



The City of Calgary congratulates all recipients of this year's Calgary Awards. These awards recognize Calgary citizens and organizations for their contributions to make our city a dynamic, compassionate and environmentally friendly place to live.

The Calgary Awards were presented on June 11, 2009.

## THE COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



**Arts**  
Umran Sumen



**Commerce**  
SWIMCO



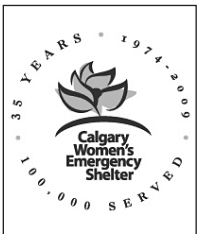
**Community Advocate**  
Bob Lang



**Education**  
Janice McTighe



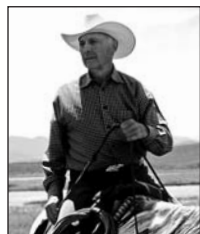
**Heritage**  
Neil Richardson



**Community Advocate Organization**  
Calgary Women's  
Emergency Shelter



**CITIZEN OF THE YEAR**  
Lois Mitchell



**GRANT MacEWAN  
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT**  
Daryl K. (Doc) Seaman  
(posthumous)



**Youth**  
Natasha Somani

## THE CITY OF CALGARY W.O. MITCHELL BOOK PRIZE



Andrew Nikiforuk  
*Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent*

## THE SIGNATURE AWARD



John Scott

## THE AWARD FOR ACCESSIBILITY



Calgary Zoo

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS



**Not-for-Profit**  
Bow River Basin Council



**Individual Achievement**  
Dr. David Keith



**Blue Skies**  
Alberta Health Services



Corporate - Mountain Equipment Co-op - Calgary



**Educational Institution**  
Ernest Manning High School, Sustainability Club

## **The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder**

---

The Calgary Awards began in 1994 as a Centennial project to commemorate Calgary's 100th year as a city and to recognize outstanding citizen achievement. Since 1994, the Calgary Awards have expanded to include the Environmental Achievement Awards, the Award for Accessibility, The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize, The Signature Award and The Community Achievement Awards.

A total of 105 nominations along with 27 entries for The City of Calgary W.O. Mitchell Book Prize were received this year. The selection of award recipients is the responsibility of the Calgary Awards Juries. The juries are comprised of Award recipients from previous years, community representatives, senior city administration and retired members of Council. These juries carefully reviewed the nominations and made the selections for the Award categories. Their selections were sent to Council for final approval.

The following is a description of the Award categories and a brief summary of the winners' accomplishments.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

#### **Blue Skies**

*Awarded to a Calgary business that demonstrates commitment, innovation and leadership in developing and implementing successful commuter trip reduction programs.*

#### **Recipient – Alberta Health Services**

Since 2006 *Alberta Health Services – Calgary Health Region* has demonstrated commitment, innovation and leadership by promoting its Traffic Demand Management programs designed to ease the Region's parking crunch, reduce on-site traffic congestion and free up more spaces for patients and visitors.

Part of TDM's effort to reduce the Region's carbon footprint is the HealthCommute program. The initiative offers alternatives to solo commuting by providing the organization's 30,000 employees convenient and environmentally friendly transportation options.

HealthCommute encourages the use of commuting alternatives to driving alone. The campaign includes a carpooling program, transit projects, Inter-hospital shuttle service, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, parking management, employer-based programs and integrated land-use transportation planning.

The Calgary Health Region is the only health authority in the province to take this proactive step in sustainable transportation.

## The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder

---

### **Corporate**

*The Corporate Award goes to a Calgary business for innovative and/or exemplary environmental conduct. Any corporate entity with an office in Calgary, including a Crown corporation, qualifies for this award.*

### **Recipient – Mountain Equipment Co-op – Calgary**

MEC Calgary has become a leader in the community through its Green Operations and Community Involvement programs. MEC's sustainability program successfully manages its environmental impact, and allows it the opportunity to lead by example, and to challenge its staff, members, and the business community, to work towards a sustainable future. Highlights include:

- the first in Calgary to use biodegradable shopping bags
- a 92% waste diversion rate by keeping over 94 metric tons of waste out of the landfill in 2008
- being 100% wind powered
- lockers, showers, bike storage, and bike tools for staff
- housed in a LEED-certified building

In addition to MEC Calgary's outdoor education-based presentations to school groups, outdoor clubs and the general public, the store regularly delivers presentations that focus on environmental stewardship and socially and environmentally responsible business practices. It also hosts other like-minded not-for-profit groups, allowing them - at no charge - to use the MEC space after hours to hold outreach events.

Staff at MEC Calgary live the values that the store represents. Every May for over a decade, staff volunteers have taken part in the Bow River and Pathway Clean-up. Staff have put in more than 400 volunteer person hours doing trail maintenance and drainage work in the local mountains and parks.

MEC Calgary boasts of many other sustainability initiatives such as:

- advocating for alternative transportation
- battery recycling
- "dumpster diving"
- waste audits
- rewards for not using shopping bags; and more.

MEC is a company that writes sustainability into its business plan; social and environmental impacts are taken into consideration when making decisions concerning all aspects of the business. It is only through the shared values of all store staff, and their commitment to minimizing the store's footprint, that many of MEC Calgary's accomplishments have been realized.

### **Honourable Mention – The City of Calgary, Water Centre**

## The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder

---

### **Educational Institution**

*Presented to a Calgary educational institution, school board, school or student(s) for exemplary conduct or for an innovative environmental policy, project or activity.*

#### **Recipient – Ernest Manning High School, Sustainability Club**

Over the last two years members of *Ernest Manning High School's Sustainability Club* have campaigned within their school and community to highlight the importance of energy conservation and to promote sustainable living.

Some of the Club's main initiatives include an Anti-idling campaign, a beverage container recycling program, participation in the annual River Clean-up and the Computers Off / Lights Off Project, among many other on-going programs.

The Club takes advantage of Parent-Teacher interviews to present and inform parents of their current projects. They also make field trips throughout the year to witness first-hand our community's ecological impact and to explore alternative energy sources.

The teachers have been incredibly supportive of the programs. The school has received rebates from the CBE in recognition of their decreased energy consumption. Each year the Club's numbers continue to increase as more and more Ernest Manning students are interested in making a positive change.

### **Individual Achievement**

*Awarded to a Calgarian whose actions and achievements have shown dedication to protecting and /or enhancing the environment.*

#### **Recipient – Dr. David Keith**

Dr. Keith is Canada Research Chair in Energy and the Environment at the University of Calgary. He is widely recognized as one of the top energy-policy analyst's in the world. Through his work and contributions in research, education, and public policy, he has been impacting the protection and conservation of the world's environmental heritage.

Dr. Keith was selected as Canadian Geographic's first Environmental Scientist of the Year and is an internationally acknowledged authority on energy policy and climate change, particularly in the areas of carbon capture and how different energy systems impact our environment and climate.

He has been actively involved in climate change leadership for almost 20 years, and continues to advise on energy policy for various organizations, governments, companies and committees world-wide.

In addition to his significant contributions in research and public policy, Dr. Keith is educating the next generation of experts in the field of energy and the environment

## **The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder**

---

through the U of C's post graduate interdisciplinary specialization in Energy and Environmental Systems.

### **The Not-for-Profit Organization Award**

*This award goes to a non-government, not-for-profit organization for outstanding environmental contribution, improved environmental quality or the development of an environmental program.*

#### **Recipient – Bow River Basin Council**

*Bow River Basin Council* is a multi-stakeholder, not-for-profit organization based in Calgary, dedicated to taking action to improve and protect the waters of the Bow River basin. The Council's *Bow Basin Watershed Management Plan, Phase One, Water Quality* is an unprecedented plan that will help protect the Bow Basin watershed and ensure a high quality of life for current and future generations.

The plan's vision is to protect and enhance water quality in the watershed and recommend changes that will affect education and awareness programs, public policy, practice and regulation.

The BRBC formed a steering and a technical committee. Between the two, over a span of two and a half years, more than 1000 hours of volunteer time was devoted to the project. In 2008 the management plan was recognized by the North American Lake Management Society with their Technical Excellence Award.

To date 31 of the 35 identified key decision-making stakeholders have committed to the plan's recommended actions. The remaining four are anticipated to sign in due course.

### **THE SIGNATURE AWARD**

*Presented to an exceptional person whose activities have gained international acclaim and who has actively contributed to the quality of life in Calgary and brought significant recognition to our city.*

#### **Recipient – John Scott**

John Scott is a mainstay and driving force of the Alberta film industry and a third generation rancher. For over 30 years he has had a part in over 130 movies filmed in Alberta and has been an active and outspoken advocate for the province's film industry.

John lives and works on a sprawling ranch near Longview. Home to up to 100 horses, the ranch was founded in 1904 by John's grandfather William Bews. This was where John learned his team and wagon skills that he would put to use in many films shot in the province over the years.

John's first experience wrangling began in 1970 while he was on the rodeo circuit where he was asked to supply horses and do stunt work for "Little Big Man" starring Dustin

## **The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder**

---

Hoffman. Since then, John's raison d'etre has been to stay in Alberta, selling the beauty of the province to Hollywood. As written in an article highlighting John's accomplishments, "He is hustling all the time, promoting Alberta, his business, and marketing the positives Alberta offers."

Scott is the founder of the Alberta Chapter of Stunts Canada, an association of professional stunt coordinators and performers. He has also been the Stampede Parade's principal stock supplier for years. He is known as a "man of many hats; his daily assignment may be that of wrangler, producer, host, promoter, negotiator, stunt coordinator, talent scout, actor, or other roles he skillfully assumes."

Recognition of John's efforts can be seen by the 2007 Alberta Horse Industry Distinguished Service Award he received, and in the many friendships he has made with people in the cattle and film industries here at home and with the many actors he has worked with and trained.

While many have left for other opportunities, John continues to market and promote the province and land he knows and loves best. As John himself has said: "It's never been about money for me when it comes to horses, movies and working in this industry. It's about pride in what one does and in doing it well."

### **THE CITY OF CALGARY W.O. MITCHELL BOOK PRIZE**

*A three-person jury from the Canadian literary community judges all entries and selects the winner for confirmation by The Calgary Awards Committee. The jury is made up of a Calgarian, an Albertan from outside Calgary, and a Canadian from outside Alberta.*

#### **Recipient – Andrew Nikiforuk**

The City of Calgary established this book prize in honour of my father, writer W.O. Mitchell. Started in 1994, the award recognizes literary achievement by Calgary authors. The \$5000 prize is coordinated through a partnership between The City of Calgary and the Writers Guild of Alberta and with sponsorship from Uptown 17 BRZ.

In *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent*, Andrew Nikiforuk exposes the disastrous environmental, social and political costs of the tar sands and argues forcefully for change.

Combining extensive scientific research and compelling writing, the author takes the reader to Fort McMurray, home to some of the world's largest open-pit mines and looks at the exorbitant cost of housing and its serious social ills. Development of the Alberta tar sands has seen over 700,000 people move to Alberta since 1996 with the dream of making a fast buck in booming Fort Mac.

## The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder

---

Mr. Nikiforuk describes tar-sands development as the world's largest construction project, the world's largest capital project, and the world's largest energy project. Investment in the tar sands, including pipelines and upgraders, now totals approximately \$200 billion and is still growing.

Mr. Nikiforuk has earned a reputation as an honest and provocative voice in Canadian journalism and is an award-winning journalist and author residing in Calgary with his wife and three sons. Andrew was the recipient of the 2001 W.O. Mitchell Book Prize for his book *Saboteurs*, which also won the Governor General's Literary award in 2002 for non-fiction.

I am pleased to present this year's W.O. Mitchell Book Prize for *Tar Sands: Dirty Oil and the Future of a Continent*. Congratulations Andrew Nikiforuk for creating a must-read not just for Albertans but for every Canadian who cares about our planet.

### **AWARD FOR ACCESSIBILITY**

*This award recognizes buildings or facilities in Calgary that have significantly exceeded the minimum requirements of the Alberta Building Code for accessibility by persons with disabilities.*

#### **Recipient –Calgary Zoo**

The Calgary Zoo's new North Gate and Tunnel Entrance was officially opened in the spring of 2008, allowing faster and more convenient access, and a visually appealing and highly accessible route into the north part of the Zoo.

The North Gate and Entrance was a very challenging design; the existing LRT tunnel was redeveloped to consist of an inviting space with a focus on service, accessibility and safety. A few of the highlights of its accessibility components include:

- barrier free access at the new valet kiosk, front gates, ticket transaction counters, upper parking lot, and washrooms;
- an inviting, wide open expanse of the Alberta Plaza entrance, with many large, visible, and colourful identifiers and natural benches; and
- new components allowing better accessibility for wheelchairs and strollers.

It is estimated that the newly designed North Gate Entrance will allow for 3000 visitors per hour, approximately double the number that the prior design had accommodated.

## The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder

---

### **COMMUNITY ACHIEVEMENT AWARDS**

#### **Arts**

*Presented to an individual Calgarian whose artistic accomplishments have brought recognition to Calgary or whose volunteer or professional involvement has contributed to developing a stronger arts community.*

#### **Recipient – Umran Sumen**

Ms. Sumen immigrated to Calgary in 1982 following an illustrious ballet career in Europe that included 16 years as a lead soloist with the National Ballet Company of Turkey.

After arriving in Calgary and getting involved with the Calgary City Ballet in 1986, Umran and the board raised 1.7 million to fund and establish the Nat Christie Centre - current home to Alberta Ballet.

In 1988, Umran started her own school - the International School of Ballet and Jeunesse Classique Ballet - of which she is still director of Classique Ballet. Her mantra was to put Calgary on the dance world map, and indeed she has. A number of her dancers from the School went on to receive the Solo Seal Award, the highest level attainable from the Royal Academy of Dance, and others have won awards and gone on to successful careers with renowned ballet companies worldwide.

In addition to making her mark on classical ballet in Calgary, Umran gives back to the community in other ways. She regularly donates proceeds from her ballet productions to charities including the Children's Hospital, the Children's Wish Foundation, and the Banff Mineral Springs Hospital. For those unable to attend her ballets, she frequently brings "mini-ballets" to them.

#### **Community Advocate: Organization**

*Awarded to a non-government, not-for-profit Calgary organization for outstanding service to the community by implementing, improving, supporting, or assisting a local project or program.*

#### **Recipient – Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter**

Unlike most organizations, this one would like to be out of business. For 35 years the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter has been providing resources for women, children and men trying to lead lives that are free of violence.

Established in 1974, the Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter was the first women's shelter in Alberta and one of the first in Canada. Helping over 100,000 people, it leads the way in bringing family violence out of the shadows, and enabling countless individuals to build new lives.



## The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder

---

The organization excels in community service, research, innovation and education. It provides a range of programs, some of which include: a family violence helpline; crisis counselors; child and adolescent services; a community outreach program; men's counseling service; and court support counselors.

The Shelter is involved with local and national family violence education and advocacy campaigns, and presents to hospitals, government, and other shelters. It sits on many committees, jointly running campaigns and programs with other organizations.

At the heart of the Shelter is the women it helps. After facing her partner's abuse, one woman wrote that "getting help from trained counselors and finding support at the shelter was a turning point for me. I sought the help of Calgary Women's Emergency Shelter and made the first steps to changing my and my two girls' future...I began to feel like I did have choices again."

### **Community Advocate Award**

*Awarded to an individual Calgarian who has made a significant volunteer contribution to the community.*

#### **Recipient – Bob Lang**

Bob has made a quiet yet large impact on Calgary since arriving here over 40 years ago, volunteering with numerous and varied grassroots organizations. In addition to his role as volunteer, he has been an advocate, change agent, founder, networker, creator, innovator, visionary and activist.

Bob has shown an unwavering commitment to his community by serving 30 years on the Cliff Bungalow-Mission Community Association and 17 years on the board of the Federation of Calgary Communities.

He is a founding member of the 4th Street Lilac Festival, Peer Mediation and Skills Training, Community Mediation Calgary Society, Safer Calgary, Inner City Coalition of Calgary Society, and the Inner City Community Life Council.

Bob's length and breadth of service across so many different fields is unparalleled - from urban planning, oil and gas, and social services to community development, education, and health care.

#### **Honourable Mention – Dr. Sandra de la Ronde**

### **Commerce Award**

*The **Commerce Award** is presented to an individual or business for improving business opportunities, making significant community or industry contributions.*

#### **Recipient – SWIMCO**

## **The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder**

---

From its roots as a small business operated out of a Calgary basement in 1975, over the past three decades *Swimco* has grown into the leading swimwear retailer in the city and operates 13 stores across Alberta and B.C.

As an employer of many young Calgary women, one of the company's main objectives is to ensure their employees gain positive experiences as a member of the 'Swimco Family'. Along with developing business, customer service and leadership skills, employees receive RSP matching, benefits programs, career training and growth, and student scholarships.

Another focus for Swimco is their 'Community of Customers'. First, recognizing the importance of meeting the swimwear needs of their clients and providing women with self-confidence. Giving back to the community at large is also a priority. Some of the recipients of Swimco's various community programs include Special Olympics Alberta, The Canadian Red Cross, Breast Cancer Research, Adopt-a-Family and local women's shelters.

These contributions are made possible by Swimco's proven management model. The business continues to grow and with that growth Swimco will continue to support and add value to our community.

### **Education Award**

*Awarded to a Calgarian who has enhanced learning opportunities or brought recognition to Calgary due to outstanding academic achievement.*

#### **Recipient – Janice McTighe**

There are very few people who have had the heart and the fortitude to start and run a not-for-profit organization for over 35 years. Janice McTighe is one of those people. Janice is the Founder and Executive Director of Renfrew Educational Services, a registered charity and not-for-profit society started in 1973 as a kindergarten operating out of a rented classroom at the Renfrew Boys and Girls Club.

Thirty-six years later, Renfrew has become an acknowledged leader in the world of special education, and a model throughout Alberta - with Janice still steering the ship.

Renfrew is committed to high standards of child support within a learning environment that promotes inclusion, competence, active independent explorative learning, therapy intervention, and strategies for ultimate child development. In other words: a world of learning that supports all children and strives to maximize the potential in each of them. Through educational programs and therapeutic services, Renfrew now offers that world to over 700 children at five locations in Calgary.

Without Janice starting and guiding the organization, along with the many long-term staff at her side, Renfrew would not be what it is today. The quality of Renfrew's programs and services are a reflection of the person who started them. Some of the words and qualities attributed to its Founder:

## The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder

---

"...tireless effort, uncompromising values, a forward thinker, one of our finest citizens, has changed the lives of thousands of our most vulnerable children and their families..." and, from the parent of a Renfrew student: "our children have all been blessed to be part of this school that Janice has spent her lifetime creating....she is clearly a hero to those of us who have had the privilege of knowing her."

Through Janice's direction and vision, Renfrew is now widely recognized as one of the premier facilities of its kind in western Canada, and is considered to be a world-class facility in the area of child development. While raising her own four children, Janice has dedicated her life to the education of thousands of children with special needs and their families.

### **Heritage Award**

*Recognizes an individual Calgarian who has made a sustained and extraordinary contribution, either as a volunteer or professional, to the promotion of awareness and/or preservation of Calgary's heritage in the areas of built heritage, archaeology, culture, education or advocacy.*

### **Recipient – Neil Richardson**

Neil Richardson has been described as a man of vision with "the heart of an historian and a mind for business". Richardson is co-founder of Heritage Property Corporation, a company specializing in the purchase, restoration and rehabilitation of historic buildings.

Evidence of Neil's commitment to restoring Calgary landmarks is everywhere: the Toronto Dominion Bank Building; the Jubilee Block; the Leeson Lineham Building; the Lorraine Building; the Lougheed Building; and many more.

Many of Calgary's buildings have been torn down to make room for new developments, leaving nothing of the past for present and future generations to appreciate. Neil sees potential and enrichment where others see dilapidation and decline. He has been instrumental in preserving many of Calgary's historic buildings and in educating others on the importance of preserving the city's history.

Neil's company has been recognized with a City of Calgary Clean to the Core Award, a Calgary Heritage Authority Lion Award, the Grant Thornton Award for Calgary Family Enterprise of the Year; a Downtown Vitality Award, and a City of Calgary Heritage Award.

Neil is active in the community; he created the Kids "Fore" Golf Tournament, providing underprivileged children the opportunity to spend the day learning to golf, and he developed the Heritage Property Corporation Art Competition in which Alberta artists have the chance to win a \$10,000 commission to be displayed at the Lougheed Building.

Neil is a passionate and committed guardian of Calgary's history, who continues to take a lead role in ensuring the survival of many of the city's historic landmarks.

## The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder

---

### **Youth Award**

*This award goes to an individual Calgarian, 18 years old or younger on December 31, 2007, whose exceptional achievements have brought recognition to or improved the quality of life in Calgary. The focus is on volunteer and community contributions, not academic achievement.*

#### **Recipient – Natasha Somani**

Seventeen year-old *Natasha* dedicates the majority of her time to bettering our city through her school, religious community and local organizations.

She has been a volunteer with Child and Youth Friendly Calgary since 2005 and is currently an active member and leader in CYFC's Mayor's Youth Council, Youth Distinction Awards, Calgary Youth Foundation and Teen Critic programs.

Outside of Child and Youth Friendly Calgary, *Natasha* is part of the Reading Buddies Program and the Youth Pursuing Ongoing Development and Success Program. She is a Junior Achievement student ambassador, a volunteer at the Peter Lougheed Hospital and active in the IDEA Interfaith Youth Council.

Those who know *Natasha* say she has an endless capacity for positivity and happiness, a permanent smile and an infectious optimistic spirit. They have described her as respectful, kind and thoughtful. She goes beyond requirements and gives her whole self to the commitments she undertakes.

### **Grant MacEwan Lifetime Achievement Award**

*Honours an individual Calgarian who, over the past 25 years or more, has made significant contributions to the community and has improved the quality of life for citizens or whose accomplishments have brought recognition to Calgary.*

*The award is named in honour of the lifetime achievements of Calgarian Dr. Grant MacEwan — writer, environmentalist and politician. City Council created this award to commemorate Dr. MacEwan's 90th birthday in 1992.*

#### **Recipient – Daryl 'Doc' Seaman (posthumous)**

Daryl "Doc" Seaman is a person whose name will go down in history as a pioneering leader, businessman and philanthropist whose efforts continue to benefit many.

Born in 1922 in Saskatchewan, Daryl grew up in a hard-working rural family. Prior to arriving in Calgary in 1949, he returned a war hero from World War II for his combat flights with the Royal Canadian Air Force. 15 years later - with one oil rig bought with his war earnings - Seaman's company Bow Valley Industries would be the second largest drilling contractor in Canada.

Seaman's financial success with Bow Valley Industries - sold in 1994 for 1.8 billion dollars - sparked a string of philanthropic giving which continued until Daryl's passing

## **The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder**

---

earlier this year. His generosity and spirit can be seen all around us. His most widely known contribution to the city was to bring the Flames Hockey team here in 1980. Seaman was instrumental in making this happen and in creating The Flames Foundation for Life - a non-profit charity that has contributed more than \$32 million to causes throughout the province. His involvement in the Flames can also be extended to the acquisition of the Calgary Hitmen in 1997, with both initiatives having many positive spin-offs for sport in Calgary.

Seaman was involved in many other philanthropic endeavours some of which included bringing the '88 Olympics to Calgary, establishing the Seaman-Hotchkiss Hockey Foundation, providing funding for the Seaman Family MR Research Centre, and the U of C NeuroArm Project, donating \$5 million to the establishment of the Southern Alberta Urology Centre, and giving his OH Ranch back to the province to be conserved as a working ranch.

His contributions to sports, medicine and environmental concerns have been far-reaching. The value Daryl brought to the table was not just financial; he was a leader and a quiet visionary who brought people together to make a difference in others lives. He received many honours including the Alberta Order of Excellence, a Doctor of Laws at the U of C and University of Saskatchewan, and being made an Officer of the Order of Canada.

The words in his funeral program epitomize the kind of man Daryl "Doc" Seaman was: "You leave behind your family and hope you've done a good job of being a parent and guardian, and that they have successful lives and careers. You try to do your best at that. I think you also want to feel that you've been of good service not only to your community, but your country." Daryl Seaman definitely did his best - and then some.

### **Honourable Mention – Geoff Burtonshaw**

#### **Citizen of the Year**

*This award goes to an outstanding individual Calgarian who has made a recent extraordinary contribution that has improved the quality of life in Calgary or whose recent achievements have brought recognition to Calgary.*

#### **Recipient – Lois Mitchell**

Lois Mitchell has played a key role in business, sports, the arts, and other fields in her years in Calgary.

Currently Chair of the Calgary Chamber of Commerce, Lois has taken lead roles with organizations as diverse as the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra, the annual Global Business Forum in Banff, the Ottawa-based Help for the Aged, and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts. She is also owner and President of Amherst Consultants, a firm that specializes in strategic marketing and sponsorship.

## **The 2008 Calgary Awards – Media Backgrounder**

---

Her leadership capabilities and involvement in the community are reflected by the many diverse honours she has been recognized with: the Calgary Women of Distinction Award; the Alberta Centennial Medal; a Students' Association Recognition Award; selection in the Calgary Herald as one of twenty compelling Calgarians who will make Calgary great in the years to come; and selection by Alberta Venture Magazine as one of 50 Influential Albertans.

Lois's volunteer arts leadership contributions have included her involvement with The City of Calgary's Civic Arts Policy Review, serving as a member of the Board of Directors of the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, the National Youth Orchestra of Canada, and the League of American Orchestras Volunteer Council.