



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

**CINDY STEPHEN
FOR THE FEDERATION OF
CALGARY COMMUNITIES**

Every six months, parents in the south west community of Wildwood go through their children's outgrown clothes and lonely toys to see what they can pass along to others.

The Wildwood Little Tykes Sale, which has been held every April and October for the past 12 years, is all about recycling, making a few dollars and fostering a sense of community, says sale co-organizer Nadine Moriarty.

"It gives us an avenue to work together, stretching our dollars and cleaning out our closets and basements. We're doing what we can as a community to reuse and recycle anything we can," says Moriarty, who has organized the event with friend Donna McLeod for the past two years. The sale includes clothing from infant to children's size 16, plus furniture, toys and car seats.

Wildwood is experiencing an upswing in new families with young children, which makes the event a bonus for those on a budget.

"All of a sudden, there are 14 little kids under the age of six on either side of our street," says Moriarty, who grew up in Wildwood and moved back as an adult.

Items for the Little Tykes Sale are sold by consignment. Vendors register

toys with toys so it's all neat and tidy," she says.

There are usually 100 vendors who come and volunteer for the day, helping the sale to run smoothly and to make it a success. Each person with items in the sale get 70 per cent of the

ordinary. It's a nice way to support people, to give back and to see it all being so successful."

She and McLeod know from experience that many items, despite being marked down by 50 per cent for an hour before the sale ends, are left over. Some vendors take unsold items back home.

However, the two women contact Calgary charities in advance that pre-select families in need. They arrive at day's end to take whatever they want at no-charge.

"We have a free-for-families hour by invitation only. We partner volunteers with each family to help them dig through clothes or find furniture or a car seat. It's so heartwarming," she says.

If there are still remaining clothes, Moriarty says a woman in Wildwood makes sure they get into deserving families in Tuktoyuktuk.

The Wildwood Little Tykes Sale is Oct 3, from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Admission is \$2 per family.



Members of the Wildwood community sell unused toys and clothing every year in an effort to reuse and recycle anything they can.

Photo courtesy Cindy Stephen

in advance at the Wildwood Community Centre and are given a vendor number and tags to price all items at home. Then they bring all sales items the night before sale day, tagged and ready to go.

"We put clothes with clothes and

proceeds, with 30 per cent held back to offset the cost of hosting the sale. Anything left over goes to Wildwood.

"It's a significant fundraiser for our community association," says Moriarty. "It's fun for me because it's a neat avenue to do something out of

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Community profile: Alberta Park/Radisson Heights

Albert Park/Radisson Heights is named after Albert Smyth, who, with his business partner Mr. McCullough, promoted what was to be an exclusive subdivision. In 1912, with sales lagging due to poor transportation to the area, the men came up with a scam to lure residents. They laid railway ties to the town of Forest Lawn and started a rumour that a streetcar was to be developed. The scam was discovered, the railway ties were used for firewood, and the developers disappeared. From that point on, development of Albert Park, part of the town of Forest Lawn, was sporadic. Albert Park developed between 1908 and 1950, Radisson Heights developed shortly after Albert Park (along with the rest of Forest Lawn) was annexed in 1960, and Radcliffe Village developed between 1976 and 1980. The Albert Park/Radisson Heights community is full of open space, offers easy access to shopping and major roads, and offers picturesque views of the Bow River Valley, downtown and the mountains.

Schools

Radisson Park School - Public

Bishop Kidd Junior High - Separate
Father Lacombe Senior High - Separate
Holy Family Elementary - Separate
Sir Wilfred Laurier Bilingual Junior High - Public

Demographics

Located in Ward 10, the community has a population of 6,192 (2006 Civic Census) with approximately 27.2% comprising the immigrant population (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada). A total of 1,075 families accounted for 1,930 children still living at home with 32.9% of these being 6-14 years old. According to Stats Canada, 2001 Census of Canada the median household income for Albert Park Radisson Heights in 2005 was \$41,975. In addition, 26.1% of the population over 20 completed college, attended university or graduated university with a degree - an additional 10.8% graduated from Trade Schools.

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WHAT DOES community MEAN TO YOU?

"Community is about neighbours working together on projects and activities that benefit the whole community."

Bob Lang
President Federation of Calgary
Communities