



# North Shore Black Bear Society

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## 2025 Year-End Report

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NSBBS Program Coordinator



**NORTH SHORE**  
**BLACK**  
**BEAR**  
**▲ SOCIETY ▲**





# Introduction

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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 in North and West Vancouver.

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 and other wildlife. 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 neighbourhood outreach, participates in community events, conducts presentations for schools and other groups, and responds to bear and other wildlife sighting reports with phone calls, emails, text messages, home visits and placement of bear-in-area, coyote-in-area and cougar-in-area signs, and welcomes new residents to the North Shore with a "Welcome to Bear Country" package.

## **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 coexist with black bears.

*This report covers work completed between November 1, 2024 and October 31, 2025.*





# 2025 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.

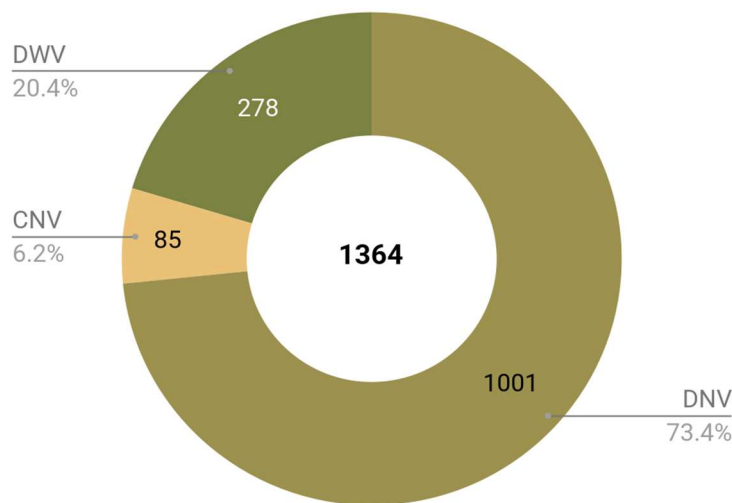
Residents can also report wildlife sightings and mismanaged attractants to the municipal Bylaw Services or by filing a report with the B.C. Conservation Officer Service through the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line in Victoria (1-877-952-7277).

The following statistics summarize the reports received by the Society between November 1, 2024, and October 31, 2025 in the District of North Vancouver (DNV), City of North Vancouver (CNV), and the District of West Vancouver (DWV).

## Wildlife Sighting Reports

### Black Bear Reports

2025 Black Bear Sightings by Municipality



Across the North Shore, a total of **1364** black bear sightings were reported to the Society in 2025. This is down 24% compared with the 1739 sightings in 2024.



### **Cougar Reports**

CNV: 1  
DNV: 31  
DWV: 1  
Total: 33



### **Coyote Reports**

CNV: 22  
DNV: 64  
DWV: 10  
Total: 96



### **Other Species Reports**

(bobcat, raccoon, skunk, weasel, owl, deer)

CNV: 0  
DNV: 10  
DWV: 3  
Total: 13

**Grand Total of all reported wildlife: 1,506**

While black bears remain the main focus of the Society's presentation to groups, NSBBS occasionally receives requests to provide information on all wildlife found on the North Shore, including cougars, coyotes, bobcats, skunks and raccoons.



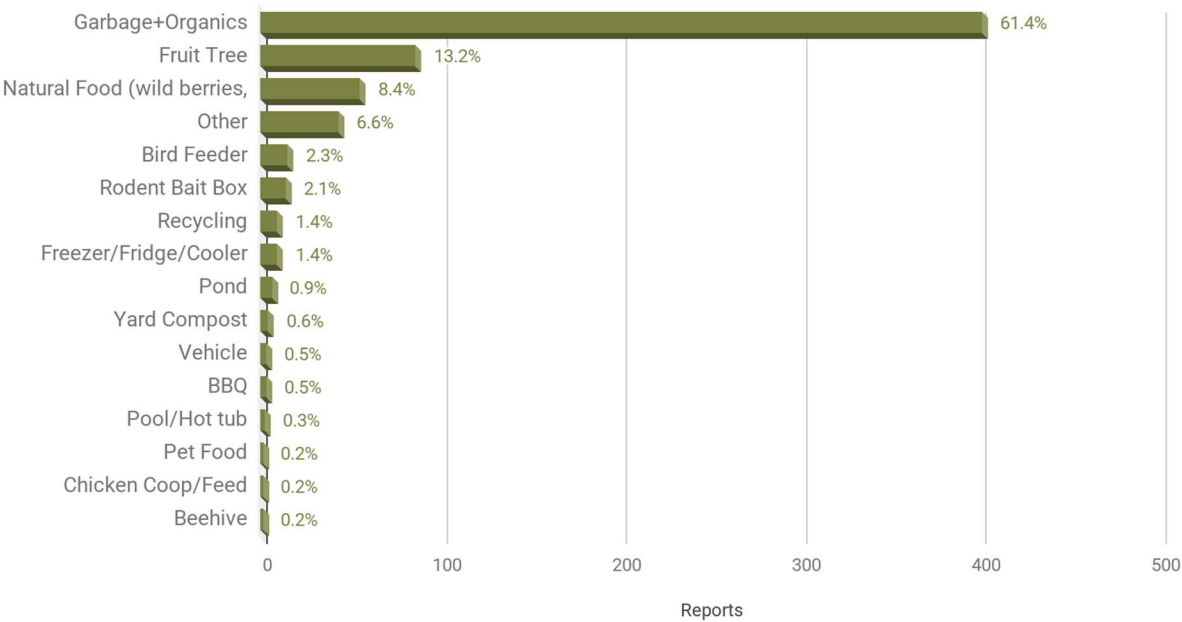
# Summary of Activities

## 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. As opportunistic feeders, bears are attracted to accessible foods, including residential waste (unsorted garbage, organics, and used diapers), bird feed, fruit trees, outdoor fridges and freezers, dirty BBQs, rodenticide bait boxes, pumpkins, and beehives. This is one of the reasons that education outreach is so important.

As with previous years, **the major attractant in 2025 is garbage and organics** which accounts for 60.8% of all reports. In 2025, fruit trees made up the second highest number of attractant reports.

2025 North Shore Bear Attractant Reports



The 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 Schaefer carts with clip-on carabiner locks help secure the waste carts and make them bear resistant. Because the carts are not wildlife proof and bears often break the locks, the NSBBS encourages residents to store their carts inside their garage or sturdy shed.





District staff can be notified to have the carabiner locks and carts repaired to make the carts bear resistant again. In addition, the NSBBS recommends that residents clean carts thoroughly with a vinegar solution and spritz with pine scented cleaner after each collection day. Freezing odorous food waste and wrappers and adding them to the appropriate carts on collection day is also recommended to manage odours in the carts. As well, the Society advises residents to use ratchet straps to strap the waste carts to a sturdy structure, which makes it more difficult for a bear to tip the carts and work at gaining entry, scattering, and consuming the contents.

In June 2025, the Society hosted an electric fencing workshop for staff and volunteers. Wildsafe BC Coordinator Dan Mikolay led the workshop, teaching participants how to install and remove temporary electric fencing. The Society supports residents by teaching them how to properly use the fencing when trying to secure bee hives and outdoor chickens.



The Society has collaborated with DNV on rodenticide information in order to pass on to residents the harmful consequences of the poison to all wildlife and the fact that it is an attractant to bears.

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

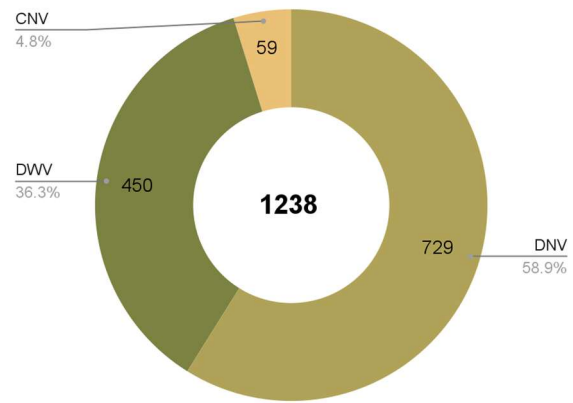
The Society also works closely with the City of North Vancouver's Engineering, Parks and Environment staff and the District of West Vancouver's Parks Department.



# Door-To-Door Neighbourhood Outreach

When the Society learns of bear activity, there is a coordinated response which includes the placement of wildlife-in-area signs, distribution of information to community groups, communications via email, text or social media platforms, and door-to-door neighbourhood outreach. Approximately **1238** door hangers and **590** tip letters were distributed this season.

2024/25 Neighbourhood Outreach



## New in 2025

The Society hired a part time staff member to conduct Neighbourhood Outreach in **West Vancouver** for the month of August 2025. This helped the Society reach 213% more DWV residents relative to 2024.



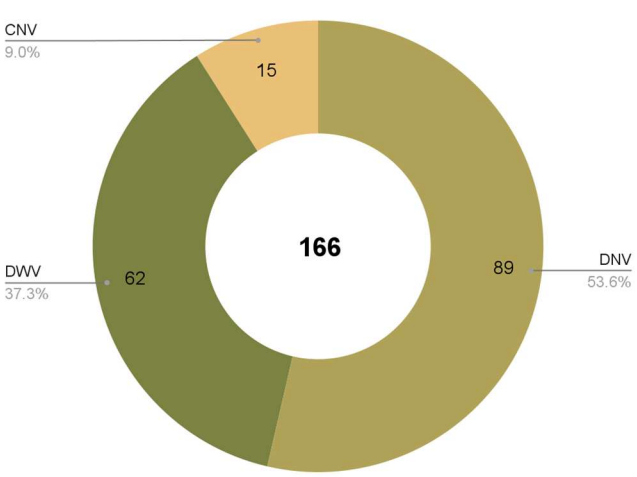




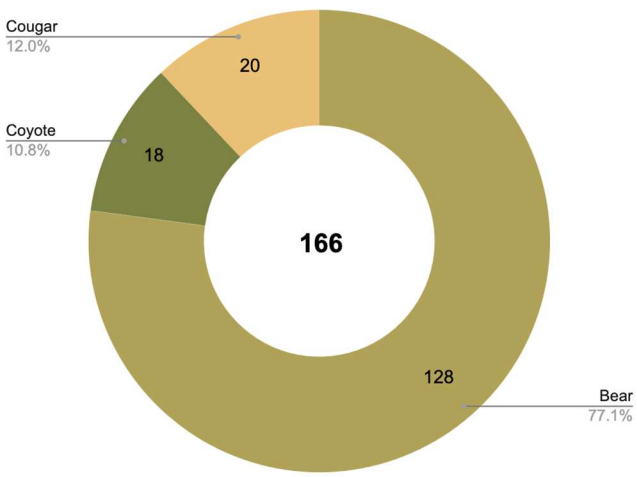
# Signage

In 2025 a total of **104** wildlife signs were placed in the DNV and CNV by the Society. **62** signs were placed in the DWV by DWV staff.

2024/25 Signs Installed



2024/25 Signs Breakdown







## New in 2025

The District of North Vancouver designed a new Black Bear Advisory sign for DNV Parks where visitors often picnic, with input from the Society. The Society is very appreciative of the opportunity to partner with the municipalities on developing this important tool.





## Presentations & Community Events

Throughout the year, the Society provided free black bear presentations and bear safety workshops to various organizations, school groups, newcomers to the North Shore, youth groups, and outdoor school groups. These presentations were conducted in person or virtually. Presentation highlights in 2025 include:

- Capilano University students & security team who work or live in residence.
- Film crews.
- Metro Vancouver Watershed Employees.
- Outdoor, public, and private schools - both students and teachers.
- DWV Parks and Maintenance Staff.
- Block Parties.
- North Vancouver RCMP duty officers.



### New in 2025

Partnership with Communication and Geography classes at Capilano University. Students created Email Newsletter Templates and a GIS mapping system for the Society.





The Society delivered **122** programs (presentations and community events) this year.

The Society participated in various public events across all three North Shore municipalities and Tsleil-Waututh Nation. The NSBBS display includes artifacts, interactive games and provides a welcoming centrepiece to invite public interactions and conversations.

## Workshops & community events

# 122

Community event highlights in 2025 include:

- Tsleil-Waututh Nation Community Safety Open House
- West Vancouver Cultural Fest
- Family Fishing Day at Rice Lake
- Community Day at Parkgate Village
- Seymour Salmonid Society Community Event
- World Rivers Day at Mosquito Creek Park, hosted by the City of North Vancouver







**This year, the  
Society reached**

**8,744**

**Community  
members**

The Society attended:

- 31** Community Events
- 79** Presentations
- 1** Nature Walk
- 10** Bear Safety Presentations
- 1** Conference

## Educational Resources

The TIPs letter is a concise and informative letter containing detail for residents who need to manage bear food attractants on their property. It is a practical resource that the Society sends to residents by email or Canada Post or delivers via neighbourhood outreach.

This year the Society updated the TIPs letter with reminders to residents to keep ground floor windows, doors, and garage doors closed unless closely monitored; bears will often pay with their lives if they enter enclosed spaces. The letter was also updated to include pumpkins and rodent bait boxes as attractants. Rodent bait boxes contain poison treated to smell like food.



The door hanger is complete with information on how to report bear sightings, along with a QR code that takes the readers to the Society's website: [northshorebears.com](https://northshorebears.com)

Bookmarks for school groups and events include attractant management reminders and signs to look for on trails and in neighbourhoods that indicate bear activity.

### New in 2025

NSBBS volunteers translated the Tips Letter into Korean and Chinese, expanding our collection of translated Tips to three languages, which began with Farsi in 2024.

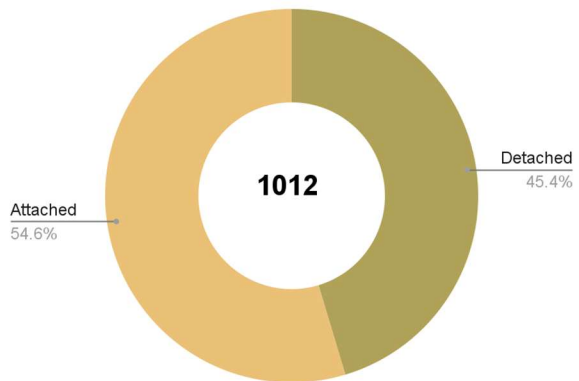


# Outreach to New Homeowners

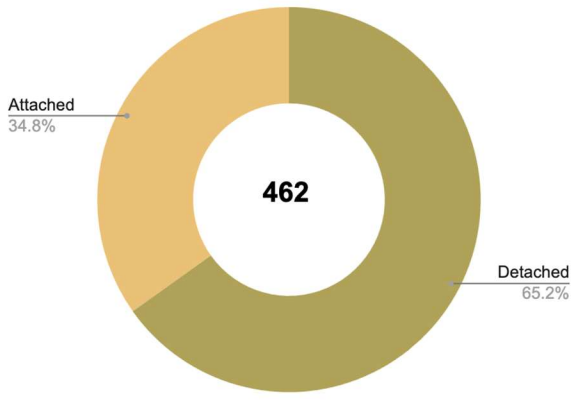
North Shore Black Bear Society volunteers mailed 'Welcome to Bear Country' information letters to **1473** new North Shore homeowners. These letters provide the best practices for living and exploring in bear country. **1012** letters were mailed to North Vancouver and **461** letters were mailed to West Vancouver.



North Vancouver City & District



West Vancouver





## Relationships

The Society continues to build on existing relationships and establish new connections with the community, organizations, and national and international partners. These relationships are vital for the Society's efforts in working with the community to reduce black bear deaths on the North Shore.

- DNV, CNV, DWV
- Conservation Officer Services
- Rodenticide Free BC
- North Shore Fruit Tree Project
- Elders Council Stewardship
- RCMP
- Block Watch
- Metro Vancouver Parks
- Metro Vancouver Watershed
- LSCR (Lower Seymour Conservation Reserve)
- Coyote Watch Canada
- Cougar Conservancy, California
- North Shore Residents
- Capilano University

## Conferences

The Society staff had the opportunity to present at one international conference and participate in one local conference:

- **7th International Human-Bear Conflicts Workshop 2025** Kalispell, Montana, USA. This event brought together researchers, wildlife managers, conservationists, and community leaders to discuss strategies for reducing human-bear conflicts.

Executive Director, Holly Reisner, represented the Society delivering her presentation: **“Coexisting with Black Bears in our Urban Setting Using a Cooperative Approach”** providing a thorough overview of the NSBBS and its work.

- **Beyond the Blue Conference, BC Metis Federation 2025**

This conference took conservation beyond the shoreline with dynamic discussions, innovative strategies, and collaborative efforts for ocean and environment stewardship.

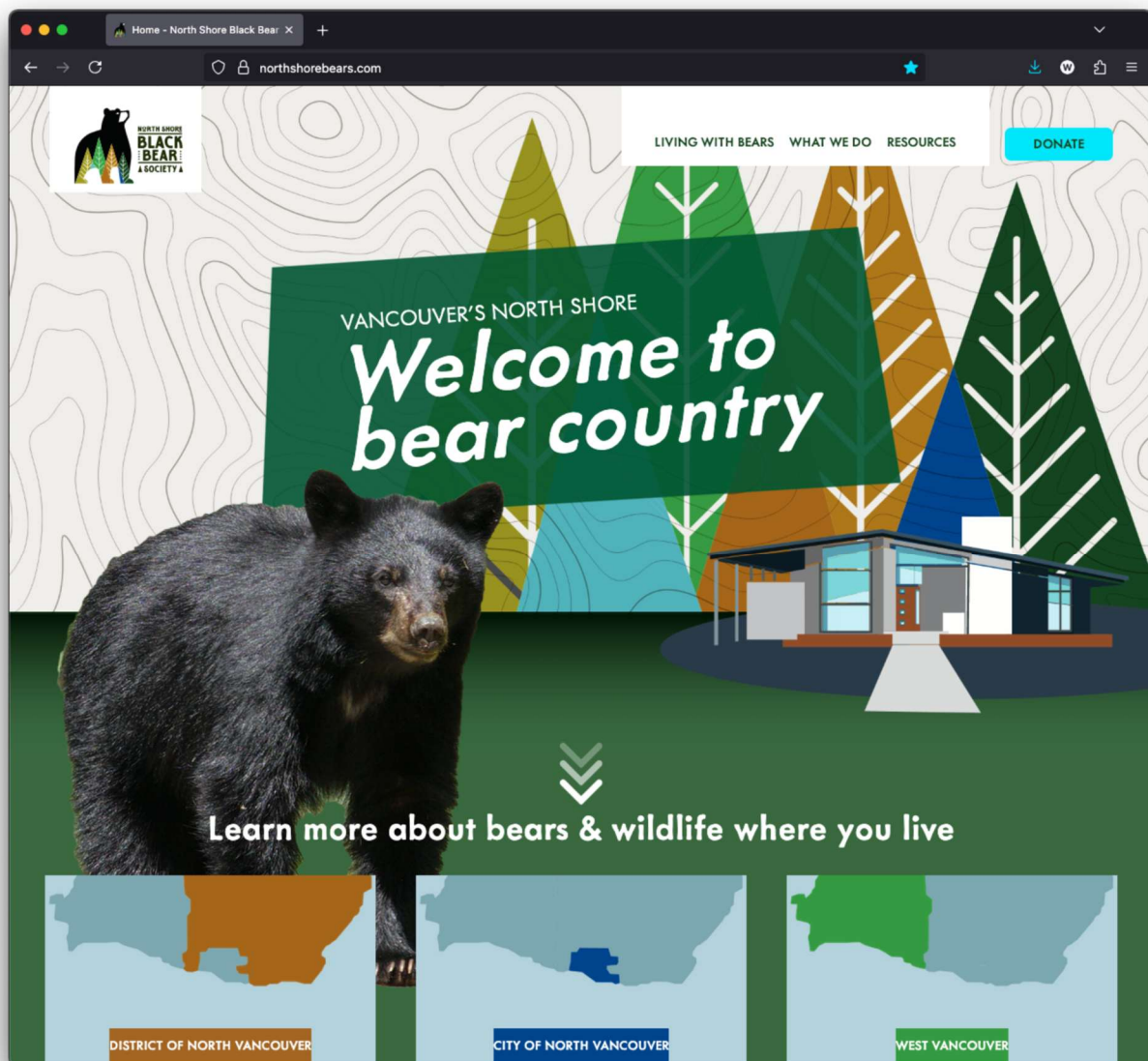




## Online

### Website

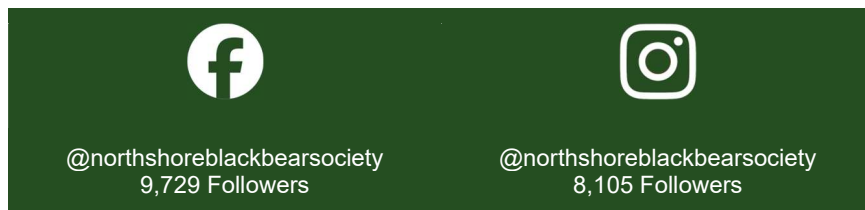
The Society refreshed its website <https://northshorebears.com/> with a modern user-friendly new look including a new logo that represents a proud bear looking with hope towards the future alongside the Society. The site contains information about the work that the Society does, as well as resources on living and exploring in bear country. Downloadable from the website are the TIPs letter and Door Hanger in pdf format which provide concise ways to manage attractants while living in bear country, as well as one page guides to coexisting with coyotes and cougars.





## Social Media

The Society also has a big presence on social media channels, including Facebook and Instagram. Currently, there are **9,729** followers on Facebook and **8,105** followers on 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, attractant concerns, and other general questions.



## Media

The Society has been interviewed by various media outlets and been able to provide education to the readers and listening audiences:

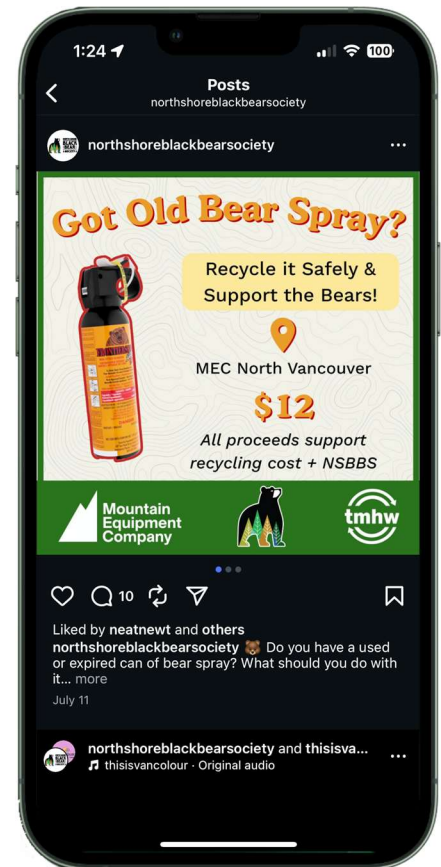
- North Shore News
- Vancouver Sun
- CTV
- CBC TV
- Global TV
- CBC radio
- CKNW radio
- Articles written for Streamkeepers newsletter, Blueridge Bulletin (monthly), and Blueridge Newsletter (quarterly)

## Bear Management

**Four** bears were killed on the North Shore by the Conservation Officer Service as of October 31, 2025. Two bears were killed in the British Properties in West Vancouver after entering homes; another bear was killed in Cate's Park for accessing visitor picnics, and another in Lynn Canyon Park for approaching people and entering a building.

In addition, **one** bear was found deceased by residents in North Vancouver on DNV land (cause of death unknown) and **one** bear was killed by a vehicle strike after fleeing from a surprise encounter with the owner of the house.

Residents help us monitor injured bears as they move through our community. The Society suspects many bears are injured each year by vehicle strikes.





## 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 neighbourhood outreach using the educational material provided to them, assisting with mail outs to new homeowners, attending community events, and placing wildlife signs throughout the District of North Vancouver. The Society welcomes high school students who need volunteer hours for graduation. Six students volunteered with our organization this year.

The NSBBS has **27** active volunteers with **282.5** hours of volunteer time logged in 2025!

The Society looks forward to providing additional volunteer opportunities in 2026.

### New in 2025

Mandatory 2 hour Volunteer Training Session for future volunteers to attend. These training sessions were held three times throughout 2025.







## Strategic Planning

In March 2025 Force of Nature Coaching consultant, Tiffany Melius, was brought in to help develop a 3 year strategic plan for the Society. Key outcomes from the session established clarity around the Society's vision, mission and values. The implementation and execution of the output from the strategic planning will guide many aspects of the Society's efforts in 2026 and beyond.





## Plans for 2026

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The Society's staff and volunteers will continue to distribute information about living responsibly in Bear Country through door-to-door neighbourhood outreach, home visits, emails, text messages, phone calls, and the placement of signs. Presentations, bear safety workshops, and partaking in community events will continue to be valuable opportunities for educational outreach.

Monitoring laneways will continue in order to identify blocks with unnecessary bear activity.

The Society will continue its outreach in the North Shore communities and translate the Tips letter into more languages.

The Society will be offering Bear Safety and Bear Spray workshops with the Elders Council Stewardship offering the Heritage Centre as a venue. The Society has acquired an artificial bear which has been converted into a remote-controlled prop for bear spray practice. These workshops will be available for the general public, aiding in a better understanding of bear behaviour and how to be safe in Bear Country. The Society plans to obtain media support to publicize the successes.

The Society is excited that the Bear Spray Canister return pilot project has been renewed with outdoor retailer MEC and Take My Haz Waste Surrey. This program accepts expired or used bear spray canisters at the North Vancouver location of MEC. A donation is collected which covers recycling costs and also supports the Society with a portion of the proceeds. From July 1, 2025, to October 15, 2025, the Society raised \$2,505.40 through this initiative. MEC has agreed to expand the program to their Vancouver and Langley locations for 2026.

The Society partnered with two departments at Capilano University in October 2025. This collaboration was organized through CapU's Work Integrated Learning program, where students gain experience working with clients in the community according to their course subject. Two classes of Communications students prepared email template newsletters, press releases and updated wildlife fact sheets for the Society's use in December 2025.

Geography students created GIS maps for the Society which will be the basis for an ongoing GIS mapping project that will help the Society staff track wildlife reports, signage placement and neighbourhood outreach work.



Ursus Reversus robotic bear





# Acknowledgements

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## Funding Partners

District of North Vancouver

District of West Vancouver

City of North Vancouver

Other funds come from donations and honoraria

## Education Outreach Partners

### District of North Vancouver

- Solid Waste Department
- Bylaws Department

### City of North Vancouver

- Parks and Environment Department
- Bylaws Department

### District of West Vancouver

- Engineering and Solid Waste Department
- Bylaws Department

## Volunteers

The Society would not have been able to accomplish all that it has in 2025 without the hard work and support of its dedicated volunteers. The NSBBS greatly appreciates the help and support of the following volunteers:

Tom Saare, Dianne Gentili, Henry Reisner, Ben Reisner, Ivy Reisner, Karen Ovitsland, Aaron Featherstone, Viki Ashman, Maria Lancaster, Elise Roberts, Jonathon Bagot, Andrea Heal, Linda Acosta, Dianne Gentili, Zain Ahmad, Craig Davis, Phaedra Heibey, Juliet Lee, Phillip Lee, Barbara Berta, Anna Thompson, Amanda Cameron, Amy McLeod, Borna Ouliaie, Maia Surtees, Nozomi Hyashi, Ava Rigby, Caden Dignard Campbell, Breanna Jackson, Susi Grathwal, Astrid St. Pierre, Kirby Harris, Kate Ostby, Perry Edwards, and Cari Siebrits.





## 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 and the RCMP.

Thank you to Rich Beausoleil - Large Carnivore Biologist WA State and Korinna Domingo - Wildlife Biologist & founder of Cougar Conservancy CA. for offering valuable cougar information to the Society team.

Thank you to Mountain Equipment Company and Take My Haz Waste for their support in piloting the Bear Spray Return Project.

A special thank you to our wonderful photographers: Tony Joyce for sharing his beautiful black bear photography which the Society has used in presentations, community events, and social media for years as well as Norm Lee, Brian Aikens, Susi Grathwal, Cari Siebrits, Perry Edwards, Wayne Takashiba, and many North Shore residents for their photography contributions.

The Society's board of directors continues to meet bi-monthly to provide direction to the Society and its Executive Director; many thanks to the NSBBS Board of Directors for their support:

Jonathan Yasayko, Tom Saare, Viki Ashman, Aaron Featherstone, Janet Zhu, Margot Finlay, Laura Jackson, and Maria Lancaster.

A special Thank you to Tom Saare for the incredible support and knowledge that he has



continued to share and to Janet Zhu for her years of dedication. Janet is stepping down from the Board but will continue to volunteer with the Society.

