

800-plus homes planned for Tower Ranch

By **RON SEYMOUR**
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A rancher's long-held dream of sharing part of his land was realized Sunday.

The Tower Ranch development above Rutland was christened with a ribbon-cutting ceremony to open an extension of McCurdy Road that leads to the exclusive golf-course community.

"This project was always Stan's dream, and it's great to see it finally come true," said his widow, Leila Tower.

"Our family has had the opportunity to enjoy

this area for many years, and now other people will be able to see what makes it such a special place," she said.

Upwards of 800 homes will eventually be built at Tower Ranch, which covers more than 430 acres. The first phase, now selling, has 54 lots, with houses built by Dilworth Homes priced at \$650,000 and up.

The development includes a 43-acre public park, as well as a network of hiking trails to take advantage of the sweeping views of city and hills.

"This is our grand opening today," said Bayne

Anderson of the development firm Intrawest. "Total build-out could take between five and 10 years."

While there are plans for some slightly higher density housing at Tower Ranch in the future, no provision has been made for units formally designated as affordable housing.

"This development was planned long before we ever anticipated the great need for affordable housing in our community," Mayor Sharon Shepherd said after she snipped a ribbon to officially open the extension of McCurdy Road, which was paid for by the developer.

"But the people who buy homes here would have the option of creating secondary suites, the same as in other areas of the city," she said.

The Tower family had plans to create a residential neighbourhood on part of the property as far back as the late 1980s. A market downturn through the '90s essentially put the project on hold.

Stan Tower died in 2000 at age 78, killed in an accident while working on the farm. Leila Tower and other family members continue to operate a 600-acre cattle ranch in the hills above the new development.