarding the carcass being a wildlife attractant.

For 3 days, we assisted the BC COS and District of North Vancouver Parks staff with closing down trailheads at Mt Fromme, and provided bear awareness education to those attempting to access the trails.

Most of these bears were killed because they found readily accessible unnatural food sources in residential areas (garbage, food scraps, fruit, bird seed and unsecured chickens) and according to BC COS, because they entered 'confined' spaces. The Society will continue to inform North Shore residents about how to effectively reduce attractants and to secure lower-level doors when not in the immediate area, as well as further the education about other reasons bears spend time in our communities.

The partnerships with Engineering, Solid Waste, Bylaws, Communications and Parks Departments in the North Shore municipalities and the Conservation Officer Service are important to provide consistent messaging about the responsibilities of living in bear country.

One way to maintain and strengthen community partnerships is through the North Shore Bear Working Group (NSBWG) that was formed in 2018. The NSWG includes staff from the three municipalities and representatives from the RCMP, West Vancouver Police Department and Conservation Officer Service and representatives of the Society. These partners can work collaboratively to reduce unnecessary bear deaths.



Photo: Tony Joyce

The North Shore Black Bear Society will look closely at the locations of the 2021 bear sighting reports and bear deaths, identify “hot spots” for bear activity, and target proactive education in these areas. Over the winter, we will update our print materials to reflect the data we have collected and analyzed, as well as the needs of our community. We intend to update all our print materials with our new logo and engaging more accessible content.

We intend to expand our team, if funds allow, and we will be seeking to hire one part-time staff member to assist with administration and volunteer engagement during the summer months.

In addition, the Society plans to continue to encourage the provincial government ministries to assess and update its wildlife management policies and practices.

Other plans for the Society are to build on existing relationships with municipal partners to work on a co-ordinated approach to increase awareness and reduce the number of bears killed on the North Shore.

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. In addition, we will continue to work to increase residents’ knowledge and understanding of wildlife to support their need to feel comfortable living in close proximity. We will continue to expand on our outreach targeting those recreating on the north Shore to help reduce human impact and surprise bear encounters.

Acknowledgements

Funding Partners

- District of West Vancouver
- District of North Vancouver
- City of North Vancouver
- BC Gaming Grants

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
- Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre
- Block Watch Coordinators, North and West Vancouver
- North Vancouver School District
- West Vancouver School District

Special Appreciation

The Society is grateful to the District of North Vancouver for providing spaces for our Board Meetings and Annual General Meeting, as well as for the North Shore Working Group meetings, in non-COVID times.

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.

The Society is grateful for the expertise of bear behaviour expert and bear viewing guide Ellie Lamb and Urban Wildlife Specialist, Tom Saare, who both share their expertise as Directors on our board, joining: Margot Finlay, Danielle Herschmiller, Emily Pickett, Christina Prikryl, Tony Webb, Jonathan Yasayko, and Janet Ying Yan.

Volunteers

As with every other year, our 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, placing and removing bear-in-area signs, canvassing, new homeowner project and assisting at community events. In 2021, the work of volunteers assisted with the prevention of human-bear encounters on the North Shore and helped us to record data for this report. We are exceptionally grateful for the increased volunteer support we have received in recent years and our intentions are to increase opportunities and volunteer engagement.

A special mention to Danielle Herschmiller, who volunteered year-round to assist our Executive Director by responding to reports, canvassing, creating social media posts, strengthening our North Vancouver School District relationships, observing bears in the community, assisting at educational displays and managing the Society for much of the summer to allow Luci to focus on the website.

A special mention to Sean Herschmiller, who donated weeks of his time and graphic design knowledge to help us create a new website. We could not have completed the project without him. In addition to a new design and features, the operating costs of the new site are significantly smaller.