



**British Columbia Conservation Foundation
Wildlife-Vehicle Accident Prevention Program**

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NEWS RELEASE

AQUILA DONATES \$7500 TO WILDLFE-VEHICLE ACCIDENT PREVENTION PROGRAM

KAMLOOPS, B.C. (May 5, 2004.) – The Wildlife-Vehicle Accident Prevention Program is proud to welcome its largest corporate sponsor, Aquila Networks Canada. With its generous donation of \$7500, Aquila has become a Gold Level Sponsor of the Wildlife-Vehicle Accident Prevention Program (WVAPP). Aquila has a strong commitment to safety and education for its staff and recognizes that wildlife-vehicle collisions can occur both on and off the job with serious personal and corporate consequences.

“Aquila takes pride in supporting projects that contribute to the safety and well being of both our staff and the communities in which we do business,” says Mona Bartsoff, Communication Specialist, Aquila Networks Canada.

WVAPP and Aquila will work together to develop a wildlife-vehicle collision awareness training program for Aquila staff, to increase awareness of the risk factors leading to these collisions, and to learn what steps can be taken to avoid them. The training program will include a “Train the Trainer” component, a safety session for staff, and safety literature and information for Aquila offices.

“Aquila Networks Canada is to be congratulated on its commitment to safety and education for its staff,” says Gayle Hesse, WVAPP Program Coordinator. “Their donation will enable WVAPP to carry out other much needed public education.”

WVAPP welcomes all contributions from corporate citizens to support its public education and awareness programs which promote human and wildlife safety throughout British Columbia and Alberta.

The Wildlife-Vehicle Accident Prevention Program reminds drivers that spring is a high-risk time for wildlife-vehicle collisions. Wildlife are attracted to roadsides in the spring for several reasons. Residual roadside salt deposits, left after snowmelt, attract wildlife to the roadside. Also, early vegetation growth in roadside ditches leads to an increased wildlife presence near the road.

WVAPP “Hints for the Highway” while driving this spring are:

- Slow Down and obey all posted signs – collision avoidance is improved at lower speeds.
- Drive Defensively – watch out between dusk and dawn.
- Be Alert – animals are unpredictable, often travel in groups, and may bolt unexpectedly.
- Use Your Vehicle – clean your headlights, use your high beams when safe to do so, and always wear your seatbelt.

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**For more information, please contact:
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