



VIREB

VANCOUVER ISLAND REAL ESTATE BOARD

AN ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 28, 2007



Stewart honoured as VIREB REALTOR® of the Year

NANAIMO/PARKSVILLE – Jim Stewart was named REALTOR® of the Year, at the Annual General Meeting of the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board (VIREB) February 23rd at the Parksville Community & Conference Centre.

“I was totally surprised and very touched. I had no idea,” Stewart says.

The prestigious award was presented to Stewart because of his outstanding service to VIREB and the real estate industry, his leadership and community service role in his own community, and by his actions helping to enhance the image of all REALTORS®.

In being introduced, Stewart was described as the very *epitome* of a “behind the scenes” person, a true community builder. He has been a REALTOR® and member of the Vancouver Island Real Estate Board since 1993/4 in Zone 4 (Nanaimo) and is currently a Board Director.

“It really is an honour to be recognized by your peers. It’s gratifying, because it says that all of your hardwork really does make a difference to the community. And for my wife Cathie to be there and share in this surprise shows what a classy organization I am involved with.”

VIREB have been presenting their premier award since 1976. Recipients of the REALTOR® of the Year have all helped to raise the level and quality of service to the membership, setting new professional standards for the industry, and escalating the calibre of REALTOR® community service.

“We’re fortunate to be involved in a terrific industry that rewards us very well, and I don’t mean just financially,” he says. “It’s the people. It’s the community.

“I believe we have an obligation to give back. I consider part of success to be the big picture stuff, giving back to your community, to your Board, and to your provincial and national associations,” Stewart explains.

Stewart has been very active with the Government Relations Committee with both VIREB and the BC Real Estate Association (BCREA). He is currently Chair of VIREB’s Government Relations portfolio, and sits on the GRC Committee of BCREA.

In recent years, he has spent hours revamping BCREA’s Government Liaison days format in Victoria, he continues to push for incorporation for REALTORS®, and he volunteered for the last 2 years on BCREA’s BC Assessment Task Force.

Stewart is the Regional Director, North Island for the BC Liberal Party and ran in the Nanaimo-Alberni federal riding in the last election.

He has also been involved in fundraising and organizing for regional MLA campaigns for Judith Reid, Mike Hunter and Ron Cantelon.

Stewart is also a Past President of the Nanaimo Hornets Rugby Football Club.

As a father and recently a grandfather, he has a message for young REALTORS® starting out.

“Start volunteering. Give back to your community. Remember VIREB is your organization and being involved in the various VIREB committees is a great way to see how things work,” he says.

VIREB represents approximately 1,100 licensed REALTOR® members in more than 84 member offices on Vancouver Island (north of Victoria).

REALTOR® is a trademark identifying real estate professionals who are members of the Canadian Real Estate Association (CREA). REALTORS® subscribe to a Code of Ethics and Standards of Business Practices as set out by CREA. MLS® is a cooperative marketing system used by Canada’s real estate boards.

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