

August 29, 2024

Did you know bears are searching for food near your neighborhood?

In the fall, bears develop an insatiable appetite to help them gain weight for the winter which can lead them to approach and enter our neighborhoods. If they find food, they can become conditioned to our presence and lose their natural fear of us. This is dangerous for both bears and humans, so to help keep your community and local wildlife safe, it is critical to manage garbage and other bear attractants around the home. To help ensure good garbage management, the District of Summerland has bylaws outlining curbside bin placement:

- *District of Summerland Bylaw 3.1.3.b: ...all District-supplied Carts and Participant (customer) supplied Containers must be placed on the day of collection at the collection location no earlier than 5am.*

Although garbage is now collected once every two weeks in Summerland, there should not be a lot of smelly items in there. Remember that the weekly green bin is not just for fruit and vegetables, but for any and all food items, including meat, bones, table scraps, dairy, and grain products. When bins are not at the curb, they should be in a secure area such as a garage, shed, or outbuilding, but if you do not have access to any of these, chaining your bins in an upright position to an immovable object (a tree, sturdy post, etc.) can also help discourage bears from gaining access.

Other bear attractants to manage around the home include:

- **Fruit and nut trees:** Harvest all fruit and nuts as they ripen and pick up fallen produce as it accumulates.
- **Animal feed:** Ensure pet & livestock feed is stored securely and do not allow uneaten food to sit out.
- **BBQs & bird feeders:** Clean barbeques and other outdoor cookers of grease and food after each use and consider removing bird feeders outside of the winter months.

As an extra bonus, managing these bear attractants also helps discourage rats, mice and raccoons!

If you have any questions, please contact rdos@wildsafebc.com or 778-531-8040. For even more information on wildlife, attractants, and wildlife safety, you can also visit www.wildsafebc.com.

Sincerely,



Valerie Maida
WildSafeBC Community Coordinator

