



Village Update

July 9, 2024

UPDATES FROM THE MUNICIPALITY

From the CAO's Desk

Public Notice: Bear Safety Awareness

Many in the community are aware that a black bear was trapped last week in the community and, unfortunately, destroyed. This was a tagged bear from Squamish that had been trapped and released north of Squamish in 2023.

Fast Facts:

- Conservation Officers put down one black bear in Lions Bay.
- The COS received multiple reports in recent weeks of a tagged bear in the community. The bear repeatedly accessed garbage and other food attractants and made several attempts to access dwellings.
- The bear entered two occupied homes and received food rewards.
- Conservation Officers set a trap for the bear on July 4th. It was captured on July 7th and destroyed. Conservation Officer Service guidelines for destroying wildlife can be found here: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/laws-policies-standards-guidance/environmental-guidance-and-policy/wildlife-policy>

Every year in the Province, many bears are destroyed mainly due to accessing attractants. While rare, these encounters can sometimes result in injuries. Most issues start when people unintentionally give bears access to non-natural food like garbage. Black bears are most active from April to November but can stay active year-round in milder climates or when food is constantly available. While most bear encounters end with the bear leaving, bears can become more assertive if they associate humans with food. Black bears mostly eat plants but have a strong sense of smell that can alert them to non-natural food sources from far away.

As a reminder, interfering or tampering with lawfully set bear traps is illegal and dangerous for both the public and the offender. The trap can injure an untrained person and a conflict animal can remain at large, exacerbating the public safety risk.

If you see a wildlife-human interaction where public safety may be at risk, report it to the Conservation Officer Service at 1-877-952-7277. Please continue to report attractant issues to bylaw@lionsbay.ca or 604-834-3404 and bear sightings to www.lionsbaybearsmart.ca.

The Bear Smart Community Program

The Village of Lions Bay is one of a small number of communities that has received a Bear Smart designation. The program was developed by the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, the British Columbia Conservation Foundation, and the Union of British Columbia Municipalities. It is a voluntary conservation measure encouraging communities, businesses, and individuals to work together. The goal is to reduce human-bear conflicts, thus enhancing safety and reducing the number of bears that must be destroyed. This program requires active participation from the B.C. government, municipal governments, and local citizens.

To stay safe, be aware of your surroundings and take precautions:

1. **Remain Calm:** Slowly back away while talking to the bear in a quiet, calm voice. Avoid screaming, turning your back, kneeling, or making direct eye contact.
2. **Keep Distance:** Stay away from the bear. If it gets too close, use bear spray (within 7 meters) or another distraction.
3. **Stay Together:** If you're with others, stick together. Keep children close and pick up small children.
4. **Go Indoors:** Bring pets inside if possible.
5. **Watch and Wait:** Make sure the bear has a clear escape route. After it leaves, ensure there is nothing that could attract bears back.

For more tips and resources, visit www.lionsbaybearsmart.ca.

By acting responsibly and promptly, we can protect both human and bear communities. Let's work together to ensure a safe and Bear Smart environment.

Village of Lions Bay | lionsbay.ca

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