



That summer morning was bright and warm as Allen secretly watched his father, Steve Sawchuk, moving machinery on the family farm. He was not to ride the ATV. As a precaution, his father removed the spark plug cable, placed it in his pocket, and went to town for the day. However, Allen, curious and inventive, noted this key maneuver.

With his father safely out of range, Allen found a wire, a large roll of black tape and proceeded to reconnect the critical points. This was no easy task as his 8-yr old hands were considerably smaller than the pliers and tape, but he was determined. A few pulls and he was away! He drove all afternoon, checking the moisture in the dirt and crops in the same manner as his father. Later, he returned the ATV to its spot – almost. Upon returning, his father noticed it was not parked where he had left it. Watching from a distance, Allen saw his father place his hand on the engine to confirm whether it had been run; he recoiled at the burn. "ALLEN, did you run this?!"

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Nervous, Allen confessed and - awaiting the inevitable - was surprised when his father patted his back, "Smart kid!" *This marked a turning point for Allen and he would test his father's patience several times throughout his growing years.*

Steve Sawchuk demonstrated principled leadership and fairness. His example inspired Allen to follow his entrepreneurial spirit, and led to establishing **PRO ENERGY**, now celebrating its 10<sup>th</sup> successful year.

In November 2009, at 89, Allen's father suffered a stroke, and with the swift response of STARS, was airlifted to Grande Prairie. He spent time in hospital and is recovering. When Allen discovered that STARS was founded by Alberta entrepreneur, Dr. Greg Powell, he was impressed. He recognized the leadership and values his father demonstrated.

**This introduction to STARS, its rural roots, and moved by gratitude for rescuing his father, Allen decided to make PRO ENERGY a very proud STARS supporter!**