



Be Bear Wise:

Bears are part of our *natural heritage*.

Black bears are not normally dangerous animals. They are, however, opportunistic omnivores. In other words, they will eat practically anything that is easy to get at. Admire them. Respect them. But please, don't feed them.

In an immediate emergency call your local police or 911. To report bear problems call:

1 866 514-2327

(1 866 514-BEAR)

TTY 705 945-7641

For more information, visit our website:

bears.mnr.gov.on.ca

What you should know about black bears:

- Black bears are large, powerful animals. Adult males can weigh between 120-280 kg (250-600 lbs). Adult females can weigh between 45-180 kg (100-400 lbs)
- Black bears are actively feeding from mid-April to late fall in most parts of the province
- Black bears feed mainly on summer berry crops such as raspberries and blueberries, as well as mountain ash acorns and beech nuts in the fall
- In late summer and early fall some bears actively feed for 20 hours a day, ingesting as much as 20,000 calories
- During the summer bears typically double their body weight while preparing for winter hibernation
- If natural foods are not readily available, black bears will travel up to 100 km to find other food – primarily your garbage
- Once they know where to find a non-natural food source they will return again and again
- In northern Ontario, most black bears move into their winter dens by mid-October. In central Ontario, bears usually enter their dens by early November