

## **THE CLAVELLE YEARS (1989-1993, 1995-2005): SELECTIONS FROM THE RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENT IN BURLINGTON**

Burlington Mayor Peter Clavelle is a nationally and internationally recognized leader for his efforts to achieve sustainable economic development, ensure the long-term vitality of downtown, revitalize the city's waterfront, secure decent and affordable housing for all, and create new opportunities for civic engagement in the process of local governance. During Mayor Clavelle's tenure as the longest-serving mayor in the city's history, Burlington has seen the construction of a new sewage treatment system (the largest environmental protection project ever in Vermont), the implementation of community-based policing, the public purchase of nearly sixty acres of waterfront land for Waterfront Park and Urban Reserve, the establishment of a Community Justice Center, and the development of Burlington Telecom's fiber-optic network to provide state-of-the-art telecommunication services to businesses and residents. Below is a selection of accomplishments from the Clavelle years.

### ***ECONOMY & DOWNTOWN***

Burlington's downtown bucked national economic trends and vacancy rates remained low. The Church Street Marketplace continued to be one of the most successful pedestrian malls in the United States.

Additions and improvements to downtown included Filene's Department Store, new parking facilities, a thoroughly renovated downtown shopping mall, the Firehouse Center for the Visual Arts, and significant improvements to Church Street's infrastructure and amenities.

Burlington established a program to provide two hours of free parking in downtown garages.

The City achieved a dramatic increase in the number of housing units downtown.

City Market, a locally and cooperatively owned grocery store, opened to serve downtown residents.

Working closely with the Burlington Business Association, the City supported the establishment of a downtown team of mental health outreach workers to care for those with mental illness and reduce disruptive behavior.

The City Administration worked with General Dynamics and Gilbane Properties to establish the Innovation Center of Vermont, a major south-end redevelopment creating good-paying jobs.

The City supported General Dynamics' effort to establish the Burlington Technology Center in 2003, resulting in an investment of more than \$50 million and some 260 new, high-paying jobs over five years.

The City's Community and Economic Development Office successfully applied for a federal Renewal Community designation, which provides tax credits on wages for local businesses.

Burlington established a Brownfields Program to clean-up and redevelop contaminated industrial and commercial sites.

The City committed itself as an employer and through its ordinances to livable wages.

In 2003 the City connected all 38 City and School Department buildings with a new fiber-optic broadband telecommunications network, which is now available to businesses and institutions that can utilize this state-of-the-art technology. Burlington Telecom's expansion to bring services, including cable TV, to all city residences and businesses is currently underway.

The Ethan Allen Shopping Center has completed a \$6 million renovation, including a 48,000-square-foot Hannaford and neighborhood businesses.

## **WATERFRONT**

Waterfront Revitalization Plan adopted in 1990.

Additions and improvements to Burlington's waterfront included:

- waterfront park and its promenade,
- the 45-acre "urban reserve,"
- reconstruction of Lake Street and the undergrounding of utilities along it,
- an array of waterfront festivals and public events,
- a public fishing pier,
- a skate park for youth,
- new boating facilities,
- reconstruction of the Burlington breakwater,
- new housing for all income levels
- a new train station,
- improved transit and pedestrian links with downtown, and
- the construction of ECHO, a lake aquarium and science center, and UVM's Rubenstein Ecosystem Science Laboratory at the Leahy Center for Lake Champlain.

## **HOUSING & HOMEOWNERSHIP**

Burlington, home of the first municipally funded community land trust (founded in 1984), continued to be a national leader in establishing perpetually affordable housing.

Burlington adopted a Housing Replacement Ordinance, an Inclusionary Zoning Ordinance, and a Time-of-Sale Energy Efficiency Ordinance.

Northgate's 336 apartments were preserved as affordable housing.

Burlington saw the opening of new affordable housing at the Thelma Maple Co-op, Rose Street Artists' Cooperative, Park Place, McAuley Square, the reconstructed Vermont Transit bus barns, Waterfront Apartments, and other locations.

In 2003 Burlington became the first city in New England to create a Ten-Year Plan to End Homelessness.

## **ENERGY & ENVIRONMENT**

Burlington secured voter-approval of an \$11.3 million bond to fund energy conservation and efficiency measures.

The City conducted a five-year, \$52 million sewage-treatment upgrade to clean-up Burlington Harbor and protect Lake Champlain (the largest environmental protection project in the state's history).

Burlington instituted its Eco Info Project to provide citizens with timely data on air and water quality.

Burlington joined the international organization Cities for Climate Protection, adopted a Climate Action Plan, and instituted the 10% Challenge to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Burlington Electric dramatically increased the energy it draws from in-state, renewable sources, clearly demonstrating that renewable resources and affordability go hand in hand.

In 2004 Voters approved adding one cent to the property tax rate for the Burlington Conservation Legacy Fund, which will be used to purchase and protect important natural areas and open space.

## **TRANSPORTATION**

The City worked with CCTA to establish the free College Street Shuttle, which connects the waterfront, downtown, Fletcher Allen Health Care, and the University of Vermont.

Burlington instituted traffic-calming measures citywide.

The City's primary gateway, Main Street, was reconstructed.

The reconstruction of North Street is complete, and Riverside Avenue reconstruction is now underway. Planning and permitting for the Southern Connector continue to progress.

A new north-south bike path along the Intervale and the bike bridge at the mouth of the Winooski River are complete.

Burlington International Airport has achieved new levels of air service and is completing its third phase of terminal and parking expansion.

## **YOUTH & EDUCATION**

The City established the Vermont Reads Program with funding from the federal America Reads initiative. The program provides AmeriCorps\*VISTAs to support literacy efforts not only in Burlington but throughout Vermont.

Burlington's Community Schools Project began opening up school facilities after class hours, on weekends, and during the summer to provide additional learning and recreational opportunities for students.

A joint project of the City, the School Department, and United Way has made considerable progress reducing truancy in our schools.

The City and the Burlington School District implemented a new early education initiative that provides additional public funding to support the affordability and quality of early education and childcare.

## **SERVICES & GOVERNANCE**

The City built a new headquarters for Public Works and Parks & Recreation.

The City created a Development Review Board combining the project review functions of the Planning Commission and the Zoning Board.

The Fire Department added a second, fully staffed ambulance, and replaced aging firetrucks.

The Fletcher Free Library expanded opportunities for citizens to access computers and Internet resources, and launched a new system to allow library users to access the library's catalog via the Internet.

Burlington adopted and implemented Charter changes providing for mayoral appointment and evaluation of department heads.

In 1996 Mayor Clavelle joined Claude Bachand, member of the Canadian Parliament representing Saint-Jean-sur-Richelieu, Quebec, and the Mayor of Plattsburgh, New York, in establishing the "Triangle of Excellence," a Canadian-U.S. regional effort aimed at strengthening ties among communities and promoting economic development and tourism.

In March of 2004, the City initiated Burlington Meds, a program that enables employees, retirees, and their families on the City's insurance to purchase prescription medicines from Canada at significant savings to Burlington taxpayers.

The City more than doubled the number of minority employees and women in the trades by rewriting its equal-opportunity policy and promoting new hiring practices and anti-discrimination protocols.

## **COMMUNITY & NEIGHBORHOODS**

Burlington opened a new Police Headquarters, and our Police Department fully implemented community-based policing, resulting in its recognition by the International Association of Chiefs of Police.

New resources were secured to combat domestic violence.

More than 250 citizens participated in our Study Circles on Racism and various follow-up activities.

The Community Support Program was established to provide alternative means of resolving neighborhood disputes.

The Burlington Neighborhood Project, originally known as the Public Safety Project, has organized and supported neighborhood associations in the Old North End and now citywide.

Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office established the Center for Community and Neighborhoods.

Burlington's AmeriCorps\*VISTA program has become a national model for community service.

Burlington opened its Community Justice Center, a place where citizens apply the principles of restorative justice and support the victims of crime.

The Multi-Generational Center was completed, providing space and shared facilities for the Burlington Children's Space and the Champlain Senior Center.

The Mayor's interdepartmental Community-Based Action Team has worked with residents to remove more than 150 tons of trash from Burlington neighborhoods.

The City established a Code Enforcement Office.

Burlington conducted a four-year, \$1.8 million renovation and repair of 17 park and recreational facilities. As part of this project, a new North Beach Bathhouse was built, and the Leddy Arena was rehabilitated.

## **CITIZEN PARTICIPATION**

First instituted when Peter Clavelle served as Burlington's Director of Community and Economic Development, the City's Neighborhood Planning Assemblies have received increased support, more publicity, and increased attention from city departments.

The Burlington Legacy Project involved thousands of citizens in thinking systematically about our future and envisioning the City in the year 2030. At the conclusion of this process, the Burlington Legacy Action Plan was adopted in 1999.

In 2004 Burlington's Community and Economic Development Office established the Foundation for Civic Engagement to raise and distribute funds to support the activities of Neighborhood Planning Assemblies, neighborhood associations, and other non-governmental components of Burlington's system of civic engagement.

## **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

In 2004 Mayor Clavelle and the City of Burlington received a City Livability Award from the U.S. Conference of Mayors for two decades of waterfront revitalization.

In 2003 Burlington was named "One of America's Dozen Distinctive Destinations" by the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In 2002 Burlington was recognized by the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives for its sustainable development efforts.

In 2000 Burlington was named one of "50 Best Places to Live" by *Maturity Magazine*.

In 1999 Burlington was ranked number one among the "Top Ten Cities To Have It All" by *Arts & Entertainment TV*.

In 1999 Burlington was named the number five "Boomtown" of "75 top cities to start a business" (behind Seattle, Austin, Las Vegas, Denver) by *Point of View* magazine.

In 1998 Burlington was cited as "One of 15 Best Walking Cities in America" by *Walking* magazine.

In 1997 Burlington's Church Street Marketplace was one of five national winners of the *Great American Main Street Award* from the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

In 1997 Burlington was ranked as the sixth best family-friendly place in the nation by *Reader's Digest*.

In 1991 the National Housing Institute recognized Peter Clavelle as "one of the country's best elected officials when it comes to securing decent housing for all."