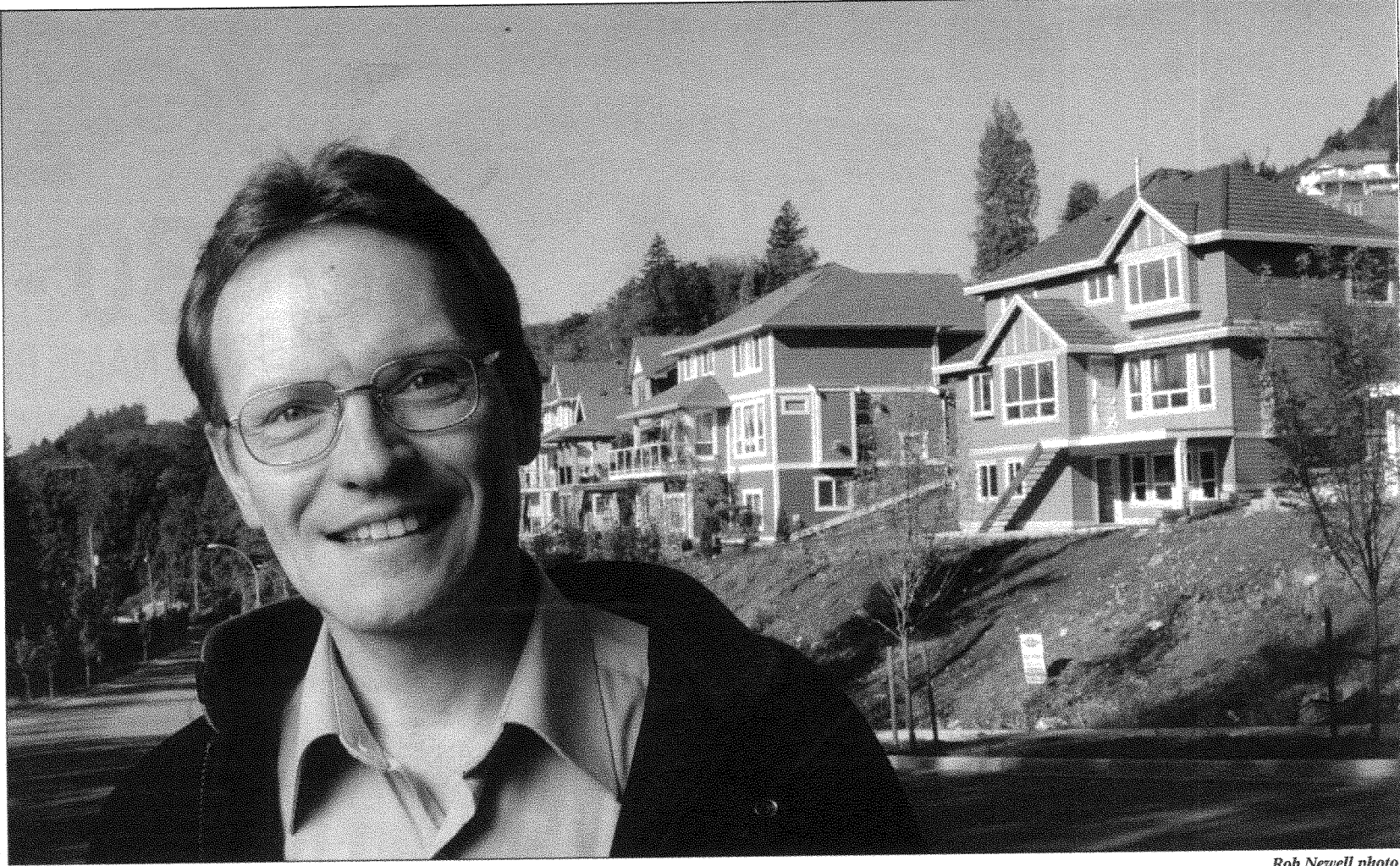


# !nbusiness



Rob Newell photo

Columbia National Investments chief executive officer Steve Dunton at his company's Falconridge project in Abbotsford.

Leslie Dickson  
FRIDAY! Magazine

**S**teve Dunton is a busy man. With seven ongoing developments in the Fraser Valley – including Falconridge on the southern slope of Sumas Mountain – and more in the works, Dunton's days are consumed with meeting demand for housing in the valley.

And if two more Columbia projects in Abbotsford get the go-ahead from the city – a \$350-million project on Gladwin Road and a \$1-billion development on Atkinson Road – an additional 3,200 homes will be available for the community's current and future residents.

And Dunton is itching to get started. "I'm ready to go now. I have over 200 names of people who want to buy these," Dunton says of the six-tower 950-unit Gladwin project which awaits building permit approval from city hall.

While Dunton is also anxious to break ground on Columbia's other pending development in east Abbotsford – which would see 2,200 condos, townhomes and houses go up alongside a shopping centre, office

## Breaking new ground

### GNI's CEO Steve Dunton has big ideas for where and how local residents will live

space and hotel and convention facilities – the project is likely further down the road.

When and if, the projects are completed, they will include environmental features Columbia has incorporated in its developments over the last 14 years. This priority is visible in the Gladwin project, situated as it is in Abbotsford's city centre, next to Horn Creek Park, with an emphasis on pedestrian access.

For Dunton, building environmentally sound projects is just good business.

"If you look after the environment you get a better development. When you get a

better development, people want to live there.

"I don't know a developer who doesn't think that these days."

While some might argue Columbia's potential development in east Abbotsford poses serious environmental concerns as it's outside the city's urban boundary, Dunton insists the project is green in its own way, as it providing a regional centre for people who live in east Abbotsford to shop and work.

"We cannot plan on all those people going to a common area in the centre of Abbotsford. Let's get services closer to people, let's get jobs closer to people and reduce trip traffic.

"That's why we've tried to create a complete community with Atkinson, so you don't need to get in your car to get a loaf of bread 20 minutes away."

Though Dunton hopes Columbia's development projects help alleviate the housing shortage, he said better planning and further residential development are needed to ensure the city is ready to accept increasing numbers of people drawn to the lifestyle and booming economy.

"The biggest problem we have is getting enough product on the market. We can't shut the door on people, because they're coming anyway."

**Here's how...**  
To contribute business news to FRIDAY! Magazine's In Business, email [leslie@fridaymag.com](mailto:leslie@fridaymag.com).

Include the relevant business news and a photo if applicable, along with contact info so we can get in touch if we need more info.

Friday!  
NEWS MAGAZINE

## Back to School Eye Exams

The visual skills listed contribute significantly to a child's success with reading and school achievement.

A child's comprehensive eye exam can include the testing of the following visual skills which are aspects of normal, healthy vision:

- visual acuity (sharpness, clearness) at 20 feet distance
- visual acuity for short distance (specifically reading distance)
- the ability of the eyes to maintain clear vision at varying distances
- the ability of the eyes to look at and accurately follow an object; this includes the ability to move the eyes across a sheet of paper while reading etc.
- binocular depth perception
- the ability of the eyes to aim, move and work as a coordinated team.
- the ability to focus, especially at near viewing distances
- the ability to differentiate colour
- the ability to differentiate between letters or words
- the ability to store and retrieve visual information

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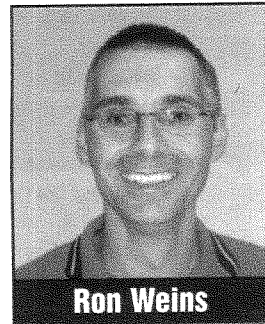
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## Welcome Ron!

Blackwood would like to announce that Ron Weins, formerly of Clearbrook Home Hardware has joined our team.

Ron brings with him 23 years of expertise & invites all his past customers to come by.



Ron Weins

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