

## GATES DEMOCRATIC COMMITTEE ELECTS NEW TOWN LEADER

At the organizational meeting of the Gates Democratic Committee at the Hidden Valley Clubhouse on Thursday, September 16, 2010, committee members elected Frank Muscato of Hinchey Road, Gates to replace retiring Town Leader, Susan Swanton. Also elected were Sande Oliver of Buffalo Road as Vice President, Bill Kiley of Burning Brush Lane as Secretary and Doug Ross of Harpington Drive as Treasurer. Every two years, each political committee elects new officers for the next two years.

Outgoing Town Leader Susan Swanton restarted the Gates Democratic Committee in March 2004 and was reelected Town Leader in September 2004. She was reelected Town Leader in 2006, and again in 2008. After serving as Town Leader for over six years, Swanton said it's time for new leadership. She is proud of restarting the Committee after a lapse of an active Democratic committee from 1997 to 2004.

'Adopting the mile long Canal trail between Lyell and Buffalo Road' stated Swanton 'has led to improved parking lot visibility and conditions. More people enjoy the Canal path and the Democratic Committee has demonstrated its pride in improving the appearance and safety of Gates.'

When the Gates Democratic Committee restarted in 2004, there was almost 1000 more registered Republicans than Democrats, now that trend has reversed, with over 800 more Democrats than Republicans. 'As one top Republican official said to me recently' Swanton noted, 'The Republicans can no longer take election of Republicans for granted, and that's in large part due to your efforts as the Gates Democratic Town Leader.'

Mark McIntee's election to the Gates Town Board in a special election in 2006 and then for a full four year term in 2007 is another achievement Swanton is proud of. 'Mark was the first Democrat elected to the Gates Town Board since the mid 1970's, and he's done an excellent job on the Town Board with his careful research and many questions. I'm proud to say with Councilman McIntee, the Town has an alternative voice on the Town Board. Now we need to elect more Democrats to local offices!' Swanton says she will remain an active member of the Committee.

'We've presented full slates of outstanding candidates over the past 3 town elections and we keep continuing to attract new volunteers and potential local candidates. Truly all politics is local!' noted Swanton.

Succeeding Swanton as Town Leader, incoming Chair of the Gates Democratic Committee, Frank Muscato states his goal as the new Town Leader is to increase Democratic turnout at general elections.

To find out more about the Gates Democrats, visit [www.gatesdemocrats.org](http://www.gatesdemocrats.org) or contact the new Town Leader at [585] 235-5837.