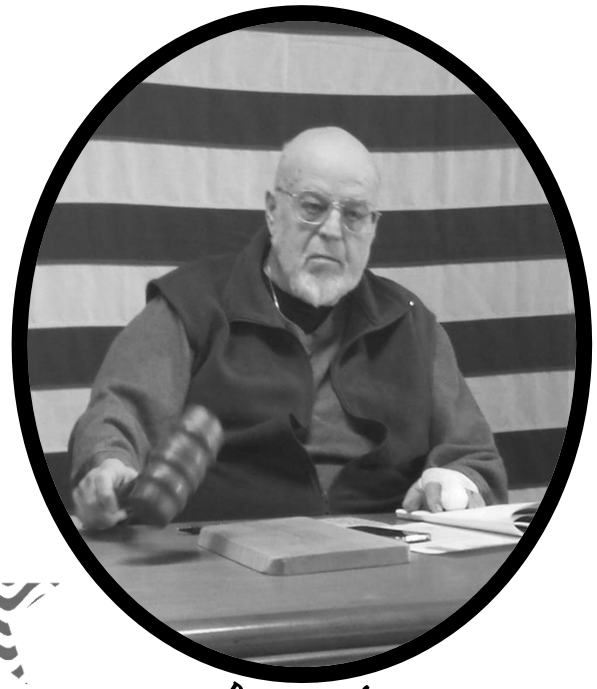


**Town of  
BAKERSFIELD  
VERMONT**



*Samuel Gates*



*Dennis DeBevec*

**2016**

**ANNUAL REPORT**

# Dedication

**This year's dedication goes out to two men that were very involved with our town and will be missed dearly;**

**Samuel Gates** was born July 7, 1937 in Franklin, VT. He moved to Bakersfield when his parents, Earl and Hyla Gates bought the farm on North Main Street in 1942. Sam lived on the farm up until graduating from Brigham Academy in 1955.

He then moved to Connecticut to work for Pratt & Whitney. This is when he met the love of his life, Barbara Gordon who he married in 1959. Together they had 3 children; Rhonda, Brenda and Scott. While in Connecticut they purchased Sam's grandfather, Gordon Gates', home ~knowing some day he would return to Bakersfield to raise his young family. In 1970, the opportunity arose, Sam and Barb moved to Vermont with their 3 children and later helped raise their 10 grandchildren.

While living in Bakersfield, Sam was very active with his community serving many different roles. It didn't matter who you were or what you needed, Sam was always willing to give a helping hand. His compassion was duly noticed with his service to the Bakersfield Volunteer Fire Department, which he served for more than 30 years.

After his passing, the community shared many stories about what a truly remarkable man he was and how he impacted their lives. He was most remembered for his easy going friendly character that always had time for a chat. Many conversations happened on the streets of Bakersfield, in his garage, in his potato piece, or at most sporting events where he spent many hours supporting his children, grandchildren and most recently great grandchildren.

Sam lived up to the last minute doing what he loved most in life, spending time with his family. He was a proud Bakersfield resident whose roots ran deep, Sam passed away April 17, 2016. Bakersfield was a better place for having him around and he will be greatly missed.



**Dennis DeBevec** was born on April 9, 1946 in Northern Ohio. After a stint in the Army he moved to Bakersfield in the mid-1970's and built the home he lived in until his death. His life experience left him with a wealth of knowledge. A wealth he was honor bound to share and share he did, with everyone he knew and even some he didn't, with that little crooked smile and a twinkle in his eye.

Dennis served several posts for the town of Bakersfield. Among them are:

- Justice of the Peace
- Rural Development and Growth Committee
- Trustee of Public Funds
- Town Representative for the Regional Planning Commission
- Town Moderator

He also served as an unofficial advisor to The United Church of Bakersfield & Fairfield and The Town of Bakersfield.

As well as serving Bakersfield, he served on the board of the Vermont Humanities Council and the Vermont Historical Society. Dennis was employed at the Vermont Department of Corrections for 30 year.

Dennis will perhaps best be remembered as the impetus behind the annual July 4 celebration, a fitting legacy of a good man.