

Life tastes good at Champagne

BY JOSH SKAPIN, CALGARY HERALD APRIL 5, 2013



Brenda and Dan Lavalée have bought a condo unit within the Champagne project in Quarry Park. The couple, above, are in a kitchen in the presentation gallery (click on the photo for our 12-picture tour).

Photograph by: Adrian Shellard, For the Calgary Herald

Until a few months ago, Dan and Brenda Lavalée didn't know much about Quarry Park.

But when plans were announced for Imperial Oil to move its headquarters to the southeast Calgary community, the Lavalées looked closer.

Dan is a longtime employee of the energy giant and Brenda is a school teacher. Both are in their 50s.

After looking into Quarry Park, the Calgary couple decided to fast track plans to downsize from their single-family home in Discovery Ridge. They bought a condo at Champagne by Remington Development Corp.

When the Lavalées take possession of their new place, there will be no fighting the morning gridlock for Dan. "When living there, it's probably a two minute walk to work," says Dan.

But the quick commute is secondary to what Quarry Park offers, including a short walk to shops and

services in a commercial centre called The Market at Quarry Park.

There are also plans for a recreation centre, and the area enjoys quick access to major city arteries, including Deerfoot Trail and Glenmore Trail.

“It surprised me,” says Dan, who suggests many people aren’t fully aware of what’s offered in the master-planned development. “When you’re there, you realize it — and when it’s all built up, I think it’s going to be really attractive.”

As the couple waded through housing options in Quarry Park, it found the presentation gallery for Champagne, which features two show suites. Like the community, itself, Remington Development Corp. is also behind Champagne. This project sits next to the Bow River and will consist of 177 units across five buildings. The structures will be constructed in insulated precast concrete and boast an elegant French countryside design.

For the Lavalles, the Champagne show suites made an impression.

The quality there won us over,” says Dan, who with Brenda bought a two-bedroom unit. “They’ve done a great job and upgraded everything.”

The apartments are decked out in “penthouse level specifications,” says residential sales manager Julie Seidel.

“People appreciate that when they walk through our gallery and see our one- and two-bedroom (show suites), they don’t have to think: ‘Where’s the hidden costs for these amazing items that I see?’,” says Seidel.

“We’ve already incorporated them. That includes ceilings that are at least eight-and-a-half-feet high.”

Top floor apartments are even taller, reaching 11 feet. The ceilings have a stylish coffered design, which Seidel says “sets us apart. It’s unique to our project.”

Dan agrees, adding “it’s got a lot of the little touches that we really like.”

The couple picked a southwest unit with no shortage of windows and a large balcony. “My wife and I were concerned about it not being too dark,” says Dan. “They did a really good job, I think.”

Dan says he looks forward to firing up his barbecue on the balcony.

“You get a great view out to just green area and the river,” he says. “It’s very peaceful and that attracted us.”

The peaceful setting isn’t just outside the walls of Champagne, but inside as well thanks to the precast concrete, which lends itself to sound proofing.

“When you move from a house you’re used to not having noise,” says Dan. “So the fact they’re using concrete helps a lot.”

The second building of Champagne is more than 60 per cent sold and the developer has opened sales on its third structure.

This building is set back, allowing enough land for a walkable French garden. It will be incorporated in a river pathway system, says Seidel.

The apartments range from 815 to 1,125 square feet for one-bedroom plans and 1,220 to 1,695 square feet for two-bedroom layouts. Penthouses at the project span 1,340 to 2,300 square feet.

One-bedroom units start in the low \$300,000s, while two-bedroom units are in the low \$500,000s and penthouses are in the low \$800,000s.

Some have sold for \$1 million. "It's been really great for us," says Seidel.

The Lavalles expect to take possession of their next home this fall.

"That's good because it means we're not in a rush to have to sell our house," says Dan. "If we do ahead of time, that's OK, too, but it didn't put us in a crunch. We're pleased with that."

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Project: Champagne is a five-building condo complex.

Builder/developer: Remington Development Corp.

Area: Quarry Park is a community in southeast Calgary

Prices: One bedroom apartments are available from the \$300,000s, while two bedrooms are in the low \$500,000s and penthouses are in the low \$800,000s.

Hours: The presentation galley is open 2 p.m. to 8 p.m. Mondays through Thursdays, and noon to 5 p.m. weekends and holidays.

Directions: To get to the presentation gallery take Glenmore Trail to 18th Street and turn right on Quarry Park Boulevard.

Information: Visit remingtoncorp.com/residential/

THE BUYERS

Dan and Brenda Lavallee.

Ages: In their 50s.

Background: The Calgary couple didn't expect to downsize its home for a few years.

But when Dan's employer, Imperial Oil, moved its office to Quarry Park, the Lavalles looked into the southeast city community.

They bought a two-bedroom apartment in a development called Champagne.

The couple was attracted to its penthouse grade features, concrete structure and large balcony overlooking the Bow River.

MASTER PLANNED

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

The community is mixed-use boasting a combination of residential projects with pathways, park space, office development and shops and services in a commercial hub called The Market at Quarry Park.

Residential projects in Quarry Park include a complex by Remington Development Corp. called Champagne.

It also includes condos in Boulevard Townes and Belmont Townhomes, both by Birchwood Properties.

For more information about Quarry Park, visit quarrypark.ca

DID YOU KNOW

Remington Development Corp. is a company whose projects range from residential buildings and communities to commercial projects and office and retail space.

It opened in 1994 and has offices in Calgary and Edmonton.

Projects include Quarry Park and Champagne.

Visit remingtoncorp.com

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The luxurious kitchen within a show suite for the Champagne condo complex in Quarry Park by Remington Development Corp.

Photograph by: Calgary Herald, Files