

# Colleague Profile

## St. Albans' Own

# Butch Hebert



There is something about driving into St. Albans, which is located about 25 miles north of Burlington, that suggests this town (technically a city) is unique.



Quoting the Virtual Vermont web page ([www.virtualvermont.com](http://www.virtualvermont.com)), "Because of its importance as a rail terminus and car shop, it has long been known as "Railroad City."

In puritan New England, it is rare to find towns and cities with the names of saints. Again the Virtual Vermonter in theorizing why Benning Wentworth, in naming St. Albans, departed from the norm: "One would like to credit Wentworth with remembering its significance as the birthplace of the rights of the common man. The Assembly of St. Albans, convened in 1213 to organize opposition to the unpopular King John, formed the groundwork for the Magna Carta and was a basis for the House of Commons. Patriots of English descent look to it as the wellspring of civic and political liberties."

If you spend anytime at all with Harold "Butch" Hebert you will find him a "wellspring of civic and political liberties". Born and raised in St. Albans, he is as committed today to the community as he was 25 years ago as one of the found-

ers of the Franklin County Home Health Agency, or more recently the Collins Perley Sports & Fitness Center, clearly visible as you enter the town. Active in many organizations over the years, he currently serves as Treasurer for the Northwestern Medical Center.

Butch was born in St. Albans. His father, not surprisingly, worked for the railroad. After graduating from Bellows Falls Free Academy, Butch had an opportunity to sign as a catcher for the Red Sox, but as fate would have it, ended up as a machinist apprentice for, not surprisingly, the railroad. Military service followed, and he spent two years in Germany, and a year in the cadre at West Point. Upon returning to Vermont, he went to Champlain College, majoring in accounting, and upon graduation worked for the F.G. Grasset Accounting firm. In 1970, he was recruited by the Franklin County Bank to work in the Trust Department doing taxes.



Butch quickly moved into investment management, and eventually became head of the Trust Department. After his Bank was bought out, he joined the Vermont National Bank Trust Department and continued to work in investments after the merger with Chittenden. In 2001, Butch and Mary Ann McDermott-Reynolds,

a long time co-worker, set up our St. Alban's office.



Butch, through his membership in the St. Alban's Rotary, has spent several weeks over the last few years in Honduras to help rebuild schools originally damaged by Hurricane Mitch. He plans on going back next year as part of an ongoing program called "Hands to Honduras."

Butch emerged from the market crash of 1973-1974 essentially unscathed and with the belief that the stock market is a safe place to be for many investors if you invest long-term. He's a natural "stock picker" and carries this view into the Trust Investment Committee. Butch is one of our "seasoned" managers whose experience and skills are valued by the rest of us. So, when he started talking about working less, we hired David DeBellis, a mere youth at the time by comparison, to absorb some of his workload so he could be the first

in our group to go to “Plan B” (see our article “The 30 Year Plan”).

**B**utch recently built a house on Lake Champlain in Georgia just south of St. Albans where he lives with his wife Sally, a high school sweetheart whom he married in Basel, Switzerland in 1965. He has two sons and two granddaughters. His life has a balance to it that some of us envy: garden, dote on the granddaughters, review portfolios, engage in violent physical activity such as racquetball ( it was just a few years ago that he ran the Marine Corp marathon), meet with local business-people and argue politics, study the stock market, meet with long time clients, engage in somnolent activity such as golf, and lastly, stay involved in the community.