

# CITY OF WINOOSKI, VERMONT



## EIGHTY FIRST ANNUAL REPORT

FISCAL YEAR JULY 1, 2002—JUNE 30, 2003

SUBMITTED TO:

THE HONORABLE MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL  
AND WINOOSKI CITIZENS

## DEDICATION

### Shirley Ann Nolin



On the morning of December 8, 2003, the witty and funny Shirley Ann Nolin passed away in her sleep, she was 68 years old. She married Ernest G. Nolin on July 4, 1955, in Saint Stephen's Parish.

They raised three children in Winooski and started Nolin's Trucking in 1955. Shirley was a full time bookkeeper for Nolin's and a stay-at-home mom.

She was the type of person who if she had something to tell, would tell it to your face and not talk behind your back. People respected her for this.

Shirley had such a big heart we never knew who would be at our table for holiday meals. If a person didn't have a place to go, my mom would invite them to our house. She always made people feel like part of the family.

Shirley will truly be missed, but we have such wonderful and funny memories of her to last us until we are together again.

The Nolin Family

### John Rinaldi



John Rinaldi came to the Winooski area to attend St. Michael's College after growing up in Middleton Connecticut. He graduated from St. Michael's in 1966 with a BA and earned his Masters Degree there in 1968. John was an educator in the Chittenden South School District for over 30 years. He started as a math teacher and held a number of administrative jobs including several years as the Assistant Superintendent of Schools. John was responsible for many of the technology innovations in CSSD and around Vermont. His technology expertise was recognized nationally as he lectured at conventions and seminars. John also taught in one graduate program at St. Michael's.

In 1968, John and Susan Germain were married here in Winooski. Two of their three children still live in the city. Michael teaches at Vermont Community College and in the graduate program at St. Michael's. Maria works for St. Michael's in the admissions office. Matt lives in Tucson, Arizona where he is a professional musician, private trumpet teacher and music instructor at Pima Community College.

John gave back to this community and this area in many ways. He served on the Winooski City Council, the Winooski Community Development Corporation, including two terms as its President, and the Chittenden County Transportation Authority. One of his many success stories is the Regional Educational Television Authority, an organization he helped to create and nurture. RETA continues as the backbone of educational television in the area. John served on the St. Stephens Parish Council for a number of years and was its chairman for a period.

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## MAYOR'S MESSAGE

### Clement J. Bissonnette, Mayor

My annual report to the citizens will address some of the accomplishments made by our city departments and staff under the leadership of City Manager Gerry Myers.

Below is a listing of some accomplishments:

- The web site [www.onioncity.com](http://www.onioncity.com) had 1,500 visitors per month.
- In 2003, the staff worked closely with the State to meet stormwater regulations. Steve Palmer and Tim Grover conducted all of the City's efforts.
- The City Council and staff attended meetings with the Winooski Network (a group of social agencies working with the Winooski Parks and Recreation Department) to determine what the requirements would be for a community center for the city. This center would also be available as a teen center. The city received a planning grant to continue working on this project.

In 2003 my focus was, and will continue to be, working with the Winooski Community Development Corporation on the downtown redevelopment. I participated by attending meetings with the developers and Governor Jim Douglas's staff. City Manager Gerry Myers, Bill Niquette, Executive Director of the Winooski Community Development Corporation, J. Ladd, the city's Community Development Director, Jim Trzepacz, Planning Director, and City Engineer, Steve Palmer, have been the driving force in finalizing the grant proposal.

As I write my annual report, Governor Jim Douglas has stated that the state will guarantee our \$24 million dollar loan from HUD. HUD has approved the loan and the paperwork is working its way through Washington for all of the appropriate sign-offs. The city plans to begin construction in April 2004.

I want to thank everyone who has helped us reach this important milestone in the history of our city. The success of this accomplishment can be attributed to many individuals, but the vision for this project originated with Bill Niquette and his development team. Thank you, Bill.

The city was awarded a "Downtown Designation" by the State of Vermont. This will bring tax incentives for downtown businesses, greater freedom with Winooski signage, reduced loan rates and give the city priority in state grant funding.

In 2003 under J. Ladd's leadership the City of Winooski received the following grants:

- Community Planning Grant \$30,000 (Feasibility Study for Community Center and Malletts Bay neighbor redevelopment).
- Jancey Wickstrom, VISTA WORKER (full-time 1 year) \$30,800.
- AmeriCorps Team (5 weeks, 9 laborers) \$18,000.
- Champlain Basin Program Grant (Gilbrook enhancements) \$2,000.
- 5310 Transportation Grant (Senior and Handicapped transportation) \$7,186.
- Vermont Coalition Teen Centers Grant (team leadership training) \$300
- Reactivated HIP (housing improvement program) relationship with Chittenden Bank and Vermont Development Credit Union.
- CD loan to Dr. Goering \$30,000 at 3% to support Family Clinic.
- Partnership with Burlington Community Land Trust development consultant for Malletts Bay and Community Center \$1,155.
- Stone House improvements increase rental income 6.5% (handicap accessible ramp and landscaping).
- FEMA grant (personnel safety and readiness fire department) \$95,440.
- Municipal Planning Grant (for zoning regulation rewrite) \$15,000.
- Downtown Designation (ongoing, in collaboration with WCDC).

The total value of these grants is \$200,685. Thank you J. and department heads.

Chief Steve McQueen was successful in obtaining \$693,526 for the following grants for the Winooski Police Department:

- Grant to encourage arrest: \$496,989 over two years. Of this amount, \$86,454 is allocated to the Winooski Victims Advocate.
- Offender Re-entry planning grant: \$14,000.
- Justice Center Grant: \$46,250.
- Agency of Human Services Community Service Officer Grant: \$39,600 (over two years).
- Terrel Fund Grant (R & R Camp): \$7,000.
- New England State Police Information Network Grant: \$5,000 (drug investigations).
- Homeland Security: \$57,000.
- Block Grant: \$17,987.
- Agency of Human Services: \$9,700 grant through Justice Center for City Summer Recreation program.

Not all of these grants commit the city to having to pay for anything beyond the grant period. These grants enable the city to do more without cost to the taxpayer. Thanks Chief.

Friday October 31, 2003 brought disaster to City Hall. An electrical fire in the City Clerk's office destroyed the entire office. Our staff responded to the fire and the challenges that were created by this event and worked all weekend and long hours on Monday and Tuesday. The Clerk's office reopened on the following Wednesday with limited services. All of the records in the vault had to be shipped out for cleaning; everything in the vault had received smoke damage. The last of the records will be back in mid-February, 2004.

I would like to thank Harry Fell, 2<sup>nd</sup> assistant chief of the Winooski Fire Department for his help in salvaging the hard drives of all of the computers in City Hall.

Harry worked tirelessly for a week, getting our computers up and running so we could continue city operations. I would also like to thank Downs Rachlin Martin PLLC for giving Harry the time off from his duties so he could work on the city's computers.

The city will be participating in the "Voices and Vision Project" with Cynthia Tokos. The project will be a two-year project to record and celebrate Winooski in writing, film, video, and theatre. The stories will be produced by community members and will publicize part of our effort to showcase Winooski.

My thanks to all of the volunteers who worked in various capacities on city boards. Without your dedication we would not have the fine community that we live in. I have been very pleased to see that new citizens have come forward to volunteer their time.

In closing, I would like to thank Joe Duncan who stepped down as Councilman in January 2004. Joe and his family have moved to Williston. This is Winooski's loss and Williston's gain. Thanks, Joe, and good luck in the future.



(L-R) Councillor Joseph Duncan, Councillor Darrell Desautels, Mayor Clement Bissonnette  
Councillor Katherine Picard, Councillor Michael O'Brien

**CITY OFFICERS****Elected Officials**

Mayor, Clement Bissonnette .....	Term Expires March 2005
Deputy Mayor Michael O'Brien .....	2004
Councillor Katherine Picard .....	2005
Councillor Darrell Desautels .....	2004
Councillor Joseph Duncan .....	2005

**City Representatives (Elected)**

Kenneth Atkins .....	Term Expires November 2004
George Cross .....	November 2004

**Justices of the Peace**

Kenneth Atkins .....	Term Expires February 2005
Clement Bissonnette .....	2005
Stephen Blodgett .....	2005
George Cross .....	2005
Darrell Desautels .....	2005
Roland Dion .....	2005
Jay Felix .....	2005
Sharon Galperin .....	2005
Derek Larsen .....	2005
Michael Mahoney .....	2005
Timothy Mahoney .....	2005
William Norful .....	2005
Susan O'Brien .....	2005
Michael O'Brien .....	2005
Karen O'Hagan .....	2005
Katherine Picard .....	2005
Robert Rabidoux .....	2005
Clement Soutiere .....	2005

**Appointed Officials****Officers/Department Heads**

Gerald J. Myers .....	City Manager
Pauline K. Schmoll .....	City Clerk/Treasurer
Raymond J. Clavelle, Sr. ....	Delinquent Tax Collector
James C. Trzepacz .....	Planning Director / City Assessor
J. Ladd .....	Community Development
Ray Crete .....	Building/Zoning Administrator
David Bergeron .....	Fire Chief/Fire Marshal
Steven Palmer .....	City Engineer
Steven Woodworth .....	Public Works Superintendent
Tim Grover .....	Wastewater Superintendent
Sarah Potwin .....	Library Director
Roland Dion .....	Senior Citizen Center Director
Stephen McQueen .....	Police Chief/Constable
Janelle Gilbert-Fuller .....	Winooski Community Justice Center
William M. O'Brien, Esq. ....	City Attorney
James O'Brien, M.D. ....	Health Officer
Ed Willenbaker .....	WHA, Executive Director

**City Boards & Commissions****Development Review Board**

Margaret Lesage .....	Term Expires April 2006
Dave Ravelin .....	2005
Brian Lamothe .....	2006
Beth Danon .....	2005
Catherine Dimitruk .....	2006
Dave Bowers .....	2006
Bryan Baldwin .....	2005
Judy Lance (Alt) .....	2005

**Parks & Recreation**

Sue O'Brien .....	Term Expires April 2005
Bruce Wilson .....	2004
Karen Lapan .....	2006
Vacancy .....	
Vacancy .....	

**Library Advisory Board**

Elizabeth Conlon .....	Term Expires April 2005
Madeline Morenus .....	2005
Karen O'Hagan .....	2006
Tom Fleury .....	2006
Christian Frenette .....	2004

**Senior Citizen Advisory Board**

Jean Devarney .....	Term Expires April 2006
Glenna Myers .....	2006
Estelle Loiselle .....	2006
Loretta Martin .....	2005
Gladyce Perrotte .....	2005
Bertha Flaherty .....	2005
Beverly Guest .....	2004
Larry Blanchard .....	2004
Jeannette Troescher .....	2004
Joseph Peters .....	2006

**Housing Appeal Board**

Roland Dion .....	Term Expires April 2005
William Biscoe .....	2006
Brian Lamothe .....	2006
Lawrence Blanchard .....	2005
Jay Felix .....	2005

**Winooski Community Justice Center Board**

Jim Adams .....	Term Expires August 2004
Bill Cross .....	February 2006
Gayle DiMasi .....	March 2005
Roger Morse .....	2004
Wendy Scully .....	2004
Jeffry Turner .....	2004
Patty Niquette .....	2004

**Winooski City Service Officer**

Katherine Picard .....	Term Expires April 2004
Kathy Tebo (Alternate) .....	2004

### Planning Commission/Design Review Board

Vacancy.....  
 Vacancy.....  
 Vacancy.....  
 Vacancy.....  
 Vacancy.....

### Traffic Advisory Board

Tony Augustino..... Term Expires April 2006  
 Dave Ravelin ..... 2006  
 David Ryan ..... 2006  
 Marty Goudreau..... 2006  
 Jeannine McCrumb ..... 2004

### Code Review Board

Dave Ravelin ..... Term Expires April 2004  
 Catherine Dimitruk..... 2004  
 Mark Yurcek ..... 2004  
 Dave Bowers ..... 2004  
 David Bergeron..... 2004

### Charter Review Board

Dave Ravelin ..... Term Expires April 2004  
 Darrell Desautels ..... 2004  
 Katherine Picard ..... 2004  
 Jan Backus ..... 2004  
 Vacancy.....

### Gilbrook Committee

John Thatcher..... Term Expires April 2004  
 Chris Lamothe ..... 2004  
 Peter Kriff..... 2004  
 Brian Latuillipe..... 2004  
 Maurice Chicoine..... 2004  
 Rodney "Pat" Myers..... 2004  
 Clem Soutiere..... 2004  
 Mike O'Brien ..... 2004  
 Vacancy.....

### Community Development/Community Center

Karen Lapan ..... Term Expires April 2006  
 Jeff Thompson ..... 2006  
 Tommie Murray ..... 2006  
 William Biscoe ..... 2005

### Environmental Board

Suzanne Koch ..... Term Expires April 2006  
 Jeff Moorman..... 2006  
 Matt Murawski ..... 2006  
 Vacancy.....

### Winooski Housing Authority

Diane Potvin ..... Term Expires December 2004  
 Joseph Gamache ..... 2004  
 Larry Blanchard ..... January 2005  
 Charles Crowley ..... 2005  
 Leon Sabourin ..... 2004

## Volunteer Opportunities Available

Please send a letter of interest to:

City of Winooski  
 City Manager's Office  
 27 West Allen Street  
 Winooski, Vermont 05404

## Regional Boards

### Metropolitan Planning Organization

Michael O'Brien..... Term Expires April 2005  
 Steve Palmer (TAC) ..... 2006  
 Vacancy (Alternate).....

### Chittenden County Transportation Authority

Katherine Picard..... Term Expires April 2005  
 Robert Conlon ..... 2004

### Chittenden County Regional Planning Comm.

William Niquette ..... Term Expires April 2006  
 J. Ladd (Alternate)..... 2005

### Winooski Valley Park District

Brenda Larsen..... Term Expires April 2004  
 Bob DiMasi ..... 2006

### Champlain Water District

George Jimmo..... Term Expires April 2006  
 Vacancy (Alternate).....

### Channel 17

Vacancy .....

### Chittenden Solid Waste District

Sue O'Brien..... Term Expires May 2006

## CITY EMPLOYEES

### City Manager Office

Gerald J. Myers ..... City Manager  
Penny L. Manning ..... Office Manager

### Finance/Records Department

Pauline K. Schmoll ..... City Clerk / Treasurer  
Carol Barrett ..... Assistant Clerk / Treasurer  
Janet Brouard ..... Bookkeeper/Computer Operator

### Building/Zoning Department

Ray Crete ..... Building / Zoning Administrator  
David Bergeron ..... Fire Chief / Fire Marshal

### Assessing/Planning

James C. Trzepacz ..... City Assessor / Planning Director

### Parks & Recreation Department

Bob DiMasi ..... Director  
Rick Lecuyer ..... Park Maintenance Worker  
Bill Mitchell ..... Park Maintenance Worker

### Engineering & Public Works Department

Steven Palmer ..... City Engineer  
Steve Woodworth ..... Superintendent

### Street Department

Jerry O'Neal ..... Skilled Laborer / Equipment Operator  
Tom Manning ..... Skilled Laborer / Equipment Operator  
Adam Wahl ..... Skilled Laborer / Equipment Operator

### Water Department

Todd Gregory ..... Skilled Laborer / Equipment Operator  
Alfred Labelle ..... Skilled Laborer / Equipment Operator

### Water Pollution Facility Control

Tim Grover ..... Superintendent  
George Lavallee ..... Assistant Chief Operator

### Memorial Library

Sarah Potwin ..... Director  
Lena Trono ..... Assistant Librarian  
Martha Simmons ..... Assistant Librarian  
Carolyn LaMothe ..... Assistant Librarian

### Senior Citizen Center

Roland Dion ..... Director

### Fire Department

David Bergeron ..... Fire Chief / Fire Marshal  
Todd Goodwin ..... 1<sup>st</sup> Assistant Chief  
Harry Fell ..... 2<sup>nd</sup> Assistant Chief  
Kevin Aube ..... Captain  
Julie Bergeron ..... Lieutenant  
A. J. Leclair ..... Lieutenant  
Mort Alling ..... Firefighter  
Mike Antoniak ..... Firefighter  
William Barry ..... Firefighter  
Jason Barton ..... Firefighter  
Matt Bissonnette ..... Firefighter  
Richard Brosseau ..... Firefighter  
George Gamelin ..... Firefighter  
Erika Greenough ..... Firefighter  
Gary Howe ..... Firefighter  
Todd Hutchinson ..... Firefighter  
Tina McMeniman ..... Firefighter  
Kevin Nardone ..... Firefighter  
Kevin Savage ..... Firefighter  
Pat Shanahan ..... Firefighter  
Seth Smekel ..... Firefighter  
Kelley Sims ..... Firefighter  
Brian Walker ..... Firefighter  
Alison Pecor ..... Dispatcher

### Police Department

Steve McQueen ..... Police Chief/Constable  
Rainer Sheehan ..... Lieutenant  
Richard Benoit ..... Sergeant  
Barry Lawrence ..... Sergeant  
Loren Gove ..... Sergeant  
Josh Catella ..... Detective  
James Fuller ..... Youth Service Officer  
Mary Boe ..... School Resource Officer  
Mike Brouillette ..... Officer  
Robert Crichton ..... Officer  
Nathaniel Gould ..... Officer  
Richard Hebert ..... Officer  
Benjamin Kaufman ..... Officer  
Michael Wood ..... Officer  
Kathy Benoit ..... Dispatcher  
Kristen Gaudette ..... Dispatcher  
Sam Little ..... Dispatcher  
A. J. Leclair ..... Dispatcher  
Pat Mongeon ..... Secretary

### Winooski Community Justice Center

Janelle Gilbert-Fuller ..... Director  
Patty Niquette ..... Assistant Director  
Tsiala Williams ..... Family Abuse Advocate



## CITY MANAGER

### Gerald J. Myers, City Manager

Hello Winooski citizens and I hope you find this year's annual report interesting and worthwhile reading. The majority of the information contained in this report recaps the accomplishments of our 40 employees working in 12 different departments. The achievements highlighted in the Mayor's message as well as the Department Heads' narratives are testament to our dedicated and hardworking employees. Their commitment to putting the customer first through a continuous improvement strategy is paying enormous dividends to the citizens of Winooski. We are most definitely seeing our City make a turn for the better. Whether it be the rebuilding of the Hanson Block, the exciting prospects of seeing the Downtown Redevelopment come to fruition, the Reparative Board process that incorporates the citizen's voice in the justice process, or the newly established Rental Registry Program that will improve our residential properties, the City is definitely moving forward in trying to make Winooski a better place to live and work.

The following page provides the taxpayers with a picture of the City's request for this year's budget with a department by department comparison of this year's request versus last year's approved expenditures.

**The requested increase is 6.87 cents over last year and will cost the average Winooski household less than \$8.00 per month.**

Unlike previous years, much of this extra \$8.00 per month is going right back to the taxpayer in services and infrastructure improvements. The budget includes the purchase of a new street sweeper and sidewalk plow/sander and the ability to hire some of our young people during the summer to improve street maintenance and repairs. As a trial, the City hired one temporary summer employee last year in Public Works and found this type of program extremely worthwhile. This budget proposal also includes an additional \$55,000 for street maintenance and repairs. Resurfacing portions of upper Weaver Street and filling cracks on many of our other streets must get done and will save the taxpayer lots of money in the future. Waiting for a road to deteriorate to a point where full-depth reconstruction is required will cost hundreds of thousands of dollars. This preventative maintenance program is absolutely essential. Other taxpayer benefits from this budget include a continued emphasis on improving the pool facility and Landry Park as well as the institution of our Rental Registry Program that will ensure the City's rental housing stock is cleaned up and made safer for people to live in. Lastly, the budget includes initial expenditures for the City-wide property reappraisal planned for 2006-2007.

The initial budget that was presented to the City Council in December reflected a need for an additional \$600,000 (26 additional cents on the tax rate). After several budget work sessions we were able to pare it down to a need for \$164,782 to be able to accomplish City business next year.

The final result that requires voter approval is presented on the following page. The Council and staff know that the **requested 6.87-cent increase** will definitely burden many of our taxpayers. However, the requested increase to the average Winooski taxpayer will be less than \$100.00 for the entire year. This budget has the unanimous backing of the City Council.

### CUSTOMER HOTLINE - 655-6410 X21

The City of Winooski Customer Hotline continues to be the best method to help resolve issues and support customer requests. Winooski citizens are encouraged to call. Every message will be returned within 48 business hours by a responsible Department Head. Customers may also send queries or complaints via the link on the home page of Winooski's web site **[www.onioncity.com](http://www.onioncity.com)**.

**ANNUAL BUDGET ~ TAX SUPPORT FY05-FY04 COMPARISON**

<b>DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>PROPOSED 2004-2005 TAXES</b>	<b>ADOPTED 2003-2004 TAXES</b>	<b>TAX IMPACT DIFFERENCE BY DEPARTMENT</b>
LEGAL	14,830	14,080	750
FINANCE/RECORDS	-1,130	2,335	-3,465
ASSESSOR/PLANNING	67,725	61,150	6,575
BUILDING/ZONING	13,385	6,840	6,545
POLICE	886,177	878,377	7,800
FIRE	96,495	87,795	8,700
PUBLIC HEALTH	4,725	4,400	325
PUBLIC WORKS	412,525	396,040	16,485
PARKS & REC. Rink Maintenance	95,665	85,915	9,750
PARKS & REC. Pool Operation	35,045	30,575	4,470
LIBRARY	54,295	49,675	4,620
EMPLOYEE BENEFITS	685,775	629,700	56,075
GENERAL SERVICES	16,000	16,000	0
PUBLIC BUILDINGS & FACILITIES	277,500	244,850	32,650
CITY MANAGER	-202,290	-220,807	18,517
REGIONAL PROGRAMS	163,830	168,220	-4,390
ENGINEERING SERVICES	47,350	50,000	-2,650
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL	13,400	13,400	0
SENIOR CITIZENS	40,060	38,035	2,025
CAPITAL BUDGET	240,000	240,000	0
<b>*GENERAL FUND TOTALS</b>	<b>\$2,961,362</b>	<b>\$2,796,580</b>	<b>\$164,782</b>

*Each penny raises \$24,000.  $\$164,782 \div \$24,000 = 6.87\text{cents}$ .*

**DELINQUENT TAX REPORT**

Raymond J. (Moon) Clavelle Sr. has been collecting delinquent taxes for the City of Winooski for over 40 years. His job is to work with property owners that have failed to pay their annual real estate and personal property taxes. Each May 16, Mr. Clavelle receives a report from the City Treasurer of taxes that have not been paid and goes to work. For Fiscal Year 2002-2003 the report showed delinquent taxes of \$144,924.91 that were not paid on real estate property and personal property. During the course of the next twelve months Mr. Clavelle collected \$75,545.53 in delinquent city taxes, fines and penalties. Taxes yet to be collected are summarized below:

**SUMMARY OF DELINQUENT TAXES**

As of June 30, 2003

<u>FISCAL YEAR</u>	<u>WARRANT BALANCE</u>	<u>SCHOOL TAXES</u>	<u>CITY TAXES</u>
2002-2003	\$138,885.17	\$78,104.58	\$60,780.49
2001-2002	\$19,348.97	\$8,915.55	\$10,433.42
2000-2001	\$8,047.65	\$4,559.16	\$3,488.49
1999-2000	\$3,381.52	\$1,397.60	\$1,988.92
1998-1999	\$8,505.45	\$4,665.72	\$3,839.73

**CITY CLERK & TREASURER****Pauline K. Schmoll, City Clerk/Treasurer**

During the 2002-2003 Fiscal Year, recording, restoration and filing fees, as well as fees charged for certified copies, copies of deeds and title search fees brought in revenue of \$67,383. Other revenues included:

Beverage Licenses	\$3,015
Other Municipal Licenses	\$2,840
Dog Licenses	\$2,695
State Fees (Fish & Game Licenses - net revenue)	\$7,686
Marriage Licenses	

In addition to the above, this office is responsible for producing and collecting quarterly water bills, property tax bills, and annual sewer bills. All accounts receivable and accounts payable are processed through the Finance and Records Department.

The City of Winooski is continuing in its effort to have our old records restored. This restoration program is very important because it ensures that future generations will continue to have access to these very important and interesting records of our past. The City of Winooski has custody of the Old Town of Colchester Land Records before March 7, 1922. The earliest vital records date back to 1857 and the land records date back to the 1700's. Since these are important documents for both Colchester and Winooski for information in our past, I will continue to try to find ways to restore all of these documents.

If you are a new resident in Winooski, please stop in and meet our friendly staff. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have. While in the office, complete a voter register form to have your name added to the voting list. It takes only a few minutes. Voting is a right and a privilege that residents should exercise at every election. City and school voting will be held on Tuesday, March 2, 2004 at the Senior Citizens Center on Barlow Street.

Mrs. Alyce Piche, a long time Winooski resident, continues to donate many hours of her time to computerize birth, death and marriage records. We want to thank her very much for her time and generosity.

On Halloween night 2003 the City Clerk Office had a devastating fire, which could have been much worse if our fire department had not contained the fire to one area. They are a very professional department and we are very thankful to them for everything. We also want to thank the citizens of Winooski, as well as attorneys and title searchers for their support during our cleanup and subsequently during the reconstruction period. Thoughtfulness was certainly appreciated during this time. By the March election, reconstruction of the City Clerk Office and parts of City Hall should be complete and use of the vault will be restored to all hours the City Clerk Office is open. In the upcoming year, we are looking at different options concerning the backup of all the land records, vital records and minutes kept in the vault. These records are a very important story of our past and should be preserved for future generations to enjoy. As custodian of the records, I would like to make sure that whatever option is finally selected, it does not become obsolete as new technology becomes available.

Carol, Janet and I look forward to assisting you in the coming year. We would like to thank the citizens of Winooski, the City Manager, Mayor, City Council, and all City Employees for their assistance and cooperation this past year and look forward to another great year.

**VOTE: MARCH 2, 2004**  
Senior Citizen Center, Barlow Street  
7 a.m. - 7 p.m.

# AUDITOR'S STATEMENT

## Sullivan, Powers & Co.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

A PROFESSIONAL CORPORATION

77 Barre Street  
P.O. Box 947  
Montpelier, VT 05601  
802/223-2352  
802/223-3578 FAX

James H. Powers, CPA  
Fred Duplessis, CPA  
Kathy Blackburn, CPA  
Richard J. Brigham, CPA  
VT Lic. #92-000180

January 29, 2004

Honorable City Council  
City of Winooski  
27 West Allen Street  
Winooski, Vermont 05404

We have been engaged to audit the General Purpose Financial Statements of the City of Winooski, Vermont as of and for the year ended June 30, 2003. We plan to commence fieldwork on February 3, 2004 provided the records that were damaged in the fire are available. We anticipate to complete the audit by the end of February. Our report will be available for inspection at the City Clerk's Office.

Respectfully submitted,

*Sullivan, Powers & Co.*  
SULLIVAN, POWERS & CO.  
Certified Public Accountants

# ASSESSING DEPARTMENT

James C. Trzepacz, City Assessor

## SUMMARY OF PROPERTY VALUATION

	2003		2002		2001		2000	
	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%	Value	%
Residential	\$179,948,807	73.2	\$178,987,407	73.2	\$178,248,107	73.3	\$177,200,207	73.5
Commercial	28,618,000	11.7	27,827,100	11.4	27,478,400	11.3	26,695,300	11.1
Industrial	16,613,700	6.8	16,613,700	6.8	16,613,700	6.8	15,402,100	6.4
Utilities*	3,273,084	1.3	3,263,831	1.3	4,139,679	1.7	5,051,199	2.1
Personal Property	5,707,074	2.3	6,246,770	2.6	5,918,157	2.4	5,900,455	2.4
Miscellaneous	1,694,700	0.7	1,694,700	0.7	1,275,700	0.5	1,545,000	0.6
Commercial Adj.	9,751,826	4.0	9,744,717	4.0	9,731,556	4.0	9,381,000	3.9
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$245,607,191</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$244,378,225</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$243,405,299</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>\$241,175,261</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Telephone company real property was changed from the Utility to Commercial category in 2001.

The City Assessor determines the fair market value of real estate and personal property for the annual Grand List which is used to fund city and school district operations. The Assessor also determines and reports homestead valuation, which is utilized by the Vermont Department of Taxes to assign education property tax liability.

Winooski last conducted a full reappraisal during the 1992 Fiscal Year. In 2001 the Common Level of Appraisal (CLA) was 96.94%; by January 2003, this value had slipped to 84.16%. The CLA is determined by dividing the Assessed Value by Sale Price. A reappraisal is scheduled for 2006-2007 to restore the CLA to 100%.

### Property Transfers

Real estate transfers between July 1, 2002 and June 30, 2003 – considered valid for use in CLA calculations– numbered 94, an increase from 88 in the previous period. The value of all sales during the period totaled \$18,200,076. The average sale price for all valid transfers was \$162,147, a slight decrease from \$162,977 last year. For single family homes it was \$149,378, an increase of 11.1% over \$134,455 last year; the highest single-family sale was \$218,000. During the period many properties sold at all-time high prices. Few sales occurred in the commercial and industrial sectors, however, sale prices of multi-family units continued to increase primarily due to lucrative rental income; the highest commercial apartment sale was \$440,000 for 8 units. Recent property transfer information may be viewed on the Assessor's web page; this information is updated on a quarterly basis.

### Parcel Mapping

The tax map project is nearing completion. Using deeds, surveys, descriptive property information as it becomes available, and the computer assistance of Judy and Chuck Bond of Grassroots GIS, parcel maps have been prepared for Winooski. With the superior resolution of new orthophotos cultural landmarks (such as, driveways, fences and hedgerows) can be used to determine property boundaries. Citizens are welcomed in my office to view and confirm lot lines.

### Declaration of Vermont Homestead

Vermont residents must file a Declaration of Homestead, Form HS-131 from the Vermont Tax booklet, by April 15, 2004, to receive the homestead school property tax rate. Non-homesteads will be subject to a higher school property tax rate. The SPAN code necessary to complete the form is printed on your current tax bill.

### Thank You

The Assessor continues to utilize and appreciate the professional appraisal services of Kermit Blaisdell of the Vermont Appraisal Company (VAC) who serves as a review appraiser and assists in and in valuation of non-residential properties. I welcome and anticipate working with Ted Nelson of VAC in the coming year on preparations for the reappraisal. I am grateful to Penny Manning for the office management and customer relation assistance she furnishes on a daily basis. One of us will be contacting you over the coming months to schedule a detailed inspection of your property.

## PLANNING DEPARTMENT

James C. Trzepacz, Planning Director

### Municipal Development Planning

Winooski's Planning Department has the responsibility of providing a policy framework for the city's future development and of guiding that development through site plan and subdivision review. The department is staffed by a Director, who with assistance of the City Manager and Department Heads carries out the duties of the former Planning Commission. The Planning Director provides assistance to the Zoning Administrator and Development Review Board during the routine course of business. Over the past months, a significant amount of time was spent reviewing documents and plans related to the downtown redevelopment. Since September of 2002, I have had the pleasure of working with J. Ladd who has joined the municipal staff as the Director of the Community Development Department.

Citizens are encouraged to direct their comments regarding current development issues and future planning visions to my office. In 2004 staff intends to reconstitute the Planning Commission and Design Review Board. These groups will work on the Zoning Ordinance update, provide guidance in the Designated Downtown and Design Review Districts and initiate neighborhood planning studies. Contact J Ladd, Gerry Myers, or myself for additional information.

### Operation Bloom

For a seventh year the department coordinated city resources and citizen volunteers for the beautification effort named "Operation Bloom." Thanks to the help of many, including the Winooski Public Works Department, Winooski Parks & Recreation Department, citizen volunteers, particularly, coordinators Janet Farrell and Sue Carter-O'Brien, and generous financial support from area businesses, Operation Bloom planted several flower displays throughout the City. Unfortunately, heat and drought again this past summer took a toll on the plantings. We wish for a more balanced growing season in the upcoming year! Here in Winooski, thanks to our volunteers, we install significant plantings. Citizens who would like to volunteer on this effort are always welcomed and can contact me at City Hall for additional information!

### Onioncity.com Web Site

The Planning Director has been responsible for the City's website [www.onioncity.com](http://www.onioncity.com) since November 2000. *Onioncity.com* serves well over 1,500 visitors each month. The site features information pertaining to Winooski including: meeting schedules, special events, City Council agendas and minutes, informational maps, department reports, photos, and links to dozens of websites of interest. An electronic version of Winooski's Annual Report is featured as well.

It has been a pleasure serving Winooski citizens over the past year. I have enjoyed working with and learning from our City Manager, Gerry Myers, Mayor Bissonnette, City Councillors and my fellow co-workers. I have met many of our local citizens and have made many new friends during the year. Everyone is encouraged and welcomed to contact me regarding suggestions, questions or problems.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

### J. Ladd, Director

A year ago, in September 2002, the Community Development Department was reinstituted by the City Council, to develop solutions to specific needs in Winooski. The primary needs which were identified were: the improvement of our housing stock; enhancing our public facilities and infrastructure; and to develop a Community Center for the use and enjoyment of all Winooski residents.

After a very busy first year, I'm pleased to report that Winooski's Community Development Department is in full stride, with numerous achievements already and significant projects underway.

**To improve our housing stock**, the Community Development Department has re-opened the Housing Improvement Program (HIP). This program provides technical and financial assistance to Winooski residential property owners who need help maintaining or improving their properties. Both single-family and multi-family residences are eligible for assistance. The priorities for assistance are code compliance, handicapped accessibility, structural or infrastructure upgrades, and street appeal.

More than this program, I am working to foster opportunities for housing development and to promote and support residential renovation and construction, particularly of affordable housing. In addition, I have joined the City team which is working with the Winooski Community Development Corporation to help develop 650 units of mixed-income housing units in our revitalized downtown. My department is also working with the Building Code Compliance department to fund and develop a Rental Registry Program, which will register and regularly inspect all rental units in the city, to assure that Winooski's rental housing is healthy and safe. We are applying for a State Planning Grant to support the development of this important program. Additionally, we have applied for a Municipal Planning Grant to update and revise Winooski's Zoning regulations.

Finally, we secured a State Planning Grant to develop plans for the revitalization of the Malletts Bay Avenue neighborhood. This neighborhood has suffered from a high rate of neglectful absentee ownership and from economic depression. The Planning Grant will help us develop a strategy for revitalizing this valuable neighborhood.

The Community Development Department has made progress to **enhance public facilities and infrastructure**. We collaborated closely with the Parks and Recreation Department to secure a grant from the Champlain Basin Program to enhance the Gilbrook Nature Area. The enhancements include path improvements, the installation of erosion controls, and most exciting, the construction of an Outdoor Classroom. The classroom is being used often by Winooski School and St. Michaels students. Primarily a team of young AmeriCorps workers who were brought to Winooski by this department constructed the improvements.

The Department worked with the Planning Department to update the Winooski Municipal Plan. The Municipal Plan is our basic planning framework, which delineates a plan for the community that our citizens and officials wish to achieve. Our next step is to update the City Zoning Ordinances, to better reflect the Municipal Plan and to make them more responsive to contemporary conditions in Winooski. This is very much a public process and I encourage citizens to give their input about zoning in Winooski. The Planning Grant mentioned above will support a thorough evaluation and rework of the ordinances.

Other infrastructure activities in the CD Department included improvements to the landscape and the handicapped access to the City-owned Stone House and working with students from the Winooski Middle School to involve them in the application for the Tree City USA certification program, which will support our efforts to secure funds for street trees.

We continue to make progress in **developing a Winooski Community Center**, which will serve all residents. Our focus has been on evaluating potential sites, understanding what facilities are needed and what organizations will want space, and researching other centers in Vermont. There is no doubt about the interest and need for a Community Center and we are on schedule to have an operating Community Center within three years.

The City's close relationship with the Winooski Network, an affiliation of service providers, has been very productive in developing the Community Center and I want to thank each of the representatives to the Network, especially Sister Pat McKittrick, for the Network's support.

We are lucky to have a VISTA worker, Jancey Wickstrom, with us this year. Jancey works with the Parks and Recreation Department in programs for youth and brings her experience to bear in helping us develop the youth and teen components of the Community Center.

The CD Department has been awarded a grant from the State Department of Health to conduct a needs assessment of Winooski's health needs, physical, emotional and social, and how the Community Center can help address those needs. We appreciate the attention and support that the Department of Health is giving to our project.

The coming year will be a busy one, with the Downtown Redevelopment breaking ground, the Community Center moving ahead, the Malletts Bay neighborhood revitalization beginning, and many other projects in progress. I look forward to a busy and productive year!

## **BUILDING/ZONING DEPARTMENT**

**Raymond D. Crete, Building/Zoning Admin.**  
**David Bergeron, Fire Marshal**

Protecting the safety, health and welfare of the public and safeguarding the quality of life in the City is the primary purpose of the Building and Zoning Department. The primary activity of the Department is permit processing and code enforcement.

Our Codes and Standards seek to protect the rights of each landowner, and to define procedures; such as posting the yellow card with the red "Z" that notifies the property abutters of a permit request. Changes to properties that include demolition, physical improvements, major repairs, and change of use require the landowner to obtain proper permits. A permit request can be appealed. Each citizen has the opportunity to voice their concerns before a project is built or the use is changed. All projects undergoing change shall have a permit posted at the site and on the bulletin board at City Hall. The regulations are available to the public for review at City Hall during business hours. Permits are legally required for bank financing.

During the 2002-2003 fiscal year the Building/Zoning office issued 514 building permits. Permit fees collected by the Building /Zoning Department amounted to \$21,765. The total monetary investment in the City was valued at over \$2,405,616.

To improve the quality of life and to improve safety for all citizens, the Department has started to register and inspect rental dwelling units, under the newly adopted Landlord Registry Program. This program represents a significant improvement in Winooski's code compliance protocols. From the Department, David Bergeron, our Winooski Fire Marshal has conducted over 300 inspections and has issued 310 Certificate of Compliances to approved rental dwelling units under the Life Safety Fire Protection Codes. Ray Crete, the Building/Zoning Administrator has issued over 100 Certificates of Occupancy, which are required in order to transfer property ownership. These more than 400 inspections have collected fees totaling \$16,912 for the services rendered. In the upcoming fiscal year, the Landlord Registry Program inspections should more than double this year's inspection fees. Much more than the benefit of the fees, which will help minimize future tax increases, the assurance that all rental properties will be inspected for fire and safety protection will improve the quality of life and safety in our neighborhoods.

There were 18 public zoning appeal hearings for permit applications heard by the Development Review Board. Since many properties in Winooski are small lots and are considered under zoning regulations to be non-complying and/or non-conforming uses, the landowner can apply to the Development Review Board to make improvements. The volunteers who comprised the regular Board, and have served the community well are Peggy Lesage (Chairperson), Dave Ravelin, Catherine Dimitruk, Brian LaMothe, and David Bowers. The alternates were Judith Lance, Beth Danon and Brian Boldwin. We have had no appeals to the Winooski Housing Appeal Board, which is served by Jay Felix, Larry Blanchard, Roland Dion, Brian LaMothe, and David Bergeron. These Board members have done a remarkable job, and should be recognized for their dedication and fairness in serving the public and ensuring that the best interests of the

community have been adhered to. Their efforts are deeply appreciated.

The newly -formed Code Review Committee was established to review and up-date the Winooski Municipal Codes. The volunteer committee members are Catherine Dimitruk, Dave Ravelin, Kathy Tebo, David Bergeron and Mark Yurcek. These volunteers were instrumental in helping to create the Landlord Registry Program. We have continued to make changes on a few chapters, and will be submitting updated changes for Chapter 10, Housing. Ray Crete has been serving on the task force for the Vermont Department of Health to improve the Housing Rental Codes and Enforcement. Dr. James O'Brien continues to serve as the Winooski Health Officer, and Ray Crete has been appointed Deputy Health Officer. The Winooski City Council, which serves as the Local Health Board heard several Health Order Appeals.

Our Health Department continues to educate the public and seeks to minimize health hazards, such as lead-paint paint poisoning. The Department offers free radon test kits for clean air quality in homes.

For more information about department programs contact Ray Crete at 655-6410 x25.

## **LEGAL DEPARTMENT**

**William M. O'Brien, City Attorney/Grand Juror**  
**Kristen Wright, Asst. Grand Juror**

2003 has been very busy in the legal department, especially concerning the downtown development project. While we still have legal obstacles to overcome, the downtown project becomes closer to a ground breaking every day. We are guardedly optimistic that the project will be under way come summer.

In addition, to the downtown project, we have also been involved in an Environmental Court appeal from the Development Review Board and an appeal to the Superior Court involving the Police Department. We continue to prosecute ordinance violations in the District Court, hear parking ticket appeals, and render legal opinions for all city departments.

Thank you to all who have provided assistance in these matters throughout the year.

# CITY OF WINOOSKI, VERMONT

## 2004 MUNICIPAL CALENDAR

**Pull-Out  
Section**

January 1 (Thursday)	New Year's Day (Holiday - Offices Closed)
January 19 (Monday)	Dr. M. L. King's Birthday (Holiday - Offices Closed)
February 16 (Monday)	President's Day (Holiday - Offices Closed)
February 17	Water Bills and 3rd installment of 2003 tax year real estate and personal property taxes due; penalty on water and interest on tax bills charged after due date.
February 23	Last day to register to vote in March Election (10 AM - Noon)
March 2	Annual Meeting (Elections, City and School Budget Votes))
March 29 (Monday)	Spring Break (Holiday - Offices Closed)
April 1	Dog Licenses expire; Deadline for new licenses.
April 15	Annual Sewer Bill Due; penalty of 8% plus interest for each month or fraction thereof will be charged after this date.
April 30	Liquor Licenses Expire
May 15	Water Bills and 4th final installment of 2003 tax year real estate and personal property taxes due; penalty of 8% plus interest for each month or fraction thereof will be charged after this date.
May 31 (Monday)	Memorial Day (Holiday - Offices Closed)
May 31	Municipal Licenses expire
July 1	Fiscal Year begins for period July 1, 2004 to June 30, 2005
July 5 (Monday)	Independence Day (Holiday - Offices Closed)
August 16 (Monday)	Battle of Bennington Day (Holiday - Offices Closed)
August 17	Water bills and 1st installment of 2004 tax year real estate and personal property taxes due
September 6 (Monday)	Labor Day (Holiday - Offices Closed)
October 11 (Monday)	Columbus Day (Holiday - Offices Closed)
November 11 (Thursday)	Veterans Day (Holiday - Offices Closed)
November 15	Water bills and 2nd installment of 2003 tax year real estate and personal property taxes due; interest for each month or fraction thereof will be charged after this date.
November 25 (Thursday)	Thanksgiving Day (Holiday - Offices Closed)
November 26 (Friday)	Post-Thanksgiving Day (Holiday - Offices Closed)
December 23 (Thursday)	Pre - Christmas Eve (Holiday - Offices Closed - Close @ 11:30 am)
December 24 (Friday)	Christmas Day (Holiday - Offices Closed)
December 30 (Thursday)	Pre - New Years Eve (Holiday - Offices Closed - Close @ 11:30 am)

Winooski Community Calendar is updated monthly at [www.onioncity.com](http://www.onioncity.com)  
and featured on the Town's page of the *Burlington Free Press* and Cable Channel 17

EXIT 16

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Highland Industrial Park

St. Francis Xavier Cemetary

MAIN STREET - ROUTE 2 & 7

COLCHESTER WINOOSKI

Memorial Park

Landry Park

MALETT'S BAY AVENUE

Winooski River

COLCH WINO

Bellevue Street

Solar View

Pleasant St

Thornon St

Lafountain Street

Niquette Ct

Franklin Street

Russell Street

East Spring Street

East St

EAST ALLEN STREET

Barlow Street

Newells Ln

Mansion Street

Platt Street

Union Street

Leclair Av

West Spring Street

Saint Peter Street

Orchard Terr

Pipe Street

Normand St

Burling St

Richard Street

Le Clair Street

Weaver Street

Stevens St

North Street

Brisson Court

Cedar Street

Dufresne Drive

Pinegrove Terrace

Auld Street

Shepard Street

Hall Street

Elm Street

Pine Street

Forest Street

Clifford St

West Street

Hickok Street

River Street

Champlain Pl

West Lane

Mayo

W Center St

Follett

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# CITY OF WINOOSKI, VERMONT



## LOCAL STREET MAP FEBRUARY 2004

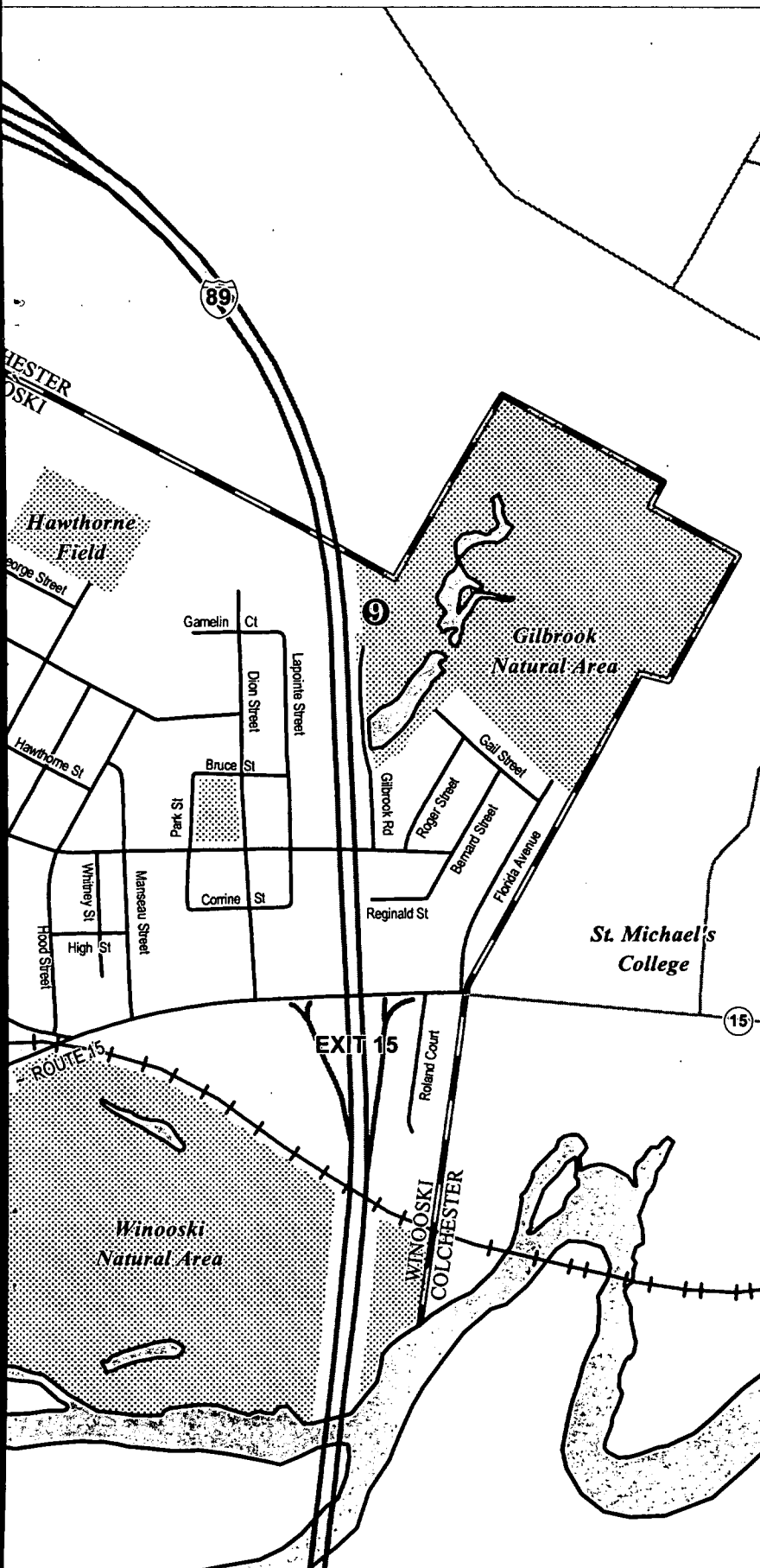


1" ~ 750'

### LEGEND

- ① WASTEWATER TREATMENT
- ② MYERS MEMORIAL POOL
- ③ CITY HALL & POLICE DEPT.
- ④ FIRE HOUSE
- ⑤ MEMORIAL LIBRARY
- ⑥ SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER
- ⑦ OLD STONE HOUSE
- ⑧ WINOOSKI SCHOOLS
- ⑨ PUBLIC WORKS GARAGE
- ⑩ W1P HYDRO PROJECT

Map produced by the City of Winooski, Vermont.  
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Winooski Assessing & Planning GIS



# CITY OF WINOOSKI, VERMONT

## TELEPHONE NUMBERS

EMERGENCY	9-1-1	24 Hours
Police Station	655-0221	24 Hours
Street & Water Dept.	655-6422	7:00 am-3:00 pm
Street & Water Dept. (after hours)	655-0221	3:00 pm-7:00 am
Wastewater Treatment Facility	655-6421	7:00 am-3:00 pm
City Clerk	655-6419	8:00 am-4:00 pm
City Offices	655-6410	8:00 am-4:00 pm
City Manager	655-6410	8:00 am-4:00 pm
Winooski Library	655-6424	Phone for hours.
Winooski Senior Center	655-6425	8:00 am-3:00 pm
Winooski Housing Authority	655-2360	8:00 am-4:30 pm
Historical Society (Sundays)	655-1846	2:00 pm-4:00 pm
Myers Memorial Pool	655-2100	(seasonal)
Winooski School Superintendent	655-0485	7:30 am-4:00 pm
Winooski Educational Center	655-3530	7:30 am-4:00 pm
St. Francis Xavier School	655-2600	8:00 am-2:30 pm
Faith Baptist Church	655-3046	
St. Francis Xavier Church	655-2290	
St. Stephens Church	655-0318	
United Methodist Church	655-7371	
<b>HOTLINE</b>	<b>655-6410</b>	<b>24 Hours</b>

**WWW.ONIONCITY.COM**

Winooski's municipal website features monthly event calendars, city council updates, maps, & web links.

## PAVED AREAS DRAIN TO RIVER

BE AWARE: Water that flows into catch basins on city streets drains directly into the Winooski River and then Lake Champlain. This water is NOT treated at the wastewater plant.



Please, do not dump pollutants such as household chemicals, motor oil, paint, or pet wastes into the storm drains and do not rake or sweep grass clippings or leaves into roadways as they may clog the storm drains and contribute to local flooding. Dispose of chemicals at the Hazardous Waste Depot. Take yard waste to the Wood & Yard Waste Depot in Burlington's Intervale.

## RECYCLING INFORMATION

[www.cswd.net](http://www.cswd.net)



**RECYCLING:** Mixed Containers - glass bottles, jars, metal cans, empty aerosol cans, foil and pie plates, plastic bottles and jugs (#1 & 2). Rinse clean and discard lids - no other plastics! No plastic bags.

**MIXED PAPERS** - newspapers, inserts, magazines, catalogs, white, colored paper, opened mail, envelopes, boxboard, paper bags, and corrugated cardboard. No refrigerated or frozen food boxes. No 6-pack or 12-pack boxes.

**HOUSEHOLD CHEMICALS AND PAINTS** - Dispose at CSWD Hazardous Waste Depot (872-8111).

## COMMUNITY FACTOIDS

2000 Population... 6,733  
 Founded ..... March 7, 1922  
 Land Area ..... 1.508 Sq. Miles  
 Latitude ..... X -73.18480022  
 Longitude ..... Y N 44.49501514  
 Highway Miles .... 18.199 miles  
 Oldest Building ... Stone House (1789)

## Dog Licenses



Dog licenses are due for renewal on April 1st. All dogs in the City of Winooski must have a license. Fees: on or before April 1, \$10 for neutered, \$12 for un-neutered. After April 1, fees are \$14 & \$18.



**POLLING PLACE**  
 Senior Center  
 123 Barlow Street

2004 Annual Meeting  
**March 2, 2004**

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

Steve McQueen, Chief of Police

With the encouragement of the Mayor and City Council, and the support of the City Manager, the police department has continued to expand its policing initiatives within the City. During this time, the City has established a model school based policing initiative and created a Community Justice Center/Reparative Board. Both of these initiatives are designed to provide early intervention and effective prevention to reduce the impact of criminal and anti-social behavior on our community. Because of our success in the area of prevention and early intervention the Vermont Department of Human Services has enlisted our help to develop a model program for other communities. Members of the police department have participated in open discussions throughout Vermont providing assistance and guidance to interested communities.

In April of this year, the Winooski Police Department and Community Justice Center sponsored a two day training program for policy makers and human services practitioners. This training focused on what we, as stakeholders, should be doing to address the increase in risk behavior within our communities. Each day, 60 different individuals attended this training, hearing from national "experts" on youth development and the juvenile justice system.

Winooski continues to be a high-needs community. Officers of the Winooski Police Department respond to one of the highest per-capita rates of incidents in the State of Vermont. Due to its transitory nature, it is very difficult for the City and the School District to have a lasting, positive impact on some of the families that move through our community. Through the combined efforts of a highly skilled and dedicated patrol force and our early intervention efforts, during this past year the number of incidents related to family and juvenile incidents has decreased by about 10% and the reported risk behavior at school has decreased as well.

Continuing our goal of coordinating resources to respond to the needs of our community, the Police Department and Community Justice Center created shared space for the Department of Corrections and Social Services within City Hall. This space is used by the field caseworkers that are assigned to the City of Winooski and will allow the free exchange of information between officers.

These are huge challenges for the members of the Winooski Police Department. Financial resources are very scarce. Prevention is very labor intensive, but the payoff is enormous. We will continue to invest our time and energy wisely to achieve maximum results. The men and women of the Winooski Police Department are dedicated professionals who do their best to provide quality-policing services to our community. It is a difficult job, but we are more than up to it. Please visit our web page at [www.winooskipolice.com](http://www.winooskipolice.com) to see what we are up to and take advantage of our "feed back" page to comment on our services.

## COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER

Janelle Gilbert-Fuller, Director

Now in our fourth year of operation, the Winooski Community Justice Center has expanded services to meet the needs of the community. We continue to operate through funding by the Vermont Agency of Human Services.

Truancy and continued misbehavior in School has been targeted through city ordinance and we have applied for a Juvenile Justice Grant to increase our response. In partnership with Women Helping Battered Women we have been granted funding for a full time Advocate for victims of family violence. We are expanding our partnership with the Department of Corrections to begin an Offender Reentry program. Our interest is in ensuring that the community and the Police have a voice when offenders are placed within our city and supporting the success of those offenders returning to us after being incarcerated.

The Winooski Reparative Board members volunteered 554 hours this year. They assisted 72 offenders in repairing the harm caused by their offenses. In repairing the harm caused to the community of Winooski, these individuals completed over 650 hours of community service within our city. Patty Niquette worked hard with victims of these crimes. Offenders restored \$998 in restitution to individuals they affected.

The Winooski Community Justice Center is thankful to Bernie Roy, who retired from the Reparative Board this year, for his valuable service to the Board and the City of Winooski.

The Winooski Community Justice Center continues to support of the Winooski Recreation Department Summer Program to ensure that Tolerance Teaching remains a part of this very valuable community program. We have forged a connection with the Vermont Refugee Resettlement Program to serve as a conduit of information between the Police, Winooski immigrants and the community. We financially assisted the Winooski Middle School Bushandai Program and the Winooski Police Department Patrol on Bicycle Program.

Additional community volunteers are sought to assist in our new initiatives. Continued expansion of our services is reliant on community involvement. Anyone interested can contact Janelle Gilbert-Fuller at 655-0221.





## FIRE DEPARTMENT

**David Bergeron, Fire Chief**

With pride, the officers and members of the Winooski Fire Department contribute numerous hours to provide for a safe place in which to live, work and play. Members of our team measure the success of the service that is provided to the customer in three ways:

- A management staff that is among the elite in the business. They keep all aspects of the Department in a ready position to respond to calls for help at a moments notice and are very sharp and well educated on what needs to be done when an incident is unstable. Their goal is to bring an incident to a safe close for all involved.
- The training program that has been developed enables all the members to rise to levels of professionalism. A vigorous training schedule provides for the most updated task level training as well as new and advanced technical procedures.
- The team is by far the most important part of the department's success. The members are very highly motivated to maintain a "best foot forward" attitude. As a team, the members prevent fires through the fire education program, keep vehicles and equipment in the ready position, and interact at an incident to ensure safety for all.

Last year the Fire Department along with the Police Department partnered up and received a grant from the Homeland Security Equipment Grant program. The grant was awarded to buy equipment that may have not been available through the normal budget process. Two additional grant applications are outstanding at this time.

In FY 2002-2003, the Fire Department responded to 292 calls for help. July was the busiest month with 31 calls and November the least with 19 calls.

41	Fires
37	Hazardous conditions
26	Rescue-EMS
23	Good intent
133	Service calls
23	False calls

On behalf of the Officers and firefighters I would like to thank members of the community, Mayor, City Council, City Manager and the City Staff for their support.

## ENGINEERING & PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

**Steve Palmer, City Engineer**

**Steve Woodworth, Public Works Superintendent**

- The Public Works Department maintains thirty-six curb miles of roadway year-round.
- We are responsible for snow removal on public highways as well as the school parking lot, City Hall parking lot, Police Department driveway, Fire Station, Stone House parking lot, Senior Citizens parking lot and Landry Field parking lot.
- This past winter, Public Works dealt with forty-two snow storms that yielded a total accumulation of 72.72 inches. Clean-up of the extensive snow and ice caused us to over run our budget.
- Lane striping and signalization on upper Main Street was changed to improve flow of traffic in the vicinity of Winooski Schools.
- We repaired several stormwater catch basins throughout the City and conducted significant pavement patching on many streets.
- Ambitious tree trimming was conducted this past year to keep sidewalks clear.
- The unusually cold winter caused thirty frozen water services throughout the city. We had a major break downtown at the corner of Main Street and West Canal Street. The Public Works Department worked around the clock in the bitter cold to locate this break. After excavating through six feet of frost it was discovered that the break was further west on West Canal Street. After numerous overtime hours the City Manager called in Champlain Water District to assist us restore service as quickly as possible. A very big thank you goes out to CWD for the back-up.
- In addition to hydrant flushing, the Water Department cleaned and exercised 25% of the gate valves throughout the City.
- We investigated installation of new radio-controlled water meters to help speed up reading and billing.
- Along with Tim Grover, Wastewater Treatment Facility Superintendent, DPW and wastewater personnel have instituted an ambitious plan of street sweeping and catch basin cleaning throughout the City in an effort to improve the quality of stormwater entering streams, the Winooski River and Lake Champlain. This effort will be ongoing. We have invested significant time working in the Morehouse Brook watershed. Our preliminary testing indicates significant improvements in stormwater quality are occurring because of our maintenance activities.

## WATER POLLUTION CONTROL FACILITY

**Tim Grover, Superintendent**

The Water Pollution Control Facility, located at the end of West Allen Street, serves the entire city for the treatment of domestic, commercial and industrial wastewater. Our wastewater system is separated from our stormwater system, which has its own network of pipes and catch basins. I mention this often because it is important to educate the community that there is a difference between the two collection systems. Stormwater essentially goes untreated to the river with the exception of catch basins which trap sediment from going on downstream. That is why it is important to keep our streets clean and not to dump anything into the catch basins or storm drains. Wastewater is treated both biologically and chemically at the WPCF before being discharged to the Winooski River.

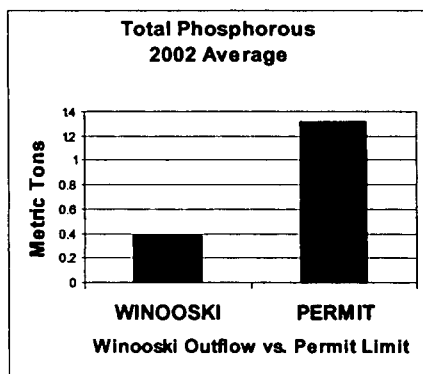
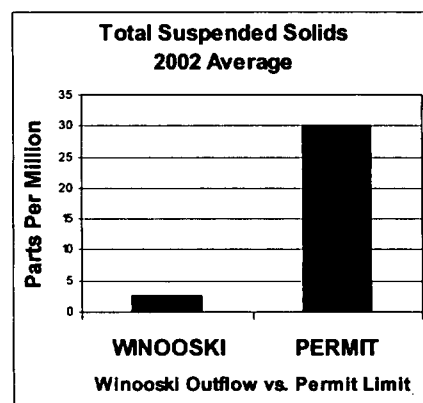
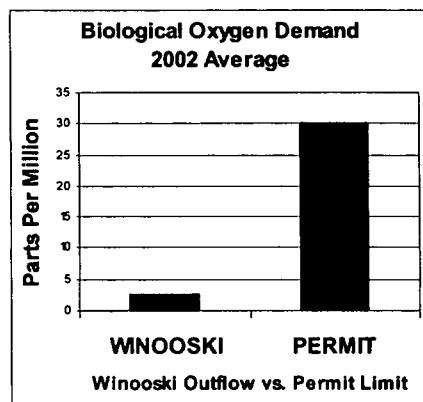
We have had another busy year, and wrapped up many important projects. These projects include: finishing our stormwater map and closing out that grant, dewatering every tank at the WPCF for cleaning and maintenance purposes, and improvements to programming capabilities at the WPCF, which will benefit our disinfection system. We also have been involved with an ongoing water quality monitoring project at Morehouse Brook. This year, we were awarded a grant from the State of Vermont to install inserts (basically a filter) in catch basins along Malletts Bay Avenue, and install a baffle in the storm pipe. The hope is to reduce the sediment and slow the velocity of runoff into Morehouse Brook. This study will also help the city understand its impact and contribution to this impaired waterbody. The grant was for \$21,000.

Besides maintaining and operating the WPCF, we have been working hard on complying with the new Federal stormwater permit program known as the Phase II MS4 (separate storm sewer system). There are six categories within this permit. We have been working on cleaning, stenciling & inventorying catch basins, identifying and eliminating illegal discharges to the storm system, surveying stormwater outfalls, participating in the Regional Stormwater Education Program (RSEP) for the purpose of education and outreach, and lastly working with the newly formed Environmental Board. This board is made up of local citizens who will help with policy adoption, stream clean up days, educating the public, and act as an advisement board for the city council on environmental issues in Winooski.



Although, we are busy working on many projects, we never lose sight of our main goal, which is to produce a high quality effluent that is clean and safe for the environment.

The following graphs depict the quality of our effluent relative to permit limits for various factors.



**WINOOSKI HOUSING AUTHORITY****Ed Willenbaker, Executive Director**

As I write these lines our Nation is at war. Therefore, the Administration, Congress and the American people find themselves on a war footing. As a result, resources that would normally be available for discretionary domestic spending, funding for things such as education, health care and affordable housing are temporarily in short supply. Yet, the underlying challenges that resulted in the creation of the various programs to address these needs have not diminished.

War or no war, these above referenced programs must be administered. With respect to affordable housing, the need increases year to year. The result being Winooski Housing Authority now finds itself in a climate of reduced funding and increased workload.

And, unfortunately, the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has evidently not taken this dynamic of reduced resources and increased workload into consideration. For whatever the reason, HUD seems compelled at this time to undertake a process of rewriting program regulations and creating new oversight systems. In addition, during the course of the past year the Department has eliminated some programs altogether and is seriously discussing the elimination of others as well. Taken as a whole, based on the actions of the current Administration, it is clear that they are no friends of affordable housing. It is not surprising that a great many affordable housing advocates and the constituents which they serve are greatly troubled by these developments.

At the State level the news is somewhat better, Vermont has a long history of a commitment to affordable housing and I have seen nothing that indicates that this has changed. However, State resources for affordable housing are in short supply. State government is currently faced with some real and pressing budgetary challenges, therefore, it is safe to presume that no new resources for affordable housing will be made available. Yet there is still strong support for housing in the State, so at least we are not dealing with the dynamic that exists at the Federal level-reduced funding and little to no support of affordable housing programs themselves.

So here is to a speedy resolution to the war. Our thoughts go out to the brave men and women who are serving our country. Here on the home front at Winooski Housing Authority we intend to continue to do our jobs as best as we are able. We have had to tighten our belts and look for greater efficiency, which in itself is a good thing. However, as the saying goes: "one can have too much of a good thing."

At any rate, the "trains do have to run." More and more people are in need of our services. And whether the issue is reduced funding or a perplexing lack of political support from HUD, the need for affordable housing remains, and is growing.

***Get your priorities straight. No one ever said on his deathbed,  
"Gee, if I'd only spent more time at the office."***

#420 Life's Little Instruction Book

**SENIOR CITIZEN CENTER****Roland Dion, Director**

The Winooski Senior Citizen Center continues to provide services and activities that enhance the lives and social interaction of the elderly in this community. Working closely with the Champlain Valley Agency on Aging, Vermont Health Department, Fletcher Allen Office of Community Health Improvement, Visiting Nurse Association, Advocates for Better Care, American Association of Retired People, VSA Arts of Vermont, J.F.K. Winooski Pride Team and many faithful and supportive volunteers, we have been very successful in meeting many needs of our elder population.

Winooski Senior Citizen Center provides the following services and programs:

Free Income Tax Assistance	204	Volunteers	77
Home Delivered Meals	75	Referral Services	345
Congregate Meals	80	Flu Shots	185
Free Foot Clinics (8)	27	Bingo	57
Commodity Food Distribution (12)	83	Blood Pressure Clinics	15
Driver's Refresher Course	35	Exercise Clinics	14
Bus Trips (6)	165	Special Arts	21
Special Meals – Barbeques (6)	104	Seminars	65

The Winooski Senior Center continues to coordinate the van service to the elderly in Winooski. Sharing the city's vehicle, this service is available on Tuesdays and Thursdays 8:30 am – 12:30 pm. Donations from passengers and various organizations help to support this service. An additional van service operated in conjunction with SSTA supplements the city van program. Rides are available Monday through Friday 8:00 am to 5:00 pm by telephoning SSTA directly. Reservations are required 24 hours in advance. The Vermont Community Foundation funds the local financial match for the 5310 Transportation Grant.

At this time, the Senior Center plans to expand the building approximately 30 by 40 feet. Renovations will include a new kitchen, all-purpose room, bathrooms, storage area, etc. The necessity for this expansion is due to the increases in participation, activities and services.

Participants of the Center have a new membership card. The card includes a new log design representing the four seasons of life: Spring, Summer, Autumn and Winter. The sign outside of the Senior Center building has the same logo.

I extend a profound "Thanks" to our many supporters and volunteers. Also, I am grateful to the City Manager, Mayor, Members of the City Council and fellow employees for their cooperation and encouragement.

**WINOOSKI MEMORIAL LIBRARY****Janet Soutiere, Director (thru Oct. 2003)**

The Winooski Memorial Library is an active, community-oriented library system providing excellent services, collections, and programs to all members of our community. We loan books, periodicals, books on tape and videos as well as provide reference information, book renewals, reserves, and material exchanges through interlibrary loans. Each year we strive to sustain and improve upon our collection and services.

The library acquired and catalogued 942 volumes during the fiscal year. Books removed from the collection were either donated to other organizations (such as home schoolers and nursing homes) or sold to raise funds for the Library. Library statistics follow:

On-line public access computers available	7
People using the Library	9,108
People using computers	4,221
New Registrations	281
New Books	806
Books Owned	13,227
Gifts (Books added to collection)	322
Number of Books Circulated	16,450
Interlibrary loans obtained	140
Interlibrary loans were sent to other Libraries	138
Books on tape – videos	381
Periodical subscriptions	29

The second year of the Freeman Foundation and the Vermont Public Library Foundation funded a youth services librarian, Martha Simmons, and a technology outreach assistant, Krista Humphrey. Both worked hard to provide expanded services for the library.

The Library's electronic resources were strengthened considerably by its participation in the Vermont department of Library's Vermont Online Library database program (VOL). VOL provides online access to significant information resources that the library could not afford independently. These databases cover a vast number of subjects and include resources of interest to all segments of the population. Children can access databases geared to their grade level. Adults can search thousands of full-text magazine titles for general information or move to a specific database for specialized materials such as Business & Company Resource Center or Health and Wellness Resource Center. VOL can be accessed in the library and from remote locations by any Winooski resident holding a valid library card.

We appreciate our eight volunteers who continue to support the Library by donating many hours of their time. Many thanks to: Rita Villemare, Joye Dorey, Orvilla Potvin, Therese Mansfield, Ann Anger, Joanne Myers, Sonia Bonk and ten-year-old Ethan Kmetz.

I close by thanking the Library Board Members: Thomas Fleury, Madeline Morenus, Elizabeth Conlon, Karen O'Hagan, and Christian Frenette for their dedication and to our City Manager, Mayor and Council Members for their continued support.

**WINOOSKI HISTORICAL SOCIETY****Rita Martel, President**

The Stone House, located at 76 East Allen Street in Winooski, was built by Roswell Butler about 1790 and used as a tavern where local residents, jurors and lawyers exchanged news and gossip. The Stone House is significant to Winooski because it remains as a rare example of Early-American architecture in the City.

Brownell's Tavern as it was known until about 1830, has received extensive internal modifications over the years. In 1850 it was adapted for tenement house purposes and housed as many as four families simultaneously.

The City of Winooski purchased and renovated the house in honor of the National Bicentennial Celebration in 1976. Today the lower floor is rented to help defray expenses and the upper floor houses the Winooski Historical Society Museum, which is open to the public on the last Sunday of each month from 2 – 4 p.m.

**WINOOSKI VALLEY PARK DISTRICT****Jennifer F. Ely, Executive Director**

The Winooski Valley Park District preserves natural areas close to where people live and work. Our 17 parks are free to the public, offer over 12 miles of shoreline, and include the 125-acre Winooski Nature Trail off Hoods Crossing. Last year we taught Winooski children about orienteering, wetlands, fly-tying, and fisheries and about Ethan and Fanny's outdoor life. Children also helped us launch our first Reptiles and Amphibian Survey of the parks, thanks to a grant from a private foundation. Like last year, Park District staff taught a series of hands-on classes to children attending day camps at Landry Park. WVPD estimates it hosted at least 5,000 children at the parks again this year.

Other highlights of the year include new paved bike paths at two WVPD parks, new trail markers at all of the parks, and a new footbridge at Winooski Nature Trail. It was a productive year for us in the legal arena too. We won a 3-year court battle to protect the public's right to walk along publicly owned shoreline at one park, and we defended the right to prohibit hunting at all the parks from a hunting group named H.A.T. Fortunately, we found attorneys to handle these cases free-of-charge. For next year, we hope to continue the same level of services to our seven member communities. WVPD invites you to explore the footpaths and shoreline at Winooski Nature Trail and at Salmon Hole just over the bridge in Burlington. We hope you will agree that the parks are places of respite that help keep us in touch with Vermont's natural heritage. Do you want to learn more about the parks? Check out our new website at [www.wvpd.org](http://www.wvpd.org).

**PARKS & RECREATION DEPARTMENT****Bob DiMasi, Director**

Last winter saw the experiment of several outdoor programs that were hampered by UN-cooperating weather conditions. These events were scheduled at Gilbrook and Landry Parks. Gilbrook with its improvements and the right conditions becomes the perfect place for snow shoeing cross-country skiing and winter power walks. Landry will provide a place for skating and sledding. Once the facilities are up and running the lights will provide evening fun for all. When participating in winter activities please dress according to the weather conditions.

Teen programs are gaining momentum. The National Guard Armory hosts the After School Programs for middle school youth for the second year in a row. This program is a joint venture that is cooperatively run by the Burlington Boys and Girls Club and Winooski Parks and Recreation Department. On a daily basis youth are offered supervised activities in a safe environment. The monthly calendar includes field trips and special activities. The average daily attendance for middle school age youth is at 20-25 per day.

On the high school teen scene, major ground is being broken. In August, Jancey Wickstrom an AmeriCorp Vista volunteer joined the Winooski Parks and Recreation with the goal of bringing high school age teens together as one voice in our community. Since her arrival, things are moving progressively with the formation of the Teen Advisory Board. This board meets every week at school planning events for Winooski youth. This group has about 25 members and was the first group of volunteers to assist in setting up the initial potluck dinner. They will focus on many other community service projects as time goes on plus fun activities for teens.

The Summer Food Program under the direction of Mike and Candy Antoniak was a success for the second year in a row. Daily meal production grew from 139 lunches per day to 155. This increase was not only due to creative menu planning but also due to innovative scheduling of the Winooski School Districts Summer School Program. These innovations combined ending programs with lunch time starts to give school age children a chance to eat a hot and nutritious lunch on a daily basis during the month of July. We look forward to this cooperative venture in the future summers to come.

**Winooski Network**

Winooski Parks and Recreation has another successful year in our six-year relationship with membership on the Network Committee. The following is a report given to the network committee by Sister Pat McKittrick the chair of the committee on the progress and direction of the Summer Activities and Lunch Program. The report was written with assistance from Jennifer Schneider, Director of the Summer Activities Program.

The Winooski Network is proposing to build on its past success by expanding the program within the next two years to meet greater needs and involve community members on a greater scale. The program will continue to be from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm at three locations; Elm Street, Landry, and Richards Park. Ways in which the program will continue and be expanded are outlined below:

The program content will continue to include cultural awareness by celebrating Winooski's diversity. This will be done by drawing on the strengths of its citizens, especially its elders. Children will experience crafts, stories, and games from the many traditions of Winooski's community members. Program meals will be planned to incorporate the foods and flavors of many countries. We also wish to continue to reduce violence, and one way to accomplish this to further educate children and the community about cultural awareness. We hope to involve adult community members more in this task.

- The gardening component was a huge success last year, and ties in with our cultural awareness goal. Several of our gardens were popular with the children last year, with several gardens having different themes. The children particularly enjoyed the "pizza" garden, where they grew toppings to make their own pizzas when the garden was ripe; there was also an Asian garden, which included Asian greens for salads. This year we will have, the children give tours of "their" gardens to adults, to teach responsibility and nutrition knowledge. We will also be donating some of the vegetables grown to the Winooski Food Shelf, to teach children the rewards of growing food and providing for others.
- Literacy work will continue to be emphasized by promoting reading and writing skills through many of the program activities. The gardening and nutrition component will help through reading gardening manuals and by copying down recipes from community elders. The cultural awareness component will also help by the sharing of poems, stories, and songs from the homelands of Winooski residents.
- We will continue our Leadership Training component. During this, children would set their goals for the following week and then participate in a discussion to follow up. The idea is to provide mentoring and responsibilities for the teens as junior counselors and for them to learn job skills by assisting with meal preparation.
- For the summer of 2004 the Program will continue to offer one single site to be available for the full day, while keeping the other sites open for the traditional four hours. This is in response to requests from working parents who need affordable full day care for their school age children. Many children are able to attend the Program who may not have been able to in the past summers.
- Last year we met our goal to increase the meals served from 100 to 150 children. This year our goal is to at least maintain if not increase this number.

**Winooski Teen Center**  
**Vermont National Guard Armory**  
 Lafountain Street

Monday – Friday  
 2:30 – 6:00 p.m.

Open to Middle School Teens

Myers Pool had many positive features this year and undoubtedly the biggest feature was the State District Swim Meet that saw over a thousand swimmers and visitors participate in a swim meet. Thanks to the dedication of the Loyal Winooski Swim Team Volunteers to a smooth day in Winooski. Great Job Winooski Swimmers!

The pool saw an increase in attendance of 10% for this year as compared to last year. Good swimming weather and major improvements around the pool have positively affected the patrons to drive the attendance up.

Adult programs continued at the Winooski School District with Sunday night volleyball and basketball being the main events. The Saturday morning youth league is well attended and a solid youth cheerleading team will be spotted at the school or the Armory.

The Winooski Recreation Department is advised by two boards and at this time would like to thank the various volunteers who donate time and energy to make the current programs available. The Recreation Advisory Board will guide the department through various directions for year round concerns and the summer steering committee will address summer programming and the summer lunch programs. Both these groups are a vital to success of the Winooski Parks and Recreation Department. If you are interested in joining either group, please contact me at 655-6410 x19.

#### NOTICE Regarding Utility Hook-Ups and Plugged Service Lines

Please be advised that only City of Winooski personnel are authorized to operate public utilities, specifically potable water, sanitary sewer and storm water systems. Violation of this regulation shall result in serious penalties including fines and legal action.

In the event of a possible break and or back-up with any municipal utility between 7:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday, contact the Public Works Department at 655-6422. During other hours contact the Police Department at 655-0221. The City must be contacted prior to any work being performed by a contractor or any other party.

- Water lateral activation and or shut off (curb stop operations) is to be performed solely by the Public Works Department.
- All 5/8" water meters are to be furnished and installed by the Winooski Water Department. All other meters require an inspection by the Water Department prior to activation.
- Taps into the City main pipelines require permits for which fees will be charged. Please contact the Public Works Department for details.

All sump pumps are to discharge to the stormwater system; sump pumps shall process ground water only. Any other waste (including washing machines) must be plumbed into the sanitary sewer lateral.

## CHAMPLAIN WATER DISTRICT

Jim Fay, General Manager

Over the past year the Champlain Water District (CWD) has been very busy in prioritizing the recommendations from our Twenty-Year Master Plan into the initial five-year implementation schedule. The Twenty-Year Master Plan by Dufresne and Associates was reported in September of 2002. Fortunately, CWD has for the last ten years designed its annual budget approval process to also include future capital investments. This budget process also utilizes a financial model to predict the uniform wholesale water rate as part of the overall planning approach.

Projects of interest over the past year include:

- Design and installation of upsized High Service pumping at the water treatment facility site
- Installation of potassium permanganate addition for the treatment of zebra mussels
- Complete recoating of two water storage tanks
- Design and installation of new HVAC system at Lake Water Pump Station
- Completion and submittal of Vulnerability Assessment to USEPA as required under the federal Bioterrorism legislation
- Coordination of design, permitting, and bidding for a regional water storage tank serving six served water systems
- Completion of a natural freeze/dry approach to treat filter and clarifier backwash residuals
- Design/construction for infrastructure relocation as dictated by new future Lime Kiln Bridge

As the District works to prepare the fiscal year 2004-2005 budget, we are planning to maintain the existing uniform wholesale water rate at \$1.24 per 1000 gallons of water. We have worked very diligently to cut expenses where possible to be able to comply with master plan recommendations while managing declining industrial water sales revenue. We thank our employees and elected officials for their effort and support in allowing CWD to be proactively managed and operated to supply a drinking water product protective of public health. As always, we welcome groups of any size to tour our facility. Please call 864-7454 to arrange a tour, or if you have questions, or need further information on the Champlain Water District.

## CHITTENDEN COUNTY TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

**William Niquette/Bob Conlon, Commissioners**

The Chittenden County Transportation Authority (CCTA) was founded in 1973 by the Vermont Legislature and provides transit services to seven municipalities in Chittenden County, including the two non-member municipalities of Colchester and Williston. CCTA is a full service public transportation provider, offering multi-modal transportation services including: fixed route bus service, parking lot, supermarket and neighborhood shuttles, a county-wide ridesharing program, transportation for Medicaid recipients, and contracted paratransit service for people who cannot use the bus. CCTA is governed by a ten member Board of Commissioners with two Commissioners each representing CCTA's member governments: Burlington, Essex, Shelburne, South Burlington, and Winooski.

In fiscal year 2003, CCTA provided approximately 1.66 million rides on its fixed route bus services throughout the seven municipalities. The Riverside/Winooski route recognized an incredible 12.9% increase in ridership over fiscal year 2002. CCTA also operates shuttle services including the Downtown PARC and CATMA program, local shopping shuttles, and neighborhood service. The Downtown PARC and CATMA shuttles bring employees from affordable parking on Pine Street to downtown Burlington businesses, conserving scarce parking for shoppers and visitors. CCTA also provides shuttles from senior housing complexes to local supermarkets. These shuttles make the task of going to the grocery store more convenient for many residents. In addition, CCTA coordinates a ridesharing program to promote carpooling and vanpooling within the region. CCTA also works with the Vermont Public Transportation Association to provide Medicaid transportation to eligible recipients in Chittenden County.

CCTA staff accomplished many significant goals in fiscal year 2003. Shuttles funded by members of the Campus Area Transportation Management Association (CAMTA) were initiated in FY03. These shuttles run on 15 minute headways, Monday through Friday, and complement the PARC shuttle system already in place. CCTA staff continued their education into alternative fuel technologies. A hybrid bus was brought to the CCTA operating area for demonstrations and was put into revenue service for a short time. As these vehicles begin to be mass produced, CCTA will attempt to secure funding to purchase these vehicles for our fleet. CCTA staff continued the timepoint analysis, which collects on-time performance data using a Global Positioning Systems (GPS) unit. The data from the first year of collection was analyzed and resulted in improvements to the Essex Junction, Essex Center, and Riverside/Winooski routes.

In fiscal year 2004, CCTA plans to work on various strategic projects. First, CCTA staff will work on reconfiguring the current local assessment formula to allow staff to focus on creating successful, productive routes and ensure that all of the service works together to create accessible, convenient and sustainable transportation for the region. Currently, fixed route assessments are apportioned to each member municipality based on the number of miles traveled in each city or town. This sets up a dynamic of fee for service and does not allow CCTA staff to create the best possible service for the region.

Second, in order to provide better service and make connections between Vermont communities that replace the existing travel patterns of Vermonters, CCTA is seeking to transform itself into a Regional Transportation Authority. This regional transit authority would have a regional board and would secure alternative funding, other than the property tax, for the local contribution. The reliance on the property tax for funding public transportation has been cited by several different studies as the major impediment to creating a regional public transportation system that connects Vermont communities. Third, CCTA's Board of Commissioners has endorsed the use of Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS) where appropriate. CCTA staff will initially pursue acquiring route scheduling software to achieve greater efficiencies in the utilization of personnel, equipment and signal priority on the main transit corridors in the region.

CCTA's mission is to make efficient transportation services available to all residents of and visitors to the Chittenden County region that are safe, accessible, reliable, clean, affordable and sustainable, thereby enhancing the quality of life for all. We look forward to working with Winooski and other municipalities to achieve this mission. For route and schedule information or for questions about any of CCTA's programs, please call 864-0211 or visit CCTA's website at [www.CCTAride.org](http://www.CCTAride.org).

## SAINT MICHAEL'S FIRE AND RESCUE

**Peter Soons, Chief**

We take this opportunity each year to thank you, the communities we serve, for your ongoing loyalty and demonstrated support of our work and mission. We look forward to continuing to provide emergency medical services to you with exceptional value and quality.

<u>COMMUNITY</u>		<u>NATURE</u>	
Winooski	650	Medical	995
Williston	498	Motor Vehicle Accident	402
Hinesburg	213	Fall/Injury	275
St. George	34	Cardiac	198
Colchester	384	Cardiac Arrest	20
SMC Campus	129	Psychiatric	46
Essex/Jericho/Underhill	111	Fires/Alarms	144
Burlington/So. Burlington	103	Inter-hospital	104
Richmond	41	Other	117
Fletcher Allen NICU	104		
Other	34		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,301</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,301</b>

## VERMONT LEAGUE OF CITIES AND TOWNS

Stephen Jeffrey, Executive Director

The Vermont League of Cities and Towns' mission is to serve and strengthen Vermont local government. Most government services used by Vermonters on a daily basis are those provided by its cities and towns. These include highways, police, fire, recreation, sewer and water. Vermont municipal officials are responsible for raising and expending nearly one-half of the non-federal taxes raised in the state.

In large part, volunteer elected and appointed municipal officials lead these governments. VLCT provides the following services to its member cities and towns, to strengthen the ability of the these officials to provide quality services at affordable levels of taxation: Advocacy representation before the State Legislature, administration and judiciary, ensuring that municipalities have the resources and authority to serve their citizens. VLCT is a leader in the education finance debate and in securing revenues for highway and bridge maintenance.

Training, technical assistance and publications to strengthen the ability of municipal officials to serve their communities. In the past year, we have responded to almost 50,000 telephone calls, 21,200 of them from local officials on the toll-free telephone line available to them. Our Municipal Assistance Center and Group Services staffs provided over 750 workshops and small group training sessions attended by over 4,000 municipal officials and answered over 2,300 legal questions posed by municipal officials. VLCT distributed over 575 copies of local government publications and distributed over 3,200 hard copies or electronic mail versions of VLCT's Weekly Legislative Report to municipal officials each week during the legislative session.

Purchasing opportunities to provide needed services at the lowest cost. These include an array of municipal insurance programs, among many others. Examples of how this saves local taxpayers dollars are the securing of municipal employee health insurance and liability coverage for town operations. The VLCT Health Trust represents the most affordable option available to provide health insurance to municipal employees. The value of VLCT PACIF to all our members was made painfully clear last year when the major re-insurer for the largest private sector option available for municipal property and casualty insurance was declared insolvent by the State of Pennsylvania, threatening the payment of claims made under those policies.

All 246 Vermont cities and towns are members of VLCT, along with 140 other municipal entities including villages and fire districts. Membership dues are \$.72 per capita plus a \$250 service fee per year. VLCT maintains its offices in Montpelier and employs 42 staff members. It has an annual operating budget of approximately \$3.0 million.

Individuals interested in finding out more about Vermont League of Cities and Towns, including reviewing its audited financial statements can visit its Web site at [www.vlct.org](http://www.vlct.org).

## WOMEN HELPING BATTERED WOMEN

Laura Subin, Coordinator

Women Helping Battered Women provides safety and support to individuals who have experienced domestic violence. Families who contact WHBW find comprehensive resources for dealing with domestic violence and a safe haven if needed. We offer options counseling, education, safety planning, weekly support groups, legal and housing advocacy, and educational playgroups. Our hotline is a 24-hour service and our temporary, emergency shelter is confidentially located to ensure safety. Twelve full-time and 9 part-time staff joined by over 100 volunteers served 4,285 individuals last year. WHBW is funded by the United Way, and through federal and state grants, town allocations, private foundations and individual donors.

In fiscal year 2003, 138 women with 238 children from Winooski sought help from WHBW. This represents a 16% increase from FY01. We are the only agency in Chittenden County that offers emergency shelter and 24-hour crisis support to victims of domestic violence, as well as outreach and education about domestic violence to professionals and volunteers who wish to address the problems of domestic violence with populations they serve.

Starting in the fall of 2003, the City of Winooski and Women Helping Battered Women received a two-year \$496,989 Department of Justice (DOJ) grant to help combat domestic abuse. The funds will be used to increase offender arrests and help victims recover from domestic abuse. Women Helping Battered Women will work with the City of Winooski to strengthen police-based advocacy services, increase advocacy presence in the courtroom, improve services for immigrant and refugee populations and strengthen the city's relationship and coordination with the County's Domestic Violence Task Force.

WHBW is committed to ending domestic violence against women and children. We believe that all women and children have the right to live without fear of abuse - physical, emotional, sexual, and financial. We support women as individuals and as mothers, and their right to make decisions for themselves. We believe family violence is a reflection of the greater violence against women and all underserved populations in our society and we affirm the necessity of creating a community free of discrimination against any of its members.

For information or to volunteer, please contact Hotline 658-1996 or Business line 658-3131. Fax: 658-3832. E-Mail: [whbw@together.net](mailto:whbw@together.net)

## VERMONT DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

### Kelly Dougherty, Assistant Director

The Vermont Department of Health works to protect and improve the health of all citizens. The following are some of the essential services available to residents of Winooski.

- **West Nile Virus Surveillance:** West Nile Virus (WNV) first appeared in the United States in New York City in 1999 and has since become well established in the Northeast. Birds and mammals can get WNV from the bite of an infected mosquito. The Department of Health and Agriculture conduct surveillance for WNV each year from June until cold weather limits mosquito activity in the fall. In 2003, 5 Town Health Officers throughout the state also participated in this program, assisting primarily with mosquito trapping. In Chittenden County, from June 1 through September 19, 2003, 417 dead birds were reported, 140 were tested, and 9 were found to be infected with WNV. There were two probable human cases of WNV reported in Vermont during this same period.
- **Vaccine-Preventable Diseases:** Proper vaccination protects children and adults against many diseases, saves health care dollars and minimizes sick leave from school or work. Immunization has reduced reportable cases of preventable diseases in Vermont to record low levels. Still, total annual hospital charges from vaccine-preventable disease in Vermont are \$2.6 million, and each year 150 to 200 Vermonters die of pneumonia and influenza. During 2002, the Vermont department of Health distributed 45,815 doses of vaccine to health care providers in Chittenden County. This represents a value of \$566,763 to these communities, including Winooski.
- **Reportable Disease Case Investigation:** Infectious diseases continue to be a major source of illness, disability and death in the U.S. and in Vermont, and account for 25% of all doctor visits each year. The Health Department investigates all cases of disease such as meningitis, hepatitis, pertussis (whooping cough), and infectious diarrhea to determine their source, to recommend control measures and to prevent further spread of the disease. In 2003, the Department of health investigated 529 cases of disease in Chittenden County.
- **The Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants and children (WIC):** One of the most effective ways to improve the health of the overall population is to improve nutrition and physical activity. WIC improves the health of pregnant and postpartum women, infants and young children by assuring access to health care, teaching families about good nutritional practices, and providing an individually designed package of nutritious food to eligible individuals. During 2002, 3,710 women, infants and children in Chittenden County received food as well as health screening and individualized nutrition education through WIC. The average value of foods provided is \$35.00 per person per month.

New public health issues emerge every year. Some challenges being addressed by the Vermont Department of Health include emergency preparedness and response to disease threats like SARS or potential acts of bioterrorism; expansion of substance abuse prevention and treatment; and improving health care for people with chronic conditions like diabetes, asthma and cardiovascular disease.

If you would like more information about these efforts, or if you have a health concern, please call the Vermont Department of Health Burlington District Office which serves all of Chittenden County, at (802) 863-7323. Please visit our website at [www.healthyvermonters.info](http://www.healthyvermonters.info) for Healthy Vermonters 2010, our state's blueprint for improving public health; news releases; other publications and reports; and general public health information.

## CHITTENDEN UNIT FOR SPECIAL INVESTIGATIONS

Sergeant Jennifer Morrison, Director

The Chittenden Unit for special Investigations (CUSI) is a multi-agency task force created to investigate reports of sexual assaults, sexual abuse, other sexually related offenses, and serious child abuse within the Chittenden County of Vermont. The county covers 539 square miles and is four times more densely populated than the state average. The Unit serves a population of approximately 147,500 residents. Since CUSI began in 1990 the County population has increased by 11.2%.

The unit investigated 417 cases in 2002. This represents a 4.25% increase in caseload from 2000. As with years past, children were the victims in approximately 70% of the cases.

CUSI is the result of a grass root, inter-governmental effort to create an investigative unit with specialized skills that is able to provide improved investigative and victim services for sexual offense crimes and serious cases of child abuse. The fundamental goal of the Unit is to generate the highest quality criminal investigation for sexual assault and abuse related offenses while recognizing and meeting the sensitive needs of survivors of sexual abuse. A related goal is to attempt to reduce the occurrence of these offenses by providing a program of community training about these crimes that is conducted by CUSI staff. The mission statement for the Unit reflects its commitment to the investigation of crimes of a sexual nature and physical abuse of young children using resources that cross-traditional lines of police jurisdiction. Such cases require special expertise in order to better protect victims and to enable successful prosecutions by the Office of the Chittenden County State's Attorney.

Investigations generally are limited to reports and referrals of such cases within the orders of Chittenden County. The operations of the Unit promote cooperative efforts between municipalities, police agencies, prosecutors, Social and Rehabilitation Services, Women's Rape Crisis Center and Women Helping Battered Women among other victim advocacy groups. The Unit performs its mission lawfully with intelligence, dedication, fairness, compassion and competence while providing special sensitivity to the needs of victims.

For more information on CUSI, please call 652-6800.

## CHITTENDEN SOLID WASTE DISTRICT

Thomas Moreau, Administration

CSWD owns and oversees 12 solid waste or recycling facilities in Chittenden County for its 17 member municipalities. A Board of Commissioners, who sets policy and oversees financial matters, governs CSWD. One Commissioner is appointed by each member community. Monthly meetings are held on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month, typically at the South Burlington City Hall. The audited FY03 General Fund expenses were \$5,926,456 which is slightly less than the FY01 General Fund expenditures.

DROP-OFF CENTERS located in Essex, South Burlington, Milton, Williston, Richmond, Colchester and Hinesburg are available to District members who prefer to self-haul their trash and recyclables. A new Drop-Off opened in March at 339 Pine Street in Burlington. Trash fees are based on weight. (11 cents/pound). Drop Off Centers collected 3,099 tons of recyclables and 6,580 tons of household trash during FY03.

The MATERIALS RECOVERY FACILITY in Williston is owned by CSWD and is privately operated by Casella Waste Management, Inc. In FY03, 20,956 tons of commingled recyclables were collected, sorted, baled and shipped to markets. This represents a less than 4% increase from the previous year. The average sale price for materials was \$70, a 69% increase from the previous years average.

Member participation increased at the Hazardous Waste Depot and the Rover. These facilities, which collect household and small business-generated hazardous waste, received 9,268 visits with 185 tons of hazardous waste from residents, a 2% decrease from FY02 and 386 visits with 65 tons from businesses in FY03, which is a 3% decrease from FY02 and 446 visits with 67 tons from businesses in FY02.

A variety of EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS are available to assist residents and businesses to properly manage their wastes. The CSWD HOTLINE (872-8111). WEBSITE: [www.cswd.net](http://www.cswd.net), school programs, workshops, informational pamphlets, and waste assessments for businesses are part of this positive community outreach.

The COMMUNITY CLEAN UP FUND helps members their communities clean and litter free throughout the year. In FY03 over \$8,400 was distributed to 12 of our 17 member municipalities through this program.



## CHITTENDEN COUNTY REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

James H. Tolley, Interim Executive Director

Founded by an act of the Vermont legislature in 1972, the Chittenden County Regional Planning Commission (CCRPC) is a 24-member board consisting of one delegate from each Chittenden County municipality and at-large delegates representing conservation/environmental, industrial/business, socio-economic/housing and transportation disciplines. In addition to participating in monthly meetings, one of the primary functions of a CCRPC commissioner is to maintain important communication with the town they represent.

CCRPC strives to provide leadership in both planning and technical matters. Member communities benefit from the expertise of staff through its professional and technical assistance services. CCRPC worked closely with member municipalities and public interest groups on major regional issues including stormwater and housing affordability. Routes 2 and 7 were officially designated state scenic byways. CCRPC plays an active role in the Alliance for Climate Action, a group of state, regional and local professionals committed to reducing the growth of greenhouse gasses. The 10% Challenge, a voluntary program to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, was officially launched in April 2002 to help the City of Burlington achieve its goal. Staff also worked with a diverse group of local representatives and technical experts to identify land areas best suited for Open Space functions throughout the County.

GIS maps, training and other services were provided to 17 municipalities in 2002. A variety of regional GIS data was developed including zoning maps, zoning overlays, storm overlays, stormwater infrastructure and culvert inventories for individual municipalities. The Regional Build-Out Analysis examined current zoning throughout the region to provide a better understanding of the development potential allowed under current federal, state, and local policies. The GIS-embedded Transportation-Land Use Decision Support System software (DSS), a joint project between the CCRPC and Chittenden County Metropolitan Planning Organization (CCMPO) is designed to examine the relationships between land use and transportation. Presently, two member communities are benefiting from DSS and the CCRPC anticipates that all remaining members will appreciate the application of this software in the near future.

CCRPC reviewed and approved six town plans as part of the statutory requirement to confirm the municipal planning process. In addition, the CCRPC regularly reviewed development applications governed by ACT 250 for compliance with the 2001 Chittenden County Regional Plan. There is a strong interrelationship between Land Use Planning and Transportation Planning. In 2002, CCRPC co-located with the CCMPO (the official regional transportation planning organization) in order to strengthen the relationship between the two organizations.

Maintaining a balanced built and natural environment involves continued cooperation. CCRPC appreciates the opportunity to work with its members to appropriately plan for the region's future to protect the special quality of life that is shared throughout Chittenden County.

**VISITING NURSES ASSOCIATION****Churchill Hindes, Director**

Adult Home Care: VNA provides a wide-range of high-quality, care for adults with acute and long-term illnesses. In addition to skilled nursing services, specialty nurses coordinate individualized care. Physical, occupational and speech therapists aid clients in their rehabilitation. Licensed Nursing Assistants assist with personal care and activities of daily living. Social Workers link clients with vital community services.

Visit statistics listed below are for the City of Winooski, July 2002 – June 2003.

<u>NATURE OF VISIT</u>	<u>VISITS</u>	<u>HOURS</u>
Nursing	6,127	-
Physical Therapy	856	-
Speech Therapy	199	-
Occupational Therapy	263	-
Social Service	285	-
Licensed Nursing Assistance	6,160	8,041
Homemaker	289	956
Family Educator	49	58
Waiver Attendant	5,174	18,985
Home Care Provider	38	140
Continuous Care	-	0

**VERMONT ENHANCED 9-1-1 BOARD****Evelyn Bailey, Executive Director**

Vermont's statewide enhanced 9-1-1 network is the first in the nation to be completely digital. Vermont's system is also the first to deploy a GIS in a fully integrated fashion. Vermont's call-taker training, certification and quality control program is one of the most rigorous available. The combination makes Vermont's system one of the fastest and most reliable in existence.

Vermont's enhanced 9-1-1 system became operational on 17 November 1998. The success of the project was attributable to the support and hard work of hundreds of local volunteers and town officials, who devoted countless hours to the work of naming roads, numbering structures, and matching that information to telephone customer records to create the E 9-1-1 database.

*Winooski Note: Winooski properties are being re-addressed in conformance with E9-1-1 protocol when a Certificate of Occupancy is issued. Landlords should notify tenants of all address changes. Generally, each building may have a single numeric address, while units are designated alphabetically (ie., Unit A, B, C...). Contact Ray Crete or David Bergeron at 655-6410 for additional information.*

**NOTICE REGARDING PRIVATE SNOW REMOVAL**

The City of Winooski has a long-standing snow removal ordinance. The ordinance has been legally adopted by the Winooski City Council and is in accordance with Vermont Statutes. Section 17-6 of Winooski Municipal Code places the burden of clearing snow from sidewalks in Winooski on the "occupant, tenant, ...owner, agent, or person having the care of land or buildings bordering on a street..." While the City has never pursued strict enforcement of the ordinance in the past, we have found with our first fallen snow this year that many of our homeowners, businesses, and snowplow operators are disregarding any common sense rules of snow removal.

Specifically, many snowplow operators are using the right of way and sidewalks to pile snow being pushed from private property. City staff has witnessed numerous incidents of parking lot and driveway snowplow operators pushing the snow onto sidewalks. This procedure is not only a fineable violation, but by eventual build-up of huge piles of snow and ice results in increased costs to the City for the many hours of overtime needed to clean-up the mess. The City of Winooski cannot afford the consequences of irresponsible snowplow operators.

Additionally and more important than money, the build-up caused by the private operators is so extensive that it prohibits the City from clearing the sidewalks with our sidewalk plows altogether. This becomes a major safety concern for our school children because they now have to walk in the road. The City of Winooski must enforce the ordinance! The City hopes that all parties cooperate to keep snow removal costs down and make the City safer for our citizens.

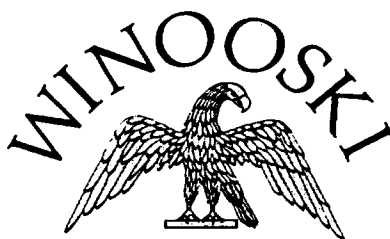


## WINOOSKI HONORS VOLUNTEERS

# THANK YOU!

Understanding what makes a City "go" is not always as clear as it may seem. However, the Mayor, City Council, and the entire City Staff wants everyone to better understand what makes Winooski "go" ... our **VOLUNTEERS**. Yes, in big capital letters, the City of Winooski thanks and honors one of Winooski's most valuable resources, its **VOLUNTEERS!**

Jim Adams, Carl Andres, Eileen Andrioli, Ann Anger, Ashey & Kailey Antoniak, Chris Antoniak, Mike & Candice Antoniak, Nelson, Arcand, Sylvia Arnold, Judy Atkins, Laurette Atkins, Kevin Aube, Tony Augustino, Jan Backus, Banknorth, Jason Barton, David Bergeron, Matt Bissonnette, Larry Blanchard, Florida Boisjoli, Bryan Boldwin, Janet Bonneau, Dave Bowers, Helen Braddock, Willis Brigham, Jeff Brosseau, Richard Brosseau, Jeff Buhner, Claire Burke, John & Irma Butz, Maurice Chicoine, Virginia Chicoine, Cecile Clark, Mary Coffey, Robert & Theresa Collopy, Bob & Betsy Conslon, Fred Cota, Mike & Linda Crete, Bill Cross, George Cross, Reggie Cross, Charles Crowley, George Crowley, Anita Cummings, Mike Decarreau, Cara Dennis, Theresa Dennis, Jean DeVarney, Catherine, Dimitruk, Joye Dorey, Joe Duncan, Nicole Dusharm, Janet Farrell, Jay Felix, Harry Fell, Robert & Carol Fitzgerald, Bertha Flaherty, Tom Fleury, Hans Frauenknecht, Christopher Frenette, Lorraine Gabbeit, Bob Gagne, Flo Gagne, Jean Pierre Gagnon, Richard & Sharon Galperin, Joe & Petie Gamache, George Gamelin, Robert Gamelin, Eleanor Garrow, Dot Germain, Todd Goodwin, Marty Goudreau, Erika Greenough, Beverly Guest, Jeannette Guillette, Robert Guillette, Florence Hamel, Jodi Harrington, Ben Hayes, Paul Horton, Gary Howe, Todd Hutchinson, George Jimmo, Barbara Kehaya, Morgan Kelner, Peter Kriff, Tracy La Fond, Chris Lamothe, Brian Lamothe, Chris Lamothe, Judith Lance, Brenda Larsen, Brian Latulippe, Bob & Sue Lavigne, AJ Leclair, Guy Leclair, Cecile Lesage, Peggy Lesage, Estelle Loiselle, Helen Loiselle, Tom Lozen, Aline Lubinski, Michael Mahoney, Therese Mansfield, Mae Marcotte, Linda Marek-Howe, Brian Marston, Rita Martel, Beatrice Martin, Loretta Martin, Reggie Maynard, Jeannine McCrumb, Pat McNeil, Randall Miller, Madeline Morenus, Roger Morse, Glenna Myers, Jeff Myers, Joanne Myers, Rodney "Pat" Myers, Kevin Nardone, Bill Niquette, John & Patty Niquette, Jamie O'Brien, William O'Brien Jr., William O'Brien Sr., Karen O'Hagan, Jackie Parker, Virginia Peck, Bobbi Perez, Pauline Perrino, Gladyce Pedrotte, Alyce Piche, Robert & Jeannine Picher, Diane Potvin, Maury & Orvilla Potvin, Margaret Pratt, Louie Provost, Paul & Chris Rabidoux, Bea Ramsey, Dave Ravelin, Candy Rice, Cindy Robare, Chuck Rollins, Sindy Rollins, Bernie Roy, Leon Sabourin, Sally's Flowers, Kevin Savage, Anthony Schifilliti, Wendy Scully, Christian Seymour, Pat Shanahan, Pauline Sheehan, Kelly Sims, Jeff Smith, Clem Soutiere, Sr. Amelia, Sr. Claire Bernier, Sr. Louise Barry, Sr. Theresa Dufresne, Eva St. George, Bobbi Tatro, Kathy Tebo, John Thatcher, Sally Tipson, Jeffry Turner, Yvonne Viens, Lorraine Villemaire, Raymond Villemaire, Rita Villemaire, Roger Villemaire, Roderick Villemaire, Brian Walker, Nancy Ward-Snyder, Rita Weston, Ed Willenbaker, Bruce Wilson, Mark Young, Mark Yurcek.



## HISTORICAL LOOK AT WINOOSKI

Over 5000 years ago! That is when archaeological research reveals that a single-family band came to what is now the City of Winooski. Harvesting the ample butternuts that grew here, the family soon moved on, but their prehistoric campground has become one of Vermont's most significant archaeological sites. Other native people came to Winooski in the years that followed.

Time too has moved on. But, Winooski has continued to play an important role in Vermont's history and development. In the early 1770's Ira Allen led people through a wilderness of 70 miles to construct a formidable blockhouse on the Winooski (then "Onion") River which served both as a fort and as general store and office for the land-speculating Onion River Company. "Fort Frederick" was never used for defense, but its protective presence increased value of Onion River property and advanced local settlement.

After the Revolutionary War, Ira Allen returned to build a dam across the Winooski River with a sawmill at each end. The use of the Winooski falls to generate energy had begun; it would continue into the 20<sup>th</sup> Century with the construction of water-powered mills on both sides of the river. Ira himself built a house on the present site of the Winooski Block around 1785 and enjoyed a garden, which was described as "a paradise of fruits and flowers."

The Winooski Mill's fortunes mirrored the highs and lows of American economic life and labor and eventually led to Winooski's becoming a separate City on March 7, 1922.

When the mills closed in 1954, Winooski was devastated, but federally-funded programs and other public and private investment and effort enabled the City to rebound in the 1980's with the rehabilitation of deserted mill buildings and downtown revitalization. This effort served the City well for nearly two decades.

In the upcoming years, Winooski will see yet another renovation of its downtown core with the addition of several hundred residential units, shops, office buildings, a parking garage, new parks, pedestrian-friendly streetscaping and transportation improvements.

**Now  
Available**

### **THE GREAT FALLS ON ONION RIVER: A HISTORY OF WINOOSKI, VERMONT**

*by Vincent Edward Feeney*

**Published by the Winooski Historical Society ~ 2002**

Available at Memorial Library, City Clerk's Office,  
Historical Society and Local Book Stores

**WARNING**  
**EIGHTY-FIRST ANNUAL CITY MEETING**  
**MARCH 2, 2004**

The legal voters of Winooski are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Senior Citizens Center on Barlow Street.

The polling hours at the above described voting districts are 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Voting is by Australian Ballot. The legal voters of the City of Winooski are further notified that voter qualification, registration and absentee voting relative to said meeting shall be as provided in Chapters 43, 51 and 55 of Title 17, Vermont Statutes Annotated.

**ARTICLE ONE:**

To elect two (2) City Councillors for a term of two (2) years each.

**ARTICLE TWO:**

To elect one (1) City Councillor for a term of one (1) year to complete the unexpired term of Joseph Duncan.

**ARTICLE THREE: City Budget**

Shall the voters of the City of Winooski vote to approve the General Fund Budget of Four Million, One Hundred Fifty-two Thousand, Seven Hundred Thirty-five Dollars (\$4,152,735) for the fiscal year July 1, 2004 through June 30, 2005?

The amount to be raised from property taxes is Two Million, Nine Hundred Sixty-one Thousand, Three Hundred Sixty-two Dollars (\$2,961,362).

**ARTICLE FOUR:**

To do any other business proper when met.

Dated at Winooski, Vermont this 10th day of February 2004.

Pauline K. Schmoll  
Winooski City Clerk