

Annual 2004 Parade of Homes coming up June 19-27

The annual 2004 Parade of Homes has become an event many look forward to, for different reasons. For home builders, it's an opportunity to showcase their work; for guests, it's a chance to see the latest in a wide range of housing styles, from a get-away cottage to a luxurious townhouse; for non-profit organizations, it raises much-needed funds.

Following the highly successful 2003 event, plans for the 15th Annual Parade of Homes are well underway. The 2004 Parade will be held June 19-27, and to

date, nine home builders have entered a Parade Home for it, with three additional applications anticipated. Only a licensed builder with a new home that has never been occupied may participate in the Parade of Homes.

"It is expected that the 2004 Parade will have at least (20) Parade Homes," said Doug Lape, Chief Executive Officer for the Home Builders Association of the Grand Traverse Area, Inc. (HBAGTA).

Lape said that the 2003 Parade route was 141 miles

long and took a little less than seven hours to complete. Almost 22,000 people made home visits and 960 non-profit group volunteers acted as Parade Home hosts. The 2003 Parade of Homes donated \$9,400 to local non-profit groups, bringing the total amount of contributions raised over the past 14 years to \$121,075.

Whether your idea of a dream home is perfect for a young family needing plenty of play space for toddlers, a convenient town-home for those ready to spend weekends golfing

instead of lawn mowing, a sophisticated condominium offering an exciting urban lifestyle, or a luxurious estate with all the bells and whistles, you'll be able to see it during the 2004 Parade of Homes. And visitors aren't just looking at homes. They're encouraged to vote on the one they like best, which is given the People's Choice award.

"The Parade of Homes tour is the best of the best," stated Lape. "It is an opportunity for the local builders to showcase their building skills and for the building

suppliers to introduce new building materials and concepts. The participants are members of HBAGTA, and they truly look forward to demonstrating a wide variety of new homes for the community to review. At the Parade, you'll see a showcase of exceptional craftsmanship and exciting designs, plus a variety of new products and materials available for today's new homes."

Marc Dulac, President of HBAGTA agrees with Lape that the Parade deserves

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