



# WAIPAROUS VILLAGE NEWSLETTER

October 2018

## Bears in the Village

Fall is here and that means increased bear activity as they look for those last big meals to pack on the weight before hibernation. There have been recent sightings of bears in the Village so take a moment to remind yourself of these tips for living in Bear country.



- **Keep your garbage and recyclable bottles and cans in bear-resistant, airtight containers.**
- **Keep your compost indoors.** Outdoor

compost attracts bears. Look into using an indoor composter.

- **Remove bird feeders from your yard in the months when bears are active** – usually from the beginning of April until the end of November. Be sure to clean up any spilled bird seed from the ground.
- **Clean your barbecues.** Scrub your barbecue clean after each use and store it in a bear-resistant building, such as the garage or shed.
- **Consider removing fruit trees and berry-producing bushes from your property.** Bears are attracted to the fruit and berries. If you must keep the trees, pick the ripening fruit as early as possible and store them in secure, airtight containers.
- **Never leave food out for wildlife.**
- **Talk to your neighbours.** Let your neighbours know if you've seen a bear in the community and talk to them about being BearSmart at home.

### How can I keep my pets safe?

- **Always keep your dog on a leash.** Keeping your dog on a leash keeps it under your close control. It also prevents the dog from sniffing out and provoking a bear into an encounter.
- **Feed your pets and store pet food indoors.** Keeping pet food outside can attract bears. If you must feed your pets outdoors, bring in the pet

food and feeders overnight when bears are most active.

### What should I do if I see a bear in my backyard?

- **Do not panic. Do not run.** Quickly and calmly collect your children and pets and go indoors.
- **Notify your nearest Fish and Wildlife office.** Call 310-0000 or 1-800-642-3800 if it's after regular business hours.
- **Once the bear has left the area, remove anything from your property that might attract a bear.** Ask your neighbours to do the same. If food sources in the area remain available, the bear will likely return.

### How do we prevent problems between bears and people?

- **Remember that bears are clever, curious and live to eat.** Bears are in a constant search for new food sources. **Once they have discovered a new food source it is extremely difficult to keep them from returning to it.** To prevent problems from starting, never leave any kind of food for the bear to find.
- **Remember that bears have an excellent sense of smell.** Managing the smells of potential bear food (including human and pet foods, garbage, grains and harvested animals) is an essential part of preventing problems with bears.
- When in bear territory, keep food and garbage in airtight containers, and store anything that may have the smell of food or garbage away from humans and out of the reach of bears.
- **Be BearSmart.** Most bear encounters can be prevented. Learn how to avoid bear encounters and how to react if you find yourself in an unavoidable encounter with a bear.

For more information on Alberta BearSmart visit <http://aep.alberta.ca/recreation-public-use/alberta-bear-smart/default.aspx>

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email: [admin@waiparous.ca](mailto:admin@waiparous.ca) Village Website [www.waiparous.ca](http://www.waiparous.ca)

Mayor Matt Sundal Deputy Mayor Brian Fleming Councillor Sharon MacDonald  
RCMP, Ambulance: 911 Forest Fires: 310-FIRE (3473) toll free -or- Telus Mobility cell phone dial #3473

# Government of Alberta ■

## Bears in the fall

It's that time of year when the days are getting shorter and cooler. For bears, that means going to sleep for the winter is just around the corner. Before that happens though, they are intent on getting as many calories as possible into their bodies to fully prepare for their long winter. Along the eastern slopes of Alberta, that typically means searching far and wide for food – any food, throughout September and October. For those of us in the business of dealing with human bear conflict – that can often mean a spike in conflict during the fall months as bears visit developed areas such as campgrounds, residential areas and farm yards. If there is any chance of obtaining food in these areas, bears will take it. Typical foods of interest include garbage, pet food, birdfeed, fruit trees, grain, beehives and chickens. If we can secure foods from bears and other wildlife they don't have a reason to stick around and will move on. Generally, if they find food they will return at some point.

Failure to properly secure attractants can create unnecessary public safety concerns and potential property damage. It can also result in the relocation or destruction of bears. Relocating bears to unfamiliar environments so close to winter denning is not ideal and can have a low success rate. Properly securing attractants means not having to deal with any of these issues – a win win for all concerned.

There are a variety of ways to secure food from bears:

Garbage – place in closed building or in a bear proof container (plywood storage boxes, aluminum or plastic cans are not bear

proof)

Birdfeed (including fat, suet, seeds, nuts and other grains) – don't feed birds during the bear season (April 1 to November 15<sup>th</sup>)

Chickens/ Beehives – use 5-6 strand electric fence at + 6,000 V  
Fruit trees – pick fruit or consider removing tree and replace with non-fruit bearing flowering tree

Pet Food – feed pets inside or put just enough out for one meal  
Grain – store grain in bear proof facility

If you live, work, recreate in bear country, consider carrying bear spray and know how to use it, make noise when in areas of poor visibility, travel in groups where possible and keep dogs on leash. For more information on best practices for Living. Working, recreating in Bear Country, visit Alberta BearSmart <http://aep.alberta.ca/recreation-public-use/alberta-bear-smart/default.aspx>

If you need to report a wildlife related public safety concern, please call the Report a Poacher # at 1 800 642 3800.

**Alberta Environment and Parks South Saskatchewan Region** 800 Railway Ave., 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor Canmore, Alberta T1W 2E6 Telephone: 403-678-5500

Fax: 403-678-5508 [www.alberta.ca](http://www.alberta.ca)



**Freedom To Create. Spirit To Achieve.**

## Council Meeting

The next Regular Council Meeting will be held on

**Tuesday November 27, 2018.**

**The meeting will commence at 6:00 pm and will be held at the Super 8 Hotel, Cochrane AB.**

Please check the Village Notice Board, website or call the Village Office to ensure that the meeting will be held. *When all councillors are unable to attend a meeting, usually the meeting is rescheduled to a different date.*

At the beginning of each council meeting, Council hosts a "Resident Dialogue Session" where residents can informally ask questions, make inquiries, etc. The session will be limited to a maximum of 20 minutes in total and limited to 10 minutes per resident. *(if you attend and notice more than 2 residents wanting to speak, please try not to use the max. 10 minutes so that everyone present has an opportunity to speak)*

If you would like to formally address Council on a specific item, please forward your written request, either by mail, fax or email, stating the nature of your presentation with a summary of the presentation to the Village Office at least one week prior to the meeting in order to be placed on the agenda.

### Interested in the meeting agenda and what will be discussed by Council?

All council meeting information can be found on our website in one place. Look for the **Council** Tab to find meeting Notices, Agendas, Agenda Packages, and Minutes all posted in one easy to access location. Go to <http://waiparous.ca/council/>

## Highway 40 Bridge Project No Update from Alberta Transportation



In late August the Village received communication from Alberta Transportation that the Functional Review and Evaluation Report would be delayed once again. As of Oct 12, 2018, we have not received any further communication from the Province.

Administration will be following up with Alberta Transportation next week and will communicate with residents once we get more information.

## Snow Removal

Council has contracted snow removal for Village roads again for the 2018-2019 winter season. If you have



any questions about winter ploughing please email administration at [admin@waiparous.ca](mailto:admin@waiparous.ca) or call the office at directly 403-510-8083.

## 2018 Fire Pit Certification

Our Fire Guardian Joleen Molenaar has completed her inspections for Fire Pit certifications and administration will be sending out certificates over the next week. Contact the office directly if you have any questions or concerns.

## Back 40 Info Session

The Back 40 FireSmart Info sessions held this summer were very informative and a great opportunity to learn more about the ongoing



FireSmart project. If you did not have an opportunity to attend either of the two sessions a video is available to see what was discussed. You can download the video on our website at <http://waiparous.ca/community/gwta/>

## Website updates

Over the next few months there will be periodic updates to the [www.waiparous.ca](http://www.waiparous.ca) website.

The goal is to make information easier to find and remove duplication.

One of the new pages is the **COMMUNITY** Page. Here you will find all our current and archived newsletters as well as Back 40 and GWTA information.

If you have a community event you would like publicly posted, please submit your request to [community@waiparous.ca](mailto:community@waiparous.ca).