

Clustered development one step closer

By Ben Bulmer

The proposed clustered housing development being designed by multi-award winning architect Douglas Cardinal and planned for Wakefield's Minnes Farm is one step closer to coming to fruition.

A possible referendum to quash the site's rezoning and disallow higher density building has not received enough support, which means the rezoning can go ahead.

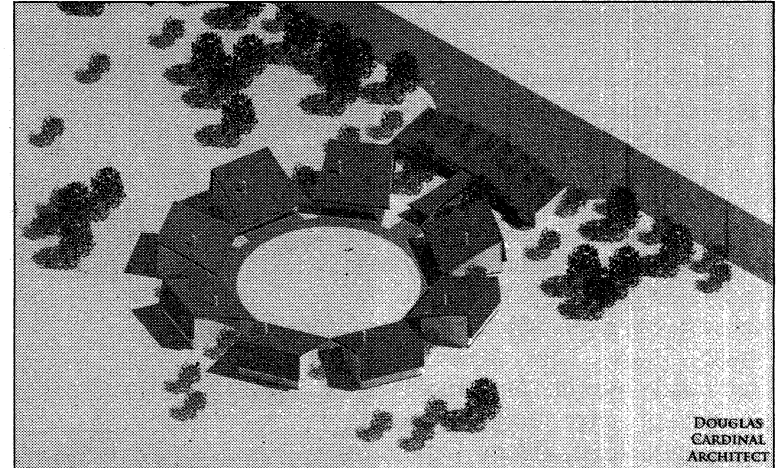
La Pêche council adopted a second draft by-law during its April 18 meeting amending the site's zoning to allow for higher density housing. Quebec law stipulates residents living in certain zones adjacent to a site set for rezoning are able to force a referendum and strike down the changes if enough signatures are collected. Municipality of La Pêche Director of Urban



Planning and Environment Marcel Marchildon confirmed with The Low Down there was no opposition to the change,

and council would pass the by-law at its next meeting.

The proposed project sits on a 161-acre site and will have up to



Left: Douglas Cardinal poses at a recent information meeting in Wakefield. Photo Ben Bulmer
Top: The clustered housing design.

Photo courtesy Douglas Cardinal

120 units of mixed-use buildings, including residential and commercial, with around 100 being residential and 20 commercial. A key feature of the development is its design by Order of Canada recipient Douglas Cardinal, which includes clustered housing

around a common green space. The project also encompasses 13 acres of park and trails, with 41 acres being used for Eco Echo, the environmental campus Christopher Minnes co-founded in 2008.

Minnes previously told The Low Down in April the first cluster show house should be ready by September this year, but could not be reached by press time to confirm whether the project is still on track.