

**Subject:**  
**Date:** Mon, 15 Aug 2005 23:15:06 -0700  
**From:** "Ernie Crist" <ernie\_crist@dnv.org>  
**To:** <carl.shalansky@3web.net>  
**CC:** "Mayor and Council - DNV" <Council@dnv.org>, "James Ridge" <James\_Ridge@dnv.org>, "Senior Management Committee" <managecomm@dnv.org>, <fonvca@fonvca.org>, "Richard Boase" <Richard\_Boase@dnv.org>

Dear Mr. Shalansky:

The Bear problem has been particularly acute this spring but seems to have subsided as the Bears have gone back to the mountains which are their natural habitat. We have set up an active network to protect the population and deal with the issue with the help of volunteers. We are always looking for both short term and long term solutions.

However, on one hand, the public is against shooting bears, but on the other hand, we are committed to protecting the public. Whenever you see a Bear and feel threatened I suggest you call the RCMP as they have the means to deal with such issues professionally.

We also have a Citizens Bear Network making suggestions on an ongoing basis. The position Council takes is that public safety is the overriding factor. It helps if the public is aware what can be done to avoid problems.

There are certain do's and don'ts - one of the don'ts is to leave food outside since this is the reason why Bears come into neighbourhoods in the first place. The second is to keep your distance and not to panic. I have had several Bears in my back yard and never once did any one of them pay any attention to me except to look at my blueberries to see whether they were ripe. Had I attempted to chase them away, I might have gotten an argument but I did not and, in any case, seeing that the blueberries were not ripe, they left. I was unable to discern from the expression on their snouts whether they were disgusted or not. Also, as soon as the blueberries were ripe we picked them so as not to tempt the bears or any of my neighbours.

I see that you have sent a copy of your email to Richard Boase who can provide you with further information in the matter. He can also provide you with the names of the bear network itself. They have first hand knowledge of the issue and may be of help to you in future.


In summary, public safety is task number one - call the RCMP whenever you deem there to be any threat - number two is to avoid close contact and number three is not to leave any food outside.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention. I will send a copy of this email to Mayor and Council and to Staff.

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

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