



Municipal Newsletter

(The Municipal Newsletter is now available on-line @ www.red-lake.com)

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MUNICIPAL OFFICE

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Hours of Operation

Monday – Friday
8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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807-735-2096

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Website

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After Hour Trouble Calls

Please call 727-2597

Garbage Box Spot Checks & Industrial Bins

The Municipality will be completing garbage box spot checks during the Restricted Disposal Period. By-Law No. 530-04 states that **No garbage shall be put out prior to the day of garbage pick up.**

By-Law No. 530-04 has been amended to include that **all industrial bins shall be bear resistant.** Bear resistant shall mean a fully enclosed container with metal lid, which can be completely closed with a latching mechanism that prevents access by bears. Any container which is overfilled so as to prevent latching is not a bear resistant container.

If a person is caught violating this By-Law, a ticket may be issued.

If you have any questions, please contact the By-Law Department at 735-2096 Ext.225

Declaration – Restricted Disposal Period

With the recent hot weather, residents are requested to remember to **deposit waste in containers on the day of collection and no earlier.** The odor of garbage becomes increasingly more evident during periods of hot weather, therefore, more of an enticement to the bears in our communities.

Residents who do not comply with this restriction may be charged a fine as per the Waste Disposal By-Law.

Nuisance Bears

The Municipality of Red Lake is urging residents to be aware and to work together to avoid attracting nuisance bears.

Nuisance bears don't always have good quality food available. Until berries and other natural foods are available, nuisance animals will eat whatever they can get, including garbage, pet food, birdseed, compost and many other things. They will also return to food sources they remember from the previous years.

To reduce the chances of attracting nuisance bears, the Municipality advises residents to:

- * **Deposit waste in containers only on the day of collection.**
- * Wash garbage containers frequently and use disinfectant to cut odors.
- * Keep barbeques and picnic tables clean.
- * Remove all birdfeeders.
- * Keep pet food inside the house.
- * Do not leave out dirty coolers, or other fishing equipment.
- * Pick all ripe fruit and vegetables from gardens and trees.
- * Keep meat, fish scraps and leftovers in the fridge or freezer until garbage day.
- * Maintain your composter to eliminate smells.

If you are experiencing any nuisance bear problems please refer to the 'Nuisance Bear Contact Numbers' as noted below.

Nuisance Bear Contact Numbers

The following will be the contact numbers regarding nuisance bear control:



Nuisance Bear Concerns

Toll Free Hotline – 1-866-514- Bear (2327)

Life Threatening Bear Emergencies

O.P.P – 9-1-1



Non-natural attractants intentionally, or unintentionally, made available to black bears account for the majority of human-bear conflicts. The preferred management option is to remove or render the attractants unavailable to bears.

Only after the attractants have been eliminated, will the Ministry of Natural Resources be removing the nuisance bear(s) from the area, as the same bear(s) or others will continue to revisit the site as long as the attractants exist.

What you should know about Black Bears!

- Black bears actively feed from mid April to late fall.
- Black bears mainly feed on berries, blueberries and raspberries.
- In late summer and early fall some bears actively feed for 20 hours a day, ingesting as much as 20,000 calories.
- While preparing for the winter hibernation, bears normally double their body weight.
- Black bears will travel up to 100 km to find other food (garbage) if natural food is not available.
- Once they know where a non-natural food source is located, they will return again and again.



What campers can do to be Bear Wise

- Reduce or eliminate odors from yourself, your camp, your clothes and your vehicle.
- Cook and store food well away from your tent site.
- Clean fish and store food remains away from your campsite.
- Burn food scraps and fat drippings thoroughly in a fire.
- Never cook, eat or store food in your tent – this includes snacks.
- Store food so that bears cannot reach it – in the trunk of your car or hanging at least 4 metres (13 feet) above the ground.
- Sleep in clothes other than those you have cooked in.
- Properly store and pack all garbage.
- Handle and store pet food with as much care as you do your own.



Bear Proofing the Community

The Province of Ontario has established the Bear Wise Community Funding Program led by the Ministry of Natural Resources to facilitate the awareness and prevention of human-bear conflicts. The Municipality was successful in receiving funding through this program and has started to Bear Proof the Community.

We have purchased bear proof containers for all community beaches. The area dumpsters are also being bear proofed. These waste disposal containers only work well if the public uses them properly. If you use one of these containers, please ensure that it is properly latched so bears are unable to gain access to the waste. Keep all garbage sites clean.

The main objective to the bear proofing is to stop the problem before it starts. By minimizing or eliminating the chances that bears will get into garbage, residents can help to prevent the bears from being rewarded the first time.

Remember, prevention is the best medicine!

How to Recognize a Potentially Dangerous Encounter

Injuries by black bears are rare, but can occur in the following situations:

- Cornered bears;
- Mother bears protecting their young; or
- Predatory black bears.

What to do if you find yourself in one of these situations?

- Slowly back away, watching the bear.
- If the bear tries to approach you, stop. Be aggressive, yell, throw rocks or sticks and use pepper spray if you have it. **Never turn and run.**
- If the bear continues to approach you, resume backing away slowly while continuing to be aggressive towards the bear.
- If a bear makes contact with you, **do not play dead.** Fighting back is the best chance of persuading a black bear to stop its attack. Use a large stick, a rock or anything else that you have on hand to hurt the bear.

