

BEWARE THE BABY BEAR

Now is the time of the Little Bear -- and any woods wanderer with experience will leave him alone!

Last October or November, Mother Black Bear disappeared into her winter home. Some time about January, she gave birth to one child if she was three years old, probably twins if she was older. Occasionally she has triplets, more infrequently quadruplets. Once a female bear was seen with five cubs all the same size and presumably brothers and sisters.

Generally the bear, which resembles man more than any other mammal found in North America, minds his or her own business. It will be recalled that last autumn many cottage owners protested the destructiveness of bruin. Much of the trouble arose because cottagers fed the easily-tamed bears during the summer, then locked up cottages and went away, cutting off what had become the bears' regular food source.

Bears are now emerging into the spring sunshine and, according to officials of the Ontario Department of Lands and Forests, they are bringing their young with them. At birth the cubs of the black bear are tiny, about nine inches long and weighing six to eight ounces--about one five-hundredth of the weight of their mother. One could easily be carried in the pocket, but that is practically suicidal. The little fellows are blind, hairless, toothless and usually screaming for food which they know how to find as soon as they are born.

Mother supplies it in abundance as she dozes on, still in the winter state of suspended animation. But in April and May the cubs are ready for their first airing. They now weigh about four pounds and walk, but climb much better. This is the cute stage when the unwary woods visitor believes that a bear cub could be a wonderful pet.

Not infrequently, rangers of the Department have found small trees felled simply to drop the fat little cubs into the waiting arms of someone who would like to have a cub "to take home". Actually, it is against the law to keep any wild animal in captivity without a permit from the Government and such permits usually are issued only to those who have scientific reasons for wanting such a captive.

No infant mammals have as much fun as do bear cubs. It is best to let them have it in their own habitat. Mrs. Bear, a good-natured customer as a rule, is quite willing to leave humans alone if they leave her and

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BEWARE THE BABY BEAR (Cont.)

her cubs alone. But she resents any attempt to separate her from her children, just as human mothers do.

An angry mother bear is no plaything. Her total length is between $4\frac{1}{2}$ and $6\frac{1}{2}$ feet, height at the shoulder about 25 to 40 inches, weight usually 200 to 300 pounds; occasionally there are 500-pounders.

The full-grown bear is tremendously powerful, with broad shoulders and fore-arms which can smash the side of a log cabin. There are few cases of any human being having been attacked by a bear in recent Ontario history. In the opinion of experienced rangers, "if you pick up a bear cub in the woods--you're asking for it!"

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COMMUNITY CHEST CONSTITUTION APPROVED AT PUBLIC MEETING

Last Thursday evening a public meeting discussed the proposed "Constitution for the Terrace Bay Community Chest". With a few minor alterations it was accepted as published in the April 22nd issue of the Terrace Bay News.

The group decided that all wage-earners and wives in Terrace Bay should have an opportunity to accept or reject the idea of the Community Chest by a questionnaire. The representation group of six, Mrs. Geo. Maitland, Willard Vezina, Harry Goodfellow, Phil Stuart, Des Evans-Smith and Ken Hutchinson should conduct this survey. Two-thirds or more of the questionnaires returned must be in favour of having a Community Chest before it will go into effect.

The six person committee will meet this week and make plans to distribute the questionnaire.

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