

Heritage Day offers a look back

BY MELANIE TACOMA
Record-Eagle staff writer

It's the 77th annual National Cherry Festival. A lot of cherries have been harvested in seventy-seven years. However, the Traverse City area has a history that dates back farther than the Festival.

Heritage Day, which will be held on Tuesday, July 8, and is presented by Traverse Bay Entertainment, is a chance for area residents and visitors alike to explore and remember the region's past.

"We want to let everyone see and taste the heritage of this area," said Dawn Centilli, Heritage Day event director. "The best reason to come is because the day is always changing...it's a day to learn a little about our past, where we came from and where we're heading."

One of the Heritage Day highlights and annual favorites is the noontime Pow Wow Dance that will be held in the Festival Open Space and is presented by the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians. The Pow Wow will include native dress, dance and music.

There will also be vendors' booths set up in the Festival Open Space, showcasing and selling handmade arts and crafts from the region's Native American communities. Another highlight will be the return of Grand Traverse area historical organizations and reenactors such as the Mattis and Maritime Heritage Alliance.

The day's grand finale will be the traditional Heritage Parade. The AAA Michigan Heritage Parade will start downtown at 7 p.m. Tuesday and will be followed by a Country Fresh Ice Cream

Social.

In addition to the events at the Festival Open Space, the Grand Traverse Heritage Center, which has recently moved to the old Carnegie library on 6th Street, will have a Festival exhibit on display for the week of the National Cherry Festival.

The Center will also have an interactive display of historical toys for children, and a display called "Paddling Through the Ages."

"It's a new exhibit on the history of canoeing and kayaking," explained Daniel Trucky, a curator the Heritage Center.

"We also plan to be in the parade," he added. "We'll probably be in a large voyager canoe with lots of people dressed up."

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A Native American dancer performs at the Heritage Day parade.



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