



At home in the Hills

REAL ESTATE & MORE

home

Chasing an affordable housing dream

By Jake Munro

“The intent is to create a number of trails to connect the 105 with other neighbourhoods.”

– Mathieu Farley

Quartier Meredith emphasizes walkability as it is located next to the recreation opportunities offered at the Meredith Centre and is very close to the post office, pharmacy, and a veterinary clinic. It is also just a hop and a skip from shopping at Freshmart, eating at an Old Chelsea restaurant, and Gatinneau Park. “Everything is walking distance,” Roy said.

The neighbourhood has pedestrian paths cutting through it. “The intent is to create a number of trails to connect the 105 with other neighbourhoods,” Farley said.

Another topic of conversation has been the building that’s appeared along Chemin Old Chelsea at the corner of Chemin de Relais. Farley said it’s currently home to Exo’s offices and the offices of a couple other businesses, but on March 25 Kunststadt Sports signed a long-term lease for a portion of the building. “This is great news for Chelsea,” Farley said.

To inquire about homes or organize a tour call 819-410-2324 or visit constructionexo.com.

Living in a tight-knit but affordable community is a dream situation – a dream that a local cooperative is hoping will soon become a reality for Wakefield.

Cohabitat Wakefield launched as a group in 2015 with a lofty vision – to build a multigenerational, environmentally sustainable, vibrant, and cohesive community of approximately 30 units, all while checking off that main goal of being affordable.

“There’s a need to have affordable rental housing in Wakefield for all generations, that is very clear,” said Louise Chatelain, a Wakefield resident and one of the seven co-founders of Cohabitat Wakefield.

The group focused on their internal machinations for the first couple of years of their existence, nailing down their core values, vision, mission, and system of governance. They settled on sociocracy, which means the group makes their decisions through consent rather than majority voting.

Once the internal

foundations were laid, the group could move forward. In April 2017, Cohabitat Wakefield was incorporated as a non-profit solidarity cooperative, meaning future tenants will collectively act as the owners of the real estate.

Cohabitat Wakefield is confident that organizing as a cooperative will allow them to better accomplish their main goal, namely providing affordable housing. The group defines this as rent costing 30 per cent of the region’s median income (\$36,373), long-term security for the project’s tenants, and an engaged and positive community.

Arleen Prost, Lenny Prost, Jacques Rousseau, Diane Villemure, Pat Cummings, and Francine Costa make up the rest of the founding group. More than half the group resides in Wakefield, and all agree that the ideal location for their affordable housing project is within the village.

“It was unanimous that we wanted to be able to walk anywhere in the village, like the pharmacy and the shops,” said Chatelain.



Arleen Prost (left), Lenny Prost (middle), and Louise Chatelain (right) of Cohabitat Wakefield. Jake Munro photo

“Young families often want to walk with their babies in their strollers to the community library, for instance, and we want to allow for that to happen,” said Arleen Prost.

Building such a project may seem like a daunting proposition, but Cohabitat Wakefield is certainly not lacking in confidence. The group has forged a considerable number of partnerships already. For example, the Regroupement des OSBL d’habitation avec support communautaire en Outaouais and the Coopérative de développement régional Outaouais-Laurentides are helping the group to apply for funding from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation alongside the Municipality of La Pêche.

La Pêche Mayor Guillaume Lamoureux and council are also currently engaged in

negotiations with the National Capital Commission over acquiring land for Cohabitat Wakefield. “They’re just starting to consider their request and see how it can be integrated,” said Lamoureux. “The NCC can take their time with these things.”

The reality is that Cohabitat Wakefield is still in the early stages, but the founders are hopeful and confident that things will fall into place over time. In the meantime, they’re appreciating the process. “I’m really enjoying helping to contribute to the community on a need that is existing,” said Lenny Prost. “We can experience affordable, environmentally clean, community living, and we’re going to keep working to create that.”

Anyone looking for more information can contact the group at welcome@cohabitat-wakefield.ca.

Renovations, framing, roofing, decks, window installations, flooring, interior & exterior finishing, siding.

31 years experience

JOHNNY CHAMBERLIN

GENERAL CONTRACTING 819.456.1348



odin's horse woodworks

Traditional craftsmanship in wood from a bygone age

Patrick Connor
Chelsea, Quebec

solid wood joinery
natural finishes
simple, elegant design

- custom furniture
- stairs
- doors
- lapstrake boats
- timber frame structures

Mysselhal, a Danish gravemound from the early bronze age situated close to the Danish town Roskilde. Photo taken by Jørgen Larsen, 2017-04-07.

(819)962.0711
www.odinshorsewoodworks.com



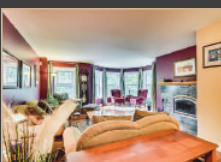
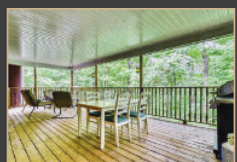
KEVIN CROSS
REAL ESTATE BROKER
kevin_cross@sympatico.ca
WWW.KEVIN-CROSS.COM

CENTURY 21
Macintyre Inc.
AGENCE IMMOBILIERE

CALVIN SMITH
REAL ESTATE BROKER
calvin.smith@century21.ca
WWW.CALVINSMITH.CA



819.775.8161 THE CROSS - SMITH TEAM 613.371.7999



107 CH. FORTIN, LA PÊCHE
Grand, modern, Victorian style home on oversized 3+ acre lot. Covered front porch with massive rear screened in porch. custom built home boasts large spaces both inside and out!

\$467,000 www.107fortin.com

At Home in the Hills - real estate and more