

# North Bay goes to the dogs!

THE 22ND ANNUAL NATIONAL AMATEUR Retriever Championship was hosted by the North Bay and District Retriever Training Club in North Bay, Ont., in July.

In these competitions, dogs run through a series of 10 tests, challenging their natural and handling abilities in events in water and on dry land. Taking home top honours at this year's week-long event was FTCH AFTCH Flatlands Sledgehammer, owned and handled by Connie Swanson of Melbourne, Ont.

"This year's event went very well," says Dona Martin, communications director for the National Retriever Club of Canada, adding that the number of contestants was up this year. "The judges were very experienced and because of the heat they were cognizant of the stresses on the dogs. The tests were not as long as in previous years



**Left to right: Bill and Connie Swanson, with judges Barry Grundy, Dawne McKenzie and Gerry Pozzebon.**

because of the hot and humid weather, but were still very demanding."

Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) is a proud sponsor of this event, as well as the 2010 National Retriever Championship, which will take place in Merritt, B.C., Sept. 20-25.