

**Monday, May 11, 2009
Summit on the Future of Vermont,
UVM's Dudley Davis Center,
Burlington VT**

(Participants must pre-register on line)

- o Release of the Findings begins the next action phase of bringing diverse expertise on key topics together to brainstorm options and formulate ways Vermonters can work together at the local, state and federal level to address the challenges and opportunities ahead.
- o Morning--Summary of the CFV Findings, acclaimed keynote speaker, reflections from CFV members and political leaders
- o Afternoon--smaller group work sessions on priority topics including the economy, energy, agriculture, cultural heritage, and youth. Leaders, stakeholders and interested Vermonters will interpret the findings of the CFV and outline the action steps and policies needed to move us towards this common vision of Vermont.
- o Evening--Roundtable featuring leaders with success in building strategic visions and implementing them.
- o Everyone attending the day time events should pre-register on line. The evening panel is free on a first come basis.
- o The Summit is expected to draw about 400 people.

The conference opening will be dedicated to a review of inputs and an unveiling of the findings, including presentations by Council on the Future of Vermont members and the showing of multimedia productions. The long-version CFV Reports will be available on line in advance of the session and the short form editions will be distributed to participants in conference packets. Open to the general public but with specific invitations to leading stakeholders, the Summit will center on key concepts or categories of findings. In working roundtable sessions, Task Forces breakouts will review CFV findings, brainstorm actions to respond to findings, and, depending on the issue areas, prioritize and set common goals and responsibilities to advancing identified issues.

9:00 Paul Costello, MC, Review of Agenda, Breakouts, and Work of the Day

9:05 Governor James Douglas, Conference Opening

9:20 Senator Bernie Sanders, Reflections on the History and Future of Vermont

9:35 Tom Debevoise, CFV Chair, Introducing the CFV

9:40 Paul Costello, Sarah Waring, Report on the CFV Process and Findings

- o **Inputs, Research**
- o **Values**
- o **Challenges and Opportunities**
- o **Conclusions**

- o **Points of Vision**

10:05 Senator Patrick Leahy, Video Presentation Introducing the Council on the Future of Vermont members

10:15 Break

10:30 Reflections of the Council on the Future of Vermont

Panel Discussion with each CFV Member sharing a 2-3 minute reflection on what they heard from Vermonters, what struck them in the research, and what they think the larger findings mean to Vermont.

11:30 Dr. Garrett FitzGerald, former Prime Minister of Ireland Building and Implementing Vision; the social compact

12:15 Lunch at the Davis Center Grand Ballroom

12:50 "VCRD Community Leadership Award" Presentation

- o **Jolinda LaClair, VCRD Board Chair, presents the award**
- o **Working Stakeholder Sessions ~ based on key themes of the Report**

(each session will be facilitated by a member of the CFV or associated leader)

1:15 Opening Stakeholder Session

- o Opening presentation considering the issue and reviewing findings of CFV (by a member of the CFV or associated leader) (15)
- o What are the key challenges in this sector today? (30)
- o What are the opportunities ahead in this sector? (30)

2:30 Break

2:45 Closing Stakeholder Session

- o How do Vermonters and Vermont organizations work together to overcome obstacles and advance opportunities in this sector? (30)
- o Defining Goals and Action Steps (45)

4:00 Goals and Action Reports

- o One minute reports from the facilitator of each group (25)
- o Next steps forward, Paul Costello VCRD (5)

4:30 Congressman Welch, Video Presentation Closing Reflections on Vermont as a part of Global Community

4:40 Adjourn

**Evening Special Session, UVM's Ira Allen Chapel,
Burlington VT
(This is free and doesn't require registration).**

**7:00 Building Strategic Vision & Implementing It!
Stories of Successful Leadership**

- o **Governor Baldacci of Maine** (invited) ~ "Charting Maine's Future;" and the Commission on Jobs, Economy and Innovation
- o **Dr. Garrett FitzGerald**, of Ireland ~ "Social Compact and Economic Development"



**Imagining
the Vermont of the Future
by Chip Evans**

Maybe it is just because I grew up on a farm, but I often feel nostalgic about the way Vermont used to be, and worry about where we are headed in the years ahead. If you feel the same way, you will be interested in a project that the Vermont Council for Rural Development (VCRD) has been conducting over the past year. Historically, these kinds of studies take place about once a generation in Vermont. The last one was published about 20 years ago.

In September 2007, the VCRD formed the 18 member Council on the Future of Vermont (CFV) and charged them to "take public input throughout Vermont, research trends and articulate a comprehensive picture of the values, concerns and aspirations of Vermonters as they consider the future of the state". Thousands of Vermonters have joined a statewide conversation to share their views on the major challenges and opportunities we face now, and their vision of the Vermont they want for the next generation.

The level of participation across demographic and socio-economic lines is unprecedented. Information was gathered in small group settings, large public forums, on-line and telephone surveys, research by UVM and St. Michael's College, writing submitted by high school students, readings, radio call in shows, and individual conversations. Thousands of people have participated in person, including veterans, farmers, social service providers and recipients, artists, business owners and employees, students and teachers, selectboards, emergency service providers, service club members, planning commissions, downtown associations, and many others. CFV held public forums across the state in factories, places of business, churches, schools, and enlisting local organizations to reach out to voices not often heard. Others participated through phone and on-line surveys, and the Young Writers Project.

The CFV is considering big picture trends and identifying the common priorities, hopes, and goals Vermonters expressed for our future. Its interpretation of the collected data is a key component of Imagining Vermont: Values and Vision for the Future to be released to the administration, legislature, Federal officials, and the people of Vermont at the State House on April 9. For more information on this and other public events, see the website below.

The release of the Findings will bring CFV full circle as it launches a second county by county tour this summer to discuss the conclusions at the local level.

A few of the findings of Imagining Vermont: Values and Vision for the Future :

- * Vermonters share a common set of values far larger than the divisive day-to-day issues make it appear.
- * It describes how our communities, economy, environment, and civic life can look and feel for the next generation of Vermonters.
- * The report includes in-depth chapters on topics of most concern to Vermonters such as the economy, energy, health, education, land use, cultural heritage, and public safety.
- * It captures the critical priorities Vermonters should pursue to meet the future with confidence.
- * It points out that if not addressed, the discrepancy between our vision for Vermont and the challenges we face can lead to the destruction of what we say we love most about the state.

The VCRD is a nonprofit organization known for its work in nonpartisan policy research and collaborative community planning and dialogue. VCRD is experienced in facilitating discussions with a longer term perspective and getting participants to think beyond our day to day politics.

The VCRD has received generous support from many Vermont businesses for this project, and a special partnership with the Vermont Community Foundation to carry it out. Sponsors include Ben and Jerry's Foundation, Casella Waste Systems, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, NRG Systems, National Life Group, Vermont Mutual Insurance, Union Mutual of Vermont. Also the High Meadows Fund, the New Castle Fund and the J. Warren and Lois McClure Fund. Vermont Public Television is a community partner with VCRD.

Chip Evans and his family are residents of Middlesex. He is the Executive Director of the Vermont Workforce Development Council, past Chair of the VCRD, a member of the Future of Vermont Planning Committee, and past member of the Middlesex Planning Commission.

**Up to date info is available at
www.futureofvermont.org**