

Subject: [Fwd: NSBBN and Dangersous Wildlife Protection Orders]

Date: Thu, 23 Sep 2004 17:32:28 -0700

From: Brian Platts <bplatts@shaw.ca>

To: Corrie Kost <kost@triumf.ca>

Copied to FONVCA

Subject: NSBBN and Dangersous Wildlife Protection Orders

Date: Fri, 24 Sep 2004 00:14:30 +0100 (BST)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: The Editor <newsroom@northshoreoutlook.com>

23 September 2004

Dear Editor:

One sees from today's Page 3, Outlook *NewsBriefs* that the North Shore Black Bear Network [NSBBN] is teaming up with the BC Conservation Officer Service to educate us some more as to the need to reduce bear attractants. Theirs is a worthy cause but it's past time that North Shore citizens were given a louder voice in the discussions.

In the first place, people who were inclined to heed the NSBBN message, did so months ago. Schaefer carts and other garbage can versions are being housed in secure sheds, carports and garages. We even know of one householder who, absent such buildings, actually has her garbage, double-bagged, in the house.

Trees have been stripped too early of nutritious, organic fruit - which other, equally earnest, motivators urge us to eat. Instead of walking the dog, or hiking North Shore Trails, getting the exercise we are told to ensure they have, our kids are kept indoors for fear they will run up against a roving bruin.

Even this senior-something writer had to make a cartoon-like, unseemly run for it when Yogi came a-strollin' in a Lynn Valley neighbourhood. Said bear wasn't a scrap interested in the plums or the apples and the bird seed had long since been taken in [remember how we're all urged to "attract birds to the garden"?]

What Yogi wanted was garbage and, presumably, that's what Mama-Yogi and son of Yogi were looking for at midnight a week ago when they were high-tailing it up the District fir tree outside the garden gate.

What the NSBBN needs to hear now is that we're getting just a tad fed up with this. We don't live in a recent urban interface, we are being held hostage in a neighbourhood established over 50 years ago. We appreciate and care about bears - and all of the other fauna and flora. But when elementary-aged kids face a bear scare in the playground first day back at school, it's getting a little ridiculous to keep putting Yogi's interests ahead of the safety of the population.

So far, the population has bent over backwards to cooperate but, let one kid get hurt and one can predict voicemail comments on the NSBBN answering machine won't be too complimentary about still more education material.

We've heard the message; now it's time to discuss effective methods of persuading Yogi he's better off in the woods.

Sincerely,

Liz James

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