

If a bear succeeds in getting an easy meal from some improperly stored garbage or food, it is almost certain to return or seek the same food source elsewhere.

At this stage bears don't hesitate to break open a shed door to seek food. Barking dogs and shouting people are ignored. These bears are human food conditioned or habituated, and they can be dangerous. Conservation Officers must now capture or shoot this bear because it associates people with food.

You can prevent this scenario from happening in your neighborhood! Report bear sightings in residential areas or any bear behaving aggressively.

**Dawson CO Services 993-5492 or
TIP Line 1-800-661-0525**



Cover photo: Dianne Villesèche



Keep Dawson City Bears Wild & Alive

Dawson City is IN bear habitat. Grizzly and black bears have emerged from their winter dens.

Throughout most of the spring and early summer, bears spend much of their time foraging because they use more energy than they get from their food. Not all things that a bear smells will be food, but all things that smell may attract a foraging bear.

We want to reduce the number of human/bear conflicts this year. Last year, Dawson Conservation Officers investigated several dozen incidents involving "problem bears," most of which were caused by residents' poor handling of attractants. Many of these incidents involved property damage by bears that were becoming increasingly bold and dangerous.

Yukon
Environment



Photo: N. Jacobsen, 2006



Join other Dawsonites in the effort to keep our bears *wild and alive* this year, for the safety of our residents, our property, and out of respect for all wildlife. Keep in mind:

- Areas of higher bear density include the Dome subdivision and hiking trails, West Dawson/Sunnydale, and the area around Quigley Landfill.
- A bear's sense of smell is 2000 times better than a human's, and even 20 times better than a dog's. And bears think garbage is tasty. Don't let garbage accumulate. The summer hours at the dump are from 12 noon to 7 pm, Tuesday to Saturday.
- Feeding and attracting dangerous wildlife is illegal, even if it is unintentional. We will offer bear awareness safety talks this summer. Look for posters and ads at the Post Office and in government offices in the community.

For more information, pick up a copy of these brochures from our office or download them and more from www.environment.yukon.gov.yk.ca/bears



To report bear sightings in residential areas or any bear behaving aggressively, call the Dawson City CO Services office at 993-5492 or the TIP Line at 1-800-661-0525.

Audit your property

Try the property audit (right) to determine if your yard might attract a bear. When you are evaluating your home, yard, or camp for bear foods, you must think in terms of what might attract them to you, not necessarily what they can eat. If you check any boxes in the right-hand column, your property is at high risk of attracting a bear.

Property Audit

Item	OK	Likely to attract bears
Is garbage stored in cans with tight-fitting lids?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
If you have garbage collection service, when do you put out your garbage?	<input type="checkbox"/> Morning of collection	<input type="checkbox"/> Night before
If you don't have collection, how often do you take your garbage to the dump?	<input type="checkbox"/> At least once each week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than once each week
How often do you burn food residue off your barbecue and clean the grease trap?	<input type="checkbox"/> After every use	<input type="checkbox"/> Not every time
Do you cover your barbecue to reduce odour spread?	<input type="checkbox"/> Got it covered	<input type="checkbox"/> No cover
Do you collect pet waste from your yard regularly and dispose of it correctly (double-bagged, out with garbage)?	<input type="checkbox"/> At least once each week	<input type="checkbox"/> Less than once each week
Is your bird feeder empty now that natural food sources are available?	<input type="checkbox"/> Empty	<input type="checkbox"/> Still filling it
Where do you feed your pets? Where do you store their pet food and dishes?	<input type="checkbox"/> Indoors	<input type="checkbox"/> Outdoors
Once your fish or wild meat has dried in your meat shed, do you immediately store it indoors and clean the shed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Not immediately
Do you regularly sprinkle lime or wood stove ash on your compost pile to keep odours down?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are your jerry cans of gas and diesel, and containers of waste oil, well-sealed and stored in a secure area, e.g. a locked metal shed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Are you getting a complete burn using the incinerator or burn barrel in your camp/claim?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No
Is your fish waste fertilizer stored in air-tight containers indoors or in a secure area, e.g. a locked metal shed?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No