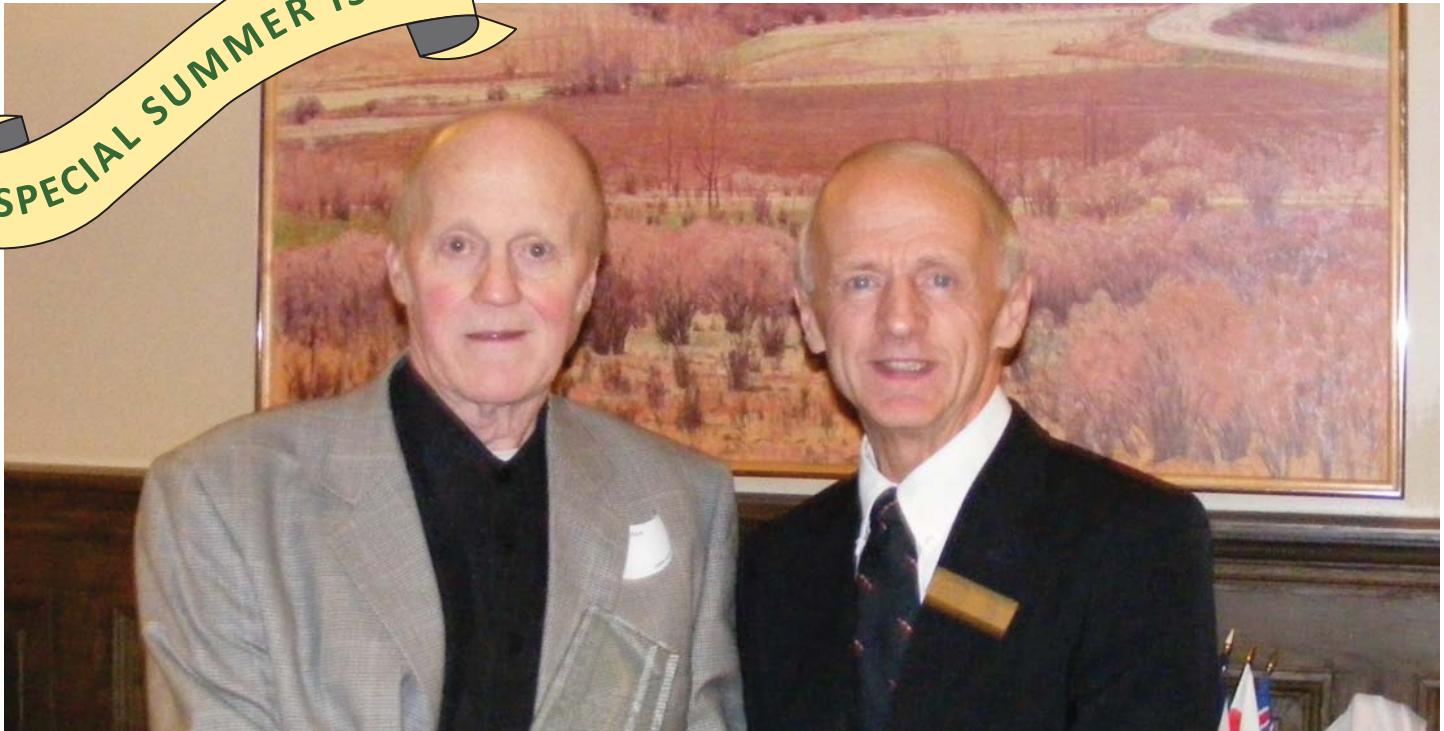


## Now Accepting Community Builder Award Nominations!



Last year's winner Jack Thomson (left) of Triwood with the Federation of Calgary Communities' President Bob Lang (right) at the Federation's Annual General Meeting in October, 2008. Jack was picked from a long list of dedicated volunteers for a lifetime of service to his community.

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The Federation is now accepting nominations for the Partnership Group's Community Builder Award!

This is an award we hand out annually to a community volunteer, business, or organization that has made a truly positive impact on their community. We call it the Community Builder Award because it recognizes those who do just that, build better communities.

It is our extreme pleasure to recognize and celebrate these volunteers with our awards programs.

If you know someone in your community that has gone above and the call of duty don't hesitate to nominate them. Please see inside for more information.

Continued on page 3...

### DISCLAIMER

The Federation produces 'Get Engaged!' to increase awareness and to provide thought provoking information. This newsletter and its advertisements are not intended to prescribe products or services, but solely to provide you with information to help you make informed decisions.

# Special Summer Update on Planning...

Community Heritage Roundtable  
July 16, 7 pm, Inglewood Community  
Hall.

A special Town Hall on the Calgary  
Brewing and Malting Co. Site  
(buildings dating back to 1892) in  
response to a recent application for  
demolition. Presentations on the  
history of the site, discussion of  
next steps, options for preservation.  
Register at [www.calgarycommunities.com](http://www.calgarycommunities.com) > Workshops and Events  
or call 403 244 4111.

## Plan It Calgary update

City Council heard from 109 presenters over three days during the Plan It Calgary public hearing in June. Council gave the combined municipal development and transportation plan "first reading", and 76 amendments and motions were proposed by council members. Council did not debate and vote on the motions individually, but voted to ask Administration to report back to Council on the implications of the 76 items by December 2009. (As of this writing the minutes of the June 23 special Council meeting, including the list of referred items, has just been posted on the City website. Go to [www.calgary.ca](http://www.calgary.ca) > City Hall > Council Agendas & Minutes and look for the minutes Special Council Meeting of 2009-06-23). will also post a copy on the Federation website in the planning section.) A

number of community association members spoke at the public hearing. Most spoke in favour of Plan It generally, or out of concern for specific items or local issues raised by Plan It – such as the Airport Trail tunnel and new river crossings. The Federation spoke in favour of Plan It, while proposing some friendly amendments to bolster the content on public involvement in planning; to advocate design guidelines for intensification; to provide adequate open space/recreation facilities as population density increases; and in support of schools as part of community life. Our letter is posted on the Federation website in the planning section. Some site recommendations are included in Council's list of proposed amendments.

## First set of Surplus School Sites identified

A report on how to address surplus school sites will probably go to a Council committee on July 22, and full Council in September. So far, sites have been identified in 11 communities, but this could eventually impact dozens of communities built between the 70s and 90s. At issue is how to plan alternative uses for school sites that were never built, and are now declared surplus by school boards and the province. New amendments to the Municipal Government Act (Bill 41) regarding these sites allow a variety of publicly-

minded uses, including libraries, special care facilities, day care, EMS, etc. on the planned school footprint only, but not the surrounding grounds. A meeting was held at the Federation offices on June 29 between City staff, Federation planners and representatives from a few affected communities. What we heard was the outline of a process that first considers keeping the land as open space, then looks at options for City uses, and then considers third-party proposals. We also heard from City staff that community and neighbour consultation is important, and we also communicated this in return. The normal MGA requirements for public consultation are not required under the unusual provisions of Bill 41, so we will be watching to make sure that consultation is part of the City planning process for these sites. For more information on this, contact the Federation planner or Paul Cochrane at the City.

## Partners In Planning courses

It was another successful season of free planning education courses through the Partners In Planning program, with about 161 active PIP participants in 2008-09. 19 graduates completed their certificate, and 51 are only one course away from completion. Look for the new season of PIP courses on the Workshops and Events page of the Federation website later in the summer.

# The Federation is Celebrating Communities

Celebrating Communities is a new program that the Federation is taking on in order to promote community associations, and the volunteers that make Calgary's communities a better place to live.

Community volunteers work extremely hard to putting on events for their communities. Celebrating communities will help get the word out on all the exciting things that community associations do for their communities, by profiling these community events

and successes in our newsletter and in other media in Calgary.

Celebrating Communities will also involve special events that are meant to celebrate the valuable work that community associations do, as well as raise the profile of community associations and the value of membership in them.

We will also continue to recognize outstanding community volunteers with programs like our Tool Peet Community

Hero Award and our Partnership Group Community Builder Award. Both these awards recognize the hard work that community volunteers put into making their neighbourhoods a better place.

Community associations do so much for their neighbourhoods, and for Calgary as a whole. The Federation is proud to work with community associations in improving neighbourhood life in Calgary. Look for exciting upcoming events as part of Celebrating Communities!

# Follow up to the MGA and Tax Exemption...

The Federation of Calgary Communities moved to action when we discovered that community associations were sent a letter from The City of Calgary Assessment Department, requesting that they fill out an application to apply for the 2010 Property and Business Tax Exemption. Something that community associations would be provided exemption for because of their membership with the Federation and because of the license/lease of occupation they have with the City of Calgary.

We first attempted to talk with the Assessment Department, however, were not successful in obtaining clarification and answers to our questions. While our letter outlined numerous concerns, the two major concerns were around not applying the Municipal Government Act granting members exemption and secondly the lack of inter-department communication around the process and sharing of information already on file. While the Federation created quite

a stir, we were only somewhat successful at reducing the burden on our members. Some of the successes include: profile at city council for the lack of communication, reduced number of questions required to be answered by our members, CNS and Assessment to work together on sharing information and finally, a commitment from the Assessment Unit to involve the Federation in the revision of the forms for subsequent years (Note: Apparently this extensive application is a once in 10 year process – we will hold them to it). Most importantly, because of our emailer we were able to get out the information out to you in a timely manner and share phone numbers of assessment department employees that could be of help.

Bottom-line, we as a network overwhelmed the Assessment employees with our legitimate questions and clearly left the message that our network is strong and our voice needs to be heard!

If your organization has a license/lease with the City or you rent space, you need to complete the application for exemption. Please talk with your CRC or call Leslie at 403-244-4111 ext. 201 or email [leslie.evans@calgarycommunities.com](mailto:leslie.evans@calgarycommunities.com).

Cheers,



Leslie Evans  
Executive Director  
Federation of Calgary Communities



## Nominate a volunteer, business or group!

The Federation of Calgary Communities, along with our proud sponsor Partnership Group would like to recognize people, organizations or companies based in the City of Calgary whose efforts have made a significant difference to the quality of life not only in their community but also to the citizens of Calgary.

### Nomination

#### In a brief letter:

1. Describe nominee's volunteer achievements (activities).
2. Outline the difference the nominee has made to his/her community and the greater community of Calgary.
3. Describe other volunteer activities or involvement in the voluntary sector.
4. Give detail on how the nominee showed leadership and/or initiative.

5. Provide information on the level of commitment contributed. Ex. sustained or extraordinary contribution.
6. Provide additional information or examples relevant to the nomination.

#### Eligibility for Consideration

Efforts that have made a significant difference to the "quality of life" not only within the community, but the city at large.

Candidates must be a current resident or a Calgary based company

#### Selection

All nominations will be reviewed by a committee. Candidates will be evaluated on:

- Contribution
- Belief in community

- Length of commitment
- Impact on community and city

Deadline—September 18, 2009

Please email nominations to [communityrelations@calgarycommunities.com](mailto:communityrelations@calgarycommunities.com)

Community Associations are a hub for community life. Present day Calgary is the "Volunteer City" with its residents active in a multitude of efforts which enhance our city, our lifestyles and our surroundings. Of these, community associations form the city's largest volunteer group. The Federation of Calgary Communities salutes its hard working volunteers!

# Community Q & A

You asked and we found the answers from your peers.

**Q:**

You asked: What is the difference between Residents associations and a community association.

**A:**

The Answer: There are 3 unique features of Resident Associations that differ from Community Associations:

1. All homeowners in a Resident Association community share in the ownership of common property and have exclusive access to the amenities provided by the Resident Association.
2. As an automatic member of the association each resident must typically abide by the rules of the community.
3. All property owners in the community are required to pay a mandatory fee.

The role of the Resident Association is the maintenance of the property owned in common by all the community homeowners. Maintenance of commonly owned property can include such facilities and amenities as swimming pools, tennis courts, lakes, parks, and social centres. Since these amenities are privately supported through the mandatory Resident Association fee only residents of the community are allowed to use them and they are not accessible for the general public.

Community Associations in Calgary are unique and historically in Calgary, Community Associations (CAs) have evolved within a given community's geographic boundary to fulfill the role of a "community-based" organization. Community residents form these associations that typically include objectives to provide local social and recreational activities, develop and maintain a community centre, and act as the political liaison between residents and local government agencies (Davies and Townshend, 1994: 1740).

## GET engaged! deadlines

Submissions accepted until 4 p.m. on the following dates:

Issue	Deadline
September.....	Aug 19
October.....	Sept 23
November.....	Oct 21
December.....	Nov 18

For details, please visit our website  
[www.calgarycommunities.com](http://www.calgarycommunities.com)

## Federation Staff & Services

Executive Director	Leslie Evans
Financial Audits & Accounting	Heidi Brauer Lois Fuss Cary Day Sophie Kahtar Linda Lin Vivian Zhou Liz Man Elena Ozhog
Community Planning/ Development	Bob van Wegen Taryn Hayes
Community Relations	Brendan Murray
Member Services	Catherine Halkett
Bookkeeping	Raid Nazzali

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