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**Alberta Wilderness Association**

AWA celebrated its 53rd year this evening with the Wilderness and Wildlife Trust Lecture, and the presentation of Wilderness Defender and Great Gray Owl Awards. The conclusion of 2018 marks the end of another successful year made possible by long standing members, supporters and volunteers.

## **AWA's Martha Kostuch Annual Wilderness and Wildlife Lecture**

AWA's Martha Kostuch Annual Wilderness and Wildlife Lecture is an opportunity to present the ideas of researchers in a field related to the conservation of wilderness, wildlife, and wildwaters. The lecture was named after Martha to honour her legacy and memory. The annual lectures explore new directions and concepts to increase the effectiveness of conservation efforts, and hopes to promote the consensus-based style of decision making that Martha championed. For Martha, the process is capable of bringing together groups that might not have traditionally collaborated.

This year's annual lecture featured Dr. Michael Sullivan who challenged some of our hopes and ideals, and offered a vision for the future for native trout and trout streams in Alberta's east slopes.

## **2018 Wilderness Defenders Award Winners**

**Wendy Ryan**

Growing up on the land and learning to care for animals at a young age set the foundation for Wendy Ryan's



conservation values and inspired her to be a dedicated steward for Alberta's wilderness. For more than 40 years, Wendy has devoted endless amounts of time and energy to improve Alberta's wildspaces. She also was an important force in formally protecting the Castle wilderness.

This year AWA acknowledged and celebrated Wendy's tremendous efforts as an educator and advocate for the responsible use and management of Alberta's wildspaces. Her tireless stewardship continues to encourage the next generation to become active agents of change in conserving Alberta's bountiful wilderness.

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## Dave Mayhood



Dave Mayhood began his career as an aquatic ecologist studying and conducting fieldwork in some of the most remote and serene landscapes on earth. Dave's appreciation for these opportunities motivated him to help protect and conserve Alberta's wilderness. He has donated his time, knowledge, and experience to help many environmental groups, including AWA, in their conservation and education campaigns.

Echoing what First Nations have known for so long, Dave emphasizes humanity's need for wilderness. As both an activist and a researcher he strives to ensure that scientific truths guide public policy.

AWA was honored to add Dave as another distinguished

recipient of AWA's Wilderness Defender Award.

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## 2018 Great Gray Owl Award Winners

### George Campbell

This year AWA presented George Campbell with the Great Gray Owl Award as a way to pay tribute to his wonderful and dedicated volunteer work.

Throughout the years, George has supported AWA and promotes the importance of Alberta's wilderness and conservation by means of the Music for the Wild and Climb for Wilderness events. George's musical passion and talent continues to create a delightful atmosphere that engages individuals to have a more profound respect for the environment and highlights the important work of the ENGO community in contributing to the protection of Alberta's wilderness.



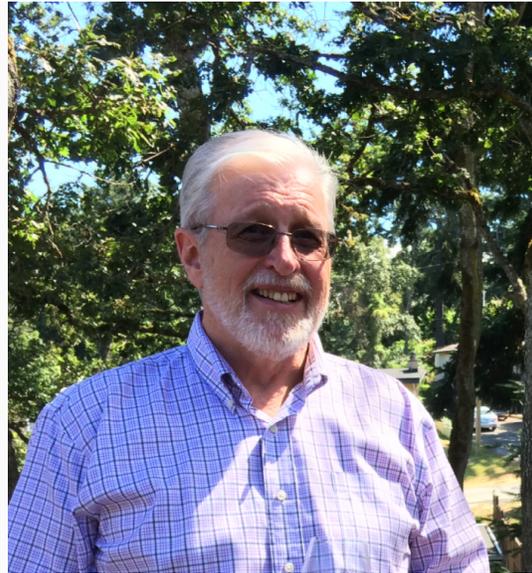
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### Murray Little

After a successful career in Alberta's oil and gas industry and as a consultant, Saskatchewan native Murray Little began channeling his talent and love for music to help many demographics across Calgary's community; he has had a profound impact on many lives.

Murray's friendship with fellow musician and AWA member George Campbell spurred an immediate connection with AWA's work, and he has been an essential part of many fundraising and advocacy campaigns.

AWA recognized the untiring and dedicated support of Murray Little, and George Campbell with Great Gray Owl Awards at this year's Annual Lecture.



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