

From: [LC Bears](#)
To: [Admin](#)
Subject: Fwd: informal update
Date: November 18, 2025 5:57:24 PM
Attachments: [image.png](#)

Lake Cowichan Bear Aware Association
Providing education and advocacy that fosters
better human - bear co-existence in our community



----- Forwarded message -----

From: LC Bears <lakecowichanbears@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Nov 18, 2025 at 5:46 PM
Subject: informal update
To: LC Bears <lakecowichanbears@gmail.com>

Good Day!

Just a quick update on bears in Lake Cowichan - we have one big male boar, perhaps two that have been seen in the 100 Houses and Pt Ideal area plus on the trail. The second male is believed to be in the Greendale area. Both are seen during the day but are shy and avoiding people. There is also a sow with two cubs - she has been seen in the Boundary area as well as on the trail. Last location was down by the Riverside hoel and over by the senior centre. She hides up in the trees with her cubs and we believe they are going to the river at night for salmon. Again she has not caused any issues except she has been in yards eating fruit and knocked over garbage that have been left out.

November 2025 update

The Lake Cowichan Bear Aware Association has come a long way since our inception in October 2023 when a group of concerned citizens joined together with a common goal to stop the senseless killing of our local bears. From these ragtag beginnings, based on compassion and hope, we have forged ahead, learning as we go, emerging as a solid group committed to creating change for the dance that is bears and humans in Lake Cowichan. It hasn't been easy piecing together how to save bears, but now we know how, and our dedicated work is showing it.

In addition to bringing awareness to bears at several public events over the years including Country Grocer BBQ's, Canada Day, and the Cowichan River and Stewardship Society's annual event, our group has also created an active and informative Facebook Page, set up a bear reporting line to track bears and target problem areas in the community, and has developed substantial relationships with our Town Administration, local WildSafe, By-Law, and Conservation Officers, and local merchants and residents. We've tagged numerous neighbourhoods with BearAware doorhangers, provided 1:1 education to countless residents and tourists, informed local businesses and campsites on our current BearSmart By-Laws, and created a petition running towards 500 signatures to bring bear resistant garbage cans to Lake Cowichan. The town responded with four new bear resistant bins.

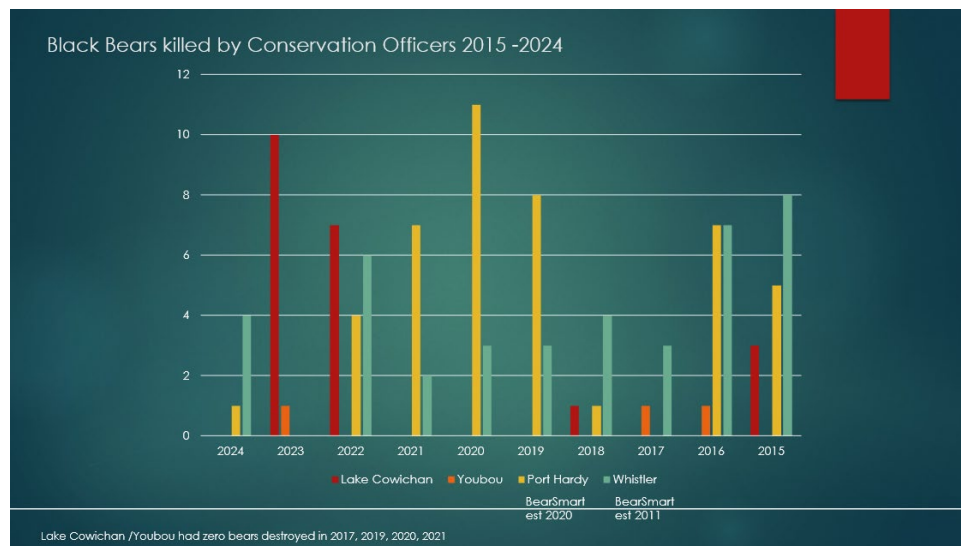
We started a Bear Ambassador club for kids, with over 50 local kids signed on, all who received an Official Bear Ambassador Certificate for promising to ensure their household is bear aware! We've also asked the town to ensure that local fruit trees are cleaned up, and we've pursued violations of the town's Bear By-Laws. We currently have brand new signs to inform residents of local bear activity so they can LOCK IT UP! Our website www.lakecowichanbearawareassociation.org has valuable information about bears, their habits and how we can co-exist with them.

Is all this making a difference? YES! The numbers don't lie. Is the town supporting us? YES! We're seeing improvements. Do the residents want change? YES! We never stop hearing it

OVER 500 PEOPLE SIGN OUR PETITION FOR BEAR PROOF GARBAGE CONTAINERS FOR THE LAKE COWICHAN DOWNTOWN CORE AND PARKS!

Fundraisers and more fundraisers! Starting a non-profit association takes not only people but funding for signs and certificates to websites and fees, administrative costs are our highest expense! Our volunteers do not receive any remuneration for their time and efforts. We obtained our BC Registered Society status in 2025 which now allows us to apply for grants, hold raffles and collect donations. Our 2026 fundraising efforts will go towards installing wildlife cams on trails where the bears, elk, deer and cougars are active. This has numerous benefits – from general interest and education to help us determine where these animals are most active plus this information will be used in our application to become a BC BearSmart town.

Success can be counted by the numbers! The graph below shows the number of bears killed by Conservation in Lake Cowichan, Youbou and two other similar towns that obtained their Bear Smart status. Port Hardy became BearSmart in 2020 – note the declining numbers of bears killed when a town works together to reduce bear attractants through education. We have noticed a similar decline with our small, but active group. In 2023, Lake Cowichan was tied for 10th place in BC for the most bears killed. Lake Cowichan Bear Aware Association actively worked with conservation and the town's residents to reduce the trapping and killing of our bears. 2024 and 2025 have seen zero bears killed by conservation except for one cub that was hit by a car and was humanely put down.



VOLUNTEERS – we are looking to add a few volunteers to our executive committee. This is not a huge time committee or onerous. We meet once a month on the second Tuesday at 6:30pm in person plus remotely by messenger video chat. Meetings last 1.5 – 2 hours. We would also like to add volunteers that can help a few times a year at events, posting signs or handing out educational materials in their neighbourhood. Also we don't just advocate for the bears in the town of Lake Cowichan but for the whole area of Cowichan Lake and River. Volunteers from outside town would be very welcomed into our group. Contact us at lakecowichanbears@gmail.com

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