

NORTH SHORE BLACK BEAR SOCIETY

EST. 1999



2022 Year-End Report

Prepared by Armaan Chanana



Introduction

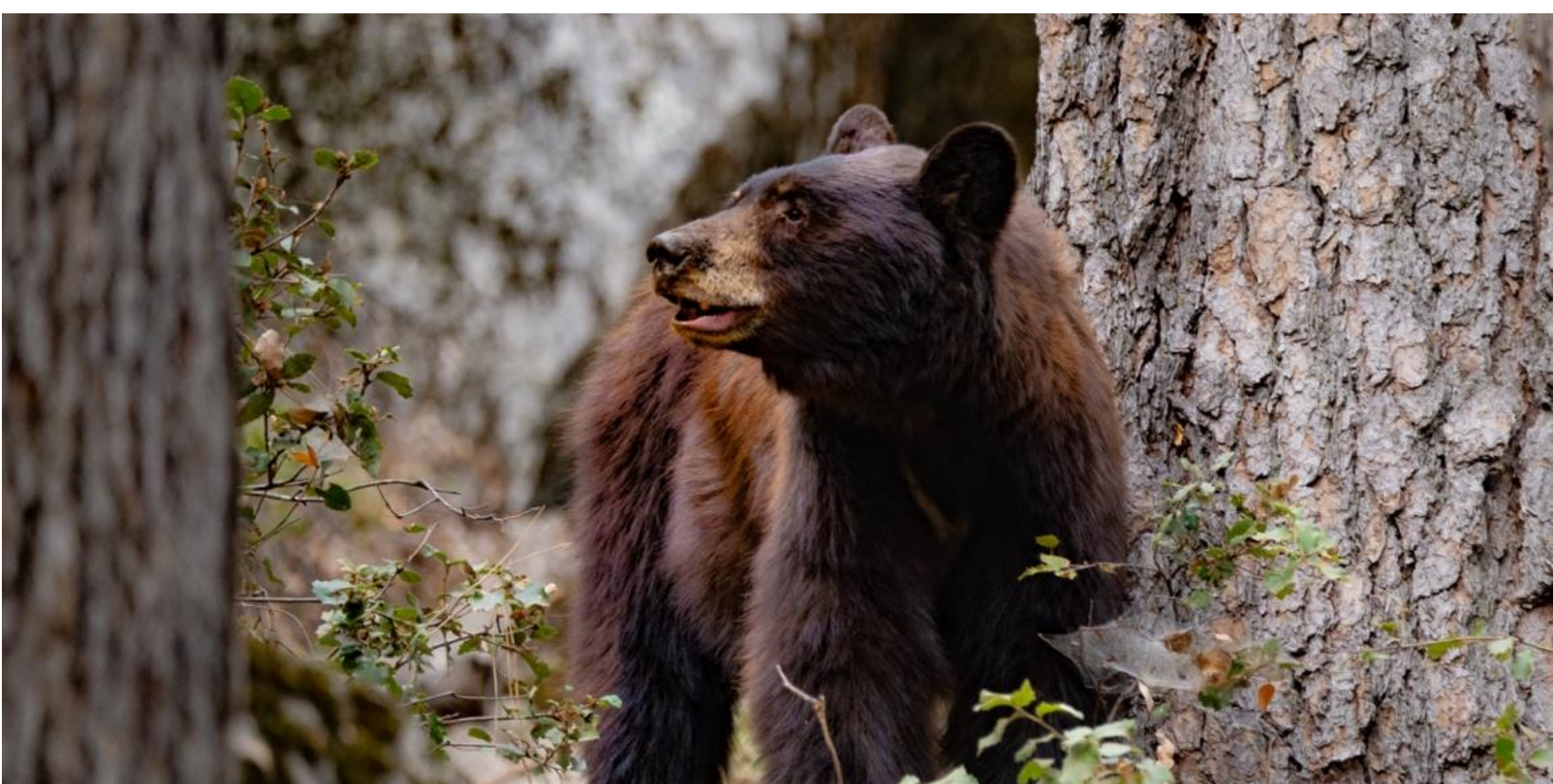
The North Shore Black Bear Society (NSBBS), formerly the North Shore Black Bear Network, is a non-profit organization originally formed in 1999 by residents of Vancouver's North Shore after 39 bears were killed in a single year. The organization was formally structured as a non-profit society in 2005. With the help of its funding partners and team of dedicated volunteers and staff, NSBBS has provided education to thousands of North Shore residents, and has helped reduce the number of bear deaths.

The North Shore Black Bear Society focuses its efforts on providing education to the residents of the North Shore on how to safely and effectively co-exist with black bears. The mandate of the Society is to reduce the number of bears killed every year by supporting the public with information about managing attractants and dealing effectively with bear encounters. The North Shore Black Bear Society provides door-to-door education, participates in community events, conducts workshops for schools and other groups, and responds to bear sighting reports with phone calls, emails, home visits and placement of bear-in-area-signs.

The Society's mission is to:

- Reduce the accessibility of unnatural food sources to wildlife in residential areas
- Provide education about attractant management to reduce bear encounters and unnecessary bear deaths
- Maintain working relationships with the North Shore municipalities
- Enhance the public's knowledge on how to co-exist with black bears
- Welcome new residents to the North Shore with a 'Welcome to Bear Country' package

This report covers work completed between November 1, 2021 and October 31, 2022.



2022 in Review

Statistics

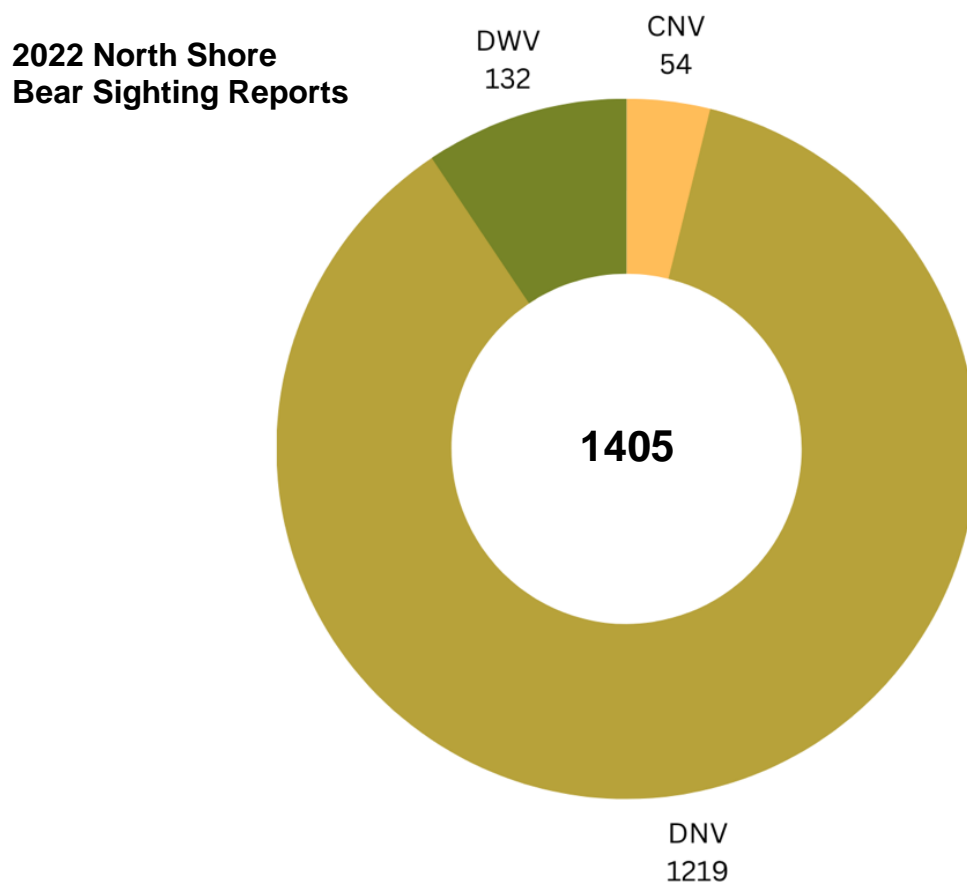
Residents of the North Shore contact the Society for various reasons, including:

- Reporting wildlife sightings
- Reporting attractants in their neighbourhood
- Requesting support with wildlife challenges
- Requesting workshops
- Requesting signage

Residents can also report wildlife sightings and mis-managed attractants to the municipal Bylaw services or by filing a report with the B.C. Conservation Officer Service through the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line in Victoria (1-877-952-7277).

The following statistics summarize the reports received between November 1, 2021, and October 31, 2022 in the District of North Vancouver (DNV), City of North Vancouver (CNV), and District of West Vancouver (DWV).

Wildlife Sighting Reports





Cougar Reports

DNV: 1

Total: 1



Coyote Reports

CNV: 4

DNV: 33

DWV: 2



Other Species Reports

(Bobcat, Raccoon, Skunk, Weasel)

DNV: 3

DWV: 2

Total: 5

Grand Total of all reported wildlife: 1,450

While black bears remain the main focus of the society's presentation to groups, we occasionally receive requests on providing information on all wildlife found on the North Shore, including cougars, coyotes, bobcats, skunks and raccoons.

Summary of Activities

Bear Attractant Management

The North Shore is black bear country. Many of our residential areas are near wildlife corridors, and residents should expect to see bears in our neighbourhoods from time to time. Bears are opportunistic feeders and will eat easily accessible foods, including residential waste and other attractants. This is one of the reasons education outreach is important.

The biggest attractant continues to be garbage and organics (which together account for 46% of all reports). Other attractants include backyard compost, bird feeders, bee hives and baby diapers.

The North Shore Black Bear Society works closely with the District of North Vancouver's departments that are involved in wildlife management, namely the Solid Waste and Bylaws Departments.

The District rolled out Schaffer carts with clip-on carabiner locks that help secure the waste carts and make them bear resistant. The North Shore Black Bear Society discourages residents from leaving the waste carts in areas accessible by bears, as the carts are not wildlife proof and the locks often get broken by black bears. District staff can be notified to have the carabiner locks repaired in a timely manner to make the carts bear resistant again. Residents looking for additional measures to prevent recurring bear visits are advised to clean and rinse the carts out with a pine- or vinegar-based solution. In addition, NSBBS advises residents to use ratchet straps to strap the waste carts to a fence or other sturdy structure, which can prevent a bear from tipping the carts to work at gaining entry and scattering the contents.

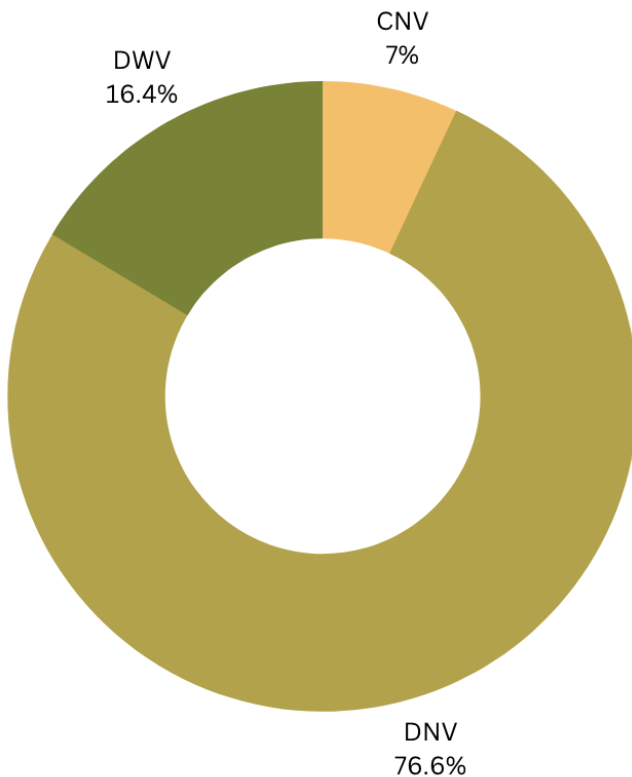
Bylaw staff at the three North Shore municipalities are notified if an enforcement action is needed beyond providing education.



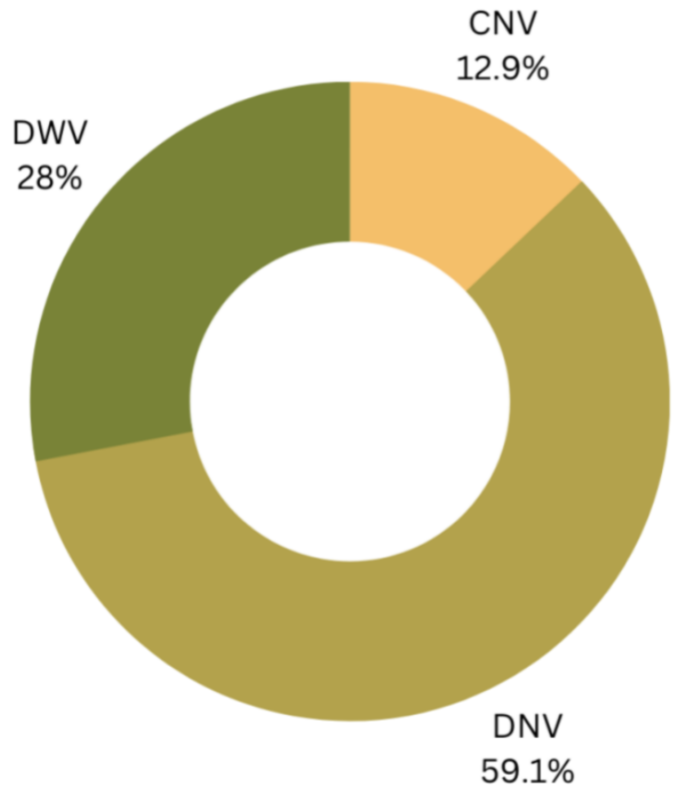
Canvassing

When the Society learns of bear activity, there is a coordinated response which includes the placement of bear-in-area signs, distribution of information to community groups, communications via email, text or social media platforms, and door-to-door canvassing. Approximately **945** door hangers were distributed this season.

**2022 North Shore
Canvassing Conducted**
(Based on reports received)



**2022 North Shore
Bear in Area Signs Installed**



Workshops & Community Events

Throughout the year, the Society provided free black bear workshops to various organizations, groups and families. These workshops were conducted in-person, at camp, or virtually. Workshops were delivered to school groups, newcomers to the North Shore, and youth outdoor groups. In addition, the Society had the opportunity to make a presentation to a group of 17 volunteers from “Rewilding Apennines”, a conservation group from the Apennine region of Europe (Italy and Greece), who were visiting Canada to meet with conservation groups to gather ideas on wildlife and bear conservation.

The North Shore Black Bear Society was contacted by the West Vancouver Library and the District of West Vancouver’s Finance Department to conduct workshops for their staff. The Society also made two presentations at the Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre in the District of North Vancouver.



NSBBS Executive Director Christine Miller speaking with residents at World Rivers Day, 2022.



World Rivers Day at Mosquito Creek Park in the City of North Vancouver.

This year, the Society participated in

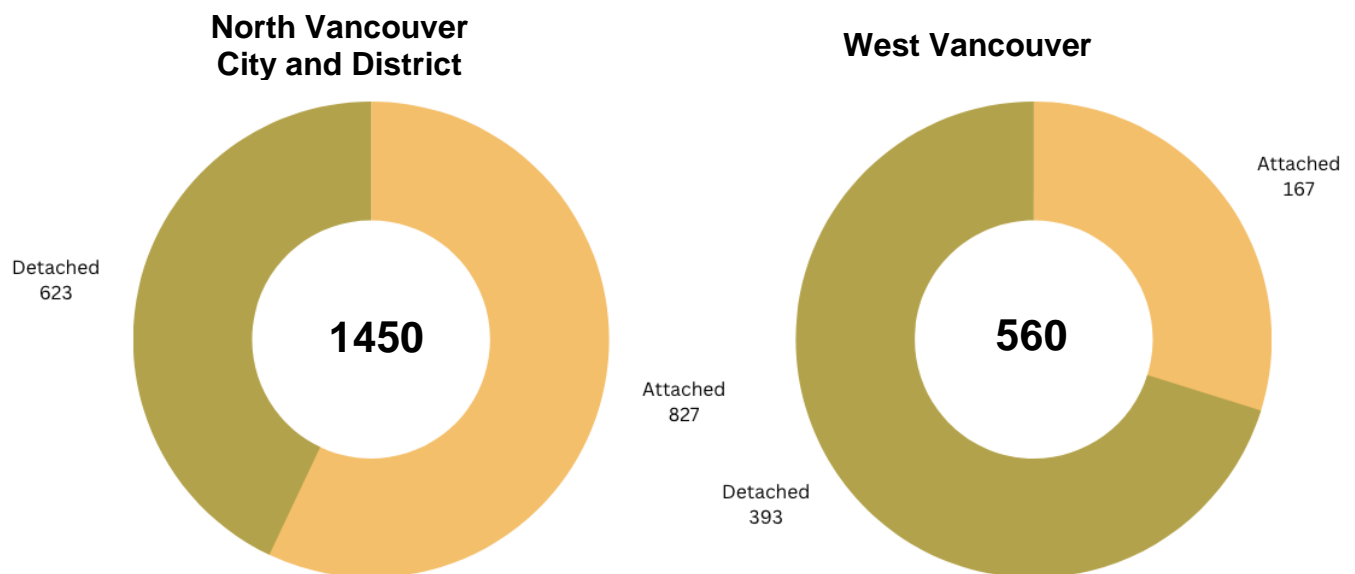
23 workshops & community events

The Society set up booths at various events across all three North Shore municipalities, including:

- the annual Osprey Festival hosted by the Wild Bird Trust of British Columbia
- the first Family Fun Day held at the Royal Canadian Legion
- Community Day at Parkgate Village
- the COHO Festival at Ambleside Park in West Vancouver
- World Rivers Day at Mosquito Creek Park, hosted by the City of North Vancouver

Outreach to New Homeowners

North Shore Black Bear Society volunteers mailed 'Welcome to Bear Country' Information letters to 2,010 new North Shore homeowners. These letters provide the best practices for living and exploring in bear country.



Educational Resources

This year the Society updated the door hangers that are used when providing door-to-door education in areas with bear activity. The newly designed door hangers provide clear and concise ways to manage attractants while living in bear country. The door hanger is complete with information on how to report bear sightings, along with a QR code that takes the readers the Society's website: northshorebears.com

PDF versions of these door hangers were shared with Block Watch Captains who requested information to distribute to their neighbours. Residents of the North Shore were also strongly encouraged to report repeat offenders of the solid waste bylaw to their local Bylaws department.



A bear was recently sighted in your neighbourhood.

Here is what you need to do:

-  Store **garbage and organics** bins inside a shed or garage until collection morning. Freeze meat, fish and bones.
-  Place all **food scraps** in the organics bin, not the garbage.
-  Remove **bird feeders** during spring, summer, fall.
-  Pick or donate **fruit** early.
-  Keep **fridges and freezers** inside.
-  Clean **barbeques** after cooking.
-  Keep **pet food** inside.
-  Surround **chicken coops and beehives** with electric fences.

It is our responsibility to manage attractants on our property. Feeding bears, even unintentionally, is against the law. **Bylaw fines can be up to \$500.**



Relocation is not a solution.

See a black bear in your neighbourhood? Black bears travel extensively in search of food, and it is normal for them to pass through residential areas. Problems can occur when they gain access to unnatural food sources and they remain in urban areas.

Relocation doesn't work—bears that are removed usually return to the area.

Every year, bears are killed on the North Shore for finding food in our community. When this happens, another bear will move in if attractants remain. The answer is to manage wildlife attractants and prevent bears from finding food in neighbourhoods.

If you meet a bear:

Remain calm, speak calmly to the bear, back away slowly and report the sighting to the North Shore Black Bear Society. **Remember that bears are wild animals—respect their space and do not approach for a photograph.**

Thank you for helping keep wildlife wild.

Use your phone to scan here, or visit northshorebears.com for more info about co-existing with bears.



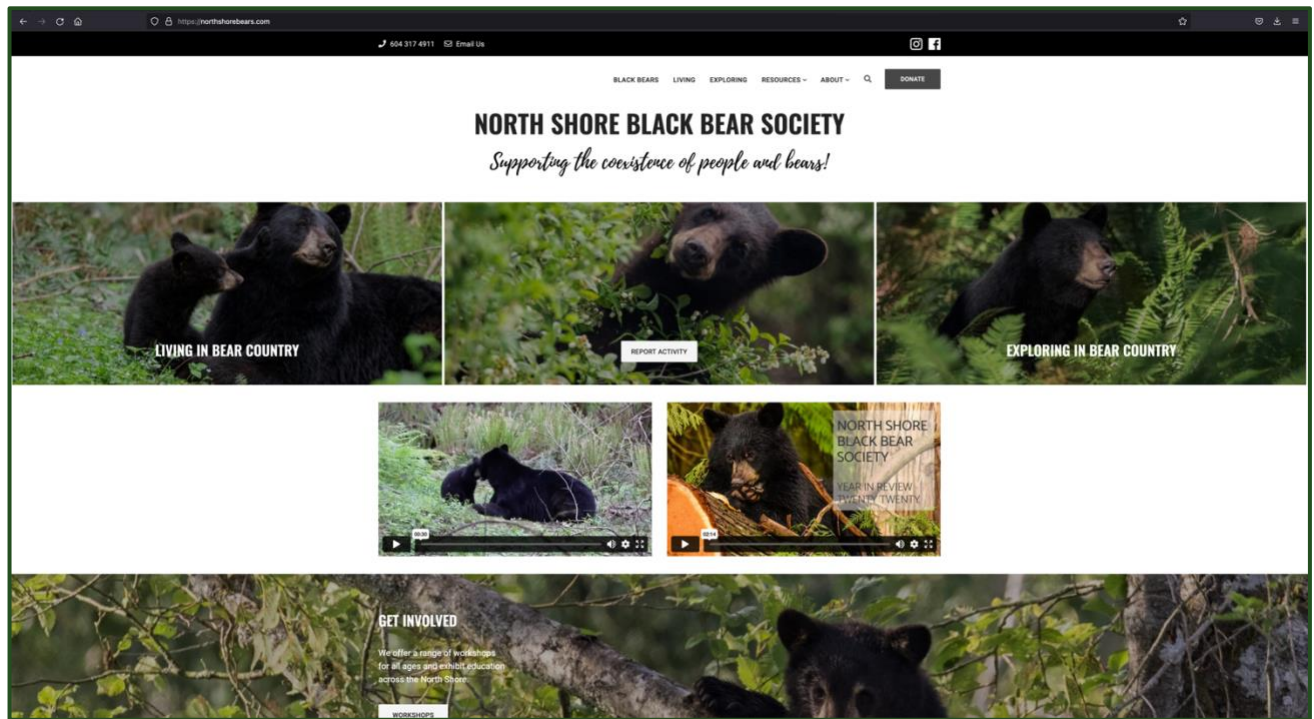
Report bear or attractant sightings to the North Shore Black Bear Society:

604.990.BEAR (2327) and press 2
nsbbsociety@gmail.com
northshorebears.com

Online

Website

The Society's website contains information on the work that the Society does, as well as resources on living and exploring in bear country.



Social Media

The Society also has a big presence on social media channels, including Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The channels are used to engage with the public, provide education on the latest methods for deterring bears from urban areas, and as open lines of communication for the public to report wildlife and attractant concerns, and other general questions.



@northshoreblackbearsociety
7,860 Followers



@northshoreblackbearsociety
7,704 Followers



@NSBBSociety
421 Followers

Bear Management

Three bears were killed on the North Shore by the Conservation Officer Service as of October 31, 2022. One bear was killed in the Cedardale community in West Vancouver, another one was killed in the Deep Cove area, after they both entered homes.

In September, a third bear was killed near the Capilano River. This was a collared bear whose movements were being used by a BC government biologist for research purposes.

In addition, two bears were struck by vehicles. The bear in West Vancouver was euthanized due to the nature of its injuries. The other bear was killed on impact near the Lloyd Ave exit in North Vancouver.



Screencapture of Global News reporting bear entering home via video shared on Tik Tok.

Plans for 2023



NSBBS Program Coordinator, Armaan Chanana showcases the new door hangers

The Society's staff and volunteers will continue to distribute information about living responsibly in bear country through canvassing, home visits, emails, phone calls, and the placement of signs.

In addition, the Society is always looking for innovative ways to secure attractants in residential areas to avoid bears having easy access to them. The Society also plans to continue to support organizations that encourage the provincial government ministries to assess and update its wildlife management policies and practices.

The North Shore Black Bear Society will start a pilot project in the next year to identify blocks with unnecessary bear activity in 2022 and engage the residents to work with us to help them earn "Bear Wise" status. It will involve education and support to manage attractants responsibly and increase their understanding of bear behaviour. We plan to obtain media support to publicize the successes.

Acknowledgements

Funding Partners

District of North Vancouver

District of West Vancouver

City of North Vancouver

BC Gaming Grants

Education Outreach Partners

District of North Vancouver

- Solid Waste Department
- Bylaws Department
- Lynn Canyon Ecology Centre

City of North Vancouver

- Parks and Environment Department
- Bylaws Department

District of West Vancouver

- Engineering and Solid Waste Department
- Bylaws Department

Volunteers

The Society's volunteers continue to contribute to the success of the Society's education programs in a variety of ways; in particular, by providing door-to-door education using the educational material provided to them, responding to bear sightings with texts, emails, or phone calls, and assisting with mailouts to new homeowners.

Special thanks to Holly Reisner, who volunteered a great deal of her time to assist the Society and helped to provide important information to residents who reported bear sightings. Thank you also to Viki Ashman, Eryn Arnott and Lisa Primrose for tirelessly working on the new homeowners' project.

The Society looks forward to providing additional volunteer opportunities in 2023.

Special Appreciation

The Society appreciates the District Bear Line [604-990-BEAR (2327)] which makes it easy for the North Shore residents to report bear or attractant sightings and request information or support with any related challenges.

The North Shore Black Bear Society maintains positive working relationships with the three North Shore municipalities, as well as the BC Conservation Officer Service.

