

# ROCKY MOUNTAIN OUTLOOK

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## SWEET DREAMS, SMOKEY

Canmore firefighters, Alberta Fish and Wildlife officers and an Alberta Parks employee help safely carry a tranquilized black bear out of a property in downtown Canmore on Monday (Aug. 29).  
JUNGMIN HAM RMO PHOTO

## Banff, Canmore call on Sunshine ski hill to address housing concerns

CATHY ELLIS

BANFF – The municipalities of Banff and Canmore are calling on Sunshine Village to address employee housing concerns associated with future development of the ski hill given the housing crisis facing Bow Valley communities.

Concerned the ski hill is downloading housing onto neighbouring communities already facing a dire housing crunch, the Town of Banff has specifically asked Sunshine to build staff accommodation at the ski hill or in Banff, as other employers in the townsites are required to do when proposing commercial expansion or intensification.

In neighbouring Canmore, Mayor Sean Krausert said he hopes the municipality's concerns over where new employees will live can be addressed in Sunshine's long-range plan, which details the ski area's development plans for a period of five years.

"Development within Banff National Park, unless said development provides housing for its employees, naturally has an impact on housing in the Town of Canmore," wrote Mayor Krausert in a July 15 letter to Sunshine.

"For that reason, I would ask that your plan address how and where your employees will be accommodated. If the Town of Canmore is to be impacted, I would welcome a conversation about Banff Sunshine's plans for

providing additional housing within the municipality."

At full build-out, Sunshine Village projects that 885 employees will be required in the busy winter, which is approximately a 10 per cent increase from existing staffing levels, and much fewer during the summer months.

"With the inventory of housing at the upper Village, combined with housing in Banff, Canmore and Calgary, workforce housing will be sufficient to handle the current and additional staff needs," states the draft long-range plan released for public review in spring.

HOUSING

CONTINUED ON A4

Mountain Air  
CC-636

Mountain  
Peak White  
OC-121

Iron Mountain  
2134-30

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A darted black bear in downtown Canmore is carried to a mobile bear trap on Monday (Aug. 29).

JUNGMIN HAM RMO PHOTO

# Mamma bear, cub relocated out of Canmore

CATHY ELLIS

CANMORE – A mamma black bear and her cub were tranquilized and trapped in downtown Canmore on Monday (Aug. 29).

As crowds gathered, Fish and Wildlife officers and other departments worked to safely trap the bears that had bedded down under a tree in a backyard next door to Sauvage and Paintbox Lodge on 10th Street.

A spokesperson for Alberta Fish and Wildlife said enforcement services received multiple reports of the sow and her one cub.

“Fish and Wildlife located the bears, which were bedded down under a tree in a small yard,” said Katherine Thompson, communications advisor for Alberta Justice and Solicitor General, in an email statement.

Thompson said officers believe the bears had not been into any residential or commercial garbage, but were attracted to the yard because of a large apple tree that had many apples, including some on the ground.

She said after evaluating the situation, officers made

the decision to immobilize and relocate the bears due to the area’s proximity to roads and pedestrians.

“The sow and cub were immobilized, placed in a trap and transported to a warehouse,” said Thompson.

“Officers monitored and assessed the bears. Throughout the night, these became alert and oriented.”

Fish and Wildlife relocated the bears to an undisclosed location on Tuesday (Aug. 30).

At one point, one of the bears was on the roof of the dilapidated house on 10th Street.

Officers tranquilized the mamma bear first.

It took five people to carry the bear into the waiting trap.

When they went to get the cub, which was stressed by the ordeal, it was running around the area.

Officers were able to prevent it from getting onto the road where there was potential for it to be struck by a vehicle or encounter nearby pedestrians who were in the area.

Both bears were fitted with tags.

“Canmore RCMP, Canmore Fire Department,

Alberta Environment and Parks provided support with traffic and pedestrian control, as well as with expertise on predators and bear immobilization,” said Thompson.

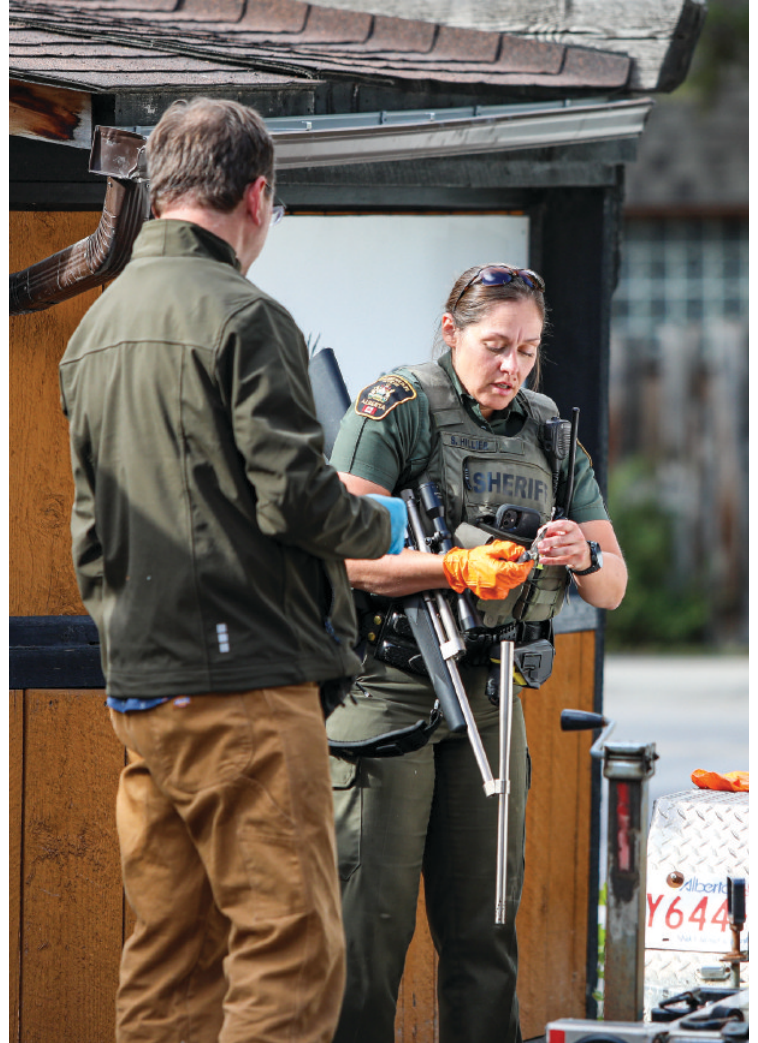
This mamma bear with one cub is not believed to be the same female bear with three cubs making the rounds on the north side of the Trans-Canada Highway, including residential neighbourhoods surrounding Cougar Creek.

With a poor buffaloberry crop throughout much of the region, bears have one more reason to head into town this fall in search of food, including trees such as crabapple, chokecherry, and mountain ash trees.

In Canmore, it is against the law to let fruit or berries accumulate on trees, bushes and on the ground under the municipality’s Community Standards Bylaw. Fines can range between \$250 and \$10,000.

In addition, residents are reminded to put away pet food indoors and clean BBQs.

Fish and Wildlife declined the *Outlook’s* repeated attempts to interview a Fish and Wildlife officer on the developing bear situation in Canmore.



FROM TOP LEFT CLOCKWISE: A Canmore firefighter and Alberta Fish and Wildlife officers prepare a bear trap to move a black bear and cub from a property in downtown Canmore on Monday (Aug. 29); A Fish and Wildlife officer prepares to dart the bears; a tranquilized black bear cub lays in a bear trap as it prepares to be safely moved; the cub is tagged.

JUNGMIN HAM AND GREG COLGAN RMO PHOTOS