Village Update
SPECIAL EDITION



Bear Activity in the Village

Resident Concerns: guidance from the Conservation Officer

As the bears hang around longer than normal this year, we are seeing an increase in resident concerns raised on Facebook. Lions Bay Bear Smart had another follow up call with BC Conservation Officer Services (COS) this week and was given the following guidance:

- The increased bear activity this year is not just a Lions Bay phenomenon: it is happening across the province.
- The most effective thing we can do is to continue to make sure no attractants are accessible to bears in our yards and elsewhere and minimize the opportunity for bears to get into waste placed curbside at collection time on Fridays.
- Use appropriate hazing techniques to discourage bears from hanging around and let them know they are not welcome. Spraying water with a hose, bear spray and a loud voice are all effective. The vast majority of reports received say most bears are easily scared off. Larger animals are not as agile and may take time to move away.
- The suggestion to throw rocks or sticks, although advocated by several organizations, should be a last resort and never done with intent to harm the bear.
- **Do not shoot at bears with BB or pellet guns.**Bears have died from injuries caused by pellet guns. Shooting at a bear is considered hunting and you can get charged for shooting any wildlife. Pellets can get lodged in the bear's skin resulting in lead poisoning and a horrible death.
- The CO, who grew up in Lions Bay, also pointed out that**Lions Bay's own bylaw prohibits the use of firearms in the Village**, as follows: *"No person shall discharge within or into the boundaries of the Village of Lions Bay a firearm, including air or spring-operated weapons".*
- Bears have been reported to be accessing rat bait boxes. Residents are reminded that there is a **provincial ban** on the use of second-generation anticoagulant rodenticides (SGARs). **Our pesticide bylaw** was updated in March to reflect this: traps may only be installed by professionals and should not be accessible to any wildlife, pets or children.
- The message from the CO is that we are doing all the right things, that the COS are extra busy and unable to respond unless there is real evidence that a bear is aggressive or has attempted to enter a home. He was in Lions Bay last week and will

be coming by again soon.

Please continue to report bear sightings on **www.lionsbaybearsmart.ca**. This information has been incredibly valuable in helping us adjust waste pickup times and understand bear activity.

The Bear Smart website has contact information for LB Bylaw and the COS as well as guidance as to which to use based on circumstances. Please use them appropriately. There is also info on **what to do if you encounter a bear** and **be safe in bear territory**.

By request, team member Amber Brown recently held a training session for school staff and we have now been invited to do a session with the Sapling kids. The team will also be at the Canada Day event on the beach to answer questions and provide more info.

It is clear most residents are doing their very best to keep our bears and neighbours safe and we thank you!

Waste collection pick-up schedule (3 time slots) No change from last week.

7:30— 9:00 am:
Bayview Place-Upper Bayview, Mountain-Timbertop-Sunset, and all streets leading off these
(central Lions Bay above the highway).

9:00—10:00 am:
Highview-Oceanview, Panorama, Kelvin Grove Way, and all streets leading off these.

10:00 am—1:00 pm:
All other neighbourhoods (lower Kelvin Grove, Brunswick, central Lions Bay below the highway, etc.)

Please put your waste out as close to 7:30am, 9am or 10am as possible, depending on your street/neighbourhood. We've seen the best success when waste is curbside for as short a time as possible. Thank you again for doing your part!

Works Yard drop-off times for garbage and food waste only

6:00 am – 8:00 am every Friday
8:00 am – 11:00 am every Saturday

Clean recyclables should be placed outside your home in the Friday morning time slots (above) or as close as possible to those times or, if you have to head out, as you leave home.

Works Yard drop offs are working out for many residents. However, if you are still unable to comply with the above requirements, please email **lionsbaybearsmart@gmail.com** so the team can try to find a solution.

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