



Falconridge/Castleridge/Saddleridge (October 2005)

## Ward 3 Update

A message from Helene:

It is with great pride and admiration that I congratulate Falconridge resident Melissa O'Neill for her outstanding performance at this year's Canadian Idol competition. She certainly represented her family, school and community with grace, poise and a maturity beyond her years. My office was in contact with Melissa's father, Tim for the last few weeks of the competition and his excitement definitely rubbed off on us all at City Hall.

## Ward 3 Open House

On Wednesday, October 12, 2005, I will be hosting an Open House at St. Clare Elementary School in Coventry Hills. At the event, there will be a number of City departments represented to answer community resident questions. I will also make myself available to answer any questions you may have. Ward 3 is the largest ward in Calgary, includes two large areas on the west and eastside of Deerfoot trail. I will be hosting another Open House on the eastside of Deerfoot in the Spring. Here are the details of the Open House:

Date: Wednesday, October 12, 2005  
Time: 5:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.  
Place: St. Clare's Elementary School  
Address: 12455 Coventry Way NE

## Property Taxes

Calgary's residential municipal property taxes are now the lowest of 24 Canadian Cities surveyed. Hamilton and Montreal are the two highest – and Calgary and Medicine Hat the two lowest – in the latest City of Edmonton property tax and utility survey.

Widely used as the yardstick for comparing property tax levels across the country, the survey includes municipal and regional taxes, but excludes school taxes and is net of any applicable homeowner grants.

The survey calculates the municipal portion of the property taxes a homeowner would pay on a 25-30 year old detached three bedroom bungalow, with a main floor of 1200 sq. ft., finished basement, double car garage, and a 6,000 sq. ft. lot.

The range is dramatic: homeowners in Hamilton and Montreal would pay more than three times what the Calgary homeowner would pay.

Actual numbers: in Calgary that home would have had a tax bill of \$783 in 2004, in Hamilton, \$2446; Victoria, \$1793; Regina, \$1157; and in Edmonton, \$1037.

### Civic Census

Calgary absorbed the equivalent of the entire population of Regina in the past 10 years. Calgary's population grew by 22,583 in the past year – and more than 207,000 in the past decade – according to the 2005 Civic Census. Between April 2004 and April 2005, the number of Calgarians climbed 2.4%, from 933,495 to 956,078.

Net migration was 13,677 an increase of a whopping 84% over the previous year's figure. The natural increase – the excess of births over deaths – was 8,906 down slightly year over year, but still significant source of growth.

Not surprisingly, new Ward 3 communities showed the greatest increases. Evanston and Symons Valley, more than doubled their population numbers.