



# THE BELL REPORT

North American Edition

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## Lyons outsmarts bait station bashers with PROTECTA EVO CIRCUIT

**W**eekend revelers at the boat bars and restaurants along the popular Rhone docks in Lyons, France, had taken up a new, urban sport that was frustrating the city's pest control technicians - bait station bashing.

From Thursday to Sunday morning, late-night party-goers would stomp on and crush the small, black boxes that lined the docks.

With more than half the bait stations needing replacement every weekend, the antics not only cost the city considerable money in lost bait stations and extra labor-hours, but put children and pets at high risk to exposed rodent bait.

Searching for a solution, Claude Bontemps, manager of Lyons' Pest Control Department, decided to test PROTECTA EVO CIRCUIT, Bell Laboratories' new bait station that looks

more like a utility box than a bait station.

The EVO CIRCUIT, which meets the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Tier 1 requirements for dog and child resistance, is both sturdy and discreet. Plus, Bontemps hoped its electrical-looking design would discourage vandals.

In June, Bontemps and his three technicians, working with Arnaud del Valle, Bell Laboratories' southern European manager, and Alexandre Maury, sales manager for Bell's French pest control distributor, Edialux, set up EVO CIRCUITS in highly visible locations on the docks. For comparison, they left the bait stations the city had been using in place.

Over the next three months, city technicians monitored rodent activity and bait consump-

*Continued on back page*



PROTECTA EVO CIRCUIT, with its attachable connectors, blends discreetly into sensitive baiting locations.





# GWAII HAANAS

## *Night Birds Returning*

**B**ell Laboratories' pelleted conservation bait rained down on two islands off the coast of British Columbia in Western Canada in September as our northern neighbor embarked on its first aerial bait drop to eradicate invasive rats from select islands in the Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve and Haida Heritage Site.

Known as the Galápagos of the North, the 150-plus islands in the Haida Gwaii archipelago, like the Galápagos Islands of Ecuador, are suffering from a fate all too familiar on islands around the world: unbridled rat activity which is devastating to once-thriving seabird colonies.

Rats, which arrived aboard ships traveling from Europe to western North America in the 1700's, are now, along with other invasive species, the No. 1 threat to Haida Gwaii's ecosystem. With their voracious appetites, invasive Norway and black rats devour the eggs and chicks of defenseless seabirds.

Of particular concern to Canadian conservationists is the Ancient Murrelet, a bird that makes its nests by burrowing underground, beneath the roots and moss of the old-growth forests. With half of its global population breeding only in Haida Gwaii, the Ancient Murrelet is now considered a Species-at-Risk in Canada due to rats attacking adults, chicks and eggs in its nesting burrows.



“Bell Labs provided critical support in bait, packaging and logistics for shipping, as well as working with Parks Canada on the registration process in Canada.”

— LAURIE WEIN



Bell's Craig Riekens (l) got a firsthand look at the project. Read his comments at [www.belllabs.com](http://www.belllabs.com)

### *Night Birds Returning*

To restore nesting seabird habitat and the associated health of the ecosystem, Parks Canada and the Haida Nation, along with partners Coastal Conservation and California-based Island Conservation, in 2009 launched *Night Birds Returning*, a five-year, \$2.5-million program that includes eradicating non-native

rats from four ecologically and culturally sensitive islands within Gwaii Haanas.

September's aerial bait drop, the second phase of the project, aimed to eradicate rats that have overrun the 400-ha Murchison Island and 316-ha Faraday Island.

With clear skies, minimal wind, and perfect weather over subsequent days, the first aerial bait drop on September 6 and 7 covered the two islands with approximately 18 tons of Bell's 1/2-inch bait pellets. By mid-September with storm season approaching, the team waited as long as they could between bait drops and, on September 25, applied a second round of bait, bringing the total to 28 tons.

“It was good that we proceeded when we did with the second drop,” noted Parks Canada project director, Laurie Wein. “A significant storm hit two days later with high winds and big seas.”

Wein credits the successful operation to “two solid years of exhaustive planning, drawing on global expertise from New Zealand, the USA and Mexico.

“We conducted detailed rat eradication trials, using Bell's non-toxic bait, on similar islands the year prior to determine if the technique would work on Haida Gwaii and what an appropriate bait application rate for these islands would be,” she explained.

“The project is one of a few rat eradica-





PHOTOS BY PARKS CANADA



One of a few rat eradications completed on forested islands globally, *Night Birds Returning* aims to restore the islands' ecosystems, providing safe nesting for birds, such as the Ancient Murrelet (right).

tions completed on forested islands globally.”

A first for Canada, aerial eradication is a technique successfully employed on numerous islands around the world (see past Bell Report articles). With a specially equipped helicopter broadcasting pelleted bait from a spinning hopper, aerial application is a more practical approach than hand baiting islands the size of Faraday and Murchison to guarantee 100 percent kill of its estimated hundreds of thousands of rats.

However, in the ground-based Phase I of the project, begun in August 2011, Parks Canada workers hand baited two smaller islands: the isolated 10-ha island of Arichika and a 95-ha group called the Bischof Islands.



Weather conditions were ideal for the first aerial rat eradication in Canada.

Setting up a 50-meter grid of bait stations, the intrepid, mainly female crew baited and monitored stations, noting bait intake and making adjustments, and collecting dead rats. Using infrared motion camera photographs, they also checked rat acceptance of bait and, when needed, added a bit of anchovy oil to entice a reluctant eater.

### Murchison and Faraday Monitoring

Monitoring on Murchison and Faraday Islands, which started in 2009 as part of a long-term park preserve-wide monitoring program to track ecosystem health over time, will continue for several years to determine how native species are responding.

Gwaii Haanas National Park Reserve is cooperatively managed by the government of Canada and the Haida Nation, the First Nation's Peoples whose traditional territory comprises the Haida Gwaii islands.

“With invasive species the number one threat to the ecological integrity of the island ecosystem, the Haida Nation are a partner of Parks Canada in this work and are supportive of restoring these islands for their ecological values but also their cultural significance,” Wein explained. “The seabirds that once nested on these islands play an important cultural role in Haida song, dance and culture.”

Parks Canada and the Haida Nation celebrated their 20th anniversary of cooperative management in 2013.

“This project is one of several conservation success stories of this long-standing relationship,” Wein added. ■



## Bell's tower display connects at PestWorld

Towering 16 feet in the air, Bell's new display was a sure draw for attendees at PestWorld 2013 in Phoenix, Ariz., on October 22-25, where this year's theme was *Making Connections/Finding Answers/Increasing Profits*.

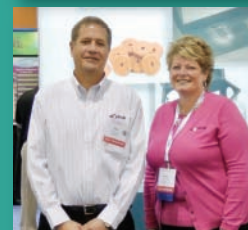
The tall, streamlined tower, flanked by shorter corner display units, gave Bell representatives and visitors to the booth plenty of space to put the convention's theme into practice. With Bell products prominently displayed, each with its own home, Bell representatives fielded questions about product features and uses, particularly for new products, such as FINAL Soft Bait and PROTECTA EVO bait stations.

“Everyone was excited about the new booth. We had great feedback,” noted Bell's product manager, Kate Mella, who spearheaded the new look.

Kicking off the National Pest Management Association event, Bell sponsored the well-attended president's leadership reception.

On the tradeshow floor, Bell representatives were busy meeting with customers and technicians. Bell's international manager, Tino Panetta, flew to the U.S. for the event, meeting with international customers from several European countries.

PestWorld 2014 will be in Orlando, Fla., with Bell marking its 40th year in business. ■



Above, Bell representatives Jeremy Davis with Steve Sullivan. Dan De Poli with Sheila Haddad.

## Bell unveils updated Product Guide with new MSDS & Label Guide

**B**ell Laboratories' new 2013-2014 Rodent Control Product Guide and an accompanying MSDS & Label Guide are now available through Bell distributors and technical sales representatives.

New this year, Bell compiled Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS) and product labels for its rodenticides into a separate 28-page MSDS & Label Guide, a time-saving tool for technicians in the field.

Labels and MSDSs can also be digitally downloaded from Bell's website at [www.belllabs.com](http://www.belllabs.com).

Released in October at PestWorld 2013 in Phoenix, Ariz., the 20-page Product Guide is a comprehensive catalog of Bell's full line of rodenticides, bait stations, mechanical traps and glue traps.

Product pages feature full-color photos, along with bulleted product features, packaging info, product code/dimensions and EPA registration numbers for rodenticides.

For easy referencing, product pages are organized with colored tabs according to product type.

Also handy are the two 2-page reference



guides. The rodenticide guide gives an at-a-glance listing of Bell's 15 rodenticides with active ingredient, product features, uses and other useful information. The guide to Bell's bait stations, traps & accessories highlights product features and uses.

Contact your Bell distributor or technical sales representative to obtain copies. ■



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## EVO CIRCUIT *Continued from page 1*

tion. At the end of the tourist season in mid-September, the group reconvened at the docks to see how the CIRCUITs fared.

While the city's original bait stations had been kicked in with bait exposed, the CIRCUIT Bait Stations, which fit naturally into the environment, were undamaged and intact.

"There is no more damage on bait stations using CIRCUIT in this very difficult area," Bontemps reported. "Thanks to CIRCUIT, we haven't faced any risk for three months in the boat/bar area, actually not the case with the other bait stations in this area."

"CIRCUIT is the only solution to compete against damages on bait stations and risk for

non-targeted species' exposure."

Bontemps is so pleased with the results of the CIRCUIT trials that he is sharing Lyons' experience with other European cities.

"It's nice to know that, thanks to this pilot project with us, Bell is doing the same in Verona, Roma and Madrid," he told del Valle, who is setting up similar CIRCUIT trials in other cities with highly sensitive tourist areas where baiting needs to be secured and discreet.

"By investing in high quality bait stations more suited to the location, the city of Lyons now gets better results without having to replace bait stations every week, which saves the city money," del Valle added. ■



City of Lyons pest control technicians secured EVO CIRCUIT Bait Stations in rodent "hot spots" in the city's popular tourist areas.