

PRAIRIE CANADA CARVERS' ASSOCIATION



Saskatchewan Carving Supply Business Receives National Award

March 29, 2010: The Prairie Canada Carvers' Association announced that Cam Merkle Woodcarving of Martensville, Saskatchewan received the *Carver's Award of Excellence* for excellence and achievement in promoting and engendering the art of carving in North America. Cam Merkle received the award at the Association's 23rd annual awards banquet March 27 at Canad Inns Polo Park in Winnipeg.

"Cam Merkle's service to the North American carving community is exemplary and worthy of recognition," said Ted Muir, President of the Prairie Canada Carvers' Association. The one-of-a-kind bronze sculpture presented to Cam was crafted by acclaimed wildlife artist Peter Sawatzky of Glenboro, Manitoba.

Cam Merkle started Razertip Industries in his home in 1984 with the manufacturing of specialty woodburning units. He quickly captured a niche market for quality burners and grew his business to include a raft of carving and artists mail order supplies which are now shipped around the world. In 1999 the business moved to a new building in Martensville that features a design and production area, business office and classrooms. A new addition to be completed in May will include an expanded showroom and a gallery for showcasing customer's artwork. Cam Merkle Woodcarving is ever expanding and developing new products such as a dust collector system marketed as Razaire 530. The business currently employs nine people

Cam has been a staunch supporter of carving competitions. He sponsors over 50 events across the continent and teaches and judges at competitions as time permits. While developing his business he taught classes at Wood n' Works in Saskatoon, in Hinton-Alberta, Red Deer College- Alberta, the Shuswap School of Woodworking in Sorrento British Columbia and the Saskatchewan River Valley Art School.

He founded the Saskatchewan Wildlife Art Association Inc. in 1986 and was a founding committee member of Saskatoon Reflections of Nature- western Canada's largest wildlife art show and competition. Cam currently sits as an executive member on the Saskatchewan River Valley Art School which was founded in 2008. Cam is an accomplished entrepreneur, carving tool inventor and bird carver. He is the only Saskatchewan carver to place at the World Division of the Ward World Championships, capturing a second in the world decorative miniatures in 2009. His legacy to the carving community has been described by a group of his peers as immeasurable. Cam lives in Martensville with his wife Lori on 80 acres that they have designated as protected wildlife habitat through the Saskatchewan Watershed Authority.