

Buyers dig Quarry Park

BY JOSH SKAPIN, CALGARY HERALD MAY 31, 2013



Cory and Rhonda Gwynn bought a townhome at Boulevard Townes by Birchwood Properties in Quarry Park, a new community in southeast Calgary (click on the photo for our 16-picture tour).

Photograph by: Michelle Hofer, For the Calgary Herald

When a couple found the home they're moving into this August, they weren't searching for a new place at all. They were just thirsty.

"We were looking for a Slurpee," says Rhonda Gwynn. Her husband, Cory, told her there might be a place to get their sugar fix in Quarry Park, which the couple knew little about.

They found a collection of shops, services and restaurants called The Market at Quarry Park.

"When we turned right to where the market place is, I was shocked," says Rhonda. "I thought: 'Where is this? Where did this come from?'"

Impressed by the range of services, the Gwynns realized they knew little about Quarry Park, prompting them to look further into what it had to offer.

Quarry Park is a southeast Calgary community master-planned by Remington Development Corp. A

block away from the market, a development called Boulevard Townes by Birchwood Properties caught the couple's eye.

Boulevard Townes is a townhome project now selling its fourth of four phases, which are located on Quarry Park Boulevard. The development features a front exterior inspired by a classic French neighbourhood.

"We got out and pretty much instantly fell in love with the way these were designed," says Rhonda. "We appreciate when it's a job well done, so we liked what we saw there."

The couple toured one of the development's show homes.

The project is slated to contain 125 units in two- and three-bedroom floor plans.

They range from the 1,540-square-foot Abbey model to the 1,732-square-foot Madison.

The homes come with a number of features, including nine-foot ceilings on the main floor, a gas fireplace with a fully-tiled, floor-to-ceiling mantel, granite or quartz on kitchen countertops and the island, and a stainless-steel

appliance package.

"We went away from it for about a year, but kept going back to it about once every four to six weeks," says Rhonda. "It became our addiction."

At the time, the couple had a place in the community of Ramsay that they had no intention of ever leaving. But they were swayed by Quarry Park.

"We fell in love with what Quarry Park has to offer," says Rhonda.

"We like the fact that you can walk 10 minutes to get to a grocery store. You've got really nice restaurants there. The river's right there."

Quarry Park is on a property next to the Bow River. It's slated to eventually include two ponds and 15 kilometres of pathways.

"It's in an excellent location, so we thought long and hard about it — and two years later, we have signed on the dotted line," says Rhonda.

The Gwynns are now renovating their home, preparing it for sale prior to moving into their new townhome in August.

When picking the model, the couple had a checklist of what they wanted. One of the top must-haves was a kitchen ideal for entertaining their friends.

"I love to entertain and I love to cook, so the kitchen situation is fantastic," says Rhonda.

The Gwynns upsized their kitchen island so that it's now 10 feet long. Rhonda calls the kitchen "well

appointed.”

“You can still be cooking while talking with people who are sitting in the living room — or in the case of a meal that I do once a year where I cook

11 courses,” says Rhonda.

At Christmastime each year, Rhonda hosts her single friends for a meal that takes a week to prepare, and six hours to cook and serve.

“I’m a very lucky man, by the way,” says Cory of his wife’s knack for cooking.

Rhonda says her current kitchen in Ramsay is closed off from the rest of the house, which shuts off the chatter

between the cook and guests.

The new kitchen creates a much more sociable atmosphere. “Basically, it’s a giant party room when you walk in the front room,” says Rhonda.

The townhome also has a spacious, two-car garage, which means plenty of storage.

“It’s fantastic,” says Rhonda.

“We have large hobbies and are very outdoorsy. We do a lot of kayaking and camping, so there’s a lot of gear that goes with that.”

The basement also has its perks, says Cory. “There’s enough room to develop the downstairs, as well the surround-sound system that the man requires,” he says, laughing.

Boulevard Townes is the second of two developments by Birchwood Properties in Quarry Park. The other is a complex called the Belmont Townhomes.

The builder is expected this summer to open its Bristol project, its third development in the community.

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Project: Boulevard Townes.

Builder: Birchwood Properties.

Developer: Remington Development Corp.

Area: Quarry Park is a community in southeast Calgary.

Prices: Townhomes start in the mid-\$460,000s.

Hours: Mondays through Thursdays, 2 p.m. to 8 p.m., and noon to 5 p.m. on weekends and holidays.

THE BUYERS

Cory and Rhonda Gwynn.

Ages: Cory is in his 40s and Rhonda is in her 30s.

Background: Cory is an electrician and Rhonda is an artist.

The Calgary couple never thought they'd live anywhere other than their current home in Ramsay.

But now that they're renovating it to prepare it for sale, the Gwynns are moving this August into a new townhome in Quarry Park called the Boulevard Townes.

It has a spacious, open-concept kitchen for entertaining and a large garage for storing gear for their outdoorsy pastimes.

THAT'S THE PLAN

Quarry Park is a southeast Calgary community master-planned by Remington Development Corp.

There are 2,200 homes planned for the project, including homes by Cardel Homes, Birchwood Properties and Remington Development Corp.

Located on the site of a former gravel quarry, Quarry Park is near the Bow River and includes parks, pathways and a nature reserve.

A short walk from its residential development is a commercial hub called The Market of Quarry Park, which boasts a number of shops, services and restaurants.

For more information about the development, visit quarrypark.ca

BIRCHWOOD KEEPS SHOWING

Birchwood Properties is a single- and multi-family home builder in Calgary.

It currently has four projects, including two multi-family developments in Quarry Park — the Belmont Townhomes and the Boulevard Townes.

It also offers single-family homes in Currie Barracks and rental apartments in Capitol Hill called Kaleidoscope.

Past projects include Royal Oak Estates, Coachman's Crossing, and Jack and Jill Side-by-Side Homes.

Visit birchwoodproperties.ca

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An architectural drawing of Imperial Oil's new office complex, which is to be constructed in the Quarry Park area of Calgary. As a self-contained community, Quarry Park offers residents the chance to be able to walk to where they work.

Photograph by: Files, Calgary Herald