

seems to have a bit of trivia for every corner of this building. In the words of another man whom the states of New Hampshire and Massachusetts lay claim, Daniel Webster, "The dignity of history consists in reciting events with truth and accuracy, and in presenting human agents and their actions in an interesting and instructive form. The first element in history, therefore, is truthfulness; and this truthfulness must be displayed in a concrete form." I will certainly miss Frank's advice, straightforwardness, and willingness to go the extra mile to help me serve the people of New Hampshire.

I hope that Frank Barca will enjoy his retirement. It is an achievement that he certainly has earned. I know that Frank will get pleasure from being able to spend more time with his wife Elaine, his daughters, and his four grandchildren Katie, Meredith, Michael, and Sarah.

#### TRIBUTE TO PAUL BRUHN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, one of the people who has done the most to protect so much in Vermont is Paul Bruhn. We Vermonters know that Paul, as the executive director of the Preservation Trust, has done an enormous service by leading conservation efforts to save the very best of our State.

I ask unanimous consent that the full article by Virginia Lindauer Simmon, from the April edition of *Business People Vermont*, be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From *Business People Vermont*, Apr. 2008]

#### PAST PERFECT: GUIDING THE CONSERVATION OF ONE OF THE COUNTRY'S 11 MOST ENDANGERED PLACES

(By Virginia Lindauer Simmon)

Paul Bruhn hasn't strayed far from his roots. What he has done is continue to tweak them, to the benefit of us all.

Bruhn is executive director of the Preservation Trust of Vermont, which he helped to found in 1980. The list of properties the organization has helped since then—more than 1,500—reads like a compendium of places that make Vermont . . . well, Vermont.

The organization's story is much broader than preserving historic structures. The work involves, for example, a partnership with Mad River Glen to reconstruct and rehabilitate the single lift chair, an icon of skiing in Vermont; helping people in Starksboro establish a village store—so crucial to community life in small towns and villages; acquiring a geologic site in Isle LaMotte; encouraging large-scale retailers such as Wal-Mart to consider building smaller-scale stores in Vermont's downtowns; underwriting publications that speak to the Vermont way of life; aiding community-supported agriculture or a group in Hardwick that, says Bruhn, with contagious enthusiasm, "figured out that if you're going to have a good community and downtown revitalization project, you need a great small restaurant and pub that serves the entire community."

Bruhn's passion for his work makes perfect sense, especially when it comes to downtowns. He grew up in Burlington, where his

family owned Bruhn Office Equipment on Church Street—in the same building where Bruhn's office is today. "I used to hang out this same window when I was a little kid watching parades," he says.

After graduating from Burlington High School in 1965, Bruhn studied at Fairleigh Dickinson and the University of Vermont. "I left without graduating, and just before they were probably going to throw me out," he says with a grin.

At the time, he was working for the Suburban List community newspaper and its founders, Proctor and Ruth Page. "I started out selling advertising at \$25 a week," he says, chuckling. "I was a reporter and took care of the paper when they were on vacation. They really gave me my start in life."

That start included backing him when he launched Chittenden Magazine, a monthly publication he poured his life into from 1969 to '73, including mortgaging his house for living expenses. "Proc and Ruth backed it for four years, and it was arguably an artistic success and not a real financial success." He laughs heartily. "That was my real 'college' education."

When the magazine folded, Bruhn found work with his friend Patrick Leahy, the state's attorney for Chittenden County, as a consumer fraud investigator. A year later, he was tapped to run Leahy's campaign for the U.S. Senate.

"That, obviously, was an amazing experience. I went down to Washington and served as his chief of staff for four years. I was 27, and fortunately lots of people took me under their wing and helped me through the intricacies of the operation of the Senate."

Bruhn planned on staying two years, but lasted four, during which his interest in historic preservation grew.

Returning to Vermont in 1978, he went into consulting, first helping to organize the restoration of the Round Church in Richmond. In Washington, he had worked with Leahy on obtaining federal funding for the development of the Church Street Marketplace. Back home, he helped put together the campaign for the required local 10 percent match.

When a group he had encountered during the Round Church project—the Vermont Council of the Society for the Preservation of New England Antiquities—decided to start a statewide preservation organization, Bruhn was hired to run it, "because I was available and inexpensive," he says with typical humility.

The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation had provided a good infrastructure for preservation work in the state, having worked since the early 1970s on the state survey of historic places. More than 30,000 buildings and numerous historic districts are on the state register in Vermont, and 10,000 of those are also on the national register.

Grant-making has been a piece of the organization's work since the early days, starting with small seed grants of \$250 to \$500. Funding comes from various sources. In the late 1980s, the organization started the Fund for Vermont's Third Century to encourage people to celebrate the bicentennial in ways that would last. It ran for four years leading up to and through Vermont's bicentennial in 1991.

In 1994, a special partnership was developed with the Freeman Foundation. "It would be impossible to overstate how important it's been," Bruhn says. "We're the nudge, the supporter, the enabler—and are lucky to have partnerships like this." Funding from the Freeman Foundation has provided grants to more than 300 projects and played a key role in over \$115 million worth of rehabilitation work, he says.

Bruhn's lively, creative mind, good sense of humor, and ability to inspire affinity have

served him well in his chosen career. James Maxwell, a Brattleboro attorney and a member of the board of the Brattleboro Arts Initiative, has seen this first-hand. He was president of the board in 2000-2001, when the BAI became involved in buying the Latchis hotel and theater complex.

"Paul is a man of wide comprehension as to the needs of downtowns in Vermont, and I would venture to say in the country as a whole," says Maxwell. "Not only is his knowledge comprehensive, but he is a feeling human being, someone who resonates with groups that he works with and is of incredible assistance, not only in the nuts and bolts of how you go putting together a deal, but also how you move things along."

"He is a congregator. Without getting up on the pulpit and giving a sermon, he is able to congregate people in a situation."

This talent and Bruhn's understanding of the benefit of being willing to change with the times have helped keep the organization strong.

He inspired change 10 years ago, when the organization entered a nationwide competition sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Mellon Foundation, seeking ideas on how to improve the delivery of services and the effectiveness of the historic preservation movement nationally.

Vermont was one of two states whose submissions were chosen, says Bruhn. "We were selected for developing a program for providing field services, so instead of providing support to local organizations via telephone calls and some visiting in the field, we would hire two part-time people who would spend the vast majority of their time in the field working with local organizations helping them move their projects along."

The Preservation Trust of Vermont received a significant grant "It was \$170,000, and that was 10 years ago," says Bruhn—which provided full funding the first year, 70 percent the second year, and 30 percent the final year.

The program so impressed the National Trust, it recently dedicated a \$5 million grant it received to helping other statewide organizations establish their own field service programs.

Another big change came, says Bruhn, when Robert Hoehl, the co-founder of IDX, and his wife, Cindy, purchased the former Camp Marycrest from the Sisters of Mercy, then donated it to the Preservation Trust in 1997. "We had not owned property prior to that—hadn't dreamed of owning property—but this was an amazing opportunity."

The organization gratefully accepted and formed a partnership with caterer and former restaurateur and innkeeper Beverly Watson, who leases the property. "We use it largely for weddings on weekends during the summer. During the week, it's used for retreats and training."

A big turning point was in 1993, when Vermont was named an endangered state by the National Trust. This brought the issue of sprawl to the fore. "We became a much more visible organization," he says, and work very closely with citizen groups and partners like the Vermont Natural Resources Council and Smart Growth Vermont on the issue of sprawl and the negative impact that big-box retailing can have on our downtowns and village centers and how they change downtowns. In 2004, the National Trust again named Vermont one of the 11 most endangered places in the nation.

Bruhn was the only staff person early on, and even today, the staff is small, with the equivalent of four full-time employees.

The other full-timers are Elise Seraus, the office manager/administrative assistant, and

Ann Cousins, who splits her hours between field services and fund raising. Bill Polk, the financial officer, works one day a week. Eric Gilbertson, who was deputy director of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and recently retired after almost 30 years, works half time in field services. Meg Campbell, also half time, manages the facade easement program, does field services in Bennington County, manages the Web site, and produces the electronic newsletter.

Because he's been with the organization for so many years, Bruhn says, "there are people who say, 'Well, the Preservation Trust, it's just Paul Bruhn.' It's not even close to that."

"I've always had a very strong, very involved board of directors who provide a lot of the direction for the organization." The directors, he says, genuinely like each other, are very proud of the organization, "but that doesn't stop them from having good disagreements and good debate."

The secret to keeping a board active and involved, he says, is to have two-day board meetings four times a year. "In February, in the middle of a snowstorm, we went on a two-day tour around the northern part of the state." He counts off eight towns (and multiple projects within them). "We talked all the while on the bus, a great discussion about what's happening in Vermont, how the community's doing, and this work—the support we try to give to local organizations."

On the importance of the organization's downtown work, Bruhn is adamant. "I love downtown Burlington. I grew up here, helped secure funding for the Marketplace when I was working for Sen. Leahy; but downtown Burlington has become one that focuses on entertainment, high-end retail and tourism. We get that there are a lot of people in Vermont who need to be able to shop at a place like Wal-Mart, but wouldn't it be terrific if Wal-Mart would be interested and willing to build a smaller-scale store in downtown Burlington? It would insure that downtown Burlington would serve the entire community."

Bruhn pauses and takes a breath. "We're not in favor of pickling Vermont," he says. "On the other hand, we've got to find ways to grow that reinforce what's important about our place. It's essential that we are good stewards of our place."

#### TRIBUTE TO CON HOGAN

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Marcelle and I have a good friend in Vermont named Cornelius Hogan, although everyone knows him as Con Hogan.

In our State, we have been fortunate to have people, of both political parties, who have given a great deal of themselves to serve the people of Vermont, and Con is an excellent example of that.

Recently, the newspaper the Times Argus published an excellent profile of him. I called Con and Jeanette to say how much I enjoyed it. I would like to share the piece with my fellow Senators, and ask unanimous consent that it be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

A LIFE WELL SERVED; PLAINFIELD'S CON HOGAN REMINISCES ABOUT TIME IN GOVERNMENT, BUSINESS

(By Susan Allen)

PLAINFIELD.—Every Thursday a 4 p.m., the late Gov. Richard Snelling would invite some

of his cabinet members to his office and put a bottle of Wild Turkey bourbon and glasses on his desk.

"You could talk about anything you wanted," recalled Con Hogan last week, seated at the kitchen table in his Plainfield home, with an expansive view that includes the ski slopes of Sugarbush and Mad River Glen.

That was a new one for me. I thought I'd heard most of the behind-the-scenes stories from past—and present—administrations. I've been in the Vermont press that long, and collect interesting and odd-ball recollections like some people collect stamps. I'm fascinated by the people who devote their lives to serving the state.

But Hogan's reminiscences during our conversation proved how many good stories I've missed.

Hogan is retired from his extensive tenure in state government and we started talking about how busy he is during his so-called retirement (more on that later), but quickly began trading accounts of political personalities. Most of his tales were gathered during his professional journey from serving as a guard in a prison in Annandale, N.J., to heading Vermont's massive Human Services Agency under Snelling and former Gov. Howard Dean.

That journey included two significant side trips: An 11-year stint in the private sector helping International Coins and Currency slog its way out of bankruptcy in the 1980s, and an "ill-thought," unsuccessful run for governor as an independent against incumbent Jim Douglas and Democrat Douglas Racine in 2002.

"That was a period of temporary insanity," he said of the gubernatorial race, which almost certainly burned some bridges with the GOP hierarchy. "I don't regret it, but I don't consider it a high point."

Hogan received a degree in psychology from Rutgers, married wife Jeanette in 1965, and took a job as a prison guard in Annandale, rising quickly through the ranks to eventually serve as a division head with the New Jersey Department of Corrections, focusing on the budget.

"I loved it," he recalled of those 7 years. "The people who work in that line are under such professional pressure that you become fast friends, the closest friends."

Hogan and his wife regularly visited a good friend in Vermont who lived on an apple farm in Bennington, and in 1972 at age 28, he applied for the job of corrections commissioner in this State. He chuckles at his own audacity, and the outcome.

Then-Secretary of Administration Richard Mallary (who went on to serve in the U.S. House for Vermont) wrote Hogan a two-page, handwritten letter thanking him for his interest, letting him know the job was already filled, but urging him to contact the new commissioner to talk about becoming his deputy.

Hogan is amazed at the thought of Mallary writing such a long, personal note. But back in 1972, he did apply for deputy commissioner post and got the job.

Those were tumultuous years in corrections, he said. Then-Gov. Thomas Salmon, trying to control a huge state deficit, issued a 10 percent cut in all budgets, to be executed in 60 days—a staggering assignment, Hogan knew.

And the Windsor prison, which had opened in 1808 during the U.S. presidential administration of Thomas Jefferson, was closed in the early 1970s, leaving the State without a maximum security prison for a number of years.

With Snelling's first election in 1976, Hogan moved into the post of commissioner of Social and Rehabilitative Services, again during a difficult time. The Weeks School for

juvenile offenders closed, forcing the State to redistribute the 400 youth to smaller group facilities around the State.

Hogan recalled that all but 15 were placed at one point. Those 15, he said, were sent to stay with a Vermont couple who—without the State's knowledge—packed them all into a Winnebago and headed off to see the country.

"The dad called me from New Orleans," Hogan said. "I said, 'What are you doing in New Orleans?'"

Four of the young Vermonters had run off, and the state scrambled to fix the mess. Fortunately the story ended well for everyone and never (until now) became public, Hogan said with a grin.

After his 11-year foray with ICC in the 1980s, Hogan once again received a call from Snelling, who was considering a run for governor and wanted Hogan to head his transition team if elected. Snelling was elected and appointed Hogan his secretary of Human Services in 1991.

"During the transition, I was working from 6 a.m. to midnight, staying in the office—sometimes I slept over," he said. During a meeting one day, Hogan was called out because Jeanette was outside with fresh clothes for her husband. "I need to explain to my wife why I'm spending more time with you than her," Hogan told Snelling, who didn't like meetings interrupted.

"He lit up. 'Let's go meet your wife,'" Hogan recalled. Jeanette had just been to the dentist and had a front tooth removed, flashing a smile that showed a gaping hole. Hogan said Snelling never missed a beat and made a "big show" of graciousness to his wife.

Hogan recalled Snelling's impatience with long presentations. So, as Human Services Secretary, Hogan created a game where he took a deck of cards, and on each wrote a one-line synopsis of a proposed program, the cost, and the supporters and opponents. Fifty-two suggestions.

Snelling loved it; he'd flip through the cards quickly and make two piles: Yes and No. And Hogan knew how to proceed.

"He was at the top of his game," said Hogan of Snelling during that second trip to the governor's office. His recollections of his former boss are nostalgic and reflect his respect and deep admiration for the late governor.

Snelling died in office on Aug. 13, 1991. During his brief second tenure as governor, he worked with Democratic House Speaker Ralph Wright to craft a plan to retire an enormous state deficit, another point of pride for Hogan.

The day after Snelling's death, new Gov. Howard Dean called Hogan into his office for a briefing on the Human Services Agency.

"I was in no shape to go," Hogan recalled. Not only was he mourning Snelling's passing, he didn't know Dean or what to expect from the former lieutenant governor.

Hogan arrived with a list of 50 issues to discuss, and spent an hour running through them all. "Dean didn't say a word, he just listened. He was either getting it . . . or not getting it and he did," Hogan recalled.

The two worked well together for 8 years until Hogan left the administration in November 1999. "There's a half-life to that kind of job," he said of Human Services secretary. After making progress on many social issues, "I had begun to see some of the same problems again."

Then came the ill-fated gubernatorial run. Followed by retirement—or Hogan's version of retirement: He travels the world working with countries that include Australia, Israel, Chile, Norway, Northern Ireland, Scotland, and in May, Holland, to improve their government structure and programs for children.