

NEWS > **CLASSIFIED** > **REAL ESTATE** > **ARCHIVE** > **JOBSPRESS** > **WHEELSPRESS** > **MYCONNECT**

SEARCH: Today's News Last 7 Days Web [Help](#)

SpeedRead

Contests | Lotteries | Horoscopes | Comics | Tides | Bookmark Us

Overcast	
	17° Celsius 

The ChronicleHerald
ELECTRONIC EDITION
FREE SAMPLE

Article Tools -  Print  E-Mail Text Size **S** **M** **L**  Digg This!  Newsvine

Bear shot dead in downtown Pictou

By MONICA GRAHAM | 12:00 AM

NEWS

- » Front page
- » Metro
- » Nova Scotia
- » Canada
- » World
- » Business
- » Sports
- » Entertainment
- » Q.E.H. / St. Pat's Memories

SUDOKU

CROSSWORD

OPINIONS

- » Editorials
- » Columnists
- » Letters/Feedback



BLOGS

- » A Little Good News Today
- » Quinpool Kid
- » Direct From Afghanistan
- » The Daily Dexter
- » Art aMusement
- » Blossoms and Blizzards
- » True North
- » the indie scene
- » It's always sunny in Hubbards
- » CATO
- » Going Where the Silence is
- » Sunday Dress
- » The Near North

PICTOU — A black bear feasting on food left out on Pictou's garbage day came to an untimely end Wednesday when it couldn't get out of town before sun-up.

Police ultimately shot the animal in a Twining Street backyard, close to a pub, pharmacy, restaurants, post office, shops and next door to Alf Rondelet's taxi stand.

The bear was just a small backyard away from a busy school-bus stop at the corner of Church, Coleraine and Denoon streets, Mr. Rondelet said.

"Every morning there's a whole mess of kids kicking around there," he said. "The school bus was less than five minutes away when the bear was shot."

Soon after the bear was spotted at 6:30 a.m. Mr. Rondelet alerted his wife, a bus driver, and the school board rerouted buses as a precaution.

Mr. Rondelet said he's sorry the bear was killed, but he understands why RCMP and provincial wildlife officers chose safety over popularity.

"If you piss a wild animal off and you've got him caged in, he's going to do damage," he said. Alternatively, letting the animal escape through town would have endangered residents, and made it more difficult to safely capture or shoot the bear among people, homes and traffic.

"How do you shoot an aggravated black bear in front of a bunch of kids?" Mr. Rondelet said. People will criticize police for shooting "an innocent bear" but if a child was attacked or mauled, police would be criticized for not destroying it, he added.

"I'm sure they thought long and hard before they fired a firearm in the town of Pictou."

A Shubenacadie Wildlife Park bear, accustomed to humans, recently bit a child, so it's reasonable that a wild bear surrounded by excited spectators and children could also attack, Mr. Rondelet said. Frightened children and motorists distracted by a fleeing bear might collide, with tragic results, he said.

"Anything could go wrong. It didn't, but it could have."

RCMP Cpl. John Currie said shooting the bear was "not the sort of response the RCMP prefer" but public safety meant it was the only option. Bears that feed on garbage will keep doing it even if trapped and returned to the woods, he said.

"They almost always make their way back to their favourite feeding spots," he said.

ADVERTISEMENT

Fishing for Business?
Try something New



The ChronicleHerald.ca

- » Country Boy
- » Hockey Girl
- » Boularderie Blog
- » Deagh Shaoghal
- » Souseeker
- » NS Expatriate

The male bear, about 18 months old, was first seen at Pictou Lodge last week with its mother, said Allan Blinn, Natural Resources Department supervisor for the Pictou district. The pair rummaged through green bins, and then tackled garbage cans once the composters were secured.

The department set a live trap, but the bears sprung it and moved along five kilometres to Pictou, he said.

He suspects the mother was in the process of abandoning her baby, natural at this time of year.

The younger bear couldn't get out of town fast enough after foraging all Tuesday night.

There should be options other than killing a wild animal found among people, said Beth Henderson, who lives near Pictou.

"We've taken their habitat," she said, adding that forests in the area have been decimated with no visible replanting underway. "We should be responsible enough to have a backup tranquillizer gun on hand."

"It's not the bear's fault," Mr. Blinn agreed.

(mgraham@herald.ca)



FEATURES

- » Living
- » Travel
- » At Home
- » Books
- » Religion
- » Science
- » The NovaScotian

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- » Births
- » Cards of Thanks
- » In Memoriam
- » Milestones
- » Obituaries

FOOD FOR THOUGHT

""

[Back](#)

[Back to top](#)

ABOUT US | CONTACT US | PRIVACY POLICY | CHARITIES | ADVERTISING | SUBSCRIBE | FAQ | COMICS | HIGHWAY CAMS
 WORK @ THE CHRONICLE HERALD | WEATHER | TIDES | LOTTERIES | FEATURES | HOROSCOPE | CONTESTS | BOOKMARK US

© 2007 The Halifax Herald Limited