

Subject: Bears

Date: Wed, 16 Mar 2005 18:33:45 +0000 (GMT)

From: Elizabeth James <cagebc@yahoo.com>

To: "James Ridge, CAO" <james_ridge@dnv.org>

CC: Mayor and Council <council@dnv.org>, fonvca@fonvca.org

16 March 2005

Dear Mr. Ridge:

Last weekend, the parents of three nine-year-old girls gave permission for them to ride their bicycles in the immediate neighbourhood - Merlynn, Greylynn, Viewlynn. This was done because the two teenage bears who have taken the area up as their territory, had not been seen for a few days.

The parents along the route were keeping an eye on the girls' activities, to make sure they were not taking liberties with the rules of the road. About half an hour into the activity, my daughter received a call from one of the other parents. Although the woman was laughing, she was really concerned. What had happened was that another neighbour had sighted the bears and called out to warn the girls, who promptly dropped their bikes in the middle of the road and ran to the closest house for help. It turned out that those people were not home so, running through all of the gardens along the way, the girls made safely it to that parent's house. The person on Viewlynn kindly picked up the bikes and called my daughter to let her know where they were.

As it turned out, the girls would have been just as safe to have turned their bikes around and ridden home - but such is the reaction of a - scared - 9-year old. They did the right thing.

The point of this story is that this situation will only get worse during the upcoming summer. These two bears have been roaming here for months, all the while getting larger and stronger. No-one, as far as I am aware, wishes them to come to harm and not all are afraid of them. Some people, though, are scared and most all are getting really tired of feeling like hostages in their own homes.

As mentioned to you previously, various interest groups urge us to get healthy exercise, grow healthy food, eat a number of servings of fruit everyday and put out feeders to attract the birds. In contrast, the Bear Aware people believe that we should run our lives according to the whim of the bears: Take in all bird seed, strip your gardens of fruit and other edible, get up before 7 am if you want your garbage picked up; if you don't happen to have a secure garage, keep your garbage in the house and stay indoors if the bears are roaming - and by all means don't put a home-cooked apple pie on your windowsill to cool. This is getting quite ridiculous.

You and I have discussed the matter previously. I understand your predicament and know that you and Staff are working to come up with a solution. However, this note is to advise that many people are not willing to put up with the problem any longer.

I echo the sentiment, "Everyone is sympathetic to the bears right now but, just let one child get hurt and that would change in a heartbeat." Surely, the District doesn't need any more lawsuits on its hands.

So, could you update not only me but all residents of the District as to the plans you have afoot to deal with the ever-growing problems of bears roaming the urban environment.

Many thanks,

Sincerely,
Liz James

Send instant messages to your online friends <http://uk.messenger.yahoo.com>