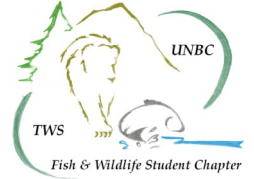




Unable to make it in person? Watch the colloquium at your computer! For Elluminate information and link to the webcast:  
[http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi\\_webcast.html](http://www.unbc.ca/nres/nresi_webcast.html) Log in as "Guest"



**SPECIAL RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM**  
sponsored by *UNBC Fish & Wildlife Student Chapter of TWS*  
*in recognition of Dr. Ian McTaggart Cowan's 100th Birthday*

**Tuesday**  
**Mar. 30, 2010**

**7:00 pm**

**LECTURE THEATRE**

**7 - 212**

**Dr. Valerius Geist**  
Professor Emeritus of Environmental Science  
Faculty of Environmental Design  
University of Calgary



## Canadian Wildlife: Where to?

The history of wildlife conservation in the West is long and deeply troubled. Normally, wildlife was the possession of the ruling elite subject to conspicuous consumption, and maintained brazenly and ruthlessly against the interest of common people. It was a universal symbol of the hated elite and was destroyed in rebellions and uprisings. The link of wildlife and elitism, despite dedicated efforts to change such in modern times in Europe, has never entirely succeeded. This makes the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation the more remarkable. It arose about a century ago out of the sorry consequences of letting Garret Harding's Tragedy of the Commons run its full course, virtually destroying wildlife continent wide. A white collared elite from Canada and the United States joined hands to rescue wildlife, and succeeded in that task via a unique system of wildlife conservation. It is so unique and so successful that it has been proposed for global application. This system and our wildlife have been attacked, however, by various groups and the question is now if this model will survive, or whether wildlife will revert to private ownership to be ruthlessly exploited by a segment of our elite for its pleasure, frivolous pleasures, I might add, by an elite that believes in entitlement. A number of dangers come from people of infinite good will but myopic policies. There are also severe dangers in the success of the North American Model, especially to public health. Much is in need of re-examination, a prerequisite to any effort to plan a rational future for wildlife.