



Pacific National Exhibition

2901 East Hastings Street, Vancouver, B.C. Canada V5K 5J1 Telephone: 604 253-2311 Fax: 604 251-7753
www.pne.ca

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 30, 2007

NEWS RELEASE

THE PNE PRIZE HOME – BC’s ULTIMATE ‘DREAM HOME’ GIVE-AWAY

VANCOUVER, BC – If you ask someone what one of the most exciting things to do at the Fair at the PNE is, some would say a ride on the classic wooden rollercoaster, the Wheels of Steel at the Motorsports Stadium or the Peking Acrobats defying gravity in the Garden Auditorium. Ask the PNE staff and they would say the “Prize Home foot race”, the 100 meter dash they witness each morning at 11:00 am sharp as Fair guests make a mad scramble to be the first in line to see the Prize Home.

Who would have thought that the idea to give away a home in 1934 would have become one of British Columbia’s most beloved traditions? Much of the history of the PNE Prize Home washed away during each of two floods that destroyed large parts of the corporation’s archives in the 1950’s and 1960’s. But, as PNE archivist Debie Leyshon will tell you, the best historical accounts of the longstanding program come from the people of BC themselves.

“Everyone has a Prize Home story, from running to see it, to dreaming about it, to knowing someone who won a home or is living in a former Prize Home. There are as many stories as there are tickets in the draw each year to win it.”

So how did it all start? When the PNE management of the day decided to give away a home as a raffle prize in 1934, it was unheard of. In fact, it is believed that the PNE Dream Home Lottery, as it was known at the time, was the first home giveaway lottery of its kind in North America.

The first PNE Dream Home was won in 1934 by Leonard Frewin, a mechanic from Vancouver who was courting Emily Leitch. Emily’s father insisted that Leonard couldn’t properly provide for his daughter, so he did not support the match. As fate would have it, Leonard attended the 1934 PNE on the last day of the Fair, where he purchased a Dream Home ticket for twenty-five cents. He heard his name announced as the Dream Home winner while listening to the radio that night, went to Emily’s house and proposed on the spot.

The Frewin family lived in the original Dream Home for over 60 years until both Emily and Leonard passed away within months of each other in the 1990’s and their children sold the home. The 1934 Dream Home was 800 square feet, and the lot along Renfrew Street, the home and its furnishings (provided by the Eaton’s company) were valued at an astounding \$5,000. The home was relocated from the Fairgrounds a half block away by a team of Clydesdales. The most exciting feature of that original Dream Home was the inclusion of an electric stove.

Known winners:

1962 – Won by Theresa Plesec.

1964 – John Stanko (records indicate that Mr. Stanko sold house in 1966).

1966 – Won by Jocelyn Fisher.

1967 – gold bar – won by 55-year-old Mary Eaton.

1970 – Won by then 19-year-old Patricia Weightman.

1971 – Won by William Rufeski.

1974 – Won by Jagindar Singh Bupra.

1976 – 81 year old Clara Olson of Coquitlam won the first PNE Prize Home featuring solar power advance technology.

1978 – Prize Home won by Zeonie and Gerry Hintz of Richmond.

1989 – The home was won by Monika Wong of Vancouver. The home was designed by Steven Riley of Select Home Design and constructed by the Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association. The style was southern Californian bungalow. The home was 1926 square feet. An usual feature of the home was its “open design” that was touted as a new style for “today’s modern family.” Another design feature was the inclusion of columns rather than walls to separate many of the main living spaces.

1990 – The home was won by Lesley Austin of Langley. The home was built by Britco Structures and was 2300 square feet. The home was relocated to Brookside Subdivision in Surrey. This was the first modular home selected as a PNE Prize Home. The style was described as a three-bed rancher with loft. Features listed included oak flooring, marble flooring, wood windows, cedar doors, and two Valour fireplaces.

1991 – The home was won by Georg Jacobs of North Vancouver. The Home was a 2100 square foot that was relocated to Brookside Subdivision in Surrey. At this point the Prize Home was still called the PNE Dream Home. The Dream Home was built by Chaparral Industries of Kelowna and was designed by architect Raymond Y. Ching. Literature for the home billed it as “featuring a focus on the family and is designed to meet the needs of contemporary families of the 1990’s while incorporating the latest technology in energy conservation systems.” The style of the home was California casual.

1992 – Jagji Kang of Vancouver won the home, which was designed by architect Charles Moorhead, the winner of a province-wide design competition. Along with the prestige, Mr. Moorhead won \$7000.00. The home was relocated to Imperial Village in Tsawwassen. Tickets to win were 7 for \$10. The home was called a luxurious two-storey west coast modern home. The home was 1,800 square feet modular home that was designed to complement the interior with the exterior. The house featured many skylights, glass walls, wooden beams, glass and natural materials like slate.

1993 – The Prize Home was a Snider-designed house, built by the Greater Vancouver Home Builders Association. The home was relocated to Kanaka Ridge Estates in Maple Ridge. It was 2648 square feet and featured three bedrooms. Additional features included concrete and steel stud construction, Power Smart features, in-floor radiant heating, a HRV air-exchanger, computerized area heat and lighting control. Interior design was done by Vladimir Cerenka. The name of the house was “Visions House” because it featured so many sustainable and environmentally friendly features.

1994 – The home was won by Brian St. Germain of Prince George. This was the first year the PNE moved the Prize Home outside of the lower mainland. Billed as ‘the ultimate island getaway’, the 1994 Lindal Cedar Home, built by Legacy Western Homes was 1992 square feet. The home was relocated to Keats Island, overlooking Georgia Strait. Value of the package was \$450,000.

1995 – Steven Lee of Vancouver won the home, built by Legacy Western Homes. The house was relocated to Davis Bay Estates. It was 2300 square feet with three bedrooms and three bathrooms. Special features included: second floor loft, computer hooks ups in each room, hardwood floors, vaulted ceilings.

1996 – Diana Platham of Surrey won the 1996 home. Built by Legacy Western Homes (architect Stephan Wiedemann of Wiedemann Design Associates) was relocated to a ¼ acre lot in Davis Bay Estates in Sechelt. The 3000 square foot home featured 3 bedrooms, 2 ½ bathrooms and included such things as a theatre room, hardwood floors, and energy efficient appliances. Another energy efficient feature was all the home's insulation was made from recycled newspapers. Diana also won a 17' foot powerboat, power squadron safe boating course, moorage in Sechelt, a Savannah Spas Hot Tub with Gazebo.

1997 – Designed by Stevenson Design Works. The 2200 square foot English country style home was won by Bela Posznyk of Vancouver. Bela was a ship's captain and was out at sea when the home was awarded. A media frenzy ensued when the PNE was unable to locate the winner for several days and eventually gave him his official notice of winning via a satellite phone call to his freighter.

1998 – West Coast style by Stevenson Design Works.. Sylvain Boulanger of Boldwing Architecture was the architect. 2900 square feet, 3 bed, 3-bath home. Additional features: energy efficient appliances, air-conditioning, low flow plumbing fixtures, oval dining room with bay window, fully equipped theatre room. Won by Debbie Wallace (husband Mike, kids Jason and Amanda). Valued at \$800,000.

1999 – Elizabeth McCowatt of Gibsons. 4189 square foot French country style home relocated to a ½ acre lot at Daniel Point. Additional Grand Prize Package highlights included a BC Hydro PowerSmart Gourmet Kitchen, Coast Spas Ultimate Backyard, a Husqvarna Yard Care Package and 1 year Mini Maid service.

2000 – West Coast style home by Raddison Homes Ltd.. ½ acre lot in Daniel Point, Pender Harbour. Won by Suave Hubicki of Vancouver.

2001 – West Coast style home by Stevenson Design Works. Relocated to ½ acre lot in Daniel Point, Pender Harbour. Won by Lillian Ang of New Westminster.

2002 – Britco home. Relocated to Daniel Point, Pender Harbour. Won by Doug and Julie Simpson of Vancouver.

2003 – Britco designed and built home, relocated to Daniel Point, Pender Harbour. Won by David Philpott of West Vancouver.

2004 – 46 year old Laurie Tyson of Gibsons wins the West Coast style home which will be relocated to her own town of Gibsons. The \$750,000 home is much different than the 67 square meter trailer where Laurie was renting with her daughter and 4-year-old granddaughter.

2005 – One of the most endearing stories in the history of the PNE Prize Home lottery, Hammadi Charrab of New Westminster wins the 2005 PNE Prize Home. Mr. Charrab emigrated to Canada from Algeria in 1998. At the time of his windfall, he was living in a 650 square foot rented apartment in New Westminster. The Georgian style house, valued at over \$800,000 was relocated to Gibsons.

2006 – 50-year-old John Podger of Hope was awarded the 2006 PNE Prize Home. Podger purchased a ticket to win the home on the eighth day of the Fair. Vancouver Mayor Sam Sullivan made the phone call to the lucky winner. The 2006 PNE Prize Home was a 3,300 square foot home, described as West Coast contemporary, and was designed and built by Britco Structures of Abbotsford. The home was relocated to beautiful Sechelt, British Columbia.

For more information about the Fair at the PNE visit: www.pne.ca.

-30-

Owned by the City of Vancouver, the Pacific National Exhibition (PNE) is a healthy and vibrant non-profit charity organization dedicated to providing over 3 million visitors a year with first-class cultural, sporting and family entertainment events. Founded in 1910, the PNE operates from a 114-acre site at Hastings Park, a multi-facility venue in Vancouver where the organization operates four activity streams: an annual 17-day Fair, Playland Amusement Park, maintenance and care of the Hastings Park site and management of the site's year-round facilities. These facilities are utilized to celebrate a variety of hockey, amateur sporting, music, community, social, cultural and commercial events throughout the year.

For more information, please contact:

Laura Ballance

Media Relations

Pacific National Exhibition

604-684-3170

604-771-5176 (cell)

laura@curvecommunications.com