

Celebrating Stuart Gray's Contributions to the Town of Concord, Vermont

by Judy Kurtz

Stuart Gray, a retiring member of the Concord Planning and Zoning Board was feted on Thursday, November 9th at the board's regular meeting. A special cake, made by Anne Settergren of Barnies Market, was shared by the board and Stuart, along with the presentation of a signed card and a VISA gift certificate.

Stuart has had a varied career, both in his professions as well as his work for Concord. Stuart and his wife, Janice, moved to Concord from St. Johnsbury, about sixteen years ago. They bought a home in the North Concord Trailer Park at that time. Stuart was originally from Derby Line, served four years in the Air Force as an electronics technician, worked as a surveyor for a few years, was a fireman for the St. Johnsbury Fire Department, and shared with his wife in the management of the Colonial Apartments in St. Johnsbury for ten years.

Early on in the Gray's time in Concord, Connie Quimby – Concord Town Clerk asked Stuart if he would look after the pavilion at Miles Pond. It was a volunteer job in which Stuart cleaned up after events at the pavilion. There were also problems with Canada geese at the beach area. Stuart built a wall for the pavilion as well. That job was later turned over to a Miles Pond resident.

In 2006 Stuart came onto the town payroll as Health Officer. He held that job until a few years ago. This job is tied in closely with state regulations, and Stuart frequently dealt with state officials regarding problems with water contamination and septic issues. On a few occasions houses had to be condemned. When that happened, the residents couldn't live in the house until repairs were made that removed the condemnation proceeding. In addition to serving as Health Officer, Stuart has been a Lister for the town as well as Zoning Administrator. His most recent position was as a member of the Planning and Zoning Board.

Stuart will be missed by the Planning and Zoning Board members as well as others that have served with him in his various town positions. He has always been found to be pleasant, equable, and a willing worker. I asked Stuart what he planned to do with his new found time. He said he has liked to paint pictures for family members and friends, and hoped to resume painting. Perhaps we can look forward in the future to an exhibit of Stuart's paintings in one of our town buildings.

Thank you, Stuart, for giving of yourself to our lovely town of Concord!