



2021 in Review

The Anarchist Mountain Bear Group has had a busy year with bears out early in Spring and later in the Fall.

Since the Group's inception in June of 2020, there have been many strides made within the community. Residents have a greater understanding of bear/ wildlife attractants, especially when it comes to garbage being left out and not secured.

Several Anarchist Mountain residents purchased Bear Resistant Carts in a 2020 community group order. These carts were put to the test, especially in May when bears attempted to breach the carts on five occasions. The bear(s) were successful twice, so residents were reminded to secure (clip) carts if left outside and more importantly, minimize odours by spraying garbage and recycling with a bleach/water solution, plus the need to keep carts clean.

Even if you don't have a bear resistant cart, you can still help keep bears out of your garbage by:

- Placing garbage and recycling out the morning of collection
- Keep odours at bay by keeping strong smelling foods frozen until put in garbage for collection day
- Always spray garbage and recycling with a mild bleach/water solution when it is outdoors and not secured.

Garbage at the Brake Check and Rest Stop on Hwy.3 have been problematic due to overflow and broken garbage receptacles. Contact was made with the Area Manager for the South Okanagan - Okanagan Shuswap District Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to discuss a need for replacements. We were elated to hear that as of this month (December) new bins were installed and are fully bear-proof. Also, the highway maintenance company will be monitoring garbage more closely and increasing frequency of collection if need be.

It is an important reminder to residents that these highway garbage receptacles are NOT intended for our regular use.

This contributes to the overflow and garbage problems that encourage bears and other wildlife to get food conditioned to non-natural food sources.

In May, 100 WildSafe BC brochures on bears were taken by residents which were placed in AMCS info boxes at community mailbox locations.

In July, there was a "Living on the Land - Bear Awareness Workshop" held and over 30 residents attended which included presentations and demonstrations with the RDOS WildSafe BC Coordinator and local Conservation Officer attending.

Funding (\$500) was provided by a grant from the South Okanagan-Similkameen Community Foundation which helped cover some costs for the Workshop. The funding also allowed the purchase of permanent brochure boxes for WildSafe BC info; "Bears in Area" signs which will be posted in areas when bears are active, branded t-shirts for group members.

A community group bear spray and holster order were also made, following a bear spray demonstration at the July Workshop. Eskala Sports in Penticton managed this order and gave residents a 10% discount.

The Anarchist Mountain Bear Group has a dedicated Facebook page, and the number of followers has increased since inception in June 2020. Key posts are also shared with another community page "Anarchist Mt/Sidley Mt Residents". Residents posted photos, videos, asked questions, etc. which promoted community awareness and knowledge. As of December, we are reaching over 200 residents per Facebook post which is an approximate 50% increase from last year.

Three "Information Bulletins" were distributed via Facebook and uploaded to the Anarchist Mountain Community Society web page. These bulletins provided current info to residents about bear activity, attractants and upcoming education events.

Since the Bear Group has begun, we have noticed a large decline in garbage being left out and greater community awareness in this regard. Bird feeders tend to be more of an issue, especially late into this past November and early December, which bears were still getting into.

Committee Members

Many thanks to the hours that our Bear Group members have volunteered: Brenda Arychuk and Debbie Dundass (Co-Chairs), Reg Forster, Suzy Williamson and Teresa Marty. With Suzy and Teresa stepping down, we

welcome new residents and members: Della Modin, Kyle Traynor and Bonnie Quann.

Appreciation

The Anarchist Mountain Bear Group wishes to acknowledge the following for their support:

- South Okanagan-Similkameen Community Foundation for the \$500.00 grant.
- Anarchist Mountain Fire Department for the usage of the building for the Living on the Land Workshop, as well, the permission to have the information mailboxes permanently installed
- RDOS WildSafe BC Coordinator, Shelly Fiorito, for assistance and support in community education and resources
- The BC Conservation Officer Service, specifically Sgt. James Zucchelli and Cst. Clayton Bruin for their support and community education
- Anarchist Mountain Community Society for posting our Information Bulletins on their web page
- To our fellow neighbours for changing habits, taking in bird feeders, and educating themselves on how to coexist with our black bears

Conclusion

The Anarchist Mountain Bear Group was pleased to be recognized in provincially by the WildSafeBC "Saturday Spotlight" showcase in 2020. We believe that every community has the potential to work collaboratively so that humans and animals may coexist in a safe and respectful manner.

Many thanks to everyone on the Mountain for doing their part so that we can continue to enjoy living in harmony with nature as we found it.