

KEEP THE "WILD" IN WILDLIFE



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

Ministry of
Environment



QUALICUM BEACH BEAR SMART

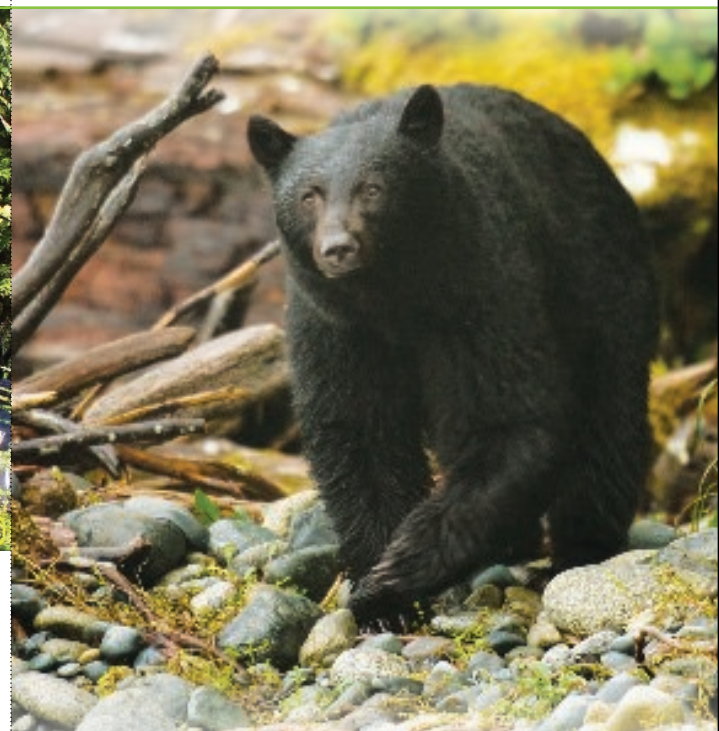
A GUIDE TO LIVING
RESPONSIBLY WITH
BLACK BEARS



Photo: Conservation Officer Service



Photo: Crystal McMillan



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

- » To report a bear encounter where public safety is at risk, call the Conservation Officer Service at: **1 877 952-RAPP (7277)**.
- » For more information on the Bear Smart Community Program or the Bear Smart BC Society, contact Crystal McMillan, MA at: **bearsmartbc@telus.net**

Cover Photo: Jeremy Koreski

**YOUR ACTIONS
MAKE A DIFFERENCE**



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 due to human actions.

GARBAGE / RECYCLABLES / COMPOST

- » Never store your garbage or recyclables outside, unless it is in an approved bear-resistant container or bear-resistant enclosure.
- » Do not put garbage or recyclables curbside until morning of pick-up.
- » It may only take one time to condition a bear to human garbage.



BARBECUES

- » Burn barbecues clean immediately after use.
- » Cover and store securely away from bears.
- » Always remove the grease can and store it indoors.
- » Do not leave any food unattended outside; the smell from barbecuing travels a long distance.

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.

PET FOOD

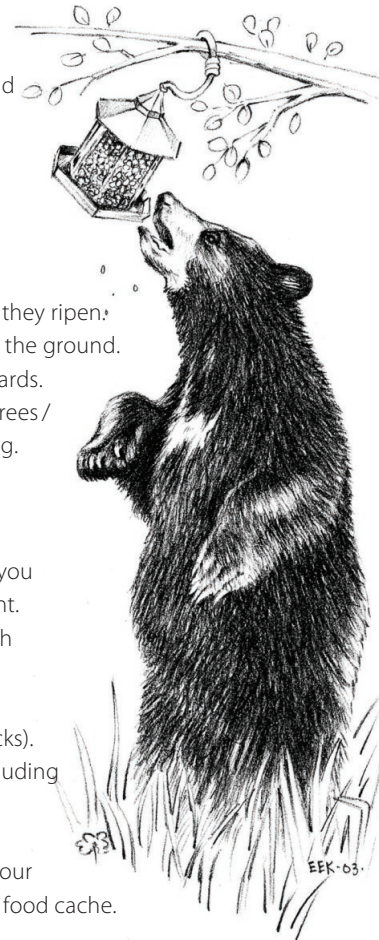
- » Feed your pets inside and store their food inside.
- » Do not leave dog bones lying around your yard.

FRUIT TREES / BERRY BUSHES

- » Harvest fruits as soon as they ripen:
- » Remove fallen fruit from the ground.
- » Electric fence large orchards.
- » Plant non-fruit bearing trees / shrubs when landscaping.

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-resistant food cache.



BEAR ATTRACTANTS

<i>Food</i>	<i>Coolers</i>
<i>Beverage containers (pop cans, beer bottles)</i>	<i>Garbage</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 behaviours. 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 behaviours 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.

IN B.C. IT IS AN OFFENCE TO INTENTIONALLY FEED OR LEAVE ATTRACTANTS AVAILABLE TO DANGEROUS WILDLIFE AND CAN YIELD FINES UP TO \$50,000



Illustrations by: Evelyn Kirkaldy
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/evelynkirkaldy>