

Flexible floor plans, lock and leave lifestyle drawing buyers to The Gates in Quarry Park

BY JOSH SKAPIN, CALGARY HERALD JULY 10, 2014



Don Molyneaux/For the Calgary Herald Julie Macdonald and Cole Maruk enjoy the natural beauty in Quarry Park where the couple bought an apartment, with one bedroom and a den, at The Gates.

Photograph by: Don Molyneaux

Moving to Quarry Park has helped Julie Macdonald and Cole Maruk with healthy habits.

Since moving to the southeast Calgary community, the couple in their mid-20s is spending more time moving their legs in the fresh air than ever before. Quarry Park is known for its walkable amenities and scenic pathways near the Bow River.

“Growing up in Calgary, we’ve never really been one for walking anywhere. It’s all about the car and we’re all guilty of it,” says Macdonald. “But (now) we find ourselves walking to dinner, walking to go get groceries, walking to grab a coffee and walking to just get out because it’s just so beautiful.”

There’s an amenity-rich commercial hub with restaurants and shops called The Market at Quarry Park.

The couple recently bought their first home at an apartment project in the community called The Gates. They're slated to take possession next summer but until then, they're staying at a rental development in Quarry Park dubbed The Laurier. Before that, they rented another home in the community. Needless to say, they're familiar with the benefits of living in Quarry Park.

"Last summer, living so close to the river, I really enjoyed that and it allowed me to take up running for the first time ever," Macdonald says. "It's easy to run when you have something beautiful to look at." She's also taken up cycling to work.

Macdonald is a communications and events adviser and Maruk is a marketing manager. They purchased an apartment with a one bedroom-and-den orientation at The Gates. This project is built by Remington Development Corp., the same company that planned and develops Quarry Park.

"The Gates project itself is a great balance between affordability and upscale living, set amongst what I believe is quickly becoming one of Calgary's best hidden gem communities," says Maruk. "Overall, we strongly believe in the direction Remington is taking with the entire Quarry Park development and are very excited to become homeowners at The Gates and be a part of the fantastic community that seems to be developing right before our eyes."

The Gates is a 32-unit, three-storey wood frame boutique development with an underground parkade. It offers one, two and three-bedroom plans ranging 760-to-1,312-square feet. A sales centre for the project is at 350 Quarry Park Blvd. S.E. It's shared with another Remington complex called Champagne.

"The units are really efficient floor plans," says Julie Seidel, Remington's residential sales manager. "They really make use of every ounce of space and the flow and the overall feel of the suites is something that has really attracted buyers so far."

One-bedroom units start in the \$290,000s and all apartments are priced less than \$450,000. To no surprise, this range has won over a number of first-time buyers.

"What it also caters to is that empty-nester," says Seidel. "We're still getting a really good mix of people downsizing, trying to simplify their lives and that lock-and-leave lifestyle. I think at the price point, it frees up a little bit more equity for those homeowners who are looking to travel most of the year or have a place down south."

Remington has seen an uptick in interest for three-bedroom plans, says Seidel adding the additional sleeping space gives the buyer options.

"People would like to have a second bedroom for people to stay in but they really want that office or the flexibility of having that third bedroom be whatever they want it to be," says Seidel. "An extra spare room for their grandkids or their family and friends that come stay and have their office as their private sanctuary, as well."

Seidel says homes at The Gates boast a "typical Remington standard," meaning they're high calibre.

“They’re beautiful, they’re higher end and really compliment the project as a whole,” she adds.

Meanwhile, Champagne has launched sales on the final building in the five-building luxury complex. These buildings feature architecture with steep-pitched roofs and natural stone detailing. Prices start in the mid-\$300,000s and its penthouses start at the low-\$700,000s. Champagne’s buildings are made from insulated precast concrete structure, which offers a number of benefits, such as quieter living spaces.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

PROJECT: The Gates.

BUILDER/DEVELOPER: Remington Development Corp.

AREA: Quarry Park is a community in southeast Calgary. **PRICES:** Homes start from the \$290,000s.

DIRECTIONS: The presentation centre is at 350 Quarry Park Blvd., S.E. To get there, Ogden Road to Millican Road, go left on 19th Street, right on 66th Ave and left on 18th Street. Then head right on Quarry Park Boulevard.

BUYERS

Julie Macdonald and Cole Maruk

AGES: In their 20s.

BACKGROUND: Quarry Park has been a hit with this couple from the start. They renting in the community until The Gates condo project in Quarry Park is ready for possession. This is where they bought their first home. The couple gives top marks to the community’s walkable shops and services and are fond of its pathway system where they go for scenic strolls near the Bow River. Cole works in marketing and Julie is a communications and events advisor.

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Courtesy Remington Development Corp. An artist's rendering of a kitchen in an apartment at The Gates. Photos: Remington Development Corp. An artist's rendering illustrates the kitchen in an apartment at The Gates, a project that is a "balance between affordability and upscale living."