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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **EXCELLENCE IN PRESERVATION AWARD WINNERS ANNOUNCED**

### ***Rehabilitation of Belmont Hotel to be honored***

ALBANY, NY – April 21, 2010 – The Preservation League of New York State has selected the rehabilitation of the former **Belmont Hotel** in Belmont, Allegany County, to receive an award for Excellence in Historic Preservation.

The League's statewide awards program honors notable achievements in retaining, promoting and reusing New York State's irreplaceable architectural heritage.

"League staff was involved in the earliest local efforts to reuse this imposing three-story structure built in 1890 in the heart of this rural village, and advised on some of the project's first grants," said Jay DiLorenzo, President of the Preservation League. "Now, this fully rehabilitated mixed-use property includes cultural, commercial and residential units and is a cornerstone of downtown revitalization efforts – all the while respecting the remaining historical elements of 'The Queen of Schuyler Street.'"

Contributing to the success of this project were Arbor Development of Bath; The Fountain Arts Center in Belmont; Edgemere Development in Rochester; Saralinda Hooker, Preservation Consultant, of Canandaigua; ADG Architects of Rochester; and DGA Builders of East Rochester.

The Belmont Hotel was built in 1890, just down the street from the Allegany County Courthouse in the Village of Belmont. According to Dan Gallagher, Director of Real Estate Development for Arbor Development, "The former Belmont Hotel has been transformed from a decaying eyesore and community safety hazard into an outstanding example of the rehabilitation of a historic building through preservation. This transformation has inspired other business owners to make improvements to their properties, and has fostered additional streetscape

*(more)*

developments throughout Belmont's downtown business district. We are truly honored to receive statewide recognition for our project."

The award will be presented at the Preservation League's Annual Meeting and Awards Ceremony in New York City at 6:00 p.m. on **Wednesday, May 12<sup>th</sup>** at the historic **New York Yacht Club, 37 West 44<sup>th</sup> Street**.

The complete list of award winners is: William S. Hackett Middle School, Albany; The Belmont Hotel, Allegany County; Walkway over the Hudson, Poughkeepsie; The Guaranty Building, Buffalo; The American Museum of Natural History, 77th Street Façades, New York; Empire State Building Lobby Restoration, New York; Oswego Public Library, Oswego; West Hall at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy. ***Looking for Work: Industrial Archeology in Columbia County, New York*** by Peter H. Stott (Syracuse University Press, 2007) will be honored as an outstanding publication. Senator David Valesky and Assemblymember Sam Hoyt, Legislative sponsors of the New York State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credit Program, will be honored for individual excellence.

"Excellence in Preservation Awards are our principal means of honoring the preservation community and educating the public about the important contribution that historic preservation projects make to our quality of life throughout New York State," said DiLorenzo. "Each year, we are impressed by the number and variety of laudable projects, and this year was no exception. We are delighted to give the rehabilitation of the former Belmont Hotel the statewide recognition it deserves."

*The Preservation League's Excellence in Historic Preservation awards program is funded by a generous grant from the Arthur F. and Alice E. Adams Foundation of Miami, Florida.*

*By leading a statewide preservation movement, sharing information and expertise and raising a unified voice, the Preservation League of New York State promotes historic preservation as a tool to revitalize our neighborhoods and communities, honor our heritage and enrich our lives.*

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