



left: Brian Woltski

Potter property showcases EnCana-Ducks partnership

JIM POTTER IS A MAN OF ACTION. DURING A TOUR OF THE WETLANDS on his property in early September, Potter slid into a pair of waders and stepped knee-high into one of the wetlands to demonstrate the workings of a nest tunnel to the 30 or so guests gathered to celebrate

EnCana Corporation's \$1 million donation to Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC).

Potter's property is located within DUC's Pine Lake priority area in central Alberta and was an ideal backdrop for the event as it gave guests a 360-degree view of the healthy and vibrant wetland landscape that Potter and his wife Bonnie have recently signed on as a conservation easement (CE). EnCana's donation funded the Potter CE in addition to projects in Buffalo Lake and Pine Lake in Alberta, northeastern British Columbia and the western boreal forest.

"Bonnie and I have committed to preserving this chunk of natural habitat for 'as long as the sun shines and the river flows'," says Potter. "Hopefully this conservation easement will achieve that goal."

Conservation easements are voluntary legal agreements between a landowner and a government or qualified conservation organization, such as DUC, to conserve the property's natural values and features



Above (left to right): alongside a duck nest tunnel, DUC president Neil Downey, Alberta landowner Jim Potter and Michael Forgo, vice-president of business services for EnCana's Canadian Foothills Division get their feet wet during a September event honouring EnCana's \$1 million donation to DUC.

in perpetuity. The Potters' CE covers 138 acres of premiere waterfowl habitat, featuring a range of diverse wetlands coupled with both intact native and naturalized uplands.

Potter's interest in the property began more than 50 years ago. He walked by the property as a young boy thinking to himself, "what a fine place for a house." He admits it was an odd thought for a 10-year-old boy, but one that stuck with him. When the property came up for sale in 1984, the Potters snatched it up.

Building their home overlooking a bay in one of the property's many wetlands, the Potters made great efforts to ensure the building of their home disturbed as little natural area as possible, a decision that goldeneyes, buffleheads, Cooper's hawks and northern saw-whet owls have benefited from. Deer also wander the property. This is nature that the Potters have enjoyed for decades. Together with the conservation easement and the funding of the DUC and EnCana partnership, the habitat of the area will remain intact forever.

"Most of all, I have great satisfaction in knowing that, if my toes should turn up tomorrow, we have helped to preserve what few people have the opportunity to do," says Jim Potter. "In so doing, we have succeeded in putting back instead of taking."