

Bear Complaints

by Cst. George Pemberton, Whistler, B.C.

The following does not reflect Force policy in dealing with wildlife and, names have been changed to protect the guilty.

Whistler Resort is an idyllic setting for a detachment, except that it is built on an old local dump, forgotten by everyone, except perhaps by the bears. Every spring, they return in search of a free meal. The problems associated with this haunt are generally handled by provincial conservation officers who, unfortunately are not always available.

One sunny day in June, a black bear yearling was hanging around not really hurting anyone, but just being a menace. We'll call him Yogi. One of our ingenious detachment members, Cst. Bou-Bou, decided to shoo the trespasser away. Having tracked Yogi to a nearby dumpster and tried in vain to make him leave, Bou-Bou sprinted to a nearby convenience store, he bought a chocolate

cookie and returned to the scene, cookie in hand, to try to entice the bear away. Perhaps the wind was wrong, or maybe Yogi did not fancy chocolate cookies, but either way, he seemed unimpressed, and carried on. Bou-Bou ventured even closer, the bear did not budge. Losing his nerve or his patience, or both, Bou-Bou threw the "bait" to Yogi, who gulped it down and, smacking his lips, sauntered off in search of more tranquil surroundings, never to be seen again.

Despite the obvious delight expressed by tourists, the NCO i/c politely declined to schedule repeat performances. To date, Bou-Bou has not yet submitted an expense claim for the cookie. Conservation officers have decided that it may be prudent to issue Whistler Detachment members with "Bear Crackers", not to be mistaken for "Animal Crackers", as they are less tasty and make a much louder bang. ■

