

## CANADIAN FURS - THE BEAR

Bears, which are found in all parts of Canada, generally breed every second year, so that the young remain with the mother for almost two years.

The most familiar type is the black bear, which inhabits the forests. Although it will eat almost anything, it exists largely on nuts and berries. The bear spends hours patiently fishing or turning over stones and old logs to lick up ants and other insects, and will rob and eat from a bee hive or a trapper's food store with equal relish.

Mating takes place in June or July and, 210 days later, while the mother is "dened-up" for the winter in a state of semi-hibernation, hairless twin cubs, each weighing less than a pound, are born.

### THE GRIZZLY

The grizzly bear is a much larger and more formidable animal than the black bear. One of the world's biggest land carnivores, it will often attack man on sight. Like the black, the grizzly will eat almost anything and, in its western mountain habitat, the huge animal is often to be seen fishing the streams and feeding on berries. The grizzly "dens-up" for three or four months during the winter and the cubs, usually two, are born during this time.

### POLAR BEAR

Throughout much of the year, life for the polar bear is a struggle against the extreme cold, scarcity of food and the dangers of shifting ice floes. Found only in the Arctic regions, it ranges northern coasts and islands. It is equal in size to the grizzly but has a long, slender neck and rather pointed head. It feeds chiefly on seals and fish; it can, however, subsist on lemmings and even on moss and berries, when other foods are not available.

The polar bear is white, sometimes with a yellowish cast. The soles of its feet, which are covered with close-set hairs, give it a secure grip when walking on the ice. It is a powerful swimmer



*A family of black bears - late for an afternoon picnic?*

and spends much of its time on drift ice and in the water. Sometimes it is seen at sea miles from the nearest shore. The polar bear has few natural enemies in his home range, although in the water he generally steers clear of the male walrus, whose strong tusks make him a formidable adversary.

The male polar bear is active throughout the year, but in late autumn the female chooses a sheltered spot in the icefield and fashions a makeshift den. During the winter months, two cubs are born there, and they remain until spring when they are old enough to accompany their mother on foraging expeditions.

Black bearskins are still used to fashion the tall fur caps worn by the Guards regiment on ceremonial occasions. For the most part, however, the principal use for bearskins of all types is as rugs and wall hangings. On the West Coast, fishermen fashion "flies" for the Pacific salmon from twists of the coarse hair of the polar bear.

*(This article is one of a series on the Canadian fur industry and fur-bearing animals.)*

### LAKE LOUISE RESORT VILLAGE

A multi-million dollar, year-round resort village is to be created near Lake Louise in Banff National Park, it was announced recently by the federal Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, Mr. Jean Chrétien, Mr. H.A. Olson, federal Minister for Alberta, and W.S. Robertson, Chairman of Village Lake Louise Ltd., the development company, which is owned jointly by Imperial Oil Limited of Toronto and Lake Louise Lifts Limited of Lake Louise.

Detailed planning is already under way, and some elements will be completed late in 1971 and early in 1972. The village is expected to be in full operation for the summer season of 1972.

The Village Lake Louise proposal is based on plans to develop accommodation and other visitor facilities consistent with the values and objectives of the national parks system. The architectural design theme, structures and landscaping will blend with the surrounding grandeur of the Rockies.

At the start, there will be a range of visitor accommodation and services, including restaurants, shops, etc., providing a self-contained, integrated resort village. Expansion will follow according to a master plan and in response to demand. Trailer parks and campgrounds operated by the federal National Parks Service are already situated near the village site.