

February 11, 2010

**IRWA Prairie Chapter 48
P.O. Box 20238
Calgary, AB T2P 4L2**

Attention: Mr. Brodie Allen, Chapter 48 President

Dear Brodie,

I am both humbled and honoured to have been selected as the recipient of the Jerry Stuart 2009 Right of Way Professional of the Year Award. I wish to thank the IRWA Chapter Selection Committee for recognizing my years of involvement with the organization.

When Brodie Allen asked me to attend the January luncheon, I was half expecting to be asked to once again resurrect the hardcopy version of the Newslite or maybe there had been an error at the 2009 IRWA Chapter 48 Golf Tournament and after a count back, I was the actual winner of the low net trophy. So I was certainly surprised and pleased to be the recipient of such an award.

One of the questions I had after receiving the award was "who is Jerry Stuart?". After doing some research, I was able to find an article, recently published by Chapter 62, stating that Gerry Stuart was "instrumental in bringing the American Right of Way Association to western Canada back in 1968. At that time, all of Canada was Region 8." The article goes on to mention that "The Tri City Chapter 48 was originally set up on April 16, 1968...in Edmonton. It had been organized to include Regina, Calgary and Edmonton with affiliate individual members in British Columbia." The current Prairie Chapter 48 was formed in 1972 with Gerry Stuart listed as a member of the Executive.

Another interesting tidbit I discovered during my research was that Charles H. Weir of Stewart, Weir, Stewart & Watson Co. became a 2 year Director of Chapter 62 in 1975.

It has been a pleasure and rewarding volunteering for Chapter 48 & I look forward to many more years of working with the Chapter 48 members.

Sincerely,



Barry Bleay