



Ducks Unlimited Canada

Conservator

2010 WATERFOWLING HERITAGE ISSUE

Celebrating our
Waterfowling
Heritage

Carved in **History**

TRACING
WATERFOWLING
AND DECOYS
THROUGH TIME

Commitment to **Conservation**

ONE MAN'S DEDICATION
TO THE DUCKS

Montana Fishing Safari

GOOD FRIENDS, GREAT TALES
ON THE MISSOURI RIVER



Commitment to Conservation



Perry Meunier and his Labrador retriever Meka in the Long Point Waterfowl Unit blind for the physically challenged. Unit staff were accommodating to Meunier, giving him a ride to the blind and picking him up at the end of the day.

left: © Jeff Helsdon
canvasback © DUC



Perry Meunier is confined to a wheelchair, with no mobility in his legs and limited arm and hand use. But that hasn't kept the 43-year-old London, Ont., resident from getting out in the wetland areas he loves and doing his part for wetland conservation whenever he can. /// BY JEFF HELSDON

PERRY AND HIS TWIN BROTHER PAUL went through hunter safety training when they were 16. At the time, they lived in the country, in nearby Sparta. The teenage brothers quickly fell in love with duck hunting. Hunting became a lower priority when, on May 31, 1986, Perry suffered a C5, C6 spinal break during an altercation.

After the life-altering incident, Perry attended Fanshawe College's finance and accounting courses. He landed a job as a financial analyst at General Dynamics Land Systems of Canada in London, which manufactures light armoured vehicles. He still works there today.

But the seed that was planted in duck blinds as a teenager continued to grow. Perry found ways to overcome his barriers and, along the way, he became involved with Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC). Today, Meunier is chairman of the London committee and a dedicated DUC volunteer.

After the accident, friends made a brace for his wheelchair so he could shoot. He started deer hunting with a crossbow, but didn't initially go duck hunting.

"With duck hunting, there was too much swinging involved. I don't have the dexterity," he admits.

But, he did find his way back to the wetland. His former brother-in-law, Michael Walker, was on the DUC board of directors with Dr. Duncan Sinclair, an avid waterfowler and past DUC president. One thing led to another and the Meunier brothers were invited for a

shoot with Sinclair at the Turkey Point Company on Lake Erie.

Sinclair convinced Perry he could still enjoy time in the marsh, even if he couldn't shoot. "When I first met him (Perry) at a DUC dinner and he said how much he enjoyed hunting. I said, 'I think we should have you guys down to the club,'" Sinclair recalls. "They were so excited."

A little improvisation was needed to make things work. The traditional duck hunting boats used at the Turkey Point Company were not wheelchair accessible. Sinclair used marsh manager Ray Ferris's 22-foot fishing boat to get Perry into the hunting boat in his wheelchair.

"It was pretty hard to hide the boat in the reeds," Sinclair recalls. "We had a wonderful bluebill shoot though and got a couple of canvasbacks."

Perry's love of waterfowling quickly started to return.

"I was always fascinated with it," Perry says. "And it wasn't until Dunc took us that I saw what an organized hunt is like. Before, we would take out a few decoys, but we'd go 10 hunts without even getting a duck. Whereas, when we went out with Dunc he asked what kind of duck we wanted. Paul said 'Canvasbacks.' He took us to a spot and we had a couple of canvasbacks. That's when we really got more into waterfowl hunting."

That's also when Paul bought a boathouse at Long Point and the brothers bought a 21-foot steel hull boat and a layout boat, both built in the Long Point area.

"That's when we started learning the marsh. It was a lot of trial and error," says Perry.



Above: Perry and Meka relax in his home near Long Point, looking out the window at birds on his land.

SINCLAIR'S DETERMINATION TO HELP PERRY ENJOY waterfowling again also inspired the Meuniers to shift from DUC supporters to DUC volunteers. They saw DUC as a way of giving back.

"I don't think anybody was stepping up and our committee was looking like it was in trouble," Perry says. Longtime London committee member David Howes encouraged the Meuniers to become more involved as committee members. Perry's background in accounting was an asset he believed the London committee could use and he started as treasurer.

By his third year, Perry was committee chairman and has served in that position for six years.

Fellow committee member Bob Howes gives Perry credit for keeping the committee motivated and being active. And Ontario DUC fundraising manager Jerry Kwicinski concurs.

"Perry's always No. 1," says Kwicinski. "We hold all the meetings at his home. He always has a bottle of wine for the meetings. You can always bring your dog."

Beyond the local committee, DUC has become part of the Meuniers' lifestyle. Paul, Perry and Perry's girlfriend Aida Diodos attended their first national convention in Calgary in 2004.

"People were saying if you enjoy this convention, you should try the other ones," Perry says. "It was such a neat way to meet other volunteers with DUC."

Since Calgary, Perry and Aida have been to international conventions in Anchorage, Alaska, and Denver, Colorado. They are regulars at the Ontario convention and have plans for next year's DU International convention in Quebec City. "It's fun," Perry says. "The people we meet, it's addicting."

Asked about his greatest joy from being involved in DUC, Meunier does not hesitate.

"Educating people that have no idea what DUC is all about. I hear the same thing all the time that 'It's just all you hunters out killing ducks.' That's so far from reality," he says. "When they understand what DU is about, I enjoy explaining what a marsh is and describing how a wetland can filter water. They don't realize marshes act as a sponge or for flood control, filter drinking water and what goes into preserving and restoring a wetland. Being in Long Point and growing up in the country, I think you learn to appreciate the wetlands and how they really help out. We couldn't exist without them."

ALTHOUGH EDUCATING OTHERS ABOUT WETLANDS is a passion, Perry still enjoys spending time in a duck blind himself. I joined him and Paul for a hunt at the Long Point Waterfowl Unit last fall. Run by the Long Point Waterfowlers, the unit has public blinds for rent, including two handicap accessible blinds. Unit staff were accommodating to Perry, running him out to the blind in a John Deere Gator. The blind has a small ramp to allow wheelchair access.

It was one of those bluebird days in November more fit for late fall fishing than duck hunting. The temperature was pushing 10° Celsius and it was overcast as the Meuniers set up early in the afternoon.

Although the access was great, the situation wasn't ideal as far as cover was concerned. A few mallards came by to look at the spread of decoys Paul had put out, but they flared.

"The ducks could see us a mile away where we were sitting," Perry says. Always thinking, Perry saw improvements for the next time: hiding in some adjacent reeds that could better conceal him.

Perry doesn't shoot, but enjoys working his Labrador retriever Mika. In fact, the dogs are a big source of joy for both the Meuniers. The brothers became actively involved in the Middlesex Hunter Retriever Club and Michigan Hunter Retriever Club. They have travelled throughout Ontario and the eastern U.S. to hunting retriever trials.

Perry usually gets out waterfowl hunting about 10 times per year. Often, he and Paul go in the boat, but

sometimes use a rental blind. He also does some of the calling, but, "I find sometimes leaving the calls alone is better," referring to the call-wary ducks that every hunter encounters.

The Meuniers enjoy their hunting trips and the love of hunting and involvement in DUC has led them to often donate hunts to DUC dinners, Long Point Waterfowlers dinners and hunter retriever events under the name Duck Blind Outfitters.

Perry hasn't given up on hunting and is still trying to get that first deer with his Excalibur crossbow. He's had two good opportunities over the years with a deer in his sights, but it was on the edge of effective range for archery and he passed on the shot. He's also quite determined to shoot a turkey with his crossbow.

"I've been there when Paul's shot deer, turkeys, pheasants, ducks and geese," Perry says. "Being twins, I feel he's just an extension of my arms sometimes."

Perry can shoot a shotgun at still targets, and admits there are many times he likely could have hit a duck sitting on the water, but he chooses not to.

"I want to be out there and enjoy being in the marsh," he says. "I don't want to wound an animal if I can't get a clean kill. There are situations where I probably could. That's a small part of the hunt for me. I just enjoy being out there and enjoying nature at its finest moments."

That didn't stop him from purchasing a goose hunt with outfitter Dick Delaney that Sinclair donated at a recent Aylmer DUC banquet. Paul couldn't go, so Perry took a friend with him. Sinclair said it was a great hunt that Meunier experienced in a blind in the field.

THE MEUNIER'S SUPPORT OF CONSERVATION organizations isn't limited to DUC or hunting either. They attended the North American Duck Symposium in Toronto in 2009, support Bird Studies Canada, Delta Waterfowl and other conservation organizations. "He's a strong supporter of DUC and all conservation organizations," Sinclair says, noting he sees Perry at many other functions held by other organizations in the area.

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The conservation ethic even shows through in the Meuniers' lifestyle. They purchased property just north of Long Point 12 years ago and recently completed a weekend home there. The goal is to open the home as a bed and breakfast and offer sightseeing tours and fishing and hunting trips. It's not hard to tell it's the home of a conservationist, with prints from DUC dinners on the walls, decoys on the table and binoculars near the window to observe the wildlife. A deer archery target stands in the backyard. With a low spot on the property, the Meuniers decided to dig a pond to hold the water. Paul explains if everything goes well, they would like to purchase the farm acreage behind the home, dike it and convert it to a wetland.

"That's a lottery dream," Perry adds.

One of Perry's biggest concerns is the rate of wetland loss even with the work DUC is doing, mentioning the wetland destruction from Hurricane Katrina and the potential damage shaping up from the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico as examples.

The Meunier family originally hails from a small fishing village on Cape Breton Island in Nova Scotia. There, Perry saw first-hand the negative influence humans can have on the environment. He remembers seeing numerous clams and crabs as a child along the shoreline. During a visit two years ago, he noted the lack of sea life on the beach.

"I asked my aunt how come there were no crabs walking on the beach and she said they were all gone, from all the pollution," he explains. "That's one of the reasons why I think people need to be more actively involved in things like DUC." ✨

Perry and Paul Meunier look over the Turkey Point Marsh, which is part of the famed Long Point wetlands. An invitation to hunt the marsh from former DUC president Dr. Duncan Sinclair started Perry enjoying wetlands again after his accident and was a catalyst for his involvement with DUC.



Carved



Left: preening brant goose stick-up, circa 1915, carved by John Brooks (1879-1962) of Freeland, P.E.I. The head and neck were whittled from an appropriately shaped branch or root.

Pushed into the mud, goose "stick-up" decoys were effective lures. This one (right), from Manitoba's Interlake region, dates back to the 19th century.

Most waterfowlers use decoys. Some collect decoys, while others have an interest in their history, who made them, where and when, who owned and used them. Historically decoying, whether using live ducks and geese or man-made models, was driven by the need to improve chances of securing food by luring the quarry to the waiting hunter. /// BY DR. FRANK BALDWIN

BUT THE USE OF DECOYS WAS ONLY ONE of many practices wherever waterfowl were found. Long before guns, hunters relied on primitive weapons and other tools to secure waterfowl. Success, as always, depended on the ability of the user.

Hunters used special throwing sticks, stones – sometimes aided by a sling, arrows, and in places, multiple stone or metal projectiles propelled by a bow. Snares and nooses, even the bolas, a multi-thonged weighted throwing device, were used by the Inuit and others to take flying birds. All have in common the need for skill to achieve relatively meagre returns.

Where geese and ducks gathered to moult, their vulnerability when flightless enabled substantial numbers to be taken, often after being driven into enclosures. This method was traditionally used in the Arctic and northern Europe, but also in southern areas in earlier times. It's an ancient technique, still used nowadays to capture birds for banding, by driving them with vehicles, helicopters or even remote-controlled model boats.

Nets of various types were also widely used – simply strung across established flight lines, along creeks or across promontories, by Australian Aborigines and hunters in Scandinavia and Northern Europe. This method was also introduced by settlers for taking ducks for the market from Netley Marsh in early 20th-century Manitoba. Flight nets are still used for capturing shorebirds and other species for study.

Hunter-operated nets for taking fowl in the Nile Delta are depicted in Egyptian tombs of 4,000 years ago, a procedure also used in 17th-century Britain. The Greeks used wooden decoys to lure ducks into a netting tunnel as early as 450 BC. Similar devices using live birds as decoys were in use in 18th-century Europe.

The net has also been used to entrap birds on land. It's rigged above and released on to the quarry below, or placed under tension on one or both sides of the feeding area, and propelled to capture the unsuspecting fowl. A similar practice is used nowadays to catch waterfowl for banding, with the net propelled by gunpowder charges, or more recently by compressed air rocketry.

INGENUITY KNOWS NO BOUNDS. CAPTURING BY hand is a primitive yet effective means of taking ducks, traditionally used in parts of India. The scenario is a shallow marsh frequented by ducks, sometimes attracted by woven vegetation decoys. The hidden hunter waded into the water, submerged with only his head above water but covered with a hollow gourd or basket two to three feet in diameter. Watching through peepholes, the hunter stalked resting or feeding ducks, or waited until they came close. When they were within reach, he deftly pulled them under, one by one and hung the dead birds in the headpiece while moving forward to get more.

Traps enabled substantial hauls. Some devices could function continuously with little supervision. Some

used live bird decoys or lures, bait or other attractants which appealed to the inquisitive nature of ducks.

Perhaps the ultimate trap was the one the Dutch introduced to England in 1665 where it became known as a decoy. It was so successful at taking large numbers of ducks that more than 700 decoys became the principal source of mallard and teal for the market during the ensuing two centuries. As many as 15,000 might be taken by one trap in a season, operated by a decoy man and his trained tolling dog.

The decoy required a secluded pond to which ducks were naturally attracted to rest. If the pond was on private land, human interference was prevented, domestic animals excluded and predators controlled.

The pond was preferably fed by a stream to freshen the water. Three or four curved and covered channels from the pond ensured there was always sheltered water at the entrance to the decoy where ducks would gather. Their inquisitive nature attracted them to the antics of a small dog, trained to show itself fleetingly. The ducks followed as the dog trotted along the shoreline between screens set up down the decoy channel, sometimes hopping over small jumps. When ducks were deep in the covered channel, the decoy man showed himself behind them, whereupon they scuttled forward until reaching a capture net at the end of the channel.

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Neither bait nor live decoys were necessary. Decoy men maintained that "dead ducks tell no tales," and any risk of communication between tame and wild ducks was avoided using this technique.

In Canada, the first European explorers and settlers found waterfowling by native people well established. From the east coast westwards, First Nation hunters fashioned simple lures of available materials. The most basic lures were clumps of mud at the shallow marsh edge or on shore, sometimes with a stick added to represent head and neck, and feathers and wings to provide realism. Rocks, a small one atop the larger, served a similar purpose of deception. How often have hunters identified a flock of ducks on a distant slough or splash water, only to find rocks or sod? The hunter was duped as well as the ducks, which took to the air when alarmed.

The earliest documentation of floating decoys in Canada is from the 17th century, when east coast First Nations communities used waterfowl skins stuffed with grass. Fastened to a wooden base, they floated around the blind which concealed the hunter. This

The earliest documentation of floating decoys in Canada is from the 17th century, when east coast First Nations communities used waterfowl skins stuffed with grass.



Above (clockwise from top left): Immature drake canvasback decoy, circa 1909 by Frank Dolsen of Chatham, Ont.; brant goose by an unknown 19th-century carver from Baie des Chaleurs, Que. The colour of the decoy was achieved by charring; redhead decoy, circa 1950, by Duncan Ducharme of St. Ambrose, Man. Well known for Delta-style canvasbacks, he made only a few redheads; pintail by Harry S. Holloway of Westham Island, B.C. A carver of few birds, he made a rig of about 50 for his own use.

practice was used by some settlers more than 200 years later in eastern Quebec.

HARVESTING OF WATERFOWL FOR FOOD AND fibre by First Nation communities across the Americas was variable. The Mi'kmaq (Micmac) of the northeastern United States and Canada fashioned lures for Canada geese from bundles of seaweed placed on the spring ice, a chunk of which simulated the light breast, and a stick used as a head and neck. Goose stick-ups were made by winding eelgrass around a stick to represent a head. Pushed into mud or sand at an angle, it became an effective decoy. Added to a pile of seaweed, the appearance was even more lifelike. Making decoys from materials at hand continued well into the 20th century.

Appropriately shaped branches or roots were widely used to make stick-ups. Some were charred to give appropriate colour, the cheek patch depicted by scraping away the charcoal or by native paint, while some were used without any attempt at improving the appearance. Effective when pushed into the earth with the head above the grass, several gave the impression of a flock of birds. Such decoys were commonly used in the east as well as on the prairies.

On James Bay, the Cree added feathers and wings of snow geese to piles of mud to make effective lures, augmenting the rig with downed geese, a setup still in use on the Hudson Bay coast and the prairies. The woven decoys of the Cree of James Bay are well known.

In the Far North, Inuit hunters captured large numbers of moulting geese. In Manitoba, First Nation communities also used waterfowl for food but there is little documentation of the extent of their waterfowl hunting. The great number of small arrowheads found at fringes of small lakes and marshes in Manitoba are perhaps an indication of such activity. There were also immense populations of waterfowl elsewhere on the prairies but early settlers left no records of extensive waterfowling. Further west in B.C., the bounty of the ocean and land provided all the needs of native peoples and there appears to have been no tradition of waterfowl harvesting there.

Elsewhere in North America, waterfowl were harvested and lures were used as much as in parts of Canada. But the most notable finding did not come until 1924 when the Lovelock Cave in Nevada yielded handmade canvasback decoys. Made by the Tule Eaters tribe, they were constructed of bulrush stems bound by native cord which held in place white feathers on the body. The head and typical canvasback-shaped bill were made of tightly bound bulrush. Native paints coloured the head and neck red-brown and the bill and breast black. Carbon dating has placed their making 1,000 years earlier. These represent the earliest examples of handmade decoys, whose features seem to indicate their role as floaters. Also found were bulrush forms over

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which skins of various species were stretched. They were similar to grass-stuffed and mounted skins from along the Atlantic coast in the 17th century, a design which endured long after settlement.

IN NORTH AMERICA, THE HISTORY OF CARVED DECOYS is linked to the influx of settlers from Great Britain and Europe. In Canada, making and using them was established by the early 19th century, perhaps even earlier. Upon arrival in their new country, the settlers found abundant wetlands and immense numbers of waterfowl, available to all without restriction. In their homelands, conversion of marshes to cropland, underway for many decades, even centuries, had depleted habitat and waterfowl, and what remained was under private ownership. Waterfowling was nearly impossible for the masses unless they lived near coastal salt marshes and estuaries where tidewater fowling was possible.

To the settlers, the gun was the means of choice to make use of waterfowl as a food source, the art of wing shooting long established. There was little need for trapping on the grand scale or use of other methods widely practised for centuries elsewhere. The exception was simple wire enclosures placed in the shallows and baited, used in some places to trap ducks, the mechanism still preferred by researchers today to secure ducks for banding.

Wooden decoys were used as adjuncts to duck trapping in Europe, where they were first documented as early as 1653, but their use for luring waterfowl to the gun came much later and was not commonplace there even two centuries later.

While it is possible some settlers had prior knowledge of decoys, it is far more likely their initial encounters with lures, made and used successfully by First Nations people, stimulated the development of more lifelike decoys.

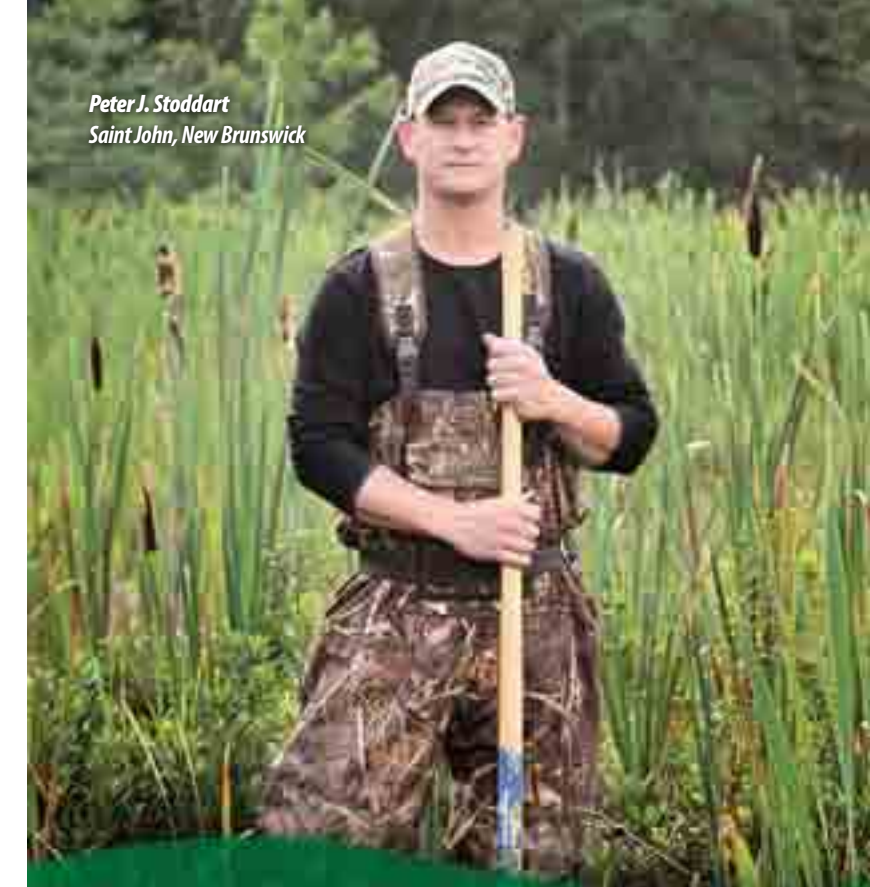
Among the flow of immigrants were artisans with various skills – fishermen, boat builders, farmers and many others with experience of using basic tools, abilities invaluable in their new environment as well as for making decoys. But the first priority was securing the food supply – and abundant waterfowl and other wildlife fulfilled that need.

EARLY DECOYS WERE MOSTLY OF SPECIES DESIRED, design and construction a reflection of conditions of use and availability of materials.

Sheltered marsh and protected coastal venues required decoys of less seaworthiness and strength than those used offshore on the ocean, lakes, wide rivers and estuaries, where rough conditions prevailed. Hunting on spring ice, field and shore required different kinds of decoys.

Floating decoys of ducks, geese and confidence birds

Peter J. Stoddart
Saint John, New Brunswick



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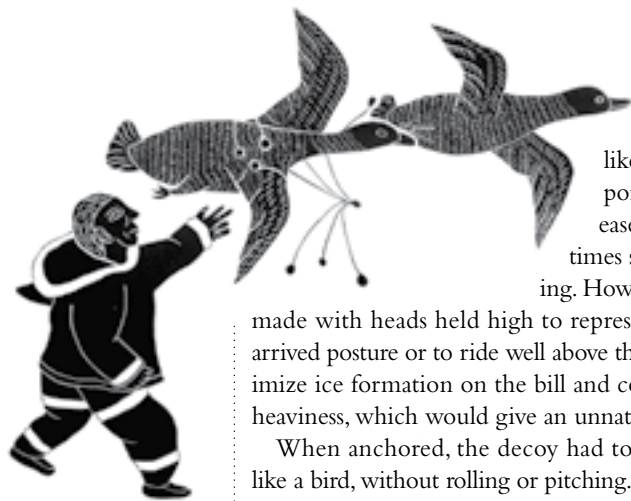
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Duck Hunt, a print by Ohovelok circa 1975, depicts a hunter using the bolas, a weighted throwing device, to capture birds in flight.

like gulls mostly portrayed them at ease, resting, sometimes sleeping or feeding. However, some were

made with heads held high to represent a recently arrived posture or to ride well above the water, to minimize ice formation on the bill and consequent head heaviness, which would give an unnatural appearance.

When anchored, the decoy had to ride the water like a bird, without rolling or pitching. The best decoys were flat-bottomed, weighted, often keeled to achieve stability and in some cases, self-righting. Where calm conditions prevailed a keel was often unnecessary.

The most effective decoys are shaped like the species they represent, plumage exhibited stylistically or, in some cases, carved in greater detail.

FROM THE MID-19TH CENTURY, FOR ABOUT 100 years, there were hundreds of decoy carvers in the Maritimes, Quebec and Ontario, often with different styles and interpretations. Some makers were influential in development and perpetuation of local or regional styles. Most carvers made their own rig, and their output numbered dozens or maybe a hundred or two. Some made many hundreds or even thousands. In British Columbia, decoy making only started at the end of the 19th century but a number of carvers produced outstanding decoys in the early 20th century, mostly for use on tidewater.

There were few Canadian decoy factories; the largest was the Peterborough Canoe Company in Ontario. In Montreal, the Robin Shoelast Factory made numerous decoys. In the U.S. there were a great many factories especially Mason, Dodge and Petersen in Detroit, and a collection of factories at Pascagoula, Mississippi. These factories made thousands of decoys. In Canada decoys

were widely available through catalogues. Eaton's sold thousands of Peterborough decoys, Miller-Morse of Winnipeg supplied Mason decoys and Ashdown's (also of Winnipeg) and the Hudson's Bay Company supplied a range of decoys.

Thus, the Canadian waterfowler could acquire a rig from many sources. In Manitoba there were only a few decoy carvers in the early to mid-20th century. Some individuals made their own rig. A small number made decoys for sale, some near Delta Marsh and Selkirk near the Netley-Libau Marsh. The majority of waterfowlers acquired decoys from the sources mentioned above but a few individuals and lodges with means were able to source them from carvers elsewhere, especially Ontario.

Beyond the marsh waterfowling of Manitoba, most hunting on the prairies was in grain fields or around potholes with little need for floating decoys in Saskatchewan or Alberta. Factory or homemade duck and goose silhouettes were widely used as were some factory-made fold-up lures. Many supplemented their mallard rig with pieces of black cloth or white cloth to depict snow geese.

Some used as field decoys Illinois River style fold-up duck and goose silhouettes mounted on a wooden frame. When I lived in Saskatchewan, I came across two large field rigs of mallards comprised entirely of Mason decoys and one field rig of Peterborough decoys – none of which had ever been in the water!

The extraordinary population of carvers in the U.S. and Canada produced decoys of waterfowl and other wetland species in great numbers. Of superlative quality, they occupy a unique place in folk history, unequalled anywhere.

Canadian carvers of the 19th and early 20th century produced a great many outstanding decoys, in some cases superior to all others. It is only in the last few decades that the true worth of their work, and place in decoy history, has been recognized. The recognition is long overdue. ✕



Why I duck hunt

BY TOD WRIGHT

- 1 For the whistling of unseen wings in the pre-dawn darkness...
- 2 For the *gronk* of a startled great blue heron...
- 3 For the first time I looked up into a Saskatchewan sky and saw an uncountable number of mallards, wings locked, descending into my decoys...
- 4 For all those fall memories that will warm me in the middle of winter...
- 5 And, for the wonderful sense of anticipation that builds within me and my friends each year for the fall...

These are some of the reasons why I hunt.

PEOPLE GIVE ME REASONS to hunt too. My father and uncle, who introduced me to duck hunting at a young age, lit the spark that turned into a lifelong passion. The next generation of waterfowlers whom I introduce to the marsh, as well as the old friends with whom I have shared a duck blind and who are no longer with me are also part of why I hunt. Duck hunting gives me the opportunity to experience the wild and beautiful places in Canada. Meeting Mother Nature and all her unpredictability head on: the driving rain, the decoy-shifting winds, the dead calm, the Indian summer, all fuel my awe

for nature. You earn a whole new respect for the elements when it is just you and a dog and a boat and they throw everything possible at you.

Hunting also allows me to honour and respect this wonderful waterfowl resource. By taking the bird, carefully preparing it for the table, cooking it so that it will be the focus of the meal, sharing the table with good friends, toasting the bird and the hunt with a glass of fine wine; by all of this I hope to give the bird and the hunt the respect they are due.

My hunting is a wonderful opportunity to share the hunt, the stories, the meals and the camaraderie of friends. Some of my

best friends are fellow hunters, even though we are together only for a few days each fall.

And if you really want to know why I hunt – more than anything – it's probably the opportunity to share a quiet place with a black dog and a few birds. ✕

TOD WRIGHT is a past-president of DUC who has been hunting waterfowl over 50 years. The highlight of Tod's year is two weeks spent in Saskatchewan with a dedicated group of waterfowlers and his black Lab. He is an amateur chef who specializes in the preparation of wild birds.



The call of the wild is really a cry.

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