



**Federation**  
of Calgary Communities  
Improving neighbourhood life in Calgary

**Bonnie Elgie**  
for the Federation of  
Calgary Communities

How do you create a small-town, neighbourhood feel in a large urban centre like Calgary? You join a community association!

Mayor Dave Bronconnier has proclaimed March as community association awareness month, and it is the perfect time to remind Calgarians of the value found in community association membership.

"Community associations help to build safe, vibrant communities," explains Leslie Evans, executive director of the Federation of Calgary Communities.

"They are a cohesive voice for the community and help create a sense of belonging for those who live there."

The Federation of Calgary Communities was established in 1961 to give a common voice to 47 community associations. Today, there are 143 Calgary

community associations registered with the Federation. Its mandate is to assist member associations with the administration and operation of their organization and/or facility.

"It's our job to support community associations and help them to do their job within the community. Our goal is to have vibrant community associations at a local level who in turn improve neighbourhood life in Calgary," says Evans.

Approximately 156,000 Calgarians, or almost 15 per cent of the city's population, belong to community associations.

Through this year's membership campaign, the Federation hopes to see that number grow substantially.

"Many people may think they already belong to an association by virtue of living in their community, but they have not officially joined," says Evans.

Memberships are inexpensive with annual fees ranging from free to \$45 per family or household. The average membership across all Calgary communities is \$20.50 per family, \$10 per senior or \$15 per individual.

"There is great value in a community association membership," adds Evans. "You have access to programs, services

and special events for all ages. There is a lot of information available through local newsletters and web sites. Many businesses offer membership discounts, and in many cases, there are central recreational facilities."

Even in communities without a centralized facility, people can still meet and host events or programs in other venues, such as churches, parking lots or shopping centres.

Community associations can be the conduit to creating that sense of belonging and a small-town feel within a larger city centre. There are numerous volunteer and social opportunities, as well as a sense of safety that is created when neighbours begin to get to know each other and take pride in their community.

Volunteer turnout is higher for clean-up and improvement days, and there is a common commitment to creating safe, clean and cohesive neighbourhoods for everyone to enjoy.

"People want a place to belong. In a city like Calgary, we have families and individuals who have moved from other places in Alberta, different provinces and even other countries. They want

to feel connected to their neighbours," says Evans.

One of the most critical roles that community associations play is to provide a vital link to the City of Calgary about issues relating to community life. Associations are the local voice for planning and development issues, parks and recreational amenities, and a wealth of areas that impact the day-to-day lives of Calgarians.

"There is a real benefit to having your community properly networked with the City," she said.

"People who belong to community associations feel that they have the ability to address issues and can offer constructive input on topics that are important to them."

As part of the membership campaign, the Federation is posting awareness banners throughout the city during March and is working with a variety of organizations to provide special community days and valuable offers to association members..

For more information on membership in Calgary community associations, visit [www.calgarycommunities.com](http://www.calgarycommunities.com) or call 403-244-4111.



This Community Profile has been sponsored by Servus Credit Union

## Killarney/Glengarry

Killarney/Glengarry is located on lands in the southwest that were annexed by the city in 1910. The major subdivision plan for the area was registered in 1906 and divided the community into twenty-five and fifty foot lots.

During the early 1900s, one-storey clapboard housing was predominant. The post-Second World War boom resulted in the construction of one-storey stucco bungalows.

More recently there has been residential infill redevelopment on twenty-five foot lots. The Killarney/Glengarry Area Redevelopment Plan recommends guidelines for this type of development to ensure that efforts are made to have new development architecturally compatible with the existing streetscape.

Commercial development has occurred within the community, primarily along 17 Avenue S.W.

There are a variety of parks and open spaces within the community which provide for both the active and passive recreation needs of the area.

### Schools

Holy Name Elementary School (Bilingual) - Separate  
Killarney Elementary School - Public

### Demographics

Located in Ward 8, Killarney has a population of 6,486 (2008 Civic Census) with approximately 19.1 per cent comprising the immigrant population (Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada).

A total of 800 families accounted for 1,290 children still living at home with 31.8 per cent

of these being 6-14 years old. According to Stats Canada the median household income for Killarney in 2005 was \$53,799.

In addition, 48.3 per cent of the population over 20 completed college, attended university or graduated university with a degree — an additional 10.5 per cent graduated from Trade Schools (Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada).

There are a total of 3,220 occupied private dwellings in Killarney with 32.6 per cent being single detached dwellings (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada).

This story has been sponsored by:

