

KEEP THE "WILD" IN WILDLIFE

KEEP GARBAGE AWAY FROM BEARS
DO NOT DISTURB OR FEED BEARS
GIVE THEM SPACE
DO NOT APPROACH FOR A
PHOTOGRAPH OR A BETTER LOOK

WORKING TOGETHER TO PREVENT HUMAN-BEAR CONFLICTS



City of
PORT ALBERNI
An Official
BEAR SMART COMMUNITY



BC Wildlife Act (Section 33.1)

A person must not

- (a) intentionally feed or attempt to feed dangerous wildlife, or
- (b) provide, leave or place an attractant in, on or about any land or premises with the intent of attracting dangerous wildlife.

A person must not leave or place attractant in, on or about any land or premises where there are or where there are likely to be people, in a manner in which attractant could

- (a) attract dangerous wildlife to the land or premises, and
- (b) be accessible to dangerous wildlife.

REMEMBER....

Feeding Wildlife Can Yield Fines Up To \$50,000.

Photos courtesy of Pam Penner – <http://www.flickr.com/photos/pampenner/>

- » To report a bear encounter where public safety is at risk call the Conservation Officer Service at **1-877-952-RAPP(7277)**

For information on:

- » The Ministry of Environment Bear Smart Community Program
- » How to Bear Proof Your Property
- » How to Become a Volunteer with the Alberni Valley Bear Smart Committee

Contact:

Crystal McMillan, Executive Director of Bear Smart BC Consulting at **250-951-9453**, Email: bearsmartbc@telus.net



Alberni Valley
Bear Smart

**YOUR ACTIONS
MAKE A
DIFFERENCE**

It Takes a Community to Make Change

PEOPLE AND BEARS CAN LIVE TOGETHER

WHAT YOU DO REALLY MATTERS!

BEAR SAFETY

BEARS LIVE TO EAT...

CONSUMING UP TO 25,000 CALORIES A DAY.

- » Black bears are opportunists, always on the lookout for "easy" calories. While searching for food in their natural environment bears often find their way into residential areas. With their keen sense of smell bears are driven to investigate. Once they discover human food or garbage, bears will continue to seek it out within our community and become "food conditioned".
- » Bears in pursuit of human food sources may damage property or, in rare cases, cause injury to people. Carelessly stored garbage, birdfeeders, pet foods and barbecues are open invitations for bears and often causes them to pay with their lives for human mistakes.



GARBAGE:

- » Never store your garbage outside, unless it is in an approved bear-proof container or bear-proof enclosure.
- » Do not put garbage curb-side until morning of pick-up.
- » It may only take one time to condition a bear to human garbage.
- » Do not store food in outdoor fridges or freezers.
- » See The City of Port Alberni Solid Waste Management Bylaw.

BIRD FEEDERS:

- » Do not use bird feeders in bear country.
- » As an alternative to hummingbird feeders, use bird baths or plant red or pink native flowers that are known to appeal to hummingbirds.

BARBECUES:

- » Burn barbeque and clean immediately after use.
- » Store them indoors, if possible leave the propane tank outside.
- » Always remove the grease can and store it indoors.
- » Do not leave any food unattended outside, the smell from barbecuing travels a long distance.

PET FOOD:

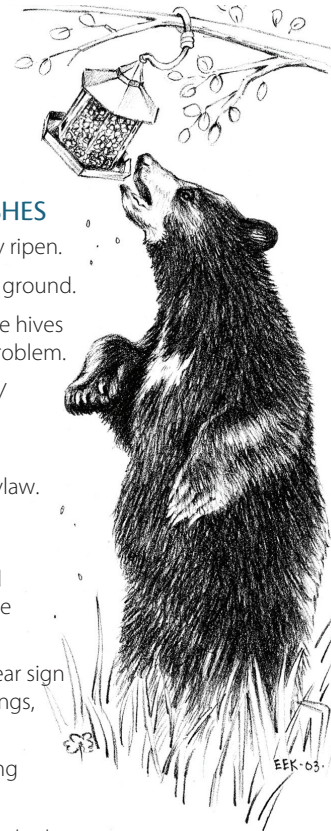
- » Feed your pets inside and store their food inside.
- » Do not leave dog bones lying around in your yard.

FRUIT TREES/BERRY BUSHES

- » Harvest fruits as soon as they ripen.
- » Remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- » Electric Fence orchards & bee hives in areas where bears are a problem.
- » Plant non-fruit bearing trees/shrubs when landscaping.
- » See The City of Port Alberni Solid Waste Management Bylaw.

CAMPING:

- » Camping, hiking, fishing and hunting often puts you in the bear's environment.
- » Do not camp where fresh bear sign is found (i.e. scat, fresh diggings, claw marks on trees, tracks).
- » Pack all garbage out including all food scraps.
- » Store all food and other attractants securely in your car or in a bear-proof food cache.



BEAR ATTRACTANTS

Food	Coolers
<i>Beverage containers (pop cans, beer bottles)</i>	<i>Garbage, Compost</i>
<i>Pet Food/dishes</i>	<i>BBQ grease</i>
<i>Bird Seed</i>	<i>Oil/Fat</i>
<i>Fish and fish offal</i>	<i>Plastic containers, even if they are not used for storage.</i>
<i>Wastewater from cooking or doing dishes</i>	<i>Pots, Dishes, cups etc.</i>
<i>Perfumed items (soap, deodorant, toothpaste, sun tan lotion, insect spray, hair spray)</i>	

REMAIN CALM. THINK AHEAD. YOUR ACTIONS ARE THE BEST DEFENSE AGAINST A BEAR ATTACK.

- » **Do not Run:** Bears can easily outrun you. By running you may trigger an attack. Pick up small children and when possible stay in a group. Back away slowly and talk softly.
- » **Give the Bear Space:** Back away slowly and talk in a soft voice. Do not approach a bear or make direct eye contact.
- » **Leave the Area or make a wide detour:** If you cannot leave, wait until the bear moves out of the way and ensure that the bear has an escape route.
- » **If the bear rears up on its hind legs:** It is curious and trying to see you or catch your scent better. It is not a sign of aggression. Back away slowly and talk softly.
- » **Watch for aggressive behaviors:** A bear may display aggression by swinging its head from side to side, making vocalizations such as huffs, snorts, whoops, or moans, displaying teeth or claws; jaw popping; swatting at the ground; staring with eye contact; panting; or laying its ears back. These behaviors usually indicate that the bear is stressed, acting defensively and asking for more space. Attacks rarely follow but this is a warning to leave the area.

