

## Memorial Drive closes to go with the Flow

TERENCE LEUNG  
FOR THE FEDERATION OF  
CALGARY COMMUNITIES

As motorists, cyclists and pedestrians successfully shared the normally busy Memorial Drive along the Bow River, the first ever Bow River Flow festival fulfilled its promise to encourage Calgarians to get out and use the many pathways of the city.

With the two south lanes on Memorial drive shut down for the event from 10th Street to 3rd Street N.W. while street hockey games, skateboarders and pedestrians milled about, organizers of the event hope it's something that will happen on a more frequent basis.

"The Bow River Flow is an opportunity for Calgary to join many cities around the world that are using underutilized roadways as beautiful pedestrian malls for riding, for arts and culture activities," says Gerald Wheatley, a committee organizer for the Bow River Flow and Sunnyside resident. "Most of this is about a party... our hope is to do events like this as frequently and as large scale as possible."

While community businesses threw their support behind the event, such as the Plaza Theatre's free screening of the classic

hockey film Slapshot, and restaurants offering specials for the day,

Wheatley adds that education is also part of the reason for shutting down one of Calgary's main road arteries.

"Part of the reason why we wanted to do this event on Memorial (Drive) is to get people more comfortable, especially cyclists," says Wheatley, who adds that the City roads department estimates the road can handle twice as much traffic on a Sunday. "This is something we're not all that familiar with as Calgarians. We need good bike lanes so bikers can get to work efficiently."

Although new to Calgarians, large city centres such as New York City, San Francisco and Vancouver have all held similar events on much larger scales.

"The idea about shutting down Memorial was part of a larger worldwide approach to, as some say, 'reclaim the streets', but it's more than that. It's allowing the streets to become part and parcel of a bigger community experience instead of reserved for cars," says Ald. Joe Ceci who threw his support in along with Ald. Druh Farrell, who initiated the event.

"It's just a small way of saying we want to enjoy our city in a more equal way and here's how we can do it. Other cities have

had positive experiences. It's wonderful and a lot of fun."

Beyond the statement that the Bow River Flow has made, Ceci looks around and simply enjoys the notion of another summer event for Calgarians to enjoy.

"The whole idea of another summer celebration is what attracted me (to throw my support behind the event). Edmonton's known as a festival city and I think we have as many festivals but we haven't had that label yet," says Ceci. "So the idea of doing more and more for people and this kind of gathering is why I threw my weight behind this."

Sunnyside-Hillhurst Community Association board member Kerri Treherne is excited for what the Bow River Flow will bring to the community.

"This sort of sets the stage for this to happen in the future. Beyond that, it's getting people out and people participating and getting people to know one another," says Treherne.

This story has been sponsored by:



The official sponsor for the Federation of Calgary Communities.  
Visit [www.communitynaturalfoods.com](http://www.communitynaturalfoods.com) for a location near you.



**Bow River Flow committee organizer Gerald Wheatley poses during the event, which featured thousands of Calgarians sharing Memorial Drive.**  
Photo courtesy FCC

### Community Profile: Kingsland

Annexed to the City of Calgary in 1956, Kingsland began to develop into a predominantly single family residential neighborhood.

Located in the southwest sector of the City, Kingsland is bounded by major transportation arteries including Glenmore Trail to the north, Macleod Trail to the east, Heritage Drive to the south, and Elbow Drive to the west.

These major roads, as well as the Light Rail Transit (LRT) system provide Kingsland residents with excellent access to Downtown and other parts of the City.

Kingsland is in close proximity to the Glenmore Reservoir, boat docks, the pathway, Heritage Park Historical Village and regional shopping centres.

#### Schools

St. Augustine Elementary & Junior High

#### Demographics

Located in Ward 11, Kingsland has a population of 4,373 (2006 Civic Census) with approximately 17.7% comprising the immigrant population (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada). A total of 585 families accounted for 890 children still living at home with 36% of these being six-14 years old.

According to Stats Canada, 2001 Census of Canada the median household income for Kingsland in 2005 was \$43,680. In addition, 44% of the population over 20 completed college, attended university or graduated university with a degree—an

additional 10.6% graduated from Trade Schools (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada).

There are a total of 2,505 occupied private dwellings in Kingsland with 24.6% being single detached dwellings (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada).

This Community Profile has been sponsored by:



The official sponsor of the Community Builder Award

WHAT DOES  
**community**  
MEAN TO YOU?

"One generation plants the trees; another gets the shade."

- Chinese Proverb