

# At home in the Hills

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## Minnes Farm looking for partners

By Mary Fahey

Wakefield's Ferme Minnes Farm housing development is looking for business partners with green ideas.

The 120-unit mixed-use project is still on track, according to landowner Christopher Minnes, but he needs investors. He's now selling plots of land on the site for those who want to get involved in the project and who understand the vision of what he and renowned architect Douglas Cardinal are trying to accomplish.

"What I realized is there's so many great entrepreneurial ideas going on in the region... [people] might not want to do a whole big project, but have their own ideas," said Minnes. "We want whatever happens there to be all working together in harmony."

The plan is to build clustered housing on the more than 160-acre site near Hwy 105, but there's plenty of space for commercial ventures as well; the land is zoned as multi-functional. The residential need

is the most pressing one, said Minnes, but the plots currently for sale would ideally go to businesses. But not just any businesses, he said: they're looking for something special.

The whole concept for the Minnes Farm project is about connectedness with other people and with nature. Maintaining a relationship with the land and approaching development with a dedication to keeping it green are integral components of the plan, said Minnes, and any business ideas would have to reflect those same values. The number, size, and price of the lots currently for sale aren't fixed, he said, because those factors depend on his partners' needs.

"The lesson for me is to be very patient and to reach out to as many investors and partners as might be interested," said Minnes. "As the market changes and as different ideas come forward in the market, I feel it's very organic. I'm not in a rush to do it. My number one priority is that it fits the community."

The project has long been approved by La Pêche municipal

council, so more investors and partners are the last piece of the puzzle, said Minnes. He encourages anyone out there who wants to get involved to reach out to realtor Yves Dorval or visit [fermeminnesfarm.ca](http://fermeminnesfarm.ca).

**The 120-unit mixed-use project is still on track, according to landowner Christopher Minnes (right), but he needs investors. He's hoping to find people who understand the vision he put together with renowned architect Douglas Cardinal, which sees clustered housing and common outdoor space (below).**

Images courtesy Minnes Farm

