



**Immediate release**  
July 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2009

### **Regina home designer to build unique earth-friendly cottage in just 3 days!**

Regina residential designer, John Robinson is embarking on one of his most challenging projects yet, with a unique team behind him.

The residential design specialist will build an earth friendly cottage - in just three days. And he'll build the cottage with a group of tradespeople from different, and sometimes competing, businesses, many of whom have never worked together before, much less in such a tight time frame. There will be also be a number of non-skilled volunteers on hand to help out with some of the less critical aspects of construction.

The build is being filmed by Zoot Pictures, as a pilot for a unique new 6 episode reality show entitled *Weekend Wonders*, which will feature a group of friends and workers who assemble an economical, environmentally friendly home or cottage in one long weekend. *Weekend Wonders* will follow the building of other similar cottages and homes across Canada.

The build will take place at Buffalo Pound Lake between July 29<sup>th</sup> – 31<sup>st</sup>, 2009. Construction will run non-stop between 7:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. - workers will eat in shifts ensuring building does not stop throughout the day.

“This is a really unique project from a number of perspectives. We're doing a really fast build. There aren't many homes that can go from basement to finished in just three days.

We're creating a very unique earth-friendly residence that will incorporate and show case a range of unique earth-friendly home products,” said John Robinson, President Robinson Residential Design.

Robinson said all agencies involved, are involved because the build will allow them to display unique and exciting products rarely used in a typical Regina home build.

“More and more companies are developing earth-friendly home building products that are both durable and freshly modern, but most homes are built with more traditional products. This build was intended to promote some of the more unique and exciting products available,” he said.

The Robinson cabin will incorporate:

- structural insulated panels (SIP) in walls and roof construction – increasing home energy efficiency, and reducing home owner energy costs;
- geothermal heating and cooling;
- geothermal assisted water heating;
- high energy efficient windows;
- 50-yr rubber/asphalt shingles;
- soy-based spray foam insulation for basement walls;
- compact fluorescent and LED lighting;
- reduced flow shower heads and faucets;
- decking containing a high percentage of recycled content;
- the use of VOC free paints and stains throughout the home;
- carpets that have a high recycled fibre content;
- window quilts to reduce summer heat gain and winter cooling;
- rainwater harvesting for domestic use;
- strategic tree planting to ensure summer shading and protection from winds, and more.

The project is intended to be an enjoyable experience for all, so Robinson is providing catered meals for all involved with the build. Musical entertainment will also be provided each evening. Many working on the build will camp at the site.

“We want this build to re-create the spirit of co-operation and community that was experienced years ago by homesteaders who often tackled large projects co-operatively,” said Robinson.

The major sponsors of the build are:

- Robinson Residential Design Inc.;
- Fries Tallman Lumber; and
- SunSmart Homes™.

Many other local and national companies have supplied environmentally friendly materials at cost or below in an effort to make them known to local homebuilders and others who will view this home.

An open house will be held on Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009 from 10:00 – 6:00 pm. for anyone interested in viewing the show home.

**Media are invited to attend any of the build days and are invited to the Open House on Saturday August 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009.**

For more information contact:

John Robinson  
President,  
Robinson Residential Design  
(306) 352-6617