

Buyers make natural choice

BY JOSH SKAPIN, CALGARY HERALD JANUARY 24, 2014

Presented By:



Liz Kornaga and Stefan Gudmundson are moving from Bowness in Calgary to Cochrane. They bought a townhome at The Range by Birchwood Properties (click on the photo for our 10-picture tour).

Photograph by: Don Molyneaux, For the Calgary Herald

Moving to Cochrane will mean a bit more time behind the wheel, but Liz Kornaga says she's looking forward to it.

She and Stefan Gudmundson, both in their early 30s, currently live in a house in the inner-city community of Bowness. It is a convenient 15-minute drive from the Foothills Medical Centre hospital, where she works as a lab technician.

The couple recently bought a townhome in Cochrane, which will make her drive to and from work longer — but paradoxically, more relaxing.

“For me, personally, it'll just help me decompress,” she says.

The drive west of Calgary will also mean trading in time spent in traffic for admiring the natural beauty on the way to Cochrane, including the Rocky Mountains.

“The view: every time we’ve driven down there, you get the mountain view as you’re driving,” says Kornaga.

“The other thing I like is that I’m not restricted to one major road to get in or out. I have Highway 1A, I have Highway 1 and there’s Highway 22 as well.”

She and Gudmundson bought a three-bedroom unit at The Range by Birchwood Properties in Cochrane.

The Range features 17 fourplex buildings in the community of Heartland developed by Apex Land. Its front elevation features a historic farmhouse design.

Birchwood’s other multi-family projects are Bristol Townhomes and Boulevard Townes, both in the southeast Calgary community of Quarry Park.

At The Range, homes start in the \$199,000s and all contain floor plans of 1,140 square feet.

They come in three standard plans, but all three feature a kitchen and a great room on the main floor. The difference is in how the bedrooms are spread out on the second and third floors.

Gudmundson and Kornaga picked a plan with a master bedroom and ensuite on the top floor and two secondary bedrooms on the second floor. One of the secondary bedrooms will be used as a home office.

But in another floor plan, this is reversed. The third plan has two master bedrooms — each a large bedroom with an ensuite — located separately on the second and third floors.

“I liked the options that were available and I liked how they were laid out,” says Kornaga. “It was pretty much exactly what you need — with a little bit more.

“We can have a whole floor dedicated to the master suite, so you have your (own) space, which was pretty attractive.”

The townhomes can come with a finished 252-square-foot developed basement. The couple went with an unfinished option, but it won’t be that way for long.

“It’s a blank slate for me,” says Gudmundson, adding he’s got big plans for that space.

“I’m big into audio, that’s my hobby/obsession. I am making it as much as I can into a functional, dedicated audio room, so it’s going to be pretty cool.”

Townhomes at The Range come in a choice of four designer colour palettes.

For flooring, there’s ceramic tiles at the entry and in the bathrooms, plank laminate elsewhere on the main floor and 45-ounce carpet with a six-pound underlay.

Standard specifications include laminate counters in the kitchens and bathrooms, and a stylish subway-tile backsplash under the cabinets in the kitchen.

There's also the option of black or white appliances, including a ceran-top, self-cleaning range. There are also green features, such as a high-efficiency furnace, programmable thermostat and energy-efficient windows.

First possessions on these homes are slated for this fall.

While the shift from a home close to downtown to a smaller centre outside Calgary will be a change of pace, the couple says they're excited.

"Cochrane has everything," says Kornaga, adding it's close enough to Calgary for anything else they might need.

"I really like the shops and the people," says Gudmundson. "The more I see it, the more I like it."

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

Project: The Range.

Builder: Birchwood Properties.

Developer: Apex Land.

Area: Heartland in Cochrane.

Price: From the \$199,000s.

Information: Visit birchwoodproperties.ca

THE BUYERS

Liz Kornaga and Stefan Gudmundson.

Ages: In their early 30s.

Background: The couple lives in Bowness and recently bought a townhome in Cochrane.

They bought a three-bedroom floor plan. Gudmundson plans to turn the basement into an audio room.

The couple looks forward to all that Cochrane has to offer, including its many charming shops.

They're also fans of Cochrane's natural beauty and like that they'll have a view of the Rocky Mountains when they drive home from work in Calgary each day.

RANGE OF EXPERIENCE

Birchwood Properties is a Calgary-based homebuilder.

Its first development was in the late 1990s. Since then, the company has built single-family homes and a number of multi-family projects.

Birchwood Properties builds single-family homes in Currie Barracks.

Its multi-family developments include Boulevard Townes and Bristol Townhomes in the southeast community of Quarry Park, and The Range in Cochrane.

For more information, visit birchwoodproperties.ca

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