



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

### Terence Leung for the Federation of Calgary Communities

Tending to a friends' farm in France for a few months several years ago, Altadore resident Dorothy Mersereau's appreciation for fine wine grew.

Having ran a wine tasting event in her previous Calgary community, Mersereau and her partner Dave Johnson approached the South Calgary Community Association to hold a similar event which they felt offered something that was just for adults.

"We used to live in Lakeview and they had one there for several years. When we moved we thought it would be good because of the demographics here," says Mersereau.

"Most of the community association events surround kids and family which is fine, but we thought it would be nice to have an event or two that was more adult oriented."

With guest speakers, finger food and wine samples, the SCCA's first Wine Appreciation Night was held Oct. 29 at their community centre and will be held every third Thursday of every month except for December for at least the next six months.

"We had 25 people show up and I

think everybody enjoyed it. We had guest speakers from local community liquor stores such as Avenue 33 Fine Wines and Marda Loop Liquor," says Mersereau of the event that featured Chilean wines. Future nights will offer

their friends. We kind of put it together in a hurry and in the future we'll have advertising in the newsletter to keep growing it."

Mersereau believes setting up events like the Wine Appreciation Night brings

some of your neighbourhoods you may not have occasion to meet them especially if you don't have kids," she says.

"And we actually sold some memberships at the door. I think it's a good way to get more people involved."

Having seen the popularity of the event in the community they lived in previously, Mersereau and Johnson obviously hope the attendance grows but also that it encourages other communities to try to come up with their own adult-oriented events.

"I think it's pretty important to have things for adults. I know it's a great city to raise children, but I think it's also great to have some things in the community for adults," says Johnson.

"So far, it's gone fairly well with a good number of people showing up on fairly short notice."

Residents interested in attending future Wine Appreciation Nights can RSVP by calling 403-245-4536 or emailing [dormer49@shaw.ca](mailto:dormer49@shaw.ca). Cost is \$15 per person and attendees need to bring their own set of six wine glasses.



**Dorothy Mersereau and Dave Johnson began hosting wine appreciation nights at their local community centre after moving from Lakeview.**

*Photo courtesy FCC*

different themes such as blind taste testing, seasonal wines, and food and wine pairings.

"Most people said thanks afterwards and that they would come back. I think it was well received and really think it will grow because those people will tell

out those who normally would not meet other community members at child-oriented fare such as soccer practices, playgrounds and school-related events.

"It's a social event but it's also educational and something people seem to be interested in. And you meet

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## Coral Springs

Coral Springs is located in Calgary's northeast. The community's name, layout, and architectural style are reflective of its Californian theme. The community contains a lake, which is popular for swimming, fishing and boating. Coral Springs was annexed by Calgary in 1983 and is home to plenty of green space and pathways. The variety of housing costs in Coral Springs has allowed the community to remain economically diverse. There is one separate school in the area.

The Coral Springs community association is located in the Don Hartman Northeast Sportsplex. The community association puts on a number of special events each year including an annual summer festivals at the beach and autumn corn roasts. The festival features activities for children, a petting zoo and games. The community

association also hosts dances, and an annual community garage sale.

Coral Springs also works to represent its residents with regards to issues of concern. For example, due to the lack of a school in the area, the association monitors school related issues and busing schedules through a school liaison. In addition, the board advocated on traffic calming issues, managing to maintain a low traffic ratio and receive stop lights and crosswalks.

### Demographics

Located in Ward 5, Coral Springs has a population of 6,166 (2006 Civic Census) with approximately 21.8 per cent comprising the immigrant population (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada). A total of 1,225 families accounted for

2,420 children still living at home with 39.7 per cent of these being 6-14 years old. According to Stats Canada, 2001 Census of Canada the median household income for Coral Springs in 2000 was \$83,067. In addition, 46 per cent of the population over 20 completed college, attended university or graduated university with a degree - an additional 11.9 per cent graduated from Trade Schools (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada).

There are a total of 1,310 occupied private dwellings in Coral Springs with 100 per cent being single detached dwellings (Statistics Canada, 2001 Census of Canada).

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