



PRESS RELEASE



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CMHC and Habitat for Humanity Hold Fourth Annual Gingerbread House Competition

OTTAWA, Ontario, December 2, 2005 — Stroll through a gingerbread village this weekend and support Habitat for Humanity! Over 100 unique gingerbread houses, created by local schools, businesses and bakeries will be on display for the public at Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation's (CMHC) National Office on Montreal road, during the fourth annual CMHC – Habitat for Humanity Home for the Holidays Gingerbread house competition.

Awards for the best design will be presented on Friday, December 2nd at 10:00 a.m.

The design competition, a joint partnership between CMHC and Habitat for Humanity – National Capital Region, has quickly grown to become a highly anticipated community event and holiday tradition. Last year, the Gingerbread Village, complete with electric train, included 116 decorated gingerbread houses and received approximately 3,000 visitors. This year, participants and visitors are expected in even greater numbers. The public is invited to admire the village in CMHC's main lobby, December 3 and 4 from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., as they walk through the village, complimentary hot chocolate and candy cane in hand.

The purpose of this event is to raise funds to contribute to Habitat for Humanity's effort to build homes in the National Capital area. Habitat for Humanity has built 22 homes in the National Capital Region to date, and CMHC is proud to be part of this worthy activity.

Offers can be made on the gingerbread houses by participating in a silent auction held until December 4, at 3:00 p.m. All proceeds will be donated to Habitat for Humanity – National Capital Region.

Winners of the Gingerbread House Contest will be selected by a panel of judges including representatives from the *Ottawa Citizen*, A-Channel, City TV, Habitat for Humanity and CMHC. The judges will determine who wins first, second and third prize in both the student and adult categories. Also, visitors will be asked to cast their vote for the "People's Choice" award.

Public and media are encouraged to take part in the event in support of this worthy cause.

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