



# Abbotsford Police Department

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**Bob Rich**  
Chief Constable

*"Protecting with Pride"*

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## NEWS RELEASE

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A.P.D. FILE # 2012- 24600

RELEASE# 1

DATE OF RELEASE: 2012-06-25

Incident: Black Bear in Residential Neighbourhood

Last night at 8:30 pm the Abbotsford Police Department responded to calls from residents in the area of the 35000 block of Sandyhill Road near McKinley Park in Abbotsford. Neighbours were reporting that a large mature black bear was in their backyards, on their balconies and eating food from bird feeders. Several Abbotsford Police Department Patrol Division officers located the bear as it moved through various properties. Contact was made with BC Conservation Officer Service but they were unable to attend.

The bear did not display any overt fear of humans, and when chased, it would turn back towards the police in a threatening manner. During one of the initial encounters police deployed a large canister of "pepper spray" which had little, if any, impact on the animal. This area is a fully developed residential neighborhood with schools and playgrounds. The Abbotsford Police had serious public safety concerns as the bear would not be scared off, it repeatedly returned to feed and it did not hesitate to engage police. At 11:10 pm Abbotsford Police were forced to shoot the bear with a police patrol rifle. Multiple shots were required to kill the bear. Neighborhood inquiries were subsequently made to ensure the area was safe and residents were informed of police action.

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***In partnership with the citizens of Abbotsford, we are dedicated to ensuring safety and security by enforcing the law, preventing crime and responding to community needs.***