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Jennifer McDougall  
for the Federation of  
Calgary Communities

# Inspiring volunteerism

Federation President Bob Lang was the recipient of the Heart of Calgary Award at Volunteer Calgary's 14th Annual Leadership Awards on Monday.

This lifetime contribution honour recognizes those who demonstrate passion and commitment for creating a healthy and vibrant community while inspiring others to volunteer.

Lang grew up in Regina, in a "family culture" of service as both his parents were active volunteers. When he became a resident of Cliff Bungalow/Mission his legacy as a Calgary volunteer began.

It was there that he recognized residents need to work with neighbouring communities to find solutions.

"Things like traffic don't start or stop at your boundaries," he says. "By working with your neighbours you can have a much larger impact."

Responding to changes in his home

community led to the association's growth and progress in the areas of communication and redevelopment. Lang initiated the installation of historic street signs recognizing their original names.

Of his contributions to the Federation over the past thirteen years including several terms as president, executive director Leslie Evans says, "Lang tries to get people to think differently about what we do. He stepped up as president at a time when we needed to make some drastic changes. The board's job is to set a vision forward, to think strategically and we were at risk of becoming no longer relevant if we kept doing things the same way. Lang recognized that change is not easy for people, but he helped us move forward and supported people in making those changes."

Under Lang's leadership, the federation of Calgary Communities has grown



Lang

from a staff of three to 12. Services have expanded to include community planning, audit and other financial tools.

Lang points to Calgary's unique community model to underscore the Federation's role. Unlike other cities in Alberta, Calgary communities do not receive operating grants. Residents responsible for managing the day-to-day expenses and activities can access training from the federation.

Lang says that in recent years, communities have had to adapt to volunteers moving towards short term or episodic volunteer commitments. It makes Calgary a great place to host special events, but there remains a need to administer everyday operations. The federation's 146 members are supported through training in crisis management and assistance with standard activities such as bookkeeping.

Since moving to Calgary in the late sixties, Lang has lent time and talent to community development, health care, education, social services, urban planning, and the oil and gas sector. Currently, he volunteers with or serves on the board of no less than fifteen organizations working to improve life in Calgary.

He is a founding member of several of these including the 4th Street Lilac Festival, Calgary's Largest Street Fair; Safer Calgary, a coalition focusing on prevention of injury, violence and crime and how both the built and natural environment impacts safety; and Peer Mediation and Skills Training through which high school students learn to resolve disputes.

Lang earned a Bachelor of Science in Chemical Engineering at U of A in 1965. He is now retired following a 40 year career in the petroleum industry in Alberta and Saskatchewan.

Lang has been recognized for his work as a recipient of the Canada 125 Award, the Star of the Millennium Volunteer Award, the Builder Award as founder of Community Mediation Calgary, and the Alberta Centennial Medal. Lang was runner up for the Calgary Stampede Board's Western Heritage Legacy Award two years ago and was named Community Advocate winner at the Calgary Awards last year.



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## Marlborough

Marlborough Park was developed in the 1970's. It is bordered by the Trans Canada highway to the north, 68 Street NE to the east, 52 Street NE to the west and Memorial Drive to the South. Marlborough Park is only 8 km from downtown, with easy access to all major routes. The Marlborough Park Community Association includes a large main hall (Gym), activity/meeting room, pre-school, boardroom and the park lounge, which contains a fireplace, pool table, dart board, TVs and shuffleboard.

The Community Association urges all residents to become members and volunteer in some way to assist the active board of directors to ensure that

our community will continue to be a great place to live and raise a family.

### Schools

Cappy Smart Elementary School - Public  
Dr. Gladys McKelvie Egbert Community School - Public  
Roland Michener Elementary School - Public  
St. Martha Elementary & Junior High - Separate

### Demographics

Located in Ward 10, Marlborough Park has a population of 8,536 (2008 Civic Census) with

approximately 27.7 per cent comprising the immigrant population (Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada). A total of 1,650 families accounted for 3,000 children still living at home with 34.5 per cent of these being 6-14 years old.

According to Stats Canada, 2005 Census of Canada the median household income for Marlborough Park in 2005 was \$60,825. In addition, 27.9% of the population over 20 completed college, attended university or graduated university with a degree - an additional 9.6% graduated from Trade Schools (Statistics Canada, 2006 Census of Canada).