

National Home Show runs for ten days in April

The biggest and most popular home show in all of North America opens in Toronto on Friday, April 9 through Sunday, April 18 at the National Trade Centre in Toronto.

Now in its 48th year, the mammoth National Home Show has more home improvement products and advice than any place in the country. With more than 10 football fields of exhibits presenting the latest home ideas for indoor and outdoor renovation, maintenance and decor, the show has become an institution for homeowners.

More than 200,000 visitors will tour Canada's most comprehensive home

marketplace for answers to their home improvement dilemmas.

For range and depth of products for the home, there are more than 800 exhibitors offering free renovating, decorating and landscaping advice.

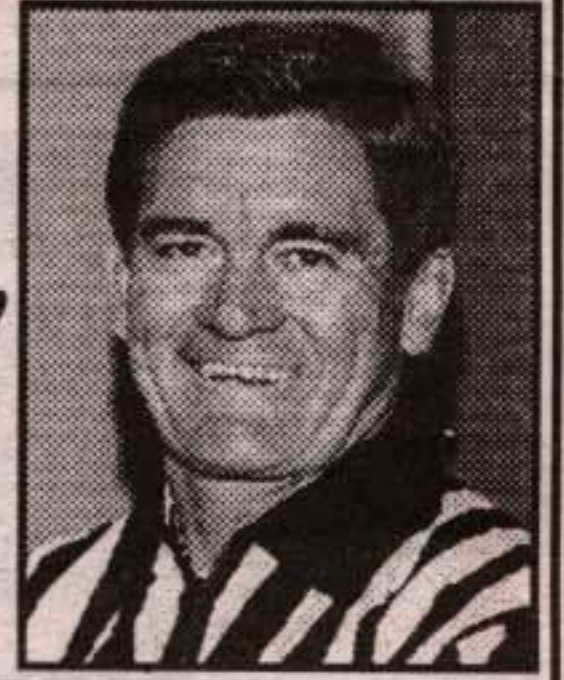
Anchoring the National is the very popular Toronto Star Dream Home featuring innovations in home design, construction, and decor. The Dream Gardens provide an early breath of spring for gardeners and there are plenty of tips for do-it-yourselfers at the Lansing Buildall Home-To Demonstrations. Live workshops for budding home decorators run continuously at The Bring it all Home

Tour by Southex and at The Home Depot stage. Designers from the National Kitchen and Bath Association are available to talk one-on-one about renovations at the National Kitchen & Bath Showcase display. In addition, The Design Exchange presents the newest and brightest designs in household products.

Show hours for the 10-day show are: weekdays, noon to 9:30 p.m.; Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 9:30 p.m. and Sundays, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Adult admission is \$11 on weekends and reduced to \$10 on weekdays. Seniors and juniors (13-17) are \$6.50. Children, 12 and under are admitted free.

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YOU WILL LIKELY BE ABLE TO AVOID A LENGTHLY LINEUP when checking into your HOTEL ROOM in the future - great idea, right! AMERICAN EXPRESS, HILTON HOTELS & IBM have instituted a trial program at the Chicago O'Hare Airport Hilton, and several thousand-frequent travellers are being issued the card. They will be able to bypass the front desk and go to a kiosk, insert the 'smart card' - it will have an 8k computer chip and will carry the travellers full personal travel data - get the room their travel agent had booked for them according to their needs on file in the agency computer system, and a key will be issued. Another step along this never-ending technology path - wow, what an exciting future for travel!



THE 1999 EUROPE CAMPAIGN IS ON for all suppliers for summer travel to the Continent, and AMERICAN EXPRESS is offering its cardholders 'Double Amex Points' for bookings made up until May 31 to go to one of the many fascinating countries to visit. SIGNATURE, SUNQUEST, ACV, are some of the air/land providers, while cruise lines such as PRINCESS, HOLLAND AMERICA and RCCL are also participants. An added reason to book early, as most people do when planning their Europe travel.



AND SPEAKING OF EUROPE - A 14-DAY 'EUROPEAN GATEWAY' TOUR is offered by COSMOS TOURS, with England, Holland, Germany, Austria and Italy on the itinerary. See the LEANING TOWER OF PISA; drive along the RHINE RIVER; visit the cities of Amsterdam, Rome and London. There are variable prices ranging from around \$1,400. up to \$2,500. depending upon air travel being included. We've visited all except Holland, and recommend a tour such as this to really get to see and learn the local highlights.

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DID YOU KNOW DEPT: Over 26,000 Canadians visited the Caribbean island of ST. MAARTEN last year - an increase of almost 9% over '97!

TRAVEL TIP OF THE WEEK: When travelling by car on your vacation, get your accommodation at the end of the city you may be leaving from, and gas up your car, to avoid the city traffic in the morning.

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