

Future Focus Workshop

CITY OF Vernon

Prepared and presented by
Kathy Porter & Rebecca Black
Future Forward Facilitation
Sept 3 2024

Why are we here?



New Official Community Plan



What’s in place

Transportation Plan

- Active transportation to connect neighbourhoods to core services
- Management of commercial traffic and dangerous goods
- Transit friendly supports seniors and youth
- Balance transition to e-vehicles with available energy sources

Infrastructure Plan

- Upgrades for waste and water to support increase in housing density
- Support from other levels of government e.g water
- Integrated asset management plan
- Balance land supply with infrastructure budget

Housing Plan

- Affordable housing needs for ageing and young
- Increased density
- Focus on neighbourhood centres

Climate Plan

- Engage with community and local businesses
- Protect natural landscapes for heat and water management
- Integrate climate change into all planning with focus in short term on cores services

What are the areas of focus?



Zoning



Transit



Housing

Infrastructure


About futures thinking... How to navigate uncertainty and disruption?

Strategic Foresight Process

Scanning

Noticing:
Signals, Trends &
Drivers
of Change

Scenarios

Asking ‘What if?’
Consider how trends
may play out

Strategy

Surfacing:
Innovation and plans
of strategic interest


“The future we
imagine
is the future we
create”

Exercise: Imagining the future

Imagine it is 2045.

How old are you?

What do you imagine your experience might be like in Vernon in 2045?

Think of someone who you care about who is younger than you.

How old will they be in 2045?

What do you imagine their experience might be like in Vernon in 2045?

Who are they connected to, and how?

What kind of work are they doing?

What is their living situation?

How are they moving around?

Horizon Scanning: Noticing what's happening

NAME OF DRIVER OF CHANGE

Plus a brief description

Drivers of change are large scale forces significantly shifting or influencing the future.

Drivers were informed by planning materials for Vernon, other cities and planning orgs.

CITY OF Vernon

CITY OF Vernon

DRIVERS OF CHANGE CATEGORIES

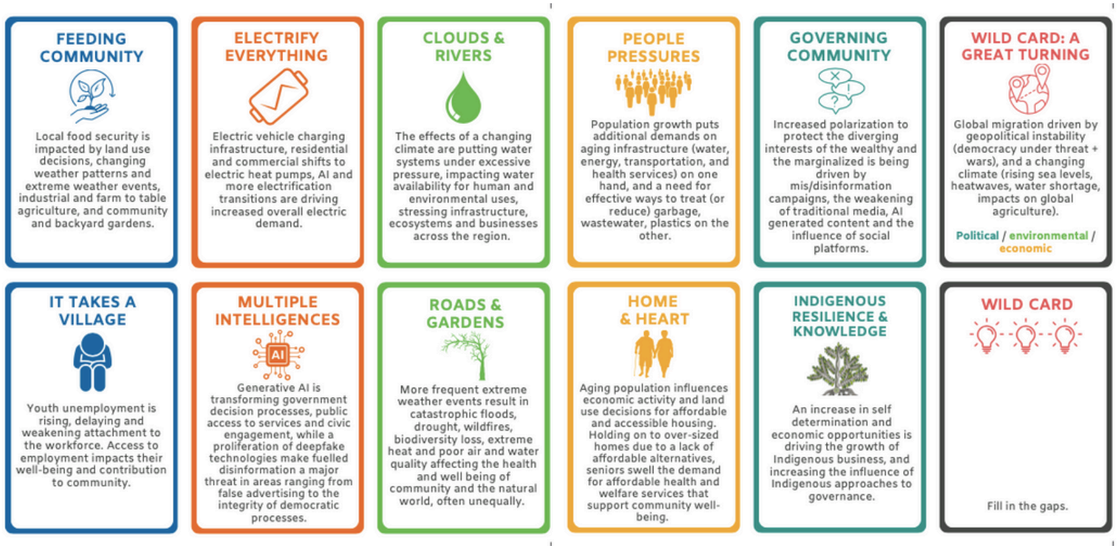
SOCIAL

TECHNOLOGICAL

ENVIRONMENTAL

ECONOMIC

POLITICAL



Drivers of Change - Social

FEEDING COMMUNITY



Local food security is impacted by land use decisions, changing weather patterns and extreme weather events, industrial and farm to table agriculture, and community and backyard gardens.

IT TAKES A VILLAGE



Youth unemployment is rising, delaying and weakening attachment to the workforce. Access to employment impacts their well-being and contribution to community.

Drivers of Change - Technical

ELECTRIFY EVERYTHING



Electric vehicle charging infrastructure, residential and commercial shifts to electric heat pumps, AI and more electrification transitions are driving increased overall electric demand.

MULTIPLE INTELLIGENCES



Generative AI is transforming government decision processes, public access to services and civic engagement, while a proliferation of deepfake technologies make fuelled disinformation a major threat in areas ranging from false advertising to the integrity of democratic processes.

Drivers of Change - Environmental

CLOUDS & RIVERS



The effects of a changing climate are putting water systems under excessive pressure, impacting water availability for human and environmental uses, stressing infrastructure, ecosystems and businesses across the region.

ROADS & GARDENS



More frequent extreme weather events result in catastrophic floods, drought, wildfires, biodiversity loss, extreme heat and poor air and water quality affecting the health and well being of community and the natural world, often unequally.

Drivers of Change - Economic

PEOPLE PRESSURES



Population growth puts additional demands on aging infrastructure (water, energy, transportation, and health services) on one hand, and a need for effective ways to treat (or reduce) garbage, wastewater, plastics on the other.

HOME & HEART



Aging population influences economic activity and land use decisions for affordable and accessible housing. Holding on to over-sized homes due to a lack of affordable alternatives, seniors swell the demand for affordable health and welfare services that support community well-being.

Drivers of Change - Political

GOVERNING COMMUNITY



Increased polarization to protect the diverging interests of the wealthy and the marginalized is being driven by mis/disinformation campaigns, the weakening of traditional media, AI generated content and the influence of social platforms.

INDIGENOUS RESILIENCE & KNOWLEDGE



An increase in self determination and economic opportunities is driving the growth of Indigenous business, and increasing the influence of Indigenous approaches to governance.

Driver of Change

WILD CARD: A GREAT TURNING



Global migration driven by geopolitical instability (democracy under threat + wars), and a changing climate (rising sea levels, heatwaves, water shortage, impacts on global agriculture).

Political / environmental / economic

Workshop Part Three

Scenarios

Future Scenarios: 4 Archetypes

Continued Growth

status quo growth and change, ‘business as usual’

Transformation

new technology, business, or social factors disruptively change the system

Disciplined

behaviours adapt to growing social or environmental limits

Collapse

system degradation or failure modes as crises emerge



Future Scenario:
Continued Growth aka Business as Usual



Future Scenario: Discipline



Future Scenario: Collapse



Future Scenario: Transformation

For each scenario ...

Which 3 drivers have the most power in shaping this world and describe how (don't forget any new drivers.

So often we focus on the economic benefits. What other forms of well-being are generated and valuable this scenario? Consider STEEP.

What planning and zoning decisions would help advance security and well-being for people in the City of Vernon in this scenario?

Reflection ...

How might zoning decisions for the Official Community Plan lead to preferable outcomes?
In terms of housing?
In terms of transportation?

What might Council do now to prepare for the unexpected?
To avoid negative impacts?

Future Focus

What is one step Council might take now to create preferred outcomes in 2045

- for our community?
- for city staff?
- for Municipal government?

Thank you

Kathy Porter MDes, PhD Candidate
https://www.linkedin.com/in/kathy-porter-m-des-phd-candidate-2b886721/

Rebecca Black MES, MDes
www.linkedin.com/in/reblacka/

