

Eldred's Athene mixes corporate with suburbia

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There are a number of executive office suites throughout downtown but Shaune Eldred felt there was a need for companies who did not have to be in the core -- paying high rents, parking and fighting traffic every day. She opened her business in One Executive Place, across from McMahon Stadium, and has been so successful that she's about to open two more in suburbia.

Eldred had worked as vice-president of corporate services for her husband Revett's computer consulting company, Minerva Technology, with its staff of 250. When it was sold in 1996 to Bell Canada, the couple decided to take time -- a lot of it -- off. For the next two years, they sailed their boat around the Caribbean and after returning home for a spell, they spent a year touring the United States in a motorhome.



CREDIT: Dean Bicknell, Calgary Herald
Shaune Eldred is expanding her Athene Corporate Services into two new offices.

In the aftermath of renting their Calgary home, they had to spend some time gutting it and renovating but bright minds need challenging tasks and Revett took on the appointment as Calgary Technology Inc.'s first entrepreneur in residence and currently is in a mentorship program with MBA students at the Haskayne School of Business.

Meanwhile, early in 2003, Eldred leased half of the top floor of the newly constructed One Executive Place to open Athene Corporate Services. Named after the Greek goddess of wisdom and arts, it soon attracted a number of small- to mid-size companies requiring help in their accounting, administrative, legal and human resource services. And several of them asked to share her office space

Athene was able to offer a prestigious suburban address in a brand new building on Crowchild Trail, steps from the Banff Trail LRT station and close to the University of Calgary and Foothills Hospital. It has the usual facilities found in other executive office centres but boasts ultra high-tech systems, including "follow-me" phone forwarding, integrated messaging and voice mail with visible access.

These features are especially advantageous to the growing list of companies using the centre's virtual office services.

Revett is still involved in design and development so clients benefit from the very latest systems. Athene is pre-wired with everything in place, and is promoted as an address where you can move in, plug in, and get to work.

Eldred soon needed to expand and took the whole of the 10,500-square-foot floor in March 2004; it has always been fully leased with a waiting list to get in.

A second Athene Corporate Centre will open next March in a building under construction near Valentine Volvo and the Royal LePage Foothills office at the corner of Glenmore Trail and Richard Road S.W. Covering the entire 16,000-square-foot top floor, it has outdoor patios on all four corners for the tenants to use.

With a determined trust in the need for more professionally managed office suites in suburbia, and to assist companies searching for ways to get rid of administrative and corporate service headaches, Eldred has taken more space in the southeast quadrant.

In April 2009, she will be offering another 20,000 square feet in the North Campus of Quarry Park, the huge Remington Development mixed-use project between Riverbend and Douglas Glen. Another top-floor location will provide tenants with nearly 1,000 square feet of indoor gardens with wireless capabilities at each table.

Remington has also designed a large patio area on the ground floor, between the office building and residential units, which will also be a wireless hot spot.

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