



— photos by Catherine Daley

Open efficiency

Mason Homes celebrates saving energy at Maple Woodlands

CATHERINE DALEY
Special to The Sun

MASON HOMES had reason to celebrate as the first Canadian family moved into an Energy Star home on July 6 at their Maple Woodlands site in Barrie. Local and provincial dignitaries, along with members of the EnerGuide Corporation, attended this momentous occasion.

The event also saw the official key presentation. Richard and Beatriz's two young girls were somewhat over-

whelmed with all the attention, but were excited to go through the front door.

"Thank you for providing this family with an energy efficient home," said Richard as he was handed the key. "I'm very honoured."

The street was lined with tents in front of the home and a celebratory barbecue reception set off a perfect summer day.

Mason Homes decked out the front of Richard and Beatriz's new home with seasonal flowers, setting

off the covered porch. Neighbours mingled and prospective home purchasers showed a keen interest.

"I'm extremely proud of our staff," said Sean Mason, third generation of the Mason family of homebuilders. "This ceremony is to celebrate the first family to move into an Energy Star home in Canada."

Mason also went on to add that the majority of the homes in Maple Woodlands had no defects on the day of closing — a strong initiative for the principals of Mason Homes.

In addition to the Maple Woodlands site, Mason Homes is now offering Energy Star homes at their other sites in Barrie, Lindsay, Uxbridge and Peterborough.

Added value is now available in a Mason-built home with higher insulation values, tighter construction, high-performing windows and more efficient heating, air conditioning and ventilation systems.

Lenard Hart, director of Business Development for EnerQuality Corporation, pointed out that an Energy Star home translates into energy cost-related savings, on average, of \$60 to \$70 per month. For an additional \$30 to \$40 per month on your mortgage, the savings are automatic.

Not only is an Energy Star home good for your pocket book, it's good for the planet. Hart pointed out that an estimated 66,000 homes will be built in Ontario in 2005.

If they were all built to an Energy Star standard, a minimum of 165,000 tonnes of greenhouse gases would be saved — enough energy to supply an additional 26,000 homes for free.

Stephen Dupuis, executive vice-president of the Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association was on hand to congratulate Mason Homes, "As members of the GTHBA for 30 years, Mason has always been a leader and are quickly becoming the envy of other builders."



■ **THE ENERGY Star Home** at the Maple Woodland Site in Barrie.

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— Stephen Dupuis, executive v-p, GTHBA

D. Brian Hay presented a certificate of recognition to honour this energy-efficient milestone on behalf of Peter Love, chief energy conservation officer for the Ontario Power Authority.

EnerQuality runs the federal government programs in Ontario. Mason Homes was the first production-start builder to join the EnerGuide Program for New Houses in an attempt to build a more energy efficient home.

In 2004, Mason Homes was presented with the prestigious Builder of the Year award.

To contact the Maple Woodlands site in Barrie call 1-877-90MASON, email barrie@masonhomes.ca or visit www.masonhomes.ca for more information.



■ **FROM LEFT:** Gord Mason, Beatriz, Richard, girls and Sean Mason.



■ **LENARD HART**, director of Business Development, EnerQuality Corporation.