

Agenda for
The Future Okanagan

A roundtable discussion
hosted and moderated by

OKANAGANLife
magazine

Where: The Rotary Centre for the Arts,
in the Pacific Safety Products Boardroom
(421 Cawston Avenue, downtown Kelowna)

When: Thursday, November 22, 2007
Discussion begins promptly at 7:00 pm, goes to 9:00 pm

>>> The purpose of this roundtable discussion is to bring together a few of the brightest minds in the Valley, from various disciplines, to talk about the issues that are currently shaping, or will shape, the future of the Okanagan. We have invited experts with diverse backgrounds — some long-time residents, some short-time residents — in order to gain the benefits that different perspectives bring to this conversation. The ultimate objective of this roundtable is to spark the imaginations and active interests of the Valley's many residents in the hopes of creating a wider dialogue about the issues we will be discussing here and creating ownership of and action on these issues by residents. Beyond the story in our print magazine, and in order to help facilitate this goal, we will be posting both audio and text versions of this discussion on our website, along with a blog where residents can continue the discourse, and where we can provide updates to the issues we talk about here and invite guest bloggers to post their own updates or thoughts. Efforts such as the Okanagan Partnership play an essential role in helping to make the right things happen for our future, however, *Okanagan Life* wants to bring the discussion to everyone willing or wanting to be included in the conversation about the future of their Valley.

The discussion will be moderated by:
Luke Redd (creative/editorial director) and Laurie Carter (senior editor).

Please note: Plan on getting there a little early (**anytime between 6:30 pm and 6:55 pm**) for introductions to the other guests, for photos and to get comfortably situated. This discussion will be recorded and photographed.

Note: These questions are merely meant to guide the conversation. You are only expected to contribute to the areas of discussion you feel comfortable with.

INTRODUCTIONS

(7:00 pm to 7:25 pm)

- How long have you resided in the Okanagan?
- Briefly describe the ideal Okanagan community from your perspective (just the key elements).
- What does sustainability mean to you?
Do you believe it is attainable?

IMAGINING THE VALLEY'S FUTURE

(7:25 pm to 7:55 pm)

- Based on the situations of today, including the impacts of global factors such as climate change, when you imagine the Okanagan 25 years from now, what do you see — what stands out?
- How about 100 years from now?
- From your perspective, what are the biggest threats or challenges to sustainable livability in the Okanagan — now and in the next 25 years?
- Are there any other national or global factors that we should be paying closer attention to as we plan the Valley's future?

(5 minute break) _____

DEVELOPMENT / GROWTH

(8:00 pm to 8:40 pm)

- With flat land running out in the Valley, what is your opinion of the impact that increased building on the hillsides will bring?
- Is there any way to undo or ameliorate pedestrian-phobic (or anti-pedestrian) sprawl such as that found for kilometres along Hwy 97 in Kelowna?
- Should Okanagan municipalities adopt Green Building Standards such as those being tested in Toronto and Santa Monica or require projects to meet the LEED rating system of the Canada Green Building Council?
- Dr. Gabor Zovanyi, professor of urban planning at Eastern Washington University and a speaker at this week's Building Sustainable Communities conference, argues that growth is not sustainable given current ecological realities and that therefore communities should be looking at ways of stopping growth. So, what about the effects of population growth? For all the talk about "smart growth" strategies, are we missing a crucial component when we talk about our future by just assuming that our population must increase to sustain our economy? **Should we be looking at limiting or ceasing population growth?** Does the Okanagan have a carrying capacity? If so, how will we know when we reach that point?
- Most of the talk surrounding issues of growth is focused on economic or environmental concerns. Yet, there are clearly important social issues to be aware of and plan for. So, what are the social implications to all this growth (or non-growth) that we should be paying more attention to?
- What mantra should Valley planners be chanting to remind themselves of how to develop the ideal Okanagan community?

LOOKING AHEAD

(8:40 pm to 9:00 pm)

- What practices being employed today in the Valley should we carry forward? What should we abandon?
- If you could implement or change just one policy today for the benefit of future Okanagan generations, what would that be?
- From your perspective, what are the best reasons for having optimism about the Valley's future?

This story will appear in the January/February issue of *Okanagan Life*.

NOTE: We are expecting about 10 participants. This means that there may be limited time to say everything you would like to say on a particular subject.

For this reason, we invite you to put anything you may not have time to say in response to any of these questions into a written statement for supplementary use in our magazine and/or on our website as part of the extra material and links we will offer to our readers.

We also invite you to stick around for a few minutes following the discussion for a very brief videotaped interview asking you what you thought of the experience and if it was valuable. **This is strictly by choice.** The short videos will be posted on our website along with the audio recording and text transcription of the discussion.

If you have any questions, please contact Luke Redd at (250) 861-5399 or luke@okanaganlife.com

Thank you for participating!