

# A message from Bear Smart



April 4, 2024



It's official: we received the first reports of bear sightings in the Village on the Easter Weekend. Thanks to those who submitted info to the Bear Smart Team via [www.lionsbaybearsmart.ca](http://www.lionsbaybearsmart.ca). Keep 'em coming!

We all know what this means:

- Make sure there are no easy pickings for hungry bears in your yard and that your waste is stored so that it is inaccessible to bears at all times (as a reminder, sheds are not bear-proof).
- Keep garage doors closed unless you're in the immediate vicinity and need to go in and out.
- If at all possible, FREEZE YOUR FOOD WASTE to cut down on smells our opportunistic bears may find irresistible.
- Make sure your garbage/food waste cans have tight fighting lids or use bear-resistant cans curbside.
- Food deliveries must be brought indoors immediately, not left at the front door.
- Stick to the [waste collection/Works Yard drop-off time slots](#) as usual: this has proven very successful in limiting bears' access to junk food (non natural food sources). Download the Village's [2024 pick-up calendar here](#). Please report issues to [bylaw@lionsbay.ca](mailto:bylaw@lionsbay.ca).

Last week, bylaw was on duty early on Friday and reported that the vast majority of residents continue to comply with waste collection time slots, but that reminders are in order.

**Thanks to all who are doing everything possible to keep our community and the bears safe.**

# WHAT TO DO IF YOU ENCOUNTER A BEAR

IT IS NORMAL TO BE FRIGHTENED WHEN YOU SEE A BEAR. HOWEVER, IT IS RARE THAT BEAR ENCOUNTERS BECOME AGGRESSIVE OR DANGEROUS. BELOW IS A QUICK LIST OF INFORMED BEHAVIOURS TO AVOID CONFLICT WITH BEARS.



## AT A DISTANCE

Back away and take an alternate route.

## UP CLOSE

Stay calm, talk to the bear calmly and slowly back away  
(do not run)

Show that you are not a threat, ensure the bear has an exit route

## AT YOUR HOME



If a bear is hanging around your home, from a safe place (a deck or window) use a firm tone tell the bear to leave (be persistent).

If the bear is attracted to a food source at your property, in a firm loud voice encourage the bear to move on. Remove the food source before the bear can get to it only if it is safe to do so (such as closing a door or window). Never put yourself in close proximity to the bear.



## SURPRISE ENCOUNTERS

If you surprise a bear it may feel threatened and act defensively. If a black bear bluff charges you and stops, give it plenty of space and slowly back away facing the bear. Talk calmly and get your bear spray ready. If attacked, play dead by laying on the ground on your stomach with your hands over your neck. Let the bear know you are not a threat. Stay down until you are sure the bear has left.

## AGGRESSIVE BEARS

If a bear advances directly towards you or circles you, react aggressively by making loud noises and making yourself look big. If necessary, use bear spray. If the bear attacks, fight back.

## DID YOU KNOW?

If the bear stands on its hind legs it is curious and trying to get a better look and sniff out a safe exit.  
If you live in bear country, the odds of being attacked are extremely rare. The vast majority of human-bear interactions do not result in human injury.



REPORT SIGHTINGS TO [WWW.LIONSBBAYBEARSMART.CA](http://WWW.LIONSBBAYBEARSMART.CA)



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