Gary Murdoch (1944-2007)

Gary Murdoch was a dedicated club builder, coach and wax technician who had a significant influence on the development of cross country skiing in British Columbia.

Gary was a founding member of the Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club in Smithers where he played a key role in the establishment and development of the club, cross country ski programming in local schools, the Jackrabbit program, club facilities and the club junior racing team.

Under his leadership the Bulkley Valley Cross Country Ski Club first won the BC Championship Club Trophy in 1991. In the years that followed the club went on to win the trophy an additional seven times. During the same period he coached his club/team to be the top ranked club at the 1993, 1994 and 1995 National Junior Championships – a remarkable accomplishment for a small community in northern BC (population 5000). Between 1991 and 1997 the club won a total of twenty-seven individual medals and five aggregate age category championships (1st place aggregates) at the National Championships.

One of his athletes was Graham Maclean, two-time winner of a national championship aggregate award. Graham spent a number of years as a wax technician and technical support specialist with the National Ski Team before joining Cross Country BC's coaching ranks in 2010.

For many years Gary provided coaching and wax technician support to the BC Ski Team at provincial training camps and national-level competitions.

In addition to the above Gary was a committed National Coaching Certification Program (NCCP) course conductor and mentor of developing coaches. From 1997 to 2005 he delivered 17 courses in communities throughout the north – Smithers, Houston, Burns Lake, Vanderhoof, Prince George and Quesnel. To date five of his athletes have become NCCP course conductors as well.