

Members in the News

The College members have recently been featured in the media for their biological work. If you, or a College member you know should be featured here, please let us know: adminassist@cab-bc.org

Gerry Kuzyk, RPBio

College Member Gerry Kuzyk is part of a provincial moose management team that is using high-tech equipment to identify factors influencing changes in moose populations. By looking at the rates and causes of cow moose mortality, the group is able to test the hypothesis that population change is closely linked to changes in the landscape.

Since February 2012, the group has put GPS radio collars on 239 moose in five study areas. These radio collars allow the researchers to receive near-immediate notification when there is a moose mortality event: if no movement is sensed for 4 to 12 hours, an email notification is sent to MFLNRO staff who then travel to the location to investigate. The collars also allow researchers to identify locations of the moose in the days immediately prior to

their death, providing valuable information on the possible effects of landscape conditions on mortality.

Based on three years of data, survival rates have ranged from 88% to 95%, which is expected for a stable population. A total of nineteen collared moose have died, the majority of which were killed by wolves. However, it is too soon to draw many conclusions as the data is still preliminary at this time.

The study is a collaborative effort between the Province of BC, academic institutions, First Nations groups, and natural resource stakeholders. 

Edward Quilty, RPBio

College member Edward Quilty has fundamentally changed how aquatic data is collected through the use of technology and software. Mr. Quilty, who previously worked for the BC Ministry of Environment as a stream ecologist, attended UBC to pursue a PhD in hydro-informatics and in 2003, he founded Aquatic Informatics Inc. The company now has more than 80 staff and provides software solutions for managing and analyzing water data. The company started by providing early versions of their software to their first client, the Ministry of Environment, and now Aquatic Informatics has customers in more than forty countries throughout the world.

Mr. Quilty recognizes the value of providing “really accurate water information” to his clients, who include government agencies, hydropower companies, water authorities, and mining companies. Aquatic Informatics’ software allows the continuous collection of data from water bodies to provide a large volume of quality, actionable data. One of

the projects that kick-started the success of the company was a \$500,000 contract with the US Geological Survey that allowed them to “more accurately determine how much flow is in a river”. With a follow-up contract of more than \$8,000,000, the company worked on replacing the US National Water Information System.

Aquatic Informatics began their international expansion in “safer markets”, including the US, the UK, and Australia, and then honed their data collection and surveying skills to expand into markets in Asia and Latin America. The company recently won their second consecutive Environmental Business Journal award, and was named one of Canada’s Top Small & Medium Employers by Mediacorp. 

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Mike Waters, RPBio

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Dr. Rick Page, PhD, RPBio



When the municipality of Oak Bay was faced with a conflict between deer and residents, they volunteered to be the first municipality to participate in the Capital Regional District's deer management pilot program, which traps and culls the animals. College Member Dr. Rick Page, PhD, RPBio, is a member of the Urban Wildlife Stewardship Society, a citizen's group proposing to vaccinate the deer with a contraceptive and then release them instead of culling them.

The Society has proposed a pilot project where they would trap 25 female deer and inject them with the SpayVac contraceptive (which prevents pregnancy for 5-7 years, the life span of most does). All captured deer—both bucks and does—would be tagged with numbered ear tags to facilitate tracking their movements. This would not only allow them to identify the vaccinated individuals, but would also engage residents of the area in tracking the movements of the deer. Minister Steve Thomson has said that the government will consider the option of contraception when they receive an official permit application.

A fundraising target of \$50,000 has been set by the Society to complete the first year of the project; donations can be made through their website, deerplanoakbay.ca. The Mayor of Oak Bay has stated that the community would embrace this alternative to the cull. Non-lethal methods of controlling urban deer populations have been used on James Island, the Esquimalt Naval Base, in New Jersey and New York, and in Maple Ridge. 