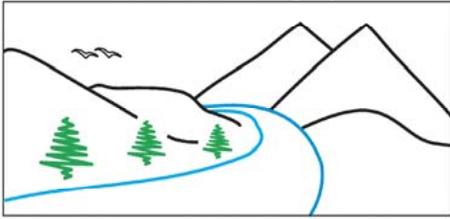


**NRESi**



"Our environment is our future"

## *RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM SERIES*

**Dr. Lana Ciarniello, RPBio**

**Northern Bear Awareness Society**  
([www.northernbearawareness.com](http://www.northernbearawareness.com))



***Friday***  
***Jan. 16, 2009***

**3:30 - 4:30**

**LECTURE THEATRE**

**7 - 238**

**LIGHT REFRESHMENTS  
SERVED AT 3:20 PM**

### **Application for Provincial Bear Smart Community Status for Prince George: Bear Hazard Assessment & Bear Management Plan**

Prince George, BC, Canada has one of the highest records of bear complaints and numbers of bears destroyed in the province. Black and grizzly bears inhabit areas surrounding Prince George, although black bears are more frequently encountered. In 1998, the Omineca Bear Human Conflict Committee (OBHCC) was formed by a group of concerned residents to address bear-human conflicts and bears destroyed within the city limits. In 2000, the OBHCC developed the Northern Bear Awareness Society (NBA) with the goal of promoting public awareness on issues such as bear behaviour and learning.

Despite considerable efforts, such as working with the City to install bear resistant garbage containers in a number of parks, running a fruit exchange program, and continuous extensive public outreach programs, between 2004 and 2008, the number of bear complaints more than doubled and 159 bears were destroyed within the city of Prince George and surrounding areas. In 2006, the NBA refocused its efforts towards achieving Provincial Bear Smart Status for the City in an effort to further identify and examine ways to reduce the number of bears destroyed and the potential for negative bear-human conflicts. I will discuss the steps required to obtain provincial Bear Smart status and the benefits of achieving this status to the bears and citizens of Prince George. Results of my recently completed Bear Hazard Assessment for Prince George and surrounding area also will be discussed and related to the development of a Bear-Human Conflict Prevention Management Plan for Prince George. Bear behaviour and learning will be reviewed as it relates to recommendations in the management plan.