

## Wayne Selewski - Steward

### ***"Stewards Conserve, Restore, and Protect"***

This is a perfect description of Wayne Selewski, Volunteer Vanderhoof's nominee for Earth Day Canada's Hometown Hero. Wayne was a top three finalist for the prestigious award, a huge honour in environmental circles in Canada.

Wayne sees himself as part of the 'grey to green' generation: recently retired from a career in forestry and fire management, Wayne is busier than ever in Vanderhoof with various stewardship projects.

Wayne is the leader on the Murray Creek Rehabilitation project. His vision for the project came to him 25 years ago when his children couldn't catch a rainbow trout in the creek; at that time, Wayne knew something was wrong and committed to do something about it. The project is focussed on improving land and agriculture management practices and undertaking stream restoration in the Murray Creek watershed, a small watershed that is a tributary to the Nechako River.

The Murray Creek project is the first visible program in this region to introduce water stewardship needs and practices to the agricultural community. It is demonstrating that stewardship practices are not onerous because of time and expense but rather an important program that will continue to give this industry the social license to operate on the land base. This project has engaged community politicians and leaders, creating opportunities for discussion at public gatherings as this idea is advanced to include adjacent streams and watersheds.



Wayne has led a number of projects that involve local school students including the Nest Box Project for Birds, Salmonoids in the Classroom, an archery program, the Murray creek stream rehab project and the White Sturgeon Recovery Program.

Wayne was instrumental in creating working partnerships with government agencies, universities and organizations like the Fraser Basin Council that are united in moving forward these types of programs because of his success with Murray Creek.

Recently Ducks Unlimited partnered with Vanderhoof Fish and Game Club, with Wayne as the project leader, to purchase the Redmond Pit Wetlands, west of Vanderhoof. He wants these partnerships to continue and sees the opportunity to do further work in wetland areas including those adjacent to McLeod and NVSS. He would like to build teaching and viewing platforms in this wetland area. The School District Board has expressed its appreciation for Wayne's work and dedication in making so many "hands on" learning experiences happen for district students.

As a director of the BC Wildlife Federation, Wayne is the provincial Chair of the Enbridge file for BCWF and spokesperson regarding the Enbridge Pipeline project. His passion for protecting the environment was evident when he spoke at the panel sessions for consultation on the northern pipeline project stating "We have concerns about the ability to move this oil across this province and up and down our coastline and want to state that we will not accept one spill or accident that damages the heritage for our children. We've all seen how quickly these events change our environment and it's simply not acceptable".

"I'm very proud to be a British Columbian, I'm very proud of the environment that we have and I'm very proud of the heritage that we have in this province".

Vanderhoof agrees with you Wayne. Congratulations – you are truly our Home Town Hero!