

# Parade of Homes recap

Four-bedroom, six-bathroom TC home won People's Choice, three more 1st place awards

By SARAH CHUBY  
Record-Eagle staff writer

TRAVERSE CITY — Before the 2002 Northwest Michigan Parade of Homes, builder Roger Widing said “Country French cottages” are what the people prefer.

He was right. His \$1.2 million four-bedroom, six-bathroom 4,723-square-foot Country French cottage in Traverse City was the 2002 People's Choice winner of the annual home expo of the Home Builders Association of the Grand Traverse Area.

Widing said he was pleased with the award.

“I am very honored people liked our home,” he said. “I was not confident (about winning) but it wasn't a surprise. We worked very hard on this house.”

From June 22 to June 30, 4,000 people took part in the Home Builders' Parade of Homes tour. The tour showcased 20 homes from 18

builders and stretched from Glen Arbor to Bellaire.

Parade-goers gave Widing feedback as they strolled through the Underwood Farms home in Peninsula Township to look at the dining room's Waterford crystal chandelier and the painted mural in the wine cellar.

“Most people said they thought the house was well-built and that the exterior design was beautiful,” he said. “I also heard many say they thought that the interior design was great.”

The exterior is of brown-hued brick and stone. The interior features gold and cream-colored accents, a circular staircase and French doors.

Home Builders Association Executive Officer Don Paulosky said Widing and his wife put extra time into the home's presentation by decorating it with their furniture.

“They had elegant furnishings and the house was big and roomy,” Paulosky said. “It had quality craftsmanship and an excellent layout.”

## Think spring when preparing lawn for winter

The Associated Press

This past summer was a doozy for lawn care. Heat, drought, unrelenting sun, swarms of insects. You name it — your lawn faced it.

If lawns could talk, they would plead in unison for the same things: food, water and good old-fashioned TLC.

As head garden guy for Lowe's Home Improvement Warehouse, Mike Gettler has seen his share of lawn woes but he thinks the cure for what ails your turf is at hand — cooler fall weather.

“Right now is the time to put serious effort into your lawn,” said Gettler. “You'll prepare it for winter hibernation, but the real payoff is next spring when your lawn has a jump start on the growing season.”

Step one is to clear the lawn of the layer of dead grass that can choke out sun, nutrients and moisture. Commonly called thatch, the accumulation of grass clippings can be scratched away by light raking or a de-thatch blade on your mower. Aeration is a good idea. This process yanks small plugs of soil from one to three inches in depth. Water and fertilizer can then penetrate the soil. Compacted turf will expand as well. Aeration plugs will dissolve in a few weeks.

When it comes to fertilizer, apply winterizer as late as November or December. Gettler says if fertilizer is spread too early while weather is still warm, your lawn will grow. Pick a slow-release formula to spread lawn feeding over four to five months. Mow to medium height to conserve surface moisture.

Nitrogen may yield green turf in summer, but in colder months fertilizer should feature greater concentrations of phosphorus and potassium. Both promote overall lawn health and stronger grass blades.

The amounts of each are displayed on fertilizer bags in order of nitrogen-phosphorus-potassium and are sometimes labeled N-P-K. For example, 8-11-14 would indicate winter-ready levels of phosphorus and potassium.

If you live in a drought-stricken area, yet there are few restrictions on watering, apply at least 1 to 2 inches of water a week until the ground freezes.

“Obviously, the more water you can get into the ground, the better,” said Gettler.

The same watering and fertilizer principles apply to trees and shrubs. Water deeply before the soil is frozen. A good rule-of-thumb is to apply tree-specific fertilizer 3 to 4 feet or more away from the trunk of each tree. Water shrubs throughout winter months if your area lacks snow. Prune trees now while sap isn't flowing.

Pull up spent annual flowers and clip perennials. Dig in or compost vegetables. If plant matter is not removed, insect eggs can survive the winter in plant stems. A fresh layer of mulch, including straw, will insulate the soil from temperature extremes. Don't use leaves as mulch because leaves will mat and prevent moisture and oxygen from entering the soil.

Clean garden tools and apply a light coat of oil to prevent rust. Change the oil in gas-powered mowers, edgers and trimmers. Replace the blades. Uneven sharpening can



Among the winning entries in this year's Parade of Homes: clockwise from top, this home by R. Widing Construction took 1st place for Interior Decoration and Design, Exterior Design and Appeal, the People's Choice award and the Pinnacle Award; 1st place Kitchen went to MAC Custom Homes; and 1st place for Craftsmanship was awarded to Blue Lakes Construction.

## 2002 Northwest Michigan Parade of Homes winners

### People's Choice award

1st Place: R. Widing Construction  
2nd Place: MAC Custom Homes

### Master Suite

1st Place: Blue Lakes Construction  
2nd Place: R. Widing Construction

### Interior Decorating & Design

1st place: R. Widing Construction  
2nd place: MAC Custom Homes

### Kitchen

1st place: MAC Custom Home  
2nd place: R. Widing Construction

### Exterior Design & Appeal

1st place: R. Widing Construction  
2nd place: Blue Chip Homes

### Craftsmanship

1st place: Blue Lakes Construction  
2nd place: MAC Custom Homes

### Overall Home

1st place: Blue Lakes Construction  
2nd place: MAC Custom Homes

### Pinnacle Award

1st place: R. Widing Construction  
2nd place: MAC Custom Homes

### Rookie:

1st place: Blue Lakes Construction  
2nd place: Vacation Properties Network

throw off the balance of mower and edger blades, causing engines to work harder.

“What you're really doing is giving your lawn and garden a head start for next year,” said Gettler.



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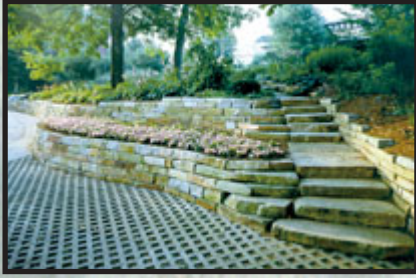
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