



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

**Terence Leung  
for the Federation of  
Calgary Communities**

# Making a difference

they have given to the community. The main thing is that they're always ready to step up. The best thing is if the community associations can get low cost and interesting activities going to meet their neighbours. Once people are out and see some of the

MPCA's 50th anniversary celebration, operating the community pool and community hall renovations, Mount Pleasant is a prime example of what dedicated community volunteers can do to ensure their area moves forward. "Roger is a very thoughtful person.

Calgary Outdoor Swimming Pools Association.

"He's really accepting of everybody in our community and the people who assist in leading the community."

Attrell has seen volunteers come and go and is always thankful for their support, but acknowledges that long term support is crucial to ensure the vision of the community is carried out.

He hopes by recognizing the Leachs', other communities will find a way to honour long time members of their respective associations.

"It is important. There are a lot of people who have put in a lot of time but there are very few like Roger and Diana who stay the course. People normally will stay for one year or two years and do their bit," says Attrell.

"Roger is a dedicated person and likes to see things through. He's that community minded. He feels an obligation and need for himself to give the time to build a better community. When people see this award, I think it inspires [them]. They're making a worthwhile contribution ... it might encourage people to stay longer."

In between children's soccer practices, jobs, making dinner and the day-to-day lifestyle of the typical family, some community members manage to eke out precious time to ensure the well-being of their neighbourhood.

In the case of the Mount Pleasant Community Association (MPCA), Roger and Diana Leach have been pillars of their community since they moved to Calgary in 1969 and are the 2009 recipients of the FCC Community Builder award.

Avid soccer fans, the Leach's started a soccer program when soccer did not have much of a following.

From starting and developing the community's soccer program to its current 300 children and 100 coaches, residents of the community are grateful for their time and efforts.

"I think it's great. He has put in so much and it's such a little thing to give back to them for what he and Diana have done for the community," says MPCA membership director Linda O'Hanlon.

"It just amazes me how much time



**Roger and Diana Leach have been pillars of their community since they moved to Calgary in 1969.**

*Photo courtesy FCC*

things going on, it's easier for them to get involved."

The sheer number of activities the Leach's have taken an integral part in is lengthy. From being a member of the Land Use and Planning sub-committee, president of the MPCA, building of the Sportsplex, the

He leads the community in his thinking and his statements and contributions in our board meetings ... he's a very steady person. You can always rely on him," says MPCA board member John Attrell, who adds his commitments extend outside of the community. Roger is also a board member of the

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## Acadia

Located in the southeast sector of the city, Acadia is situated between the Bow River to the east and Macleod Trail to the west. In 1956 the land comprising this community was annexed, but development did not begin until 1960. Since that time Acadia has grown into a diverse community with a mixture of residential, commercial and recreational land uses. Major transportation routes including Blackfoot Trail, Deerfoot Trail, Southland Drive and Macleod Trail provide access to downtown and other areas of the City. Acadia residents also have easy access to the pathway, the Bow River Valley and the Light Rail Transit (L.R.T.) system along Macleod Trail.

### Schools

Acadia Elementary — Public

Alice M. Curtis Elementary — Public  
Andrew Davison Bilingual Elementary — Public  
David Thompson Junior High — Public  
Ecole St. Cecilia Bilingual Elementary — Separate  
Ecole St. Matthew Elementary & Junior High — Separate  
Ecole de la Source — Francophone — Public  
Fred Parker Elementary — Public  
Lord Beaverbrook Senior High — Public

### Demographics

Located in Ward 12, Acadia has a population of 10,697 (2006 Civic Census) with approximately 20.7 per cent comprising the immigrant population (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada). A total of 1,570 families accounted for 2,380 children still

living at home with 35.5 per cent of these being 6-14 years old. According to Stats Canada, 2001 Census of Canada the median household income for Acadia in 2005 was \$50,778. In addition, 36.5 per cent of the population over 20 completed college, attended university or graduated university with a degree - an additional 14 per cent graduated from Trade Schools (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada).

There are a total of 4,825 occupied private dwellings in Acadia with 45.5 per cent being single detached dwellings (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada).

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